

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 1

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HYBRID NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

The Council met at 14:01.

The House Chairperson (Mr B A Radebe) took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

The House Chairperson (Mr B A Radebe) announced that the hybrid sitting constituted a sitting of the National Council of Provinces.

APPROPRIATION BILL

(Policy debate)

Vote No 13 - Public Works:

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: House Chairperson, do not worry, I still consider us in the same

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 2

WhatsApp group, and I am happy to even provide some airtime if you need it, because I have not received a message from you in a while. The House Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, the Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Mr Sihle Zikalala, hon members, permanent and special delegates, MECs present, it is an honour to address you today on the Policy debate for Budget Vote 13 of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. This is an important platform because the work of this department is most directly felt in provinces, districts, and municipalities. When a police station is delayed, a community feels it. When a court is not complete, justice is weakened. And when a government office is not fit for purpose, service delivery suffers. When a bridge, school, clinic, harbour, or public building is neglected, that impact is local before it is national. That is why this Budget Vote is not just about figures, but it is about where the public money is used to deliver better infrastructure, unlock public assets, support communities, and ensure that the state serves people properly. For the 2026-27 financial year, the department receives an allocation of R7,8 billion, with a medium-term allocation of R24,6 billion. Of this year's allocation, approximately R6,4 billion is directed towards transfers and subsidies, including support for our entities and conditional grants to

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 3

provinces and municipalities for the Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP. The Property Management Trading Entity, PMTE, has a projected revenue of R18 billion for the 2026-27 financial year, and it remains one of the most urgent areas of reform in this portfolio.

Our task is clear: to turn the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure into an economic delivery unit for South Africa. This means using infrastructure to support growth, jobs, and service delivery. It means managing public land and buildings with discipline, and it means ensuring that public employment is fair and linked to opportunity. It means confronting corruption, waste, and weak systems wherever they exist. And over the past year, we have made progress on several important areas. Through Infrastructure South Africa, ISA, we have strengthened the state's ability to prepare credible projects and mobilize investment. At the SA Investment Conference, ISA helped unlock a \$1 billion investment pledge amounting to approximately R17 billion, linked to a large-scale bioethanol production facility in South Africa, which would be the first of its kind. The Minister of Finance has approved the formalisation of Infrastructure South Africa, and a draft Bill will be released for public comment soon. This is important because South

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 4

Africa not only needs announcements, but they need projects that are properly prepared, financed, procured, and delivered.

In Johannesburg, the new R769 million Deeds Office is rising in the inner city and is the first new high-rise in the Johannesburg CBD in more than 20 years. Once it is completed, and we expect completion to be in October of this year, it will reduce the state's rental burden by millions of rands and support the renewal of our inner cities. Through this project, we are also focusing on unblocking stalled and long-delayed projects. These delays are not minor administrative issues. They affect communities and client departments and, of course, public confidence. We have supported progress on priority projects, including the handover of the Durban Forensic Laboratory to the South African Police Service, SAPS, in 12 months, and the appointment of a contractor for the Sarah Baartman Centre for Remembrance in the Eastern Cape, which has been completed, and they will begin construction this month.

Public Works must play its part in the fight against crime, the delivery of justice, and the completion of facilities that matter to communities. We have also begun to stabilise the Independent Development Trust, IDT. When I took office, the IDT was in serious difficulty. It had lost confidence amongst

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 5

client departments, contractors, and communities. It was financially unstable, associated with governance failures, with interference, dubious appointments, and the willingness to ignore its deed of trust to achieve certain desires. Despite legal threats, we were determined to rebuild this entity. Under a new board and its leadership, the IDT is being rebuilt as a driver of social infrastructure. Its order book has grown by R2 billion to R6 billion in confirmed projects, and its cash position has improved from near bankruptcy to nearly tripling its cash on hand. In the 2025-26 financial year, the IDT completed 279 social infrastructure facilities, exceeding its target of 244. That is the IDT that we need, focused on delivery in provinces, proper governance, social infrastructure jobs, and contractor development.

We have also made progress in using public assets for the public good. In the past financial year, the Department has made more than 46 state-owned properties available for shelters for victims of gender-based violence and femicide, as well as skills development centres. We have done this in one year, and there's more to come. We are proceeding with the disposal of 801 properties that the state no longer needs. Public property must not sit idle while communities need

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 6

places of safety, skill centres, housing, development, and economic activity.

Through the Construction Industry Development Board, CIDB, we are strengthening accountability in the construction sector. In 22 years, only two contractors were removed from the Registry of Contractors. In the last 22 months, 52 contractors have been removed for fraudulent activity and failure to deliver. This sends a clear message. Contractors who defraud the state, abandon projects, or fail communities cannot expect to return to business as usual or get more work. We have also begun to reform the Expanded Public Works Programme. During nine EPWP listening tours across the country, close to 4 500 participants and community members have raised serious concerns about gatekeeping, manipulated lists, ghost beneficiaries, unfair access, abuse, and even sex for jobs. That is not public employment. That is, at times, exploitation. Last month, we launched the Working on Infrastructure Pilot Programme to begin changing this in KwaZulu-Natal. At the end of this month, we will be launching the second programme in the province of Limpopo. The pilot responds to two realities in South Africa. The first is an unemployment crisis, and the second is an infrastructure maintenance crisis. Working on infrastructure provides longer

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 7

and more structured work opportunities of between eight and 10 months, linked to skills development, mentorship, workplace experience, and pathways into further work, enterprise, and training. It also introduces digital application processes to reduce gatekeeping and manipulation and to make the process fairer. For this House, this reform is especially important because provinces and municipalities are central to EPWP implementation. If EPWP works properly, it can restore dignity and provide a bridge to opportunity. If it is abused, however, it becomes another tool of exclusion. In the year ahead, we will strengthen digital recruitment, improve participation verification, investigate public bodies accused of abusing EPWP, and finalise the revised EPWP recruitment guideline for consultation for the first time in 10 years.

While progress has been made, we must also be honest about the difficulties that we continue to face. Many dedicated officials in the department want to reform and want to see success. But some benefit from weak systems, poor oversight, and a lack of accountability. That's why we are determined to reform the Property Management Trading Entity. The PMTE should be one of the state's most important instruments for managing public land, buildings, and leases. Instead, it is often associated with financial pressure, delayed leases,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 8

underutilised buildings, poor systems, and weak accountability. The PMTE to date has not achieved a clean audit since it was established in 2014. Its overdraft has doubled to nearly R4 billion in the last 20 months, and it has also failed adequately to respond to serious financial issues raised by the Auditor-General, AG, including material irregularities. This is the most serious form of censure by the AG. At the same time, the government continues to spend approximately R6 billion a year on private leases, despite owning thousands of buildings that are empty and large amounts of land. An internal study has shown that stronger oversight is needed because leases average between 17 and 34% above market-related rentals, and in some instances, far higher, in one case, 300% higher. This cannot continue. Compliance is non-negotiable. Where leases are not adequately concluded correctly, we will provide oversight and we will assist to make sure that they are done so. In some instances, we also see emergencies appear that are created to involve nefarious activities. This has been described by our own internal investigation unit as a self-created emergency. The clearest example of this is 146 London Road in Pretoria. A preliminary report by the Department's Anti-Corruption and Fraud Awareness found that a lease was concluded in March 2023 for the then Department of Public Enterprises at a cost of nearly

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 9

R70 million over five years. This was done despite the President having already announced that the Department of Public Enterprises would be reconfigured and closed. In plain terms, roughly R70 million was committed for a lease without a tenant. What is worse, it now seems increasingly likely that we are going to be financially responsible for up to R50 million to settle this matter with the tenant. The report further found that when the National Prosecuting Authority's Investigating Directorate Against Corruption, IDAC, later required office accommodation, Internal supply chain management processes had already been concluded for the IDAC to be accommodated at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR, property in Pretoria. The report then found that an intentional and created urgent need was then made to try to accommodate them in 146 London Road. The report also raised serious concerns about the original tender process, including that officials had recommended not once, but twice, that the bid be cancelled, but they still proceeded anyway. The broad-based black economic empowerment, BBBEE, compliance was ignored. Procurement process and National Treasury prescripts were also ignored, but they proceeded anyway. Although the occupation did not take place and the lease had not become effective, the report warned of a potential legal and financial exposure for the state, which

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 10

has now come to pass. I did not accept the report's recommendations because they failed to hold a single person accountable. Responsibility simply cannot be placed on a former deputy director-general who had resigned, while others who may have created, approved, enabled, or ignored the situation escape scrutiny. That is why I have requested the National Treasury's directives, guidance, and requirements with respect to an independent investigation into the procurement process and the implementation of this lease. Anyone involved in wrongdoing like this must be identified and must be held accountable, and I hope this House will join me in that. Where there was negligence, there must be consequence management. Where there was misconduct, there will be disciplinary action. And where there's criminality, there will also be criminal action. This is not my only concern. We have dealt with several problematic client departments that have given up trying to get leases from us ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A RADEBE): Minister, would you please take a seat? I heard that hon Modise's hand is up on the virtual platform. On what are you rising, hon Modise?

Mr M G MODISE: Thank you for recognising me, Chair. I want to check with the Minister to see if he is prepared to take a

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 11

question, because the things that he's saying there are contradictory to what is on the ground.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon Modise. Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question now?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: I have not even finished my speech. Questions come later.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A RADEBE): The Minister is not prepared to take a question. He wants to finish his speech first. Thank you. You can proceed, hon Minister.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: This is why the department is moving to allow client departments, under certain conditions and in terms of the Government Immovable Asset Management Act, Giama, to apply to conclude lease agreements themselves while Public Works retains final approval and oversight. This is not about weakening oversight, but it is about ensuring that we are able to deliver for our clients. We are also implementing a facilities management and prestige financial recovery plan to move from reactive crisis management to proper planning, maintenance, budgeting, and asset management. The AG's findings on Telkom Towers show the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 12

consequence of poor asset management. The state cannot continue to own buildings, fail to use them, allow them to deteriorate, and then continue paying billions to private landlords. The answer is structural reform. That is why our first major priority for the year ahead is the establishment of the SA National Property Company, as announced by the President in his state of the nation address. The property company will shift the state from passive ownership to active asset management. It will identify valuable assets, structure partnerships, unlock investment, reduce reliance on expensive leases, support better maintenance, and ensure that public land and buildings are used for the public good. Well-located state land can support affordable housing, mixed-use precincts, social infrastructure, urban renewal, and economic activity. But this requires professional governance, commercial capability, transparency, and a credible asset register. The PMTE has shown that it is unable to do so, and that is why the property company must be built differently.

Our second priority is to deepen EPWP reform through working on infrastructure. Having launched a pilot in KwaZulu-Natal with Limpopo next, we will focus on strengthening digital recruitment, improving verification, investigating abuse, and finalizing the revised recruitment guidelines. The goal is to

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 13

make sure that EPWP becomes inclusive and not exclusive. Our third priority is around small harbour reform. South Africa's small harbours have significant economic potential, particularly for coastal provinces and local communities. They can support fishing, tourism, small business development, boat repair, aquaculture, local manufacturing, and coastal regeneration. We are developing a framework to determine the best use model for each harbour so that each site can be assessed according to its local economic potential. The aim is practical: to turn coastal public assets into engines of jobs, growth, and investment.

The year ahead will not be easy. We face weak systems, delayed projects, and growing financial pressures, underutilised assets, procurement failures, and, in some instances, organized resistance. But we will not slow down. In fact, we will speed up. We will continue with our cleanup efforts. We will continue with our reform efforts because the reform is non-negotiable and it is irreversible. We will continue unlocking public assets for public goods, and we will continue unblocking infrastructure projects, as well as strengthening our entities. And we will continue working, most importantly with our provinces and municipalities, to ensure that public infrastructure is delivered where people live. This House has

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 14

a crucial role to play. It raises stalled projects, which many of you have done. It reports the abuse of EPWP, and it also helps public assets that can be used better. Working with us to ensure that infrastructure is not only planned nationally but delivered locally. And we want to continue that hand of friendship and partnership with the National Council of Provinces. This Budget Vote is about building a department that protects public money, manages public assets properly, supports service delivery, and delivers economic growth to every corner of this province. That is how we turn public works and infrastructure into an economic delivery unit of South Africa for all and not just for the few. Thank you so much.

Mr F J BADENHORST: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, Deputy Minister and fellow South Africans, good day. The 2024 general elections fundamentally altered South Africa's political landscape. The electoral decline of the ANC was not an accident of history. It was the consequence of years of state failure, economic stagnation, collapsing infrastructure, corruption, deployment and the erosion of public trust in government institutions. South Africans delivered a clear message at the ballot box. The government could no longer continue with business as usual. The emergence of the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 15

government of national unity was therefore not merely a political arrangement. It was a democratic correction. It reflected the electorate's demand for competent governance, accountability, economic growth and service delivery.

Few departments illustrate the consequences of past governance failures more clearly than the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. For years, this department was regarded as one of the government's most troubled institutions. Despite being entrusted with managing one of the largest property portfolios on the African continent and serving as a key enabler of infrastructure-led growth, it became synonymous with inefficiency, waste and administrative dysfunction.

The Property Management Trading Entity established to professionalise state property management accumulated structural financial challenges that continue to constrain service delivery up until today. The Property Management Trading Entity, PMTE, manages assets valued at approximately R150 billion. It carries a maintenance backlog estimated at R28 billion, operates with a R4 billion overdraft facility and continues to rely on private lease portfolios costing approximately R6 billion annually.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 16

Notably, the PMTE has not achieved a clean audit since its establishment in 2014. The committee's oversight work has consistently highlighted chronic weaknesses in asset management, lease administration, maintenance planning, project delivery and financial sustainability.

When Minister Dean Macpherson assumed political leadership of the department in 2024, he inherited an institution burdened by years of neglect and embedded resistance to reform. What he found was a department struggling with a deteriorating property portfolio, weak project preparation capacity, unsustainable lease commitments, incomplete and unreliable asset information, growing maintenance backlogs, governance weaknesses within PMTE and deep public concerns regarding transparency and accountability. The Minister was confronted with an institution that had become reactive rather than strategic. Importantly, however, the response since then has been characterised not by denial but by reform.

The committee has observed a clear shift in strategic direction. The department's 2026-27 annual performance plan explicitly positions Public Works not merely as a custodian of buildings, but as an economic catalyst capable of supporting

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 17

infrastructure-led growth, job creation and investment attraction. A number of initiatives deserve recognition.

Firstly, Infrastructure South Africa has come to assume a more prominent role in project preparation and investment mobilisation. The allocation of R983,8 million to Infrastructure South Africa reflects the understanding that infrastructure delivery begins long before a shovel enters the ground. Project preparation, feasibility studies and regulatory approvals remain among the most significant of the project's infrastructure investment.

The committee welcomes the approval process currently underway to formalise oversight engagement through legislation. This has the potential to strengthen the state project preparation capacity and crowd in private investment on a scale not previously achieved.

Secondly, the Independent Development Trust appears to be showing signs of recovery under its new leadership and board. Thank you, hon Minister, for acting so quickly. The Independent Development Trust, IDT, increased its order book by R2 billion to approximately R6 billion. It exceeded its infrastructure delivery targets by completing 279 social

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 18

infrastructure facilities during 2025-26 against a target of 244.

Thirdly, the committee welcomes efforts to reform the Expanded Public Works Programme. The Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, remains one of the government's most important employment interventions, receiving some R2,255 billion in the current financial year. It is targeting more than one million work opportunities. However, the departments nationwide listening to us revealed recurring concerns about political gatekeeping, manipulated beneficiary lists, ghost beneficiaries, exploitation and the so-called sex for job practices.

The introduction of the working on infrastructure pilot programme is therefore very significant. By introducing digital application systems, structured training pathways, longer-term placements and greater transparency the department is attempting to restore public confidence in the allocation of opportunities.

For free, the committee notes positively the Minister's emphasis on accountability and institutional integrity. The ongoing ghost employee audit has reportedly identified

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 19

approximately 60 individuals allegedly receiving salaries despite not being employed by the department. The committee awaits the final report and expects decisive consequence management where wrongdoing is confirmed.

Similarly, concerns raised regarding lifestyle audits, irregular appointments and political interference within the administrative processes point to a leadership willing to confront uncountable realities rather than concealing them.

While progress is evident, significant challenges remain. The department's budget for 2026-27 amounts to R7,8 billion, of which more than 82% is allocated to transfers and subsidies. The PMTE continues to face serious financial pressures. The committee remains concerned by the outstanding debt owed by client departments, the continuing overdraft position, maintenance backlogs across state facilities, large private lease obligations, underutilised state-owned properties and slow progress in reducing government's reliance on leased accommodation. The committee remains deeply concerned about the financial sustainability of the PMTE. The PMTE is currently owed approximately R14,4 billion by client departments. Let that sink in for a second – R14,4 billion. This severely constrain its ability to maintain state assets,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 20

reduce lease dependency and address its growing maintenance backlog. The largest and most persistent debtors have historically included the Department of Defence, the Department of Correctional Services, the SA Police Service and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. These are the departments that collectively occupy some of the largest portions of the state's property portfolio. The irony is impossible to ignore. The very departments responsible for policing our communities, securing our prisons, administering justice and defending our borders are amongst those contributing to the financial distress of the entity responsible for maintaining the buildings from which they operate.

It is unacceptable that one arm of government is effectively bankrupting another arm. While departments demand functioning buildings, they simultaneously fail to honour their accommodation obligations. Accountability must apply equally across government, including to the Ministers and accounting officers who allow these debts to accumulate year after year. The situation has deteriorated to such an extent that the National Treasury has considered exercising its powers to withhold transfers from defaulting departments in order to enforce payment discipline. Put simply, government cannot

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 21

expect the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to maintain police stations, prisons, courts and military facilities when the departments occupying those buildings fail to pay their bills. Every rand not paid to PMTE translates into delayed maintenance, deteriorating infrastructure, growing lease costs and poorer service delivery to all South Africans.

The committee therefore supports the department's efforts to conclude binding settlement arrangements with the departments and to restore the PMTE to long-term financial sustainability. Without resolving the debt crisis, the state will remain trapped in a cycle of acid deterioration, emergency repairs and escalating costs.

Equally concerning is the condition of public assets.

Oversight engagements repeatedly reveal deteriorating police stations, correctional facilities and government buildings. Infrastructure failures do not merely affect buildings, they directly affect frontline service delivery to citizens. The committee therefore supports the department's renewed focus on asset optimisation, property recovery, revenue generation and the productive utilisation of state-owned assets. Targets to process 100 properties for letting, recover state properties

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 22

through Operation Bring Back, release land for development and reduce lease accommodation represent important steps towards converting dormant public assets into productive economic assets. Looking ahead, the prospects for the department depend on whether reform can be institutionalised. The committee believes that five priorities will determine success over the medium-term.

Firstly, finalising the PMTE financial recovery plan. Secondly, accelerating project preparation through Infrastructure South Africa. Thirdly, reducing maintenance backlogs through sustainable funding models. Fourthly, modernising procurement and digitising departmental systems. Fifthly, strengthening consequence management and rooting out corruption wherever it exists.

South Africa can neither build economic growth on collapsing infrastructure nor can we attract investment while public assets lie vacant, neglected or illegally occupied. The department's own vision of becoming a trusted provider of innovative asset management and quality infrastructure delivery is both necessary and achievable.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 23

The committee therefore supports the department's stated objective of transforming Public Works from a massive custodian of buildings into an active driver of economic growth, infrastructure investment and job creation. The era of measuring success by plans, strategies and announcements must give way to an era of measurable delivery. The South African public does not experience government through annual performance plans. They experience government through functioning police stations, maintain schools, safeguards, reliable public facilities and infrastructure that supports economic activity.

In line with the committee's Budget Vote report, the committee recommends that the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure ensure that the department, by the 31 July 2026, submit the condition assessments of all PMTE properties on a provincial basis, submit the approved 2025-26 sector performance reports on the implementation of the 2025-2030 sector plan and submit the comprehensive report on the condition of the SA Police Service facilities and the associated maintenance and repair plans for police stations in each province.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 24

The committee further recommends that during the second quarter of the 2027-28 financial year, the department brief the Select Committee on Public Infrastructure and the Select Committee on Co-operative Governance and Public Administration jointly on the outcomes and effectiveness of the Adopt a Municipality pilot programme. The committee believes that the reforms initiated under Minister McPherson have begun to move the department in the right direction. The task is now to ensure that momentum is maintained. Resistance to reform, hon Minister, is not just overcome, but indeed eradicated. Every rand appropriated through this Budget Vote delivers measurable value to the people of South Africa. Thank you, hon Chair.

Ms K R MOLOKOMME: House Chair, let me take this opportunity and greet the hon Minister and Deputy Minister. House Chair, please pardon me. I have terrible flu. I hope my voice ...

Sepedi:

... e tla kwagala. Ke boe ke tšee ...

English:

... this opportunity and greet the hon members and also ...

Sepedi:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 25

... bagagešo bao ba bogetšego thelebišene ba le kua gae le
bao ba lego mo ...

English:

... virtual platform. I thought today I am not going to
reduce myself for attacks and other issues, but I just want to
emphasise the point that this is the Government of National
Unity, GNU, government and we should acknowledge the fact that
we are working together and to make sure that we provide
services to our people. I think grandstanding is not going to
assist us with anything ...

Sepedi:

... efela batho ba rena ba lebeletše gore ditirelo tše di
fihlelele batho. Ka Sepedi ba re: Mošutelelwa ga a nabe. Ba
bangwe ba rena mo re šuteletšwe.

English:

So, we must be mindful of that fact. When the national
elections come, we are going to take what belongs to us.

Sepedi:

Mošutelelwa ga a nabe.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 26

English:

So, that's what I am saying. We are responding to the call made by President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa when he said and I quote: "We must turn our country into a massive working and construction site, focusing on accelerating that scale infrastructure investment to drive inclusive economic growth." One of the simple examples that I want to make is in Limpopo when we were conducting our oversight where we know that this Dikgerekgere programme ...

Sepedi:

... e tumile kua Limpopo ...

English:

... which means whatever infrastructural machines that are meant to do service delivery ...

Sepedi:

... re a di šomiša kua Limpopo.

English:

That is why we came up with this concept Dikgerekgere, which mean anything that has to do with infrastructure will be used to advance our people in work and in service delivery. The

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 27

roads are being fixed, and bridges are also being reconstructed, just to name a few. In Limpopo, the Steelpoort Bridge was rehabilitated. The T1054 project was also constructed from Glen Cowie to Ga-Malaka, which is the upgrading of D4286 and D2357 roads.

We also call on public works in Limpopo to renovate and refurbish the barracks in Gilead Police Station as a matter of agency because we visited that police station and it's not in a good state. The N11 to Botswana between Vergenoeg and Dipere, the road was visited during the provincial oversight. The Dikgerekgere was in motion. We have indeed turned our country into a massive working and construction site. It is our view and our conviction therefore that we shall continue as the ANC-led government to rally behind the President for having given every Minister the responsibility that they must work and turn our country into a massive construction site.

When this budget is considered, we pledge that the young people for business opportunities and entrepreneurs by enrolling them to participate in infrastructural development is a step in the right direction. We are urging that young people should participate in these activities. Again, 255 000 has been reported in the Expanded Public Works Programme,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 28

EPWP, reporting system. So, many people are benefiting from the EPWP. It gives us courage that indeed there is a bright light somewhere. The level of unemployment is going down. Thousands of miles are decreasing by one step.

As the ANC, we support this budget because we know that large-scale renovations and the building of infrastructure are the cornerstones of our economy. We must never in any moment lose sight of the fact that we are working for our people. The time to lament is over. The majority of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure funds goes to provinces and municipalities via EPWP grants and non-profit organisations. Seven point three billion over the medium term goes to the EPWP implementers and, of course, it needs proper monitoring on how it is spent. Forty-six point four billion goes to the facilities of 19 departments, including courts, police stations, and correctional services centre.

This has an impact on provincial infrastructure and local job markets. When we mention facilities, even our parliamentary villages where we stay, the department is maintaining those houses and facilities. I do not understand why at times some of us come here and we don't want to adopt the budget. We

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 29

would also like to urge the department to also take care of the facilities where they own properties where ...

Sepedi:

... babereki ba rena ba ikhwetšago ba hira ...

English:

... those houses are not in good condition, to be honest. So, we need to deal with that issue. Let me cite another one example of the correctional service facilities that we visited in Matlosana. The department is doing a great job. The accommodation for officers are being renovated and also the prison itself is also being renovated. We visited this facility and the department is doing a very good job. We are urging that you must extend these programmes to other provinces, not only in North West.

Further than that, health facilities are in good condition. By saying so, we would like to thank you for taking care of our people, regardless of whether they are offenders. Through this budget, job opportunities in the department, we expect 3% of women representation at senior management service, SMS, positions to increase because at this stage, 3% of women in senior position is not at a satisfactory level. I must thank

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 30

the department for having 1 200 skills development that is working for our people. This is an indication that the Government of National Unity, GNU, and ANC-led government is working.

In fact, we are just praising some people for nothing. These are our policies. We have crafted them and reduced them to writing. They are now being implemented together with us. These policies didn't just begin yesterday. We have been drafting them, and now is time for implementation. So, that's why we make sure that they are implemented. No party must shy away from the fact that though there is still more to achieve so far, our National Development Plan as envisioned has greatly given the state departments a boost and bravery to change the status quo of the past era.

Public Works has recorded that 4 000 hectares of land were released. Let me give you a basic economic concept: once a significant amount of land has been released, it means that farmers, developers, and business ideas has been given birth to. I would like to state that heritage site in South Africa, one of the economic propellers by which tourism is incurred, and it is this department to maintain and refurbish tourism destinies like Robben Island. Our wish, therefore, is that

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 31

each province and municipality must ensure that Heritage Sites are well taken care of in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

As I conclude, I would like to thank the department for the good work it has done while acknowledging that there is still much more to be done. As the committee, we are here to support and to make sure that every challenge faced by our people in every province is addressed. We are trying so much to make sure that we address the issues that they are raising. Thank you very much.

Mr N GOTSELL: Hon House Chairperson, hon Minister, hon Deputy Minister, hon members, and South Africans, good afternoon.

The DA supports this Budget Vote because the Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, was never meant to become a tool for political patronage, gatekeeping, and exploitation.

It was meant to provide dignity, temporary relief, skills, and opportunity to unemployed South Africans.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 32

Yet for years, communities across South Africa have complained that access to EPWP opportunities depended not on fairness, merit, or need, but on political connections.

That is why the recent EPWP Listening Tour conducted by the department are so important.

Across nine engagements involving nearly 4 000 participants and community members, the same disturbing patterns repeatedly emerged: Political gatekeeping, manipulated beneficiary lists, ghost beneficiaries, unfair access to opportunities, abuse, exploitation, and even allegations of sex-for-jobs practices.

These are not isolated complaints.

They reveal how a programme designed to uplift the poor was too often captured by local patronage networks and used to reward loyalty, punish dissent, and entrench dependency.

However, the ANC will continue to tell us that they proudly support cadre deployment!

For many vulnerable South Africans, an EPWP opportunity is not merely a temporary job. It can mean food on the table, school

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 33

shoes for children, transport money, or the ability to survive another month in extremely difficult economic conditions.

When access to those opportunities is manipulated, it is not only corruption; it is cruelty.

The DA therefore welcomes the department's acknowledgement that these abuses exist and that reform is urgently needed.

The launch of the Working on Infrastructure Pilot Programme represents an important step in restoring integrity to the EPWP programme.

This programme seeks to fundamentally change how opportunities are allocated and managed. Instead of short-term, uncertain and often politically manipulated placements, the programme aims to create employment opportunities lasting between eight and 10 months, combined with skills development, mentorship, workplace exposure and potential pathways into private sector employment.

This is the correct approach.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 34

The EPWP cannot merely become a revolving door of short-term dependency with little long-term impact. It must become a bridge to sustainable employment and economic participation.

Most importantly, the move towards digital application systems has the potential to significantly reduce gatekeeping by ward councillors and politically connected individuals who too often position themselves as the gatekeepers of opportunity.

Now, fortunately, after the next local government elections, there will be far fewer ANC and EFF ward councillors to abuse the system. That is probably why the EFF again has one member in this House today for the people at home.

Work opportunities funded by taxpayers do not belong to politicians. They belong to the people of South Africa.

The DA is also deeply concerned by reports of ghost beneficiaries and ghost employees within the department itself.

Minister Dean Macpherson has announced that the department's ghost employee audit is nearing completion and that 60 individuals have already allegedly been identified as receiving

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 35

salaries despite not being employed by the department, with most cases reportedly located in KwaZulu-Natal.

At a time when millions of South Africans are unemployed and desperate for work opportunities, it is outrageous that public funds may have been diverted towards individuals who were allegedly not even employed.

Every rand lost to corruption, fraud, or ghost beneficiaries is a rand stolen from poor South Africans who genuinely need opportunity. Equally concerning are reports that some senior officials refused to undergo lifestyle audits.

Public servants who manage public funds should have nothing to fear from accountability and transparency. The resistance to lifestyle audits only deepens public suspicion about corruption and the abuse within the state.

The request for the Public Service Commission to investigate the unusually high number of officials who were made permanent shortly before the 2024 elections is, therefore, welcomed and very necessary.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 36

It is funny that in the ANC-led government everyone is always acting, but that so many acting appointees could get permanent positions so close to an election that would see the ANC lose its majority. Maybe this is where the hon Modise should be directing his questions.

South Africans are tired of seeing state institutions abused as vehicles for cadre deployment and political patronage. The hon Molokomme, this is the ANC policy that the DA will not be implementing.

It is further worth mentioning that department officials who were compelled to attend political party study groups are particularly troubling.

The public service exists to serve the Constitution and the people of South Africa; not any political party and not even the ANC.

Officials should never feel pressured to demonstrate political loyalty in order to protect their positions or careers.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 37

That conduct has no place in a professional public administration, and the DA will ensure that this ANC-aligned notion is dispelled.

The broader reforms taking place within the department also deserve recognition.

For years, weak oversight and poor governance created an environment in which waste, inflated contracts, and procurement abuse flourished. Just last week the hon Phala showed us exactly what weak oversight is.

The resistance now being experienced within certain departments, particularly around leases, procurement, and oversight, should not surprise anyone.

Greater scrutiny threatens greater scrutiny inevitably threatens those who benefitted from weak controls and opaque systems. Hon. Kaunda in particular, appreciate this.

The DA therefore supports efforts to strengthen oversight, improve compliance, and ensure that public funds are spent properly and transparently.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 38

However, ultimately, hon House Chairperson, this Budget Vote must be judged by one simple question: Does it improve the lives of ordinary South Africans?

If EPWP opportunities are allocated fairly, then this programme can once again become a tool of dignity and empowerment rather than exploitation and political control.

That is what the DA supports this Budget Vote and I thank you.

Mr T SIMMERS (Western Cape): Hon Chairperson, hon Minister Dean Macpherson, hon Deputy Minister, hon fellow MECs present here and online, and hon permanent and special delegates. I rise today in support of this Budget Vote and in particular, in support of the bold vision articulated by Minister Macpherson to reposition the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure as one of the primary engines of economic growth, job creation and social progress in South Africa.

In the Western Cape, we ultimately share this vision because infrastructure is not simply about brick and mortar. It is about connecting people to opportunity. It is about giving communities access to jobs, health care, education and markets. It is about restoring our people's dignity, but

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 39

ultimately, it is one of the most practical ways a government can improve the quality of living of all its citizens.

Hon Chairperson, the Minister has correctly identified that South Africa cannot continue with a culture of passive ownership and reactive maintenance. We need a state that actively manages its assets, protects public resources and plans ahead, instead of simply responding to crisis. I also want to commend the Minister for his unwavering commitment to rooting out corruption, extortion and the abuse of public funds, because every rand lost to corruption is a rand stolen from service delivery. When public money is protected, infrastructure gets built. When infrastructure gets built, economies grow. When economies grow, all our people prosper.

The Western Cape stands firmly behind this reform agenda as announced by the Minister. Most importantly, hon Chairperson, we are actively implementing many of these principles already in fervent support of the Minister's vision. One of the greatest challenges facing South Africa has never been a shortage of plans. It has been the ability to move projects from ideas to implementation. That is why the Western Cape established its Singular Infrastructure Project Pipeline within the last two years.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 40

Today, that pipeline of strategic infrastructure projects is worth nearly R152 billion that is ready for implementation. This pipeline creates a structured pathway that takes projects from concept and feasibility through planning and funding, but ultimately and most importantly, into implementation. Notably, it creates sector assurance, and it certainly builds confidence. Confidence draws investment. Investment creates jobs and jobs create hope.

Earlier this year, the Karwyderskraal Landfill expansion, Cell 4, became the first project in less than a year to move successfully through our entire pipeline into active construction. This demonstrates that when projects are properly prepared and strategically sequenced, delivery becomes a predictable outcome rather than an empty election promise.

Hon Chairperson, one of the greatest opportunities presented by the Government of National Unity, GNU, is that successful ideas can move beyond provincial boundaries. When something works, we should replicate it. When innovation succeeds, we should share it. When reforms improve service delivery, we should build on them together. That is the spirit of co-operative governance, and that is the spirit of the GNU.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 41

Infrastructure, however, Chairperson, is not built by systems alone. It is built by people. That is why the Western Cape continues to invest heavily in developing the next generation of built environment professionals through our Masakh'iSizwe Bursary Programme. This year, our programme celebrates 20 years, and it is noted as a very remarkable initiative. Since its inception, we have delivered more than 1 200 bursars who are supported through our own funding; we have spent over R200 million in the last 20 years.

This programme does more than just fund university studies. It funds and develops engineers, architects, quantity surveyors, town planners, project managers and future leaders, who we believe will continue building our country long after, literally, all of us here would have left public office. It is an investment not only in infrastructure, but in state capability itself. I also want to encourage and use this platform to ask young South Africans, while listening to today's proceedings online, please, no matter which province you come from, apply to be part of our programme. Applications only end at the end of August.

Hon Chairperson, the Minister has also correctly highlighted the growing maintenance challenges facing our country. Too

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 42

often, government waits for infrastructure to fail before taking action. However, maintenance should also not just be perceived as a liability. Maintenance, in itself, is an investment, an investment that protects lives, safeguards economic activity and significantly reduces future expenditure.

In the Western Cape, we are increasingly embracing innovation to support this approach. Our Roads4U app, which we launched in March, places infrastructure reporting directly in the hands of our citizens. Combined with our growing use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence to not only identify but also monitor infrastructure defects, we are steadily moving from reactive maintenance towards predictive asset management in the Western Cape. This is the future of infrastructure management, not only concrete and steel, but better information, smarter systems and more rapid responses.

Hon Chairperson, the recent floods that affected large parts of our province reminded us why this approach matters. Roads were damaged. Bridges were washed away. Entire communities were temporarily isolated. People could not get to work. Children struggled to reach schools. Families found it difficult to access health care and essential services. Yet,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 43

as I stand here, I remain immensely proud of the professionalism and commitment demonstrated by our officials, engineers and contractors.

Michell's Pass was reopened within days. The Vredendal Bridge was restored to one-way traffic within a week. Temporary pedestrian access was rapidly established in McGregor to connect communities, but perhaps one of the greatest success stories was the performance of infrastructure that had previously been rebuilt using resilience principles after the storms of 2024. The infamous MR310 outside of Citrusdal, which we debated in this House last year, which suffered severe damage during the 2024 floods, withstood this year's storms. This was built by using ... this is what building back stronger looks like. It's not simply repairing damage; it is investing wisely today so that communities are protected tomorrow.

Hon Chairperson, this debate is not ultimately about roads, bridges or buildings. It's about people. When a bridge closes, somebody may lose a day's income. When the road becomes inaccessible, a child misses school. Therefore, they experience government through the access to safe roads. When infrastructure fails, opportunity disappears. Citizens do not

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 44

experience government through policy documents. They experience government through whether the road is open. They experience government through well-maintained public facilities and whether opportunities are within their reach. That is why infrastructure is not simply another line item in a budget. It is the physical expression of a capable and compassionate government.

Hon Chairperson, that is why I support Minister Macpherson's efforts to fundamentally reform the way we plan, manage and deliver infrastructure in South Africa. As the Western Cape, we stand ready to be an active and willing partner on our Minister's mission. As a province, we have demonstrated the value of long-term infrastructure planning. We have invested in building the skills that our country needs. We are embracing technology and innovation. We remain absolutely committed to protecting public resources and accelerating delivery.

Let us use this opportunity presented by the GNU to build a culture where successful ideas are shared, where innovation is embraced and where infrastructure becomes one of the greatest drivers of inclusive economic growth across our provinces and our country. Ultimately, together, let us build a more

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 45

resilient South Africa. Together, let us build a more capable state and together, let us build a country that truly works and will work into the future for all its people. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon delegates, I'm informed that in the public gallery, there are members of the Portfolio Committee on Sports, Arts and Culture and Recreation from the Gauteng provincial legislature. Will they please stand up and just wave their hands so that we can identify them?

Thank you, hon members. You are welcome in this session. And then, ah ... all right. Thank you, hon members. You are acknowledged for coming in and supporting the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture in the next Budget Vote debate.

Hon delegates, without further ado, I'm now going to call another delegate from the Western Cape, hon B J Farmer, to come and present.

Mr B J FARMER: Hon Simmers, let us build a South Africa for all – if only we could build Cape Town for all. Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, hon Deputy Minister, and hon

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 46

members, I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Minister, the labour centre in Klerksdorp, which is now housed by the Matlosana Local Municipality in one of its community halls because their building became a safety risk, needs your urgent attention, please.

When people hear the words "public works", many think only of buildings, but public works is far more than bricks and mortar. It is the clinic that allows a mother to access health care, the police station that serves a community, and the school where children learn. It is the harbour that supports fishermen and the road that connects rural communities to economic opportunities. Ultimately, it is the infrastructure that determines whether government can deliver on its promises.

The PA supports this Budget Vote because infrastructure remains one of the most powerful tools available to government to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and restore dignity, but we also believe that every rand allocated must translate into visible results for ordinary South Africans. For too many years, our country has suffered from a painful

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 47

contradiction. We have budgets but unfinished projects, plans but delayed delivery. We have allocations but communities still waiting. Across South Africa, we find abandoned buildings, incomplete clinics, delayed schools, and stalled projects that have consumed public money whilst delivering little benefit. Communities are tired of promises. They want completed projects.

Chairperson, South Africans are tired of promises without delivery. A clear example can be found in Pacaltsdorp, George, where the long-awaited upgrade of the Pacaltsdorp Clinic was announced, budgeted for, and a contractor was reportedly appointed following a tender process. Residents were informed as far back as 2023 that site handover to the contractor was imminent and that the project would address overcrowding, long waiting times, and deteriorating conditions at the facility. Yet, despite these commitments and the allocation of funds, the community continues to wait for meaningful progress. This is not merely a construction delay; it is a failure of service delivery. Every month that passes without implementation means public confidence is lost. Government must move beyond planning and procurement and ensure that projects are implemented, monitored, and completed within reasonable timeframes. The people deserve transparency and delivery.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 48

The PA particularly welcomes stronger action against nonperforming contractors and those who abuse public procurement systems. Those who steal infrastructure opportunities from our communities are not merely wasting money. They are stealing services, jobs, and dignity. Contractors that repeatedly fail government and communities should not continue receiving public contracts. Poor workmanship, project abandonment, and corruption must have consequences. The era of endless excuses must come to an end.

Hon members, the revitalisation of small harbours presents a significant opportunity for economic growth, particularly in coastal communities. As someone who works closely with fishing communities along the West Coast, I know the challenges faced by small-scale fishermen. Communities in places such as Saldanha, Paternoster, Velddrif, my hometown of Lamberts Bay, and other coastal towns depend on functioning infrastructure to sustain livelihoods. However, to rent property inside harbours that is available only on a month-to-month contract cannot provide confidence for businesses to plan long term. When harbour infrastructure deteriorates, jobs are lost. When maintenance is neglected, local economies suffer. The PA therefore supports investments that strengthen harbour

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 49

infrastructure and unlock opportunities for coastal communities.

We further support efforts to utilise state-owned properties more effectively. The government owns thousands of properties across South Africa. State property must serve the people.

In closing, the PA supports Budget Vote No 13, and we support every effort to ensure that public infrastructure serves the people of South Africa. Salut.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon Farmer, for your participation in the debate. The next speaker, hon delegates ... No, man. Put aside the "broedertwis" [fraternal feud] of the Western Cape. Hon Swart and hon Farmer, please put aside the broedertwis of the Western Cape. We are hon members here and let us continue doing our work. Without further ado, hon delegates, the next speaker on the virtual platform is the hon F Makatong, the MEC for public works in the Northern Cape. Over to you.

Ms F B P MAKATONG (Northern Cape): House Chair, good afternoon. Let me also take the opportunity to greet the Minister, the Deputy Minister, hon members of the Council, hon

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 50

members in the House, and everyone that has joined this Budget Vote debate.

We welcome the Budget Vote speech tabled by the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, the hon Macpherson, and particularly his emphasis on reform, accountability, infrastructure delivery, effective asset management, and the transformation of Public Works into an economic delivery instrument for this country. As the Northern Cape, we share this vision. For us, public works is not merely about buildings. It is about creating an environment in which government services can reach communities, economic opportunities can be unlocked, and dignity can be restored through work and skills development.

We are all aware that the Northern Cape is the largest province in terms of land mass, yet home to a relatively small population that is spread across vast distances. This reality places unique pressure on public infrastructure delivery and state property management. Every clinic, every school, every hospital, every community facility, and every maintenance project carry strategic importance in ensuring that citizens have access to services regardless of where and how sparsely they are located. In this regard, we welcome the Minister's

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 51

commitment to strengthening infrastructure delivery and unblocking projects that have historically suffered delays.

It is important to indicate that, during the 2025-2026 financial year, as a department, we implemented infrastructure projects across schools, hospitals, clinics, office accommodation, and recreational facilities. There are 23 capital infrastructure projects under construction, whilst 39 maintenance projects have been completed across the province in the same period. These investments not only improve public services but also create employment opportunities and stimulate local economies. This department honours the relationship we have with contractors. However, there is some level of extortion that we experience, and, where there is nonperformance, our stance as a department is clear, that we will not tolerate such.

One of the most important messages in the Minister's Budget Vote is the need to utilise public assets for public good. The Northern Cape fully supports that principle. Government property should not become dormant assets that generate costs without creating value through the liability of rates and taxes. Public assets must contribute to development investment, service delivery, and economic growth.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 52

In our province, we continue to strengthen immovable asset management and facilities management systems to ensure that state-owned assets are properly utilised, they are maintained, and they are monitored. We have conducted extensive utilisation inspections and continue to explore opportunities to unlock value from state-owned properties in a manner that benefits communities and supports economic participation.

On our disposal policy, as the Northern Cape, we also welcome the Minister's emphasis on unlocking the value of public assets and ensuring that state property contributes meaningfully to economic development and social transformation. In support of this objective, the department has finalised and revised its disposal policy for superfluous immovable assets. This policy marks a significant shift from traditional disposal approaches towards a model that advances inclusive economic transformation and spatial justice. This policy prioritises access to land and other properties for historically disadvantaged groups, including people living with disabilities, women, youth, and rural communities.

Regarding the utilisation of vacant and underutilised properties, one of the identified land parcels in this policy process has been earmarked for the possible construction of a

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 53

parliamentary village here in Kimberley. This facility would accommodate members of the provincial legislature who do not reside in the seat of administration. The department has already reached the final stages of the feasibility study as part of a public-private partnership process, marking significant progress in this strategic initiative.

The number of vandalised and vacant properties has drastically decreased from what we reported in the last financial year, thanks to ongoing reallocation and repurposing efforts. Among these is the Doringhof Hostel that we have allocated and leased to Manaka Estates Student Accommodation in partnership with a technical and vocational education and training college in Warrenton for skills development. We also have amongst them the old Calvinia Hospital that we have repurposed into office accommodation for several provincial departments. The old Gordonia Hospital in Upington is currently housing provincial Treasury and co-operative governance, human settlements and traditional affairs, with the aim to put under one roof more provincial departments. We can indicate that we are sitting with at least a few other departments that are interested. These interventions are reducing the province's reliance on costly commercial leases.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 54

In addition, donations of land and vacant properties have been made to municipalities for local economic activities, as well as to nongovernmental organisations, nonprofit organisations, and for-profit organisations, further strengthening community development and co-operation governance. The department's asset register remains a moving target, with the current asset count standing at 1 916, of which 1 314 are registered in the name of the province.

I think it is important that we also reflect on rates and taxes. Whilst progress has been made in strengthening asset management, a major challenge confronting both the department and municipalities across the Northern Cape province remains the chronic underfunding of property rates and taxes on provincial government properties. Municipal rates and taxes continue to pose a persistent challenge, as the department struggles to align current accounts with budget allocations. This difficulty is compounded by skewed annual increases in municipal tariffs and billing compared to the year-on-year growth in equitable share allocations.

To enhance our revenue collection, as a department, we have disposed of a sizeable number of residential houses through auction and, in some instances, through the first right of

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 55

refusal, contributing over R9 million during the 2025-2026 financial year directly into the provincial fiscus. The department will continue with efforts to trace defaulting lessors on state houses.

At the same time, the department remains sensitive to the realities faced by tenants, including those that have reached pensionable age, those that are unemployed, and those that have passed away. A strategy is being developed in collaboration with the provincial treasury to address these challenges in a fair and sustainable manner.

At the heart of all our processes is the Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP. The Minister correctly highlighted that infrastructure delivery must be accompanied by job creation.

This is particularly important in a province such as the Northern Cape where unemployment remains one of our greatest socioeconomic challenges. The EPWP remains one of government's most effective interventions for providing income support, work experience, and pathways to economic participation. Just in the 2025-2026 financial year, the Northern Cape achieved more than 20 000 work opportunities through EPWP interventions. At that time, we had already achieved

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 56

approximately 40% in the first year of the five-year term of Phase 5 of the EPWP. For the same period, this department alone created 12 516 work opportunities, and that is where we have exceeded our target.

Thank you, Chair. We support the Budget Vote. Thank you very much. [Time expired.]

Mr E NZIMANDE: Hon Chair, I stand on the established protocol.

IsiZulu:

Lafa elihle kakhulu. Abantu bakaTambo laba asebeshaywa ngempama abantu bakaPewula laba asebethi: Siyabonga basi, hhayi sisebenzisana kahle nawe. Bese beyasuka bashaye thina, babuze ukuthi: Kungani singalivumi ivoti lesabiwomali? Asilivumi. Yilokhu ke Mhlonishwa Molokomme okwenza singalivumi.

English:

The Budget Vote shall not result in continued performance improvement of the department. Consequently, through this plan, the department shall not realise its overall objective to optimise management of the state immovable asset portfolio through refurbishment, maintenance, capital upgrade, and lease

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 57

management to support integrated government services. As MKP, we argue that the allocated R6,7 billion for medium term maintenance and repairs through PMTE is evidence enough that the commitment of the department through this Budget Vote will not achieve and is not realistic in greater respect.

The amount allocated fails to appreciate the need to offset the historical backlog on refurbishment and maintenance, the rising service tariffs, and the continuous needs of capital upgrade. Instead of presenting the impactful plan to the citizen, ... the performance improvement, once again, the citizen is confronted by the plan that is malicious compliance. Instead of all the speakers speaking about the impact of this plan, they are speaking about past performance. They don't really understand what it is that should be debated in this House. It's not a past performance plan. It's a plan before us. Year-on-year, underutilised state assets have been and will remain a challenge. So as maintenance backlog and so is capital upgrade. Procurement inefficiencies remain a challenge. PMTE financial instability remains a challenge.

IsiZulu:

Bayeza bonke bazokhala phambi kwethu la kodwa bawuhulumeni naye lo Ngqongqoshe wakhona. Ukhalele kuphi umphakathi?

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 58

English:

Government continues to own one of the largest property portfolios in South Africa, yet over the medium term, approximately R21,7 billion will be spent on leased accommodation, while many state-owned properties remain vacant, abandoned, vandalised, illegal, occupied, or underutilised.

IsiZulu:

Abazi nokuthi mayelana nalohlelo, abazi nokuthi bangaki abantu, abakaze bababala ukuthi bangaki abahleli ngokungemthetho, nabangafanele ngabe bahlala kulezi zindawo zikahulumeni makuqhathanisa nesilinganiso somholo.

English:

The conduct of this government to conduct tirelessly in broadening the financial base of private capital weakened the interventionist role of the state in pursuit of the developmental agenda. Money saved from this could be spent on building or maintaining schools, hospitals, and clinics. Operations brought back to recover and repurpose public assets remain significantly smaller than the scale of the problem. Vacant and underutilised state properties continue to impose costs on the fiscal while government remains dependent on the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 59

private landlord. The continued instability of the PMTE compounds this problem. PMTE continues facing debt collection challenges, revenue management weaknesses, and financial sustainability concerns.

IsiZulu:

Uyeza uNgqongqoshe uzosikhalela ngalezi zinto, kwangathi akuyena uNgqongqoshe ngathi akekho kuhulumeni.

English:

No sound intervention built in the plan before this House. Surely, any reasonable and caring government cannot continuously operate with property management entirely facing recurring financial pressures. Commitments based on imagination are worth nothing but illusions. Commitments of R350 billions mobilisation through wishful blended finance and public-private partnership over the five-years can only be achievable if dependencies permeate. Making commitments on such a shaky ground.

IsiZulu:

Kufana nesigwadi sibeka usuku lomshado singanancwayi ngisho nokuba nangcwayi.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 60

English:

South Africa continues to face significant infrastructure deficits. Schools require upgrades. Hospitals require maintenance. Clinics require refurbishment. Government buildings require rehabilitation. Communities continue waiting for infrastructure while the maintenance backlog continues to grow. The pace of delivery remains slower than the pace at which infrastructure deteriorates. Infrastructure expenditure will be producing visible changes in ownership, contractor, development, and enterprise growth and economic participation for historically disadvantaged South Africans. The evidence demonstrating these outcomes remains limited. ANC, what did you expect? Your conduct is like asking a thief who took over your house, and saying, please give me a place to sleep or ask a thief to give you a lift in your own car. Giving such a strategic position or portfolio to the descendants of oppressors ...

IsiZulu:

Abo-Pewula ...

English:

... was selling out the masses of this country. The Auditor-General has repeatedly highlighted weaknesses in the ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 61

governance, control, asset management, project execution, and all others. These findings are recurring. The consequences of underperformance are borne by communities waiting for infrastructure taxpayer funding inefficiencies. The municipalities are struggling with deteriorating facilities and young people trapped in unemployment. The plan is badly couched in creative respect. Its outputs are wrongly couched and are not correctly measured for desired outcomes. In this regard, the overall objectives of the department shall not be realised.

IsiZulu:

Nakhu ke sikutshele futhi Mhlonishwa Molokomme ngoba uyeka labantu laba.

English:

The APP focuses too much on the compliance rates instead of measuring service delivery outcomes such as clear plans of strengthening support for Programme 1 to achieve a resilient, ethical, and capable DPWI target.

Rates of compliance rating on ethical and leadership culture, vacancy rate on the post to be filled, number of funded the posts available, as well as drafted contracts. It is not

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 62

clearly outlined how to measure a resilient, ethical, and capable DPWI without developing a set standard for compliance that will ensure that a resilient, ethical, and capable DPWI is realised. It also lacks information on how Programme 1 will support the call to achieve the departmental objectives as outlined in the plan.

The presentation further lacks information on how the sector will be monitored in terms of implementation guidelines in relation to creating work opportunities such as labour intensive, as well as transforming and professionalising the built environment that enables beneficiaries to participate in DPWI skills intervention as part of the capacity-building programme and technical intervention. Overall, the document demonstrates compliance and oversight, but it needs strong outcome-based indicators. Clearly, the implementation plan and more convincingly delivery narratives based on the aforementioned rational, reasonable, and cogent reasons. MK Party rejects this Budget Vote No 13, hon members. Now you understand that we've taught you politics ... [Time expired.]

IsiZulu:

Siyabonga.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 63

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr. B A Radebe): Thank you, hon
Mphephethwa, on the point of rejecting the budget, your time
has expired then, please take your seat.

Ms S E MOKUA (North West): Chairperson, I hope I am audible
and you can also see me from that side.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Yes, we can see you and
you can switch off your video.

Ms S E MOKUA (North West): Okay. Thank you very much, hon
House Chair. Greetings to yourself and the House at large.
Just to spare some more time let me say, all protocol
observed. Let me express a warm gratitude for having been
afforded an opportunity to take part and to debate the state
of the Budget Vote 13 of the national Department of Public
Works and Infrastructure that was delivered by the Minister,
Dean Macpherson. I rise to pledge my support from the province
for the Budget Vote as presented by the Minister with the
support of the Deputy Minister.

As far as the Public Works Expanded Programme, EPWP, is
concerned in the province, we have agreed that we must have a
reimagined EPWP to create temporary work opportunities and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 64

full-time equivalents. I agree with Minister Macpherson that there are an urgent needs to deepen extended EPWP reform to create fairer access and pathways into permanent employment.

The programme launched in 2004 and originated from the Growth and Development Summit, GDS, of 2003. The GDS agreed that the EPWP provide poverty and income relief through temporary work for the unemployed to carry out socially useful activities. Temporarily, as the opportunities present themselves by the programme that they may be, they impact they impact the lives of the people in a positive way financially and with the skills transferred to find the exit pathways.

The North West Department of Public Works and Roads has done extensive work internally to improve its operation to deliver on contributing to job creation. The department chairs the provincial EPWP steering committee in the province to allow the platform for strategic interaction on job creation through the various sectors' funding allocations from national public works and infrastructure reporting on progress against the target set out per the public body.

The North West province had in the course of the first two years of Phase 5 of the programme delivered a combined number

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 65

of 70 026 work opportunities against a target of 56,687. This translate to 28% over achievement across the 31 public bodies in the province. The lead Department of Public Works and Roads is applying to all relevant funders to land support for funding of accredited training programmes for each 13 875 EPWP participant.

The Construction and Engineering Training Authority, CETA, had already started investing in 580 learners across various buildings maintenance disciplines that are currently being rolled out over a period of two years. The second programme currently still under discussion entails the training of 7 000 participants in pothole patching with subsequent accreditation divided over the period of four years.

The department is also advertising a panel of trainers for a 36-month period to alleviate the challenges experienced by CETA in identifying accredited trainers in the North West through which to fund the training initiatives. The department had faced challenges to fund personal protective and labour intensive tools for a large target of more than 10 000 participants, as well as intensifying on the job skills transfer and the supervision.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 66

To address these challenges the department has plans in place for 2026-27 financial year, to appoint a dedicated pool of women, persons with disabilities and military veteran service providers to supply and deliver these items for a period of 36 months as earlier alluded to. To create also an exit path for these participants through supervision by the new intake of the Vuk'uphile Contractor Development Programme on various set aside projects.

An example of additional supervision is the successful placement of hundreds of the 580 learnership funded by the CETA as alluded above that are currently attached to the project managed by the already developed and exited first phase of Vuk'uphile contractors on projects that contractors competed for directly. The new intake of learner contractors will thus be placed on set aside projects that include the supply of personal protective equipment, PPE, and labour intensive tools that they will procure from the departmental panel.

Furthermore, the department's core programme, which is building infrastructure and transport infrastructure, are co-ordinating their 2026-27 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework plans with the programme responsible for EPWP to ensure large

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 67

projects are unbundled and subcontracting is set aside and smaller projects are completely set aside as standalone for the learner contractors. As far as government immovable assets are concerned, I fully concur with the Minister that we have to use public assets for public good.

The department has earmarked 77 vacant resident stands across the province for disposal as part of this revenue enhancement strategy. However, 25 of these stands have been approved by the executive committee, Exco, to be donated to the JB Marks Local Municipality to address the housing challenges for military veterans programme and 52 are to be disposed through the public auctions.

As far as the payments of the rates and taxes, in order to demonstrate the department's continued commitment to supporting municipalities and ensuring that government meets its financial obligation responsibility and timeously 552 million to 18 municipalities across the province during the 2025-26 financial year towards municipality rates and taxes on government owned properties was paid. In 2026-27 financial year, the department has further allocated R350 million for the payment of municipal rates and taxes on government-owned properties across the province.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 68

This allocation aims to support municipalities in maintaining financial stability and providing service delivery to communities. The department, however, remains committed to ensuring that legitimate municipal accounts are paid on time while also addressing challenges relating to incorrect billing, property valuation and historical accounts dispute. On conditional assessment, the department is mandated to conduct periodic condition assessment every five years which provide critical baseline data for strategic maintenance planning and investment decision based on assessment outcomes.

The department has concluded the assessment of 137 facilities, mainly office accommodation buildings in the last Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period. The majority of buildings are from fair to poor state which requires some agent maintenance so that they can be further used and deployed in different areas. An estimated R1,8 billion is required to address the total accumulated maintenance backlog across the entire building portfolio.

However, a budget of R559 million is required over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period to address prioritised critical facilities alone, which already exceeds the current available departmental budget allocation. For the financial

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 69

year 2026-27 period, the Department of Public Works and Roads is preparing a new cycle of condition assessment on state-owned health facilities across the province and 60 facilities have been targeted for condition assessment.

As far as corporate governance, in relation to corporate government we can ... report that we managed to ...

[Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): ... exactly that tune indicates that your time has expired. Thank you for participating in this ...

Ms S E MOKUA (North West): Okay. Thank you very much. However, we support the Budget Vote as presented by the Minister with the support of the Deputy Minister. Thank you very much, Chair.

Mr J J MAMABOLO (Gauteng): House Chair, let me take the opportunity to greet the entire leadership of the NCOP and greet our hon Minister, the Deputy Minister and my colleagues, all the members of the executive council, MECs, all the hon members, the SA Local Government Association, Salga, leadership, and of course, let me acknowledge the guests from

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 70

our province who are here, ladies and gentlemen, greetings from Gauteng province.

Allow me to start this very important debate on a very sad note by conveying our sincere condolences to all the families that lost their loved ones in the tragic shooting incident that took place in our province, in the city of Joburg, in Cleveland. We wish a speedy recovery to all those who sustained injuries. We strongly condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the shooting incident, and we call on all law enforcement agencies to work together to arrest the perpetrators so that they can face the full might of the law.

We are debating this budget during the Youth Month, in memory of the youth that were brutally murdered by the apartheid state on 16 June 1976. We also take the opportunity to express and pledge our full confidence and support to Bafana Bafana in the World Cup.

Hon members, let me join the unity of all our MECs who have already debated to welcome the budget and pledge their full support, and thank a very profound point made by hon Molokomme on the fact that we should focus on the task at hand. I think she correctly advised us on what to do and what not to do.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 71

Therefore, I would like to thank her for that. Although there are those who have degenerated, I think the Minister would have noted some of the members of the DA who chose to abuse the platform and degenerate into narrow party-political matters. However, I think the profound principle by hon Molokomme is quite correct, and we will stick to that.

Now, hon Minister, we welcome and support the strategic perspective you have laid down, building on the theme, the directives, the perspective by our President, Cyril Ramaphosa, during the state of the nation address and, of course, by the speakers that have spoken before me, reaffirming the principle celebrated globally that infrastructure remains a critical intervention to grow the economy, to create jobs, to fight poverty and to reduce inequality. Of course, I must say, I'm sure the Deputy Minister, when he comes, and we're looking forward to his input, will also add more impetus to this very important point about the role of infrastructure in economic growth, creating jobs and improving the quality of lives of the people. We are convinced as a province that the leadership of the Minister and Deputy Minister is precisely focused on this strategic task as outlined by our President and let me also add the premier of our province.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 72

I would like to therefore call on the House and all hon members that let us support the budget because our country has taken a deliberate and conscious strategic path to place infrastructure at the centre of industrialisation, economic growth and national development, transformation and empowerment. It is in this context that we would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister and the Deputy Minister for a very good work in relationship with our province, and more often consciously and deliberately choosing on our province to host a few major national events led by the Minister and the Deputy Minister. We're also grateful, Minister, that just next week we will be with you and the Deputy Minister in our province when we host one of the events in Sedibeng, and we're looking forward to that.

Now, hon members, in our province we chose to launch a turnaround strategy which we have also shared with you in this House. This was launched on the 1 August 2025, when we appointed the new accounting officer to lead the turnaround. We clearly chose to focus on the infrastructure delivery ecosystem because we sought to make the point that the delivery of infrastructure in the most efficient and effective way requires that we look at several factors. We did say that there is no single or silver lining bullet in doing that.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 73

There are multiple variables that we need to focus on and there's no single one of them that you can just address and get infrastructure right. It's a very complex task and this has also been acknowledged globally that delivery of infrastructure is not an easy task. It is in this regard that in our ecosystem approach we built on the policy of national government known as the Infrastructure Delivery Management System, IDMS, and we then converted it into our project readiness metrics which is a checklist and a toolkit to make sure that we can build the capacity of the state to deliver infrastructure in a sustainable way.

I'd like to say to hon members that the African National Congress in its election manifesto directed us to build the capacity of the state ethical, developmental, decisive state so that we can deliver infrastructure in a very sustainable way and improve the quality of lives of the people. In our ecosystem we have adopted what we call the infrastructure delivery platform, IDEP, which we are pleased to say that the Department of Public Service and Administration in the Batho Pele award recognised this technology, and it has received a gold award in the innovation. Therefore, we are very much pleased that this state-of-the-art technology is already helping us to improve infrastructure.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 74

There are other areas in the ecosystem that we are focussing on, governance of our infrastructure, the cash flow and liquidity problems facing contractors, oversight through what we call the infrastructure A-Team, the stakeholder management including intergovernmental relations, working with our municipalities. All these variables in the ecosystem are very much important and they are linked and interconnected so that we can deliver infrastructure within time, cost and budget and address some of the challenges that have been raised even by members in this House when they visited our province during the NCOP week they've raised a number of issues with us. That's why we converged on a need to look at multidisciplinary interventions in the ecosystem.

I'm very much proud to announce that through this turnaround strategy we've already delivered some of the infrastructure, for example, in Sedibeng, we have handed over a state-of-the-art facility known as Rust-Ter-Vaal, Du Plessis in Ekurhuleni, the learners are in class in Simunye in Bekkersdal. We have also made sure that we get classroom delivered for the learners in Nancefield. These are some of the major achievements that we have done through this year, just this year alone we've already delivered four state-of-the-art

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 75

infrastructures in our province. This is compared to many years when we couldn't deliver infrastructure.

Therefore, I'm very much pleased to say to the people of Bantu Bonke in Midvaal that their asset is coming. To the people of Soshanguve and Mabopane, we will be delivering, and Semphato, Refithlile Pele, all these projects. Hon members, the Women's Living Heritage Monument we have completed. We are talking to the city of Tshwane, and we are waiting for them to give us an occupation certificate, but we have done our best. Therefore, our ecosystem is working, hon members. We have delivered at a pace and speed never seen before and we are quite sure that we will improve.

Let me conclude by saying that we are very much pleased that our premier, hon Panyaza Lesufi, has unveiled a youth skills programme of about 2 500 youth that were enrolled on this programme at the University of Johannesburg, Soweto Campus, and we are quite confident that this will consolidate Nasir iSpani youth employment programme. On that note, thank you very much, hon members. We support the budget.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 76

Ms M MAKESINI: Hon House Chairperson. The EFF rejects the Budget Vote 13 of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure ...

IsiZulu:

... ngobunjalo ...

English:

... as presented. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure sits at the centre of South African socioeconomic development, tasked with managing the state immovable assets and spearheading infrastructure delivery. However, it is currently crippled with the systematic corruption, lack of capacity and inability to carry out infrastructure projects on time within the budget.

So, we reject this budget vote as it fails to confront the structural realities of poverty, unemployment, inequality and underdevelopment facing the people of South Africa. This budget speaks to the language of reform while preserving a very neoliberal system that has condemned millions of South Africa to economic exclusion. The Minister boasts about the investment conference, private sector partnership and engagement of multinational co-operation. Yet the reality on

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 77

the ground is that millions of our people remain unemployed, public infrastructure continues to collapse, government buildings are neglected and the communities are denied service delivery.

In the Eastern Cape, for, example, the rural community suffered a delay of halted projects. It was the case of highly publicised Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme, which was intended to provide safe and steel bridges in the areas of O R Tambo and Amathole District Minicipalities, Nyandeni Local Municipality and Mqanduli instead had irregular and unperforming contractors and material supply chain shortage.

The same concern is in the province of the Free State, a province with frontline government buildings which are not serviced and lack proper maintenance. This failure is not an isolated issue but a part of the national pandemic. House Chairperson, through you, to the MEC, you know we have been speaking to you about the Inala Theatre school in Porterville. There is a school in Qwaqwa, in Makholokweng, Morena Tshohisi Moloi II Primary School.

Sesotho:

Bana bao ba kena skolong sa asbestos.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 78

English:

The project has been delayed for four years. Beneficiaries ...

Sesotho:

... bana ba a kula ...

English:

... and you know the weather in Qwaqwa yourself that it is not conducive. For almost 12 years ...

Sesotho:

... bana ba rona ba kenela dikolong maamong a seng matle, ene maemo a bona a bophelo, le matitjhere a sebetsang dikolong tseo, ha a hantle.

English:

So, we are requesting yourself, MEC and the Minister to commit and assist the people of Nala, Tsietso, Morena Tshohisi Moloi II Primary School and Makholokweng so that ...

Sesotho:

... ba fumane ditshebeletso tse hantle. Ene ke a tseba o ka kgona ho etsa jwalo.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 79

English:

Chairperson, corruption is so widespread in Free State province that the Deputy Minister declared the Extended Public Works Programme, EPWP, unit in the Matjhabeng Local Municipality as unlawful and ordered its immediate closure.

Sesotho:

Empa, eo e ileng ya re makatsa ke ena: ...

English:

The following impact of Matjhabeng Local Municipality ... they came with the recommendation to disband this unit and holding behind the irregular appointment of personnel liable so that they can pay back the money. Despite these directives, now the Deputy Minister ...

Sesotho:

... hobane ho uwa sebokeng sa Lejweleputswa sa ANC ...

IsiXhosa:

... nankuya esiya kuqasha abantu abali 136 ...

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 80

... EPWP workers without following the procedure and working with the municipality. These were not EPWP workers but were a cover of the delegates to the ANC conference.

We can also say much about Limpopo where there is a lack of skilled personnel, unavailability of work tools, prolonged supply chain process, drastical hamper and the management of government immovable assets.

Sesotho:

Ba tla be ba re ba thunya lerole la dintho tse pedi.

English:

As we all know, we can say a lot about Gauteng. There is a Telkom Towers project which was intended to serve the integrated headquarters of the SA Police Service. It is faced with years of delay, cost overrun and material irregularities.

House Chair, across all nine provinces public projects are being halted by extortionists or construction mafia using violence and intimidation to block the sites and the workers are losing their lives.

IsiXhosa:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 81

Sibabonile apha eNtshona Koloni abantwana abangamantombazana bebulawa kwiindawo zeeprojekhithi.

English:

This is the budget that failed to provide any real funded strategy to secure state construction site and to protect workers. Instead, this budget leaves industrial projects and managers completely exposed to the violence of the syndicate. Chairperson, the Minister celebrates R17 billion investment pledge and present that as a victory. However, foreign investment does not automatically translate to the economic justice. Minister, South Africans do not eat investment pledges. They need jobs, housing, roads, clinics, schools and functional infrastructure.

The EFF therefore also rejects the obsession of public-private partnership and the continued attempt to handover strategic planning and asset interests under the disguise of efficiency. The proposed SA National State Property Company risks becoming another vehicle through which the state assets and commercial will be eventually captured by private capital. Public property belongs to the people of South Africa and must remain under the democratic public control.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 82

Chairperson, the Minister correctly identified corruption and mismanagement within the Property Management and Trading Entity, PMTE. However, corruption did not emerge overnight. It flourished because successive administrations failed to build a capable state. Institutions are based on political connections, elites benefited on tender manipulation and state capture. While we support accountability, blacklisting of corrupt contractors and lifestyle audit, we reject the selective manner in which these issues are raised. Corruption must be fought consistently without any political biasness and skin colour.

IsiXhosa:

Ukuba abelungu banorhwaphilizo iinkampani zabo nazo mazivalwe (blacklist).

English:

It is also a concern to note how the EPWP is consistently plagued by underreporting, inconsistent sectoral performance and inability to head target for the youth participation.

IsiXhosa:

Njengoko sikwiNyanga yoLutsha, makhe sincede siwonge ulutsha lwaseMzantsi Afrika ngemisebenzi esemgangathweni kuba nabo

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 83

balungele ukuba basebenzele imizi yabo okanye bakhe amakhaya akwamakwabo.

English:

In the deeply rural areas of the province of Limpopo, Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape, EPWP workers often face delays in salaries as well as exploitation by the implementing agents that have been appointed. It is true that we say, the EPWP remains a temporal poverty management programme rather than a genuine employment strategy. House Chairperson, a short-term contract that the Minister is giving us cannot substitute industrialisation, land reform, state-led infrastructure development and creation of permanent jobs. South Africa does not want endless circus of the temporary employment. They want decent work, job security and economic freedom. The EFF believes that infrastructure development must be driven by the developmental state capable of directly employing workers, engineers, artisans and professionals on a permanent basis.

Hon House Chairperson, the department is also constitutionally mandated to serve as a South African primary driver of physical asset development, state property management and socioeconomic transformation. However, the structural

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 84

composition of this budget prevents it from achieving these goals. The 82% of the total budget funnels away the transfer and the subsidy. This massive chunk of the public capital is distributed to the number of external agencies, provincial departments and trading entities that consistently fail to deliver measurable socioeconomic inputs.

About 45% of the department's budget is allocated to transfers and subsidies. This points to a broader structural crisis: the continued outsourcing of state capacity instead of building a capable state. The state should be able to employ the necessary workers directly to lay bricks, repair roads and maintain public assets. This budget surrenders South Africa's development, sovereignty and decision-making power to the private sector and tenderpreneurs. That is why the EFF introduced the insourcing bill in the National Assembly and want to complete it by forcing all the government departments, including the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to stop hiring or outsource contractors. Start delivery service direct, using their own permanent staff so that they can give services to the people.

We also reject the continual underperforming infrastructure maintenance expansion. South Africa requires massive

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 85

investment in rail infrastructure, road, public building, water system, schools, hospitals and housing must also be assisted. Yet these budgets remain constrained by a fiscal austerity. The budget cut is imposed by the National Treasury. We also acknowledge that. As long as government continues to prioritise fiscal consolidation over the developmental expenditure, infrastructure backlog will continue and the economy will not grow.

So, Minister, please unlock the value of the public assets. The EFF believes that the true value of public assets lies on their commercialisation and use them to transform the lives of the people. State land should be used for the mass housing development, productive agriculture, industrial park facility and community infrastructure. The people must benefit before the investors.

In conclusion, this budget fails to provide a radical programme for economic transformation, hon Nonkonyana. It does not address unemployment at the scale required, nor does it expand state capacity. It also fails to challenge the dominance of private capital in infrastructure development or to offer a decisive break from austerity measures.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 86

IsiXhosa:

Singumbutho we-EFF sithi siyalukhaba olu hlahlomali, nakusixolela. Ndiyabulela.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon delegates, I just want to make sure that everyone is properly informed. I am sure that all of your whips have advised you, but just to make the formal announcement from the Table and from the Chair, up here, that at the conclusion of this debate, the House will be suspended and then we will reconvene virtually at 19h00 this evening to continue with the second debate. Hon members, we are going virtual for the next speech as well.

Mr E S RACHOENE (Limpopo): Hon Chairperson, hon Minister and Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, hon members of the National Council of Provinces, distinguished guests, fellow South Africans, ...

Sesotho:

... kgotsong!

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 87

We are delighted to have been given this privilege to participate in this important debate on Budget Vote 13 and to contribute to a discussion that lies at the heart of South Africa's development agenda, which has been led by President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa.

Infrastructure remains one of the most effective instruments available to government to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, reduce inequality, and improve the quality of the life of our people. It is through this strategic investment in infrastructure that we can unlock economic opportunities, connect communities, strengthen service delivery and build a more inclusive and prosperous South Africa.

As Limpopo, under the capable stewardship of our hon Premier Dr Popi Ramathuba, we fully support this Budget Vote and the priorities articulated by the hon Minister. We recognise the critical role that the department continues to play in co-ordinating infrastructure development and ensuring that public assets are managed effectively for the benefit of all citizens across the country.

The Government of National Unity has committed itself to accelerating economic growth, creating jobs and improving

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 88

service delivery. These priorities cannot be achieved without adequate infrastructure investment. Across the country, communities continue to rely on government to provide safe roads, functional schools, quality health facilities, government offices and other public infrastructure that enables development.

Infrastructure is therefore not an optional expenditure; it is a strategic investment in the future of our nation. In Limpopo, infrastructure development remains one of the cornerstones of our provincial growth strategy. As a predominantly rural province, we understand that infrastructure serves as a bridge between communities and opportunities.

These realities compelled us to come up with a service delivery initiative, such as #Dikgerekgere_Wednesday,

Tshivenda:

Vhuisa Thundu Dza Muvhuso, ...

English:

... which is Bring Back Government Properties, Operation Tsoga Mushumi and a deliberate programme to strengthen internal

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 89

capacity by filling vacant posts to fully support our 36 cost centres.

Road infrastructure in particular remains essential for economic participation. Many of our communities are located in remote areas where roads provide the primary link to schools, clinics, workplaces and markets. The improvement and maintenance of road networks, therefore, remains one of our key priorities.

During the current financial year, the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure continues to implement several road construction, rehabilitation and maintenance projects across the province. These projects are improving accessibility, supporting economic activity and contributing to the overall development of our communities.

We also want to take this opportunity to appreciate all the support and interventions coming from the national government, particularly the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, as well as the Department of Transport, as led by hon Barbara Creecy. The upgrading of provincial roads is not only improving mobility, but it is also attracting investment into sectors such as agriculture, mining, tourism

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 90

and manufacturing, which remain key drivers of our provincial economy.

One of the greatest challenges facing our country remains unemployment, particularly among young people. Infrastructure development provides a practical solution to this challenge. Every infrastructure project creates direct and indirect employment opportunities. Through construction activities, maintenance programs and infrastructure support services, thousands of South Africans are able to earn a living while contributing to the development of our communities.

In Limpopo, we continue to utilise infrastructure programmes as a vehicle for job creation, and in a period of a year-and-a-half, we were able to appoint 600 people permanently, of course. Currently, the recruitment process of 180 people is well underway.

Through the Expanded Public Works Programme and other labour-intensive initiatives, we have created opportunities for young people, women and persons with disabilities to participate meaningfully in economic activities. The EPWP program remains one of the government's most effective poverty alleviation interventions. Beyond temporary employment opportunities, it

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 91

equips participants with skills, work experiences and exposure that improve their prospects for long-term employment and entrepreneurship.

The hon Minister McPherson announced three priorities for the year ahead, and those priorities are focusing on establishing the SA National Property Company to unlock value from state assets; deepening EPWP reform to create fair access and pathways into permanent employment; and reforming small harbours to drive jobs, investment and local economic growth in coastal communities. As Limpopo, we are ready to play our part in implementing this.

Hon members, infrastructure development must also support transformation and inclusive economic participation.

Government infrastructure projects present a unique opportunity to empower emerging contractors, particularly those owned by black South Africans, women, youth and people living with disabilities.

In Limpopo, we continue to support contractor development programs aimed at strengthening the capacity of local contractors and enabling them to participate competitively in the construction sector. Transformation cannot remain a policy

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 92

aspiration. It must be visible on construction sites, within procurement processes and throughout the infrastructure value chain. The growth of emerging contractors contributes directly to local economic development, job creation and the expansion of the construction industry.

Another area that deserves our attention is infrastructure maintenance. Historically, significant resources have been allocated towards the construction of new infrastructure, while insufficient attention has been given to maintaining the existing assets. This approach is neither sustainable nor cost-effective.

Public infrastructure represents a significant investment by taxpayers. Schools, hospitals, government buildings, roads, bridges and community facilities must be maintained properly to preserve their value and functionality. The cost of neglect is often far greater than the cost of preventative maintenance.

For these reasons, the Limpopo Department of Public Works Rules and Infrastructure continues to strengthen its maintenance programme and asset management system to ensure that public infrastructure remains functional, safe and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 93

responsive to communities' needs. The approach in the maintenance strategy enhances service delivery, reduces long-term costs and protects valuable public assets.

We also welcome ongoing efforts by the national department to improve infrastructure planning and co-ordination across all spheres of government. The success of infrastructure delivery depends on effective collaboration between national, provincial and local government institutions. Too often, infrastructure projects are delayed due to plenty of shortcomings, procurement challenges or insufficient co-ordination among stakeholders.

As government, we must continue to strengthen project preparation, improve contract management and enhance accountability throughout the infrastructure delivery process. Infrastructure delivery requires discipline, innovation and effective use of public resources. Citizens expect visible progress and measurable outcomes. They expect projects to be completed on time, within budget and according to the required quality standards.

We therefore support initiatives aimed at improving governance, strengthening oversight and enhancing

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 94

infrastructure performance across the public sector. As we debate this Budget Vote today, we must remain focused on the outcomes rather than inputs. Our success will not be measured by the R7,8 billion Budget Vote allocated, but by the impact that infrastructure investment has on the lives of the ordinary South Africans.

We must continue building roads that connect communities, maintaining facilities that support service delivery, creating jobs through infrastructure programs and empowering local businesses through inclusive procurement practices. The people of South Africa deserve infrastructure that works. They deserve infrastructure that supports economic growth, promotes social development and advances the constitutional promise of a better life for all.

As the ANC-led Limpopo Provincial Government, we remain committed to working alongside national government, municipalities, the private sector and the communities to realise this vision. We therefore support Budget Vote 13 and reaffirm our commitment to infrastructure-led development as a driver of economic growth, social progress and inclusive prosperity. I thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 95

Ms T BREEDT: Hon House Chairperson, the infrastructure investments we make now will determine the kind of economy we have in the future. Infrastructure provides the skeleton on which to grow a new economic model. Those words by Richard Florida remind us of a simple truth: Without infrastructure, there is no growth, no investment and no future.

In South Africa, however, infrastructure is too often spoken about as if it is merely a line item in a budget, and it is not. Infrastructure is the road that gets a child to school; it is the bridge that connects a farmer to a market; and it is the water pipe that allows a business to open its doors. Infrastructure is the difference between hope and stagnation.

The department rightly speaks of turning South Africa into a construction site, and that is the vision that the FF-Plus can support. However, visions do not build roads, plans do not fix schools, and targets do not create growth. Delivery does. According to the department's own plans, 60 capital infrastructure projects will be completed this year, more than 21 000 state assets will be verified, and over one million work opportunities will be reported through the Expanded Public Works Program.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 96

Those numbers are pretty impressive. However, South Africans have become tired of measuring success by plans and presentations. They want to measure success by what they can actually see. They want to see the unfinished projects completed. They want to see abandoned construction sites brought back to life. They want to see public buildings repaired before new promises are made.

Afrikaans:

Want die waarheid is eenvoudig: Ons hoef nie net nuwe infrastruktuur te bou nie. Ons moet ook klaarmaak wat reeds begin is.

English:

Chairperson, the issue that receives far too little attention, though, is the debt owed to municipalities by our national and provincial departments. When government departments fail to pay municipal accounts, municipalities struggle to provide services, schools suffer, communities suffer and infrastructure maintenance is delayed.

Government cannot preach accountability to municipalities, while government itself becomes part of the problem. Payments

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 97

for services rendered is not optional; it is a basic obligation.

Afrikaans:

Ons sien dit oor en oor in ons klein dorpe waar infrastruktuur verval omdat munisipaliteite eenvoudig nie die fondse het om noodsaaklike instandhouding te doen nie.

English:

The department acknowledges the procurement delays that remain a major challenge. South Africans do not have an infrastructure funding crisis alone; we have an infrastructure delivery crisis as well. Projects delayed for years become more expensive, communities lose confidence and investors look elsewhere.

Every month of delay costs money, every year of delay costs opportunities and every failed project cost jobs. That is why we welcome the efforts to modernise the procurement system to unlock stalled projects and make better use of state-owned assets.

The department plans to release 4 000 hectares of land and increase revenue from state property holdings. These assets

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 98

belong to the people of South Africa and should work for the people of South Africa. Thank you.

Chairperson, I am really sorry that hon Badenhorst is not here, because I wanted to say, ...

Afrikaans:

... en saam sê ons: Dis ons tyd!

English:

It is our time! However, it will only be our time when infrastructure once again becomes something South Africans can trust. Not promises, not announcements and not glossy presentations, but results – roads that work, buildings that function and projects that are completed! This is because infrastructure is not about concrete and steel; it is about creating a country where future generations can build their dreams.

We will continue to support infrastructure that creates growth, strengthens communities and delivers value to every taxpayer's rand. I thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 99

Mr B S MABEBO: House Chair, hon members, allow me to stand on the protocol which has been established already. Today I rise to participate in this debate under the theme: *Leveraging Public Works and Infrastructure at public level for localised job creation, skills development and economic transformation.*

This theme speaks directly to the realities facing millions of South Africans. It speaks to the young graduates who cannot find work despite having qualifications. It speaks to the artisan searching for opportunities to gain practical experience. It speaks to small contractors struggling to access government projects. And it speaks to communities waiting for infrastructure that can unlock economic activity and improve their quality of life.

The truth is that infrastructure is fore more than concrete, steel and bricks. Infrastructure is one of the most powerful tools available to government to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, build skills and transform local economics. That is why the provincial dimension of budget vote is so important.

Hon members, more than 82% of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's budget is transferred through grants,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 100

subsidies and support programmes. This means that the real impact of this budget will not be measured in Pretoria, it will be measured in our provinces, municipalities, towns and villages.

The question before us is simple. How do we ensure that public infrastructure spending translates into jobs, skills and economic opportunities for local communities?

Firstly, we must address the gap between education and employment. Our government has allocated R96 million to support approximately 3,8 million beneficiaries through bursaries, internship candidacy programmes and artisan development initiatives.

While the investment is welcome, we must ensure that these opportunities are distributed freely across all provinces and are aligned with local infrastructure needs. For an example, Mpumalanga faces growth demand for technical skills linked to water infrastructure and built services. The Northern Cape requires skills linked to road maintenance and transport infrastructure.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 101

Provinces with growing human settlement projects require engineers, quantity surveyors, artisans and construction professionals.

Skills development must, therefore, be demand-driven and linked directly to infrastructure delivery.

Young people should not be trained for an employment, they should be trained for opportunities that exist within their provinces.

Chairperson, a qualification alone is not enough. Many graduates remain trapped between completing their studies and securing employment because they cannot obtain professional registration. These challenges affect engineers, architects, electricians, quantity surveyors and other built environment professionals.

Municipalities frequently report a shortage of technical expertise, yet, qualified graduates remain unemployed. This is a contradiction we can no longer afford.

Provincial Public Works Departments, district municipalities and infrastructure agencies must become training platforms

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 102

where graduates receive practical exposure, mentorship and support towards professional registration.

Professional registration should not be viewed as an individual achievement only, it should be regarded as a provincial development outcome because every registered professional strengthens the state's capacity to deliver infrastructure.

Hon members, infrastructure delivery begins long before construction starts. Many infrastructure projects fail because of poor planning, inadequate feasibility studies, weak project preparation and delayed approvals. This is why an allocation of R983,8 million to Infrastructure SA is so significant.

These resources must be used strategically to prepare projects that address provincial priorities, whether it is in rural roads, connecting communities to markets, clinics serving remote communities, school maintenance programmes or bulk infrastructure for housing development projects, preparation is critical.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 103

Communities do not benefit from projects that remain on paper, they benefit from projects that move from planning to implementation and ultimately to completion.

Chairperson, one of the most immediate opportunities for localised job creation lies in maintenance and refurbishment. Government has allocated R4,4 billion towards maintenance as part of the property management trading entities budget. This investment has enormous potential for provincial economics.

Across the country, police stations, courts, correctional centres and government office buildings require repairs, upgrades and refurbishments.

Unlike large-scale infrastructure projects, maintenance programmes create opportunities that can be spread across numerous communities that create work for local artisans, electricians, plumbers, painters, construction workers and small contractors.

Every maintenance project completed represents jobs created, skilled development and local business supported.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 104

We must, therefore, ensure that maintenance spending actively prioritises local participation and community-based enterprises.

Hon Chairperson, economic transformation remains one of the rural centres' objectives of public procurement. For far too long black-owned and emerging contractors have struggled to access meaningful opportunities within the construction sector.

The Construction Industry Development Board, CIBD, has an important responsibility to promote transformation through contractor development and best practice procurement systems. However, transformation cannot be measured by policy intentions alone. It must be reflected in who receives contracts, who benefits from subcontracting opportunities and who participates in the infrastructure economy.

Provincial government must strengthen support for emerging contractors, improve access to procurement opportunities and ensure that local businesses benefit from public investment. When government spends money on infrastructure, local communities must see themselves reflected in that investment.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 105

The Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, remains one of the government's most important intervention for job creations. With millions allocated over the medium-term, provinces continue to play a leading role in implementation. However, we must move beyond counting work opportunities. The real objective should be creating pathways into sustainable employment.

EPWP participants should leave the programme with practical experience, transferable skills and improved prospects for future employment. The programme should not only provide temporary relief, it should help build long-term economic resilience.

Hon Members, the Property Management Trading Entity, PMTE, will spend approximately R46,6 billion managing and maintaining facilities used by national departments. This extensive infrastructure footprint touches every province and directly affects local economics. When these facilities are maintained effectively, communities benefit from improved services, local businesses secure contracts and workers gain employment opportunities.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 106

This demonstrates that infrastructure investment is not simply about assets, it is about the people, it is about creating opportunities where people live, it is about building skills that remain within communities and it is about strengthening local economies from the ground up.

In conclusion, Chairperson, the success of the budget vote will not be determined by expenditure alone, its success will be measured by whether young people find jobs, whether graduates become registered professionals, whether local contractors gain access to opportunities, whether provincial infrastructure projects are completed and whether public investment contributes to a meaningful economic transformation.

If we align infrastructure delivery with job creation, skills development and infrastructure, we will not only build roads, schools, clinics and public facilities, we will build stronger communities, provinces and a stronger South Africa.

Setswana:

Kgobo kgobo wa ikgobokanyetsa, mme phatla phatla ka dinako tsotlhe wa iphatlhaletsa. Ke a go leboga.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 107

English:

I thank you ...

Setswana:

... Modulasetilo, le Maaforika Borwa ka bophara.

Ms D K MANCE (Free State): Hon House Chairperson, the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, NCOP, hon Minister and Deputy Minister, present today, hon members of the NCOP, fellow MECs from different provinces, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour to participate in this Budget Vote, Policy debate on behalf of the people and government of the Free State province. This debate takes place within the constitutional framework established by Schedule 4 of the Constitution Which outlines the concurrent responsibilities of national and provincial government.

These functions are not merely administrative mandates. They are instruments through which we deliver services, create opportunities, advance social justice and improve the quality of life our people. The people of South Africa do not experience government through constitutional provisions, they experience government through the quality of roads that they

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 108

travel on, the schools their children attend, the clinics that provides health care and the infrastructure that supports economic activity in their communities.

Hon House Chairperson for these reasons the Free State welcomes the continued national emphasis on the infrastructure as the catalyst for economic growth, job creation and improved service delivery.

Hon House Chairperson, infrastructure is not simply a support function of government. It is a strategic economic asset that enables development, education require schools, health care require clinics and hospitals, economic growth requires functional public assets and communities require infrastructure that connects them to opportunities.

We therefore require the government's commitment to infrastructure investment with more than R140 billion expected to be invested in the public infrastructure nationally over the next term period. This demonstrates a clear understanding that infrastructure remains one of the most effective tool available to stimulate economic activity and attract investment.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 109

In the Free State province, infrastructure-led development remains a central pillar of the growth strategy. We are pleased to report significant progress in relations to several projects that would be completed and handed over during the period 2026-27 financial year.

In the education sector, Katleho Mpumelelo Secondary School in Sasol Burg is standing at 95% completion. While Father Balink Primary School in Paris is standing at 78% completion. We will replace outdated structures with modern learning facilities. We are also ready to handover newly completed Oranjekrag Combined School Hostel in Gariep Dam which provide accommodation for 200 learners.

In the health sector, Thengani Clinic in Thabong in Welkom where the hon Makesini is coming from, has reached the 93% completion. We will improve access to health care services and residents in the rapidly growing economy. The Thusanang House Building Project in Mangaung which will be accommodating the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs is standing at 78% completion.

These projects demonstrate governance commitment to bring services closer to our communities while simultaneously

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 110

creating opportunities for local contractors, Small Medium and Micro Enterprises, SMMEs, and workers.

Hon House Chairperson, the Free State has always continued to strengthen its own infrastructure delivery capacity. Though the utilisation of our inhouse artisans and maintenance team. We have completed the refurbishment Lady Brant House which is now fully occupied by the Department of Agriculture.

We have further advanced sustainability through the installation of solar energy systems at Member of Provincial Legislature, MPL, villages, and prestige houses reducing energy costs while supporting government's transition towards clear energy solutions.

Hon House Chairperson, these interventions demonstrates that infrastructure investment is not only about building facilities. It is also about maintaining and modernising existing public assets to maximise their value and usefulness. The management of public assets remains one of the most important responsibilities entrusted to government.

The Free State government under the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is currently finalising the procurement of

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 111

integrated property management system that will modernise the management of our immovable asset portfolio consisting of 4 879 properties valued at R12,5 billion.

Hon House Chairperson, the digital system the accuracy, accessibility, reliability of property information and strengthen our ability to utilise state assets strategically in support of development objectives. Beyond improvement of our asset management, the province has embarked on an ambitious programme to transform these state-owned properties into investable asset capable of attracting investment whilst serving public interest.

In November 2025, the department successfully hosted a first ever Free State Property Summit where 16 government-owned properties were showcased to potential investors under innovative model such as Build Operate and Transfare, BOTs and Refurbish Operate and Transfare, ROTs. This initiative forms part of our broader strategy to unlock economic value from underutilised asset, reduce maintenance burdens on the state, attract investment, stimulate economic growth and create job employment opportunities.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 112

The department has already moved into Phase 2 of this programme with projects registered with the National Treasury and investor engagements are continuing.

Hon House Chairperson, the success of implementation of infrastructure programmes requires strong governance, accountability and efficient delivery system.

The Free State government support all initiatives aimed at improving project preparation, strengthening procurements systems, enhancing contract management and increasing accountability through the infrastructure value-chain.

Every rand allocated for development must translate into visible improvement in the lives of our people. Corruption and wasteful expenditure and maladministration undermines public confidence and delay development. We therefore remain committed to safeguard public resources and ensure that infrastructure investment produces measurable development outcomes. One of the most important infrastructure instruments available to government in addressing poverty, unemployment and inequality remain Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP. For 2026-27 financial year, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has allocated R5,3 million through the National

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 113

EPWP Grant which we as the department and province of the Free State augment with R42,5 million from the provincial fiscus bringing the department's EPWP budget to R47,9 million.

The Free State remains fully committed to the national targets of creating 5 million work opportunities through public employment programmes over the current five-year period. Our provincial contribution remains 171 709 work opportunities between 2024-25 and 2028-29. For the current financial year alone, the province is targeting the creation of 30 115 work opportunities including 19 000 coming from opportunities by provincial departments and 10 000 plus from municipalities.

For many families, these opportunities represent more than temporary employment. They provide income, dignity, skills development and a pathway towards broader economic participation.

In keeping up with this commitment the department has now established a Security Learnership Programme which aim to improve the safety and security of our officials and public buildings. This programme aims at attracting unemployed youth an enrol them in accredited training with objectives of equipping them to become qualified security officers. The

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 114

programme has been rolled out in Bloemfontein where 35 unemployed youth have been recruited and is anticipated to expand to other regions with 100 participants expected to participate by the end of this financial year.

The EPWP continues to demonstrate the value of co-operative governance in action. Where national policy, provincial implementation and local participation combine to create a meaningful opportunity for communities.

Hon House Chairperson, South Africa continues to face significant challenges including slow economic growth, unemployment and inequality yet these challenges also present an opportunity for government to strengthen partnership, improve implementation and accelerate development.

As the province we must continue to embrace innovation improving planning systems, leveraging technology and building institution internal capacity to deliver on our constitutional responsibility.

The Free State remains committed to working together with the national government, municipalities and all other stakeholders to advance infrastructure-led growth. Improve service

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 115

delivery, strengthen public asset management, create job creation and unlock economic opportunities.

Schedule 4 of the Constitution, provide us with an opportunity to indicate that our people come first. Budget provide the resources; our responsibility is to ensure that these resources are translated into tangible outcomes that improve the lives of our people. Together let us build a capable state that deliver infrastructure, protect public resources, create opportunity, strengthen institutions as well as restore confidence in our government. The people of South Africa deserves more.

Hon House Chairperson, it is important to respond to some of the things that the hon Makesini has indicated. In Tshehetso the contract has been terminated, and we are going to appoint a new contractor. At Morena Tshohisi Primary School the issues were related to consultants that have abandoned the site. Our professionals are on site as we speak and are dealing with the issues. Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon delegates, it seems today is the day of the Free State because the next participant is also from the Free State province. It is his

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 116

maiden speech in the NCOP as a special delegate, it is the hon Pretorius.

Mr W PRETORIUS (Free State): Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, hon Deputy Minister, hon members and the people we work for, the fellow South Africans ...

Setswana:

... dumelang, багаetsho.

Afrikaans:

Goeie dag.

English:

It is a privilege to address this House today on the Budget Vote of the Department of Public Works, the department that has seen the 360° turn under the stellar leadership of Minister McPherson. Actions speak louder than words. This department is working to get South Africa working through a Minister who leads by example; a department that has cracked down on corruption, inefficiencies, champion's growth, development and progress. At a national level, this department is a shining example of what can be done with strong political will and leadership.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 117

I am a very proud son of Bloemfontein, of the Free State. Residents across our beautiful province want to be proud of their streets, suburbs, towns, cities, dorps and their villages, and similarly, they want to be proud of their provincial and municipal assets and facilities. But unfortunately, both the local and provincial governments have failed the people of our beloved province. Across the province, not a single local government has achieved a clean audit in over nine years, not a single clean audit.

Provincially, the picture is not much better. The Auditor-General's Provincial Annual Report for 2024-25 has highlighted that the Free State Department of Public Works and Infrastructure had spent 99% of its budgets yet only achieved a mere 31% of its planned targets. Expenditure of close to 100% of the budget but only managing to achieve 31% of planned targets. This indicates a massive misalignment between the spending of billions of rands, versus the achievement of key service delivery targets that impact the lives and livelihoods of the people of our beloved province.

This provincial department's financial mismanagement and poor performance is doing harm to the residents of the province. Alarmingly, as of March 2026, the Free State Department of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 118

Public Works and Infrastructure owed local governments across the Free State a whopping R872 million in municipal services, let that sink in, R872 million owed to municipalities. The impact of this provincial government's debt on service delivery at local government level is immense.

Local governments cannot provide basic services whilst the Free State Department of Public Works owes them millions. The Free State department alone, owes the city of Mangaung hundreds of millions in rates, taxes and for electricity. It is, unfortunately, becoming a frequent occurrence that the City of Mangaung's electricity provider, Centlec (SOC) Ltd, disconnects provincial government's buildings' electricity; not even the O R Tambo building, which houses the office of the Premier, has been spared a cut in the past.

Regularly, provincial service delivery departments are forced to close their doors to the public because municipalities are cutting off water and electricity for outstanding municipal rates and taxes. The national department has made sound progress on reviewing contracts and cutting down on the reliance of private leases for the housing of government departments. In the Free State, unfortunately, the number of rental properties remains high, whilst many provincial

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 119

government-owned buildings and land is underutilised or have fallen victim to decay, vandalism and neglect.

As the custodian of all Free State provincial governments' immovable assets, the department must take pride in the upkeep and maintenance of the immovable assets of the province. It is highly unfortunate that across the Free State, provincial government buildings are plagued by a lack of maintenance and upkeep, regularly being closed down by the Department of Employment and Labour for occupational health and safety breaches.

The iconic Fourth Raadsaal, which houses the Free State provincial legislature, and most probably, the most iconic building of the Free State province, is a textbook example of the failure of the provincial Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to conduct preventative maintenance. This historic building, completed in 1983, has been closed due to safety and health concerns. The Fourth Raadsaal now requires over R40 million to be repaired before it can be used by the province.

Now, I would like to invite all members, if you are in the Free State or in Mangaung, please come and visit the Fourth

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 120

Raadsaal and we will take you on a tour there. Much of the damage cost of the Fourth Raadsaal could have been mitigated had the roof and gutters been regularly maintained and cleared. But the Fourth Raadsaal is but one example. Across the province, motor vehicle registration authorities, which are revenue-generating assets, are in a dilapidated state, with the Lengau testing centre in Bloemfontein being closed regularly due to maintenance issues of the building.

Similarly, state mortuaries in the province have in the past been closed down due to health and safety risks caused by lack of upkeep. Our hospitals and clinics are also in a state that require urgent maintenance and repairs. All state-owned properties across the Free State should be utilised to the benefit of the people of our beloved province. The DA will continue to fight for expenditure on restoration and maintenance projects, as well as the effective and sustainable utilisation of these provincial assets by the Free State Department of Public Works. These assets must work for the people of the province.

The above is a tale of two departments, one national and the other one, provincial; a tale of two political parties, one a shining beacon of what can be done with political will,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 121

ethical leadership, action and accountability. The other is a provincial department spending billions yet only achieving 31% of its targets, in so, doing harm to the residents. We are just five months away from a historic local government election on 4 November. This will be a watershed election for the Republic of South Africa.

In these upcoming elections, residents can again decide to either vote for a continued decline of local governments that are in ICU, or they can vote for a DA local government that has a proven track record of strong political will, leadership and accountability, that delivers good, clean governance. That is the choice facing South Africans. I thank you, Chair.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: I'm not sick, just cold. Hon House Chair, hon Minister Dean McPherson, our MEC who is our pillar in doing our work, hon members of the NCOP, fellow South Africans, may I start by joining His Excellency President Ramaphosa and the people of our country in extending our best wishes to Bafana Bafana as they represent the country in the FIFA World Cup. I extend my best wishes to all athletes who will be grinding the ultimate human race, the 99th Comrade Marathon on Sunday in Durban.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 122

As we commemorate the 30 years of our Constitution, we pay tribute to the heroic youth of 1976 who, 50 years ago, paid the supreme prize for the noble cause of freedom of this country. They shed their blood for the ideal of South Africa that is truly non-racial, united, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous.

Through professional service in the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, we must continue to play our part in supporting youth from impoverished backgrounds, especially in the infrastructure and construction sector.

Climate change is a global threat that we must collectively fight with our traditional leaders, communities, and all spheres of government and the private sector. To enhance safety of rural communities, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure continues to roll out the Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme in the Eastern Cape, Kwazulu-Natal, Free State, Northwest, Limpopo and Mpumalanga. The programme has made significant strides in enhancing rural connectivity, with 122 bridges completed, 46 bridges under construction, and 119 under planning. Plans are underway for phase two of this programme. Phase two will include the Northern Cape, Western Cape and Gauteng.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 123

On small harbours, we can report that the Spatial and Economic Development Framework for tier one sites in Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal have been completed and presented. The outstanding presentation is to the Northern Cape, which is also due to next month. Building these small harbours in these coastal provinces is quite important. These were provinces that were neglected during the apartheid and colonial period. This will ensure that we transform the ocean economy whilst improving food security, local economic development and tourism.

On construction, South Africa cannot achieve inclusive economic growth or reduce high unemployment without strengthening the construction industry. The landscape is still marked by imbalance, especially against African and black in general, works for women, youth, military veterans, and people with disabilities.

We commend the department and the Construction Industry Development Board, CIDB, for embarking on small contractor development through the construction roadshows, offering masterclasses, and ensure that those who are engaged in this programme are enrolled in sustainable programmes.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 124

The BUILD Programme is one of the primary vehicles for building a capable and sustainable construction infrastructure. In the year under review, not less than 240 client and 350 contractors were trained in this programme. Through the CIDB we continue to expand support to emerging contractors, addressing technical issues and ensuring enterprise sustainability. More than 500 people have benefited through the Skills Development Standard.

On 12 May, together with the Minister of Small Business Development, we launched the CIDB Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency, SEDFA, Construction Fund valued at R300 million. This Construction Fund is designed to provide blended solutions for sustainable emerging contractors and will also include non-financial support.

We continue to intensify Operation Bring Back to reclaim illegally occupied and hijacked buildings. The department has more than 32 properties, majority of those need to be repurposed for commercialisation. We commit to intensify this campaign to ensure that properties are reclaimed and don't become ... [Inaudible.] ... centres and human trafficking centres. We have also noticed the fact that some of these properties are occupied by undocumented foreign nationals, and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 125

we will work with all law enforcement entities to deal with this.

The Independent Development Trust, IDT, continues to assist our government in the delivery of social infrastructure. During the year under review, IDT completed 279 social infrastructure facilities. It has continued to render Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP. From 45 582 work opportunities created, IDT contributed 3 031. For the coming financial year, IDT has committed 35 000 work opportunities. There are a number of projects that IDT is undertaking to accelerate the backlog and the bottleneck on infrastructure delivery. Notable projects include Sarah Baartman Centre of Remembrance, which is one historic project.

[Inaudible.] ... formed in 1969 continue to certify non-standardised products. In 2025-26, 19 certificates were issued and they have managed to bring this matter into the centre of the construction industry. The Council for the Built Environment, CBE, continues to place professionalisation, ethical practice and technical competency at the centre of the sector. The CIDB launched the National Professionalisation Programme to address the backlog of more than 30 000

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 126

candidates that are currently delayed, and the work is being intensified.

In the past three years, CBE has managed to process and certify more than 10 000 young professionals, majority of whom are women. In 2014 the department took a decision to stop workshops and outsource. In the year 2023 and 2024 we took a decision that we should re-establish workshops. We have re-established workshops in about seven provinces, and currently these workshops are staffed by 348 staff members. We are moving away from an era of outsourcing wherein the private sector would siphon state funds and resources by unscrupulous methods, including inflated costs of material, labour, transport and consumables.

Let me address one point. The speaker who was here said that the Free State is not delivering on EPWP. He is talking about another Free State because the Free State we know is the one that recruits people and enrol them into the EPWP, train them into artisans and insource them. Many departments in the Free State are now supported on facility management by those people who would have come in as EPWP.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 127

Collectively, we must build an ethical developmental state. When the Government of National Unity, GNU, came into being, many people applauded this development as critical to fight corruption, maladministration, and poor performance. In the portfolio committee, I have consistently raised several issues facing the department, ranging from abuse of recruitment procedures, political interference, and general maladministration. This include the establishment of illegitimate unit, the unit that is not established following any process, not even being within the organogram of the department. I can confirm in this House that the Auditor-General, AG, has committed to audit the alleged contract that the department has entered into with this or through this illegal unit. The AG's urgent action will help us alleviate pressure that has been exerted to our officials to honour these irregular contracts.

The Public Service Commission is undertaking an investigation on irregular appointments reported to have taken place in the department. The irregular use of cadre deployment, irrespective of a party, must be dealt with. To punctuate this point, this investigation will look into the appointment of one chief director in the Director-General's office who is alleged to have been appointed without meeting requirements in

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 128

terms of experience and in terms of qualifications. The process to appoint was also irregular. The only prominent thing about his appointment is that he is a well-known political activist, a former DA councillor and a former advisor to the former mayor of the DA in one of our metropolitan cities. This is not just cadre deployment; it is the highest level of nepotism and maladministration.

I'm satisfied with the engagement I have had with the chairperson and the deputy chairperson of the Public Service Commission on this matter. I have also I raised these issues to alert public officials, especially those in senior management, not to yield to wrong and corrupt instructions, even if such instructions are coming from the executive. ... [Inaudible.] ... should officials manipulate rules to satisfy individuals.

I'm not raising these issues just here nor for political grandstanding. I have raised these issues in detail in our portfolio committee on 6 May. Subsequent to that, I have engaged and had a good meeting with the Auditor-General and fruitful deliberations with the Public Service Commission.

[Inaudible.] ... to dealing with maladministration and corruption should not be politicised. We should deal with

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 129

corruption as it is. If there is something that must unite us, first, the state capture era is the fight against corruption. [Inaudible.] ... corruption ... [Inaudible.]

The priorities for the seventh administration, the GNU, is on fighting corruption and ensure economic growth and build strong and developmental state, fight property, create employment and ensure affordable standard of living. Let us unite ... [Inaudible.] ... of the GNU, the seventh administration. Let us eliminate corruption which has become the cancer in all spheres of government.

We want to thank all of you in this House for supporting this budget. Let this budget be utilised for sustainable economic growth and transformation which trickle to all sectors, especially those who were oppressed ... [Time expired.] ... I thank you, hon House Chair.

Cllr K PHUKUNTSI (Salga): Chair, greetings to yourselves. Greetings to the Minister and Deputy Ministers, MECs that are on platform, also in the House, members of the NCOP, we bring greetings from organised local government.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 130

On behalf of the SA Local Government Association, Salga, I wish to express our appreciation for the opportunity to participate in this policy debate on Budget Vote 13 Public Works and Infrastructure for the financial year 2026-27.

Salga welcomes the department's commitment to institute the improved governance, fight against corruption and ultimately improved infrastructure delivery.

As a sphere of government closest to the communities, municipalities remain critical partners in achieving the objectives outlined by the Minister. The success of these reforms will ultimately depend on a meaningful intergovernmental collaboration and the active inclusion of local government in planning, implementation and monitoring processes.

When it comes to issue of infrastructure delivery and infrastructure South Africa, Salga welcomes the progress made by the infrastructure South Africa in improving project preparation and mobilising investment into strategic infrastructure projects. We further welcome the formalisation of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa, EISA, and the proposed legislation to strengthen its

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 131

mandate. However, municipalities continue to face significant infrastructure backlog, deteriorating assets, increasing maintenance requirements and severe funding constraints.

While national catalytic projects receive considerable support, municipal infrastructure projects often struggle to access technical assistance, project preparation, funding and implementation support.

Salga therefore calls for the following: One, the formal inclusion of local government representation in the governance and project prioritisation structures of infrastructure South Africa.

Two, dedicated support for municipal infrastructure projects preparation, particularly in rural and financial distress municipalities.

Three, improved coordination between EISA and Misa provincial governments and municipalities to ensure infrastructure investment response to local government priorities.

Four, greater focus on infrastructure maintenance and rehabilitation, particularly following the increasing number

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 132

of climate related disasters affecting municipal infrastructure.

The increasing occurrence of floods, storms and other climate induced disasters has highlighted the vulnerability of municipal roads, bridges, storm water systems and public facilities. Salga urges the department to work closely with municipalities in responding to this increasing risk.

On the role of the Independent Development Trust, IDT, Salga welcomes the establishment and the improved performance of the Independent Development Trust, the completion of social infrastructure facilities and improvements in governance and encouraging developments.

Municipalities continue to require implementation support for social infrastructure projects, particularly in areas where technical capacity remains constrained.

Salga encourages the department to expand partnership between the IDT and municipalities to accelerate infrastructure delivery and improve service provision.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 133

On public property management and state assets, Salga knows the Minister's proposal to establish the SA National Property Company and welcomes efforts to improve assets management, reduce excessive lease costs and unlock economic value from state-owned properties.

Municipalities support the utilisation of the well-located public land and buildings for affordable housing, economic development, urban regeneration and social infrastructure. However, all state land exists within municipal jurisdiction and therefore impacts directly on the municipal planning, service delivery and special development objectives.

The reporting on state land transfer must also include the qualitative aspects of the land which determines the attractiveness of the land. Salga therefore proposed that municipalities be formally consulted during the establishment of the SA National Property Company.

Municipal Spatial Development Framework integrated transport plans and integrated development plans be recognised in decision regarding the use of and disposal of state assets. Public land disposal and redevelopment programmes support objectives of spatial transformation and the reduction of the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 134

apartheid spatial patterns. Municipalities be granted improved access to inform relating the state-owned properties located within their jurisdictions.

The redevelopment of the state-owned properties presents the opportunity to revitalise inner cities, stimulate local economic development and support integrated human settlements.

On the Expanded Public Works Program reform, EPWP, Salga welcomes the department commitment to reforming the Extended Public Works Programme through the working on infrastructure initiatives.

Municipalities remain the largest implementer of the EPWP project and have first-hand experience regarding both the strengths and the challenges of the programme.

The success of EPWP reform is therefore contingent on the challenges on strengthening municipal capacity systems and governance. While initiatives such as digital recruitment platforms and improved participation verification are necessary to enforce enhanced transparency and reduce gatekeeping, many municipalities particularly smaller and rural ones continue to face constraints in digital

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 135

infrastructure administrative capacity and data management systems.

Salga also supports the repositioning of EPWP from a short-term relief mechanism towards a programme that delivers dignity, skills development and pathways to sustainable employment. However, for this transition to be meaningful, EPWP must be better integrated into municipal planning instruments such as the Integrated Development Plan, infrastructure pipelines and local economic development strategies. Further, Salga emphasises the need for a clearer articulation of the municipal role within the EPWP value chain, including recruitment implementation monitoring and exit pathways.

In this regard, Salga looks forward to engaging constructively on the revised EPWP recruitment guidelines to ensure that they are practical implementation and responsible to local realities.

Salga will work with its member municipalities to ensure that the reform strengthens the capacity of local government delivery, infrastructure-led employment, etc.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 136

Salga welcomes the actions taken by the Construction Industry Development Board to improve accountability and combat fraud within the construction sector. Municipal infrastructure projects continue to suffer delays and cost escalations due to contractor underperformance, project abandonment and criminal disruptions commonly referred to as the construction mafias.

Quality of workmanship continues to undermine the investment the government makes in infrastructure. The role of the Council for the Built Environment, including its affiliates needs to be strengthened to assist this regard.

Salga also reports stronger measures against non-performing contractors and calls for the following. Improved collaboration between the law enforcement agencies and municipalities, strengthened protection of infrastructure projects, enhanced community engagement mechanism to prevent project disruptions, support for municipalities to implement social facilitation programme on a major infrastructure project.

The successful delivery of the infrastructure requires a stable and secure construction environment. Municipalities continue to face severe financial pressure arising from unpaid

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 137

municipal accounts owed by the national and provincial government departments. These steps undermine the municipal financial sustainability and negatively affect service delivery.

Salga welcomes the assertion by the Minister of Finance that National Treasury must also deduct from departments' own municipalities from their equitable share as they intend to do with the municipalities.

Salga also calls for the following: A comprehensive audit of all outstanding government debt owed to municipalities, improved payment discipline by all organs of state, strengthening enforcement mechanism to ensure compliance with the payment obligation, greater transparency regarding state-owned properties receiving municipal services.

In conclusion, Salga will also support the department's commitment to reform infrastructure delivery improvement governance and economic development. The establishment of SA National Property Company, the reform of the Expanded Public Works Programme and the strengthening of the infrastructure South Africa present significant opportunities for improvement of service delivery and stimulating economic growth. However,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 138

these reforms can only succeed if municipalities are recognised as equal partners in development and are meaningfully included in the policy development planning and implementation processes.

Salga remains committed to working with the Minister, the department and all spheres of government to build a resilient infrastructure, create sustainable employment opportunities and improve the quality of life of all South Africans. I thank you, House Chair.

Mr T S THOMO (Mpumalanga): House Chair, the Minister, Deputy Minister, my fellow MECs, hon delegates to the NCOP, it is an honour to participate in this Policy debate on Vote No 13 of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. We note the tabling of the Budget Vote for the 2026-27 financial year by the hon Minister.

The budget outlines critical priorities aimed at unlocking infrastructure investment, stabilising the Independent Development Trust, repurposing public assets for the public good and advancing reforms within the Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, through the Working on Infrastructure pilot.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 139

As the province of Mpumalanga, we regard these interventions as a significant step towards strengthening the capacity of the state to implement strategic projects and positioning infrastructure as a catalyst for economic growth, job creation and inclusive development.

We note the challenges affecting the entire sector, in relation to the recruitment and meaningful inclusion of youth and persons with disabilities within the construction and infrastructure sector.

In response, the province of Mpumalanga has already initiated targeted stakeholder engagements and skills development workshops aimed at expanding access to economic opportunities within the built environment.

The significance of the EPWP extends beyond the creation of temporary employment opportunities. In an economy characterised by structural unemployment and persistent inequality, public employment programmes serve as an important social and economic stabiliser.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 140

It is for this reason that Mpumalanga supports the Minister's emphasis on reforming the EPWP through the Working on Infrastructure model.

The future sustainability of public employment programmes will depend on our ability to integrate skills development, infrastructure delivery and local economic development into a coherent developmental framework.

On the call to deepen reforms in the EPWP through the Working on Infrastructure model, the province reaffirms the strategic importance of the EPWP as a key instrument of government to address unemployment and poverty, while advancing inclusive participation in the economy through structured work opportunities and skills development.

As the province, we have created 35 788 work opportunities against a target of 37 280. Of these, 21 931 are women, 14 670 are youth and 237 are persons with disabilities. At departmental level, 8 621 work opportunities were created, representing 24% of the total provincial contribution.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 141

Furthermore, a strategic machinery workshop was convened, bringing together executives of disability organisations, where the framework was formally presented and interrogated.

The engagement resolved that the recruitment and inclusion of persons with disabilities must be intentional, structured and embedded within the managerial accountability system, including performance agreements.

It is commendable that the province continues to receive support from the national Department of Public Works and Infrastructure for the expansion of work opportunities. Through this intervention, 250 youth beneficiaries were recruited and placed in the National Youth Service Building Maintenance programme for a period of 18 months.

While we welcome flagship initiatives such as the Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme, we must acknowledge implementation challenges that have emerged.

There is therefore a need for the national department to continuously refine implementation methodologies to ensure consistency, quality assurance and sustainability of outcomes.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 142

On state asset optimisation and fiscal efficiency, we note with appreciation the Minister's articulation that the state cannot continue to occupy a position where it owns underutilised or deteriorating assets while incurring escalating leasing costs.

The policy direction is both necessary and timely. It reinforces the need for improved asset management, fiscal prudence and accountability in the stewardship of public resources.

In this regard, we welcome the department's facilities management and prestige financial recovery plan, which seeks to transition the state towards a proactive, planned and sustainable asset management model.

While supporting the national infrastructure agenda, Mpumalanga continues to prioritise catalytic infrastructure investments. Among the major projects identified by the provincial government for implementation in the medium term is the Mpumalanga school for the deaf and blind, which will accommodate approximately 614 learners with hearing and visual impairments, and significantly reduce the need for learners to seek specialised educational services outside the province.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 143

Other strategic infrastructure priorities include the completion of Extension 24 Rockdale Primary School and Langa Secondary School, which have since been completed

These projects are strategic investments aimed at expanding access to education, health care, sport, recreation and economic opportunities, while contributing to long-term social development and inclusive growth.

The Mbombela multipurpose arena in the City of Mbombela will represent a major economic catalyst for the province. The facility will be capable of hosting national and international sporting events, conferences, exhibitions, entertainment productions and cultural gatherings.

In the health care sector, the oncology unit at Rob Ferreira Hospital will bring critical cancer treatment services closer to our communities. At present, many patients are required to travel outside the province to access specialised oncology services.

Equally important are the planned Lina Malatjie Tertiary Hospital and the Mpumalanga Specialised Psychiatric Hospital.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 144

These facilities are central to addressing longstanding gaps in tertiary and specialised health care services.

Collectively, these projects demonstrate the critical role of public infrastructure in advancing inclusive growth.

We wish to express our appreciation to the national Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, and its implementing entities, for their continued dedication and dedicated work with provinces in advancing infrastructure delivery.

The continued intergovernmental collaboration remains critical to improving implementation capacity, strengthening co-ordination, and ensuring that infrastructure projects are delivered efficiently and at a scale across all spheres of government.

House Chair, as the province of Mpumalanga, we support Vote No 13.

[Kiswahili spoken.]

English:

Thank you very much, Chair.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 145

Ms S LUSITHI (Eastern Cape): Hon House Chair, greetings to the Minister of Public Works Infrastructure, the Deputy Minister, all the Members of the Executive Council, MECs, present, the hon members of the NCOP, the director general, DG, all officials and all present.

I think before we proceed with today's debate, allow me on behalf of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in the Eastern Cape to convey our heartfelt message of solidarity to the people of our province and other parts of the country who had been adversely affected by the recent disasters caused by the devastating rains which we experienced last week.

As a caring government committed to serving the people, all spheres of government in our province moved swiftly and collaboratively to provide immediate relief measures to the affected communities. We therefore wish to assure our people that government remains firmly committed to a coordinated disaster response, whilst simultaneously investing in resilient, sustainable infrastructure capable of withstanding the increasing challenges posed by climate change and extreme weather events.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 146

It is indeed my singular honour and privilege for us as the Eastern Cape provincial government, the home of legends, to participate in this important debate on the Budget Vote of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure - Vote 13 as led by the hon Minister and the Deputy Minister.

From the onset, hon Minister, allow me to indicate that this budget vote details a journey. A journey that does not begin with the formation of the government of national unity, but one that is rooted in the long and difficult path travelled by the ANC-led democratic government since 1994.

What we are witnessing today is not a break from history, but rather a continuation of a developmental trajectory whose foundations were laid by the democratic state under the leadership of the ANC.

The progress outlined in this budget, the institutions that have been built, the infrastructure programmes that are being implemented and the policy instruments that guide our work today are products of the progressive gains achieved by successive ANC-led administrations over the past three decades.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 147

It was the ANC together with the masses of our people that dismantled apartheid and ushered in a democratic state founded on human dignity, equality and non-racialism. It was this democratic state that expanded access to housing, roads, schools, clinics, water and electricity to millions who had been deliberately excluded by the apartheid regime.

Therefore, as we engage in the future of infrastructure development, we must guard against any attempt to erase or diminish the historic role played by the liberation movement and the ANC-led democratic government in transforming the material conditions of our people.

We do so not to dwell on the past, but because an honest assessment of where we are today, requires an honest appreciation of how far we have come.

Hon members, we fully align ourselves with the view that the delivery and the coordination of a people-centred public infrastructure remains one of the most important catalysts for economic growth, social inclusion, and spatial transformation.

For provinces such as the Eastern Cape, whose developmental challenges are deeply rooted in the legacy of colonialism and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 148

apartheid, infrastructure development is not merely about bricks and mortar. It is about correcting historical injustices. It is about reconnecting communities that were deliberately isolated. It is about bringing government services closer to the people. It is about creating economic opportunities in areas that were systematically underdeveloped and reduced to reservoir of migrant labour for the benefit of a racial minority.

Infrastructure therefore remains a powerful instrument for social and economic transformation. Every government building constructed, every road rehabilitated, every school maintained and every housing project completed contributes towards building a more inclusive economy and a more equitable society.

Through infrastructure investment, we were actively changing the face of our province while laying a foundation for sustainable development and job creation.

It is for this reason that in the Eastern Cape, we have taken deliberate and decisive steps to position the department as an implementing agent of choice in infrastructure delivery environment. Our ability to deliver quality infrastructure is

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 149

directly linked to our institutional capacity and technical capability.

We currently have a cohort of 68 built environment professionals complemented by 232 in-house artisans who form the backbone of our maintenance programme. In addition, 87 work inspectors are deployed to ensure a rigorous quality assurance and oversight of all contracted delivered work.

This consolidated capability places the department on a strong footing to effectively execute its mandate as a credible infrastructure implementing agent.

The department continues to strengthen its project management systems to improve efficiency, accountability and value for money. From the 26-27 financial year, 60% of the infrastructure projects will be completed within agreed timeframes annually, while 80% will be delivered within the approved variation budgets in line with the provincial programme of action. These targets demonstrate our commitment to disciplined planning, sound implementation and fiscal prudence.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 150

At the centre of this approach, is the department's custodianship role, which reinforces accountability across the asset life cycle, including utilisation, maintenance, and performance monitoring of state assets.

Through strengthened governance framework, clearer guidelines, and ongoing capacity building initiatives, we are improving asset stewardship, reducing inefficiencies, and ensuring that infrastructure investment remains aligned to service delivery priorities.

Institutional reforms are being advanced to strengthen department as a central node of infrastructure delivery. Governance has been reinforced through the establishment of the Departmental Infrastructure Steering Committee, which enhances coordination, knowledge sharing and decision making across the infrastructure delivery system.

In terms of delivery progress, the conversion of the ministerial houses into prestige apartment, is now sitting at 95% completion and will be handed over within this financial year. While delays were experienced due to contractor cash flow challenges, they were decisively addressed through a

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 151

session agreement with the building material supplier, ensuring continuity and safeguarding delivery.

This R19,9 million investment reflects the department's commitment to improving residential accommodation for members of the legislature. Importantly, the project has supported emerging enterprises and created employment opportunities, thereby advancing inclusive economic participation along infrastructure delivery.

Similarly, the department continues to drive integrated service delivery through strategic cluster office development. The Mganduli cluster offices, a R156 million investment has reached practical completion and will be soon handed over to be used by the departments. The project also demonstrates the value of strengthening internal professional capacity with services delivered largely in-house, resulting in savings of approximately R28 million in professional fees. Likewise, the eMaxesibeni cluster office, valued at R95 million, has reached a 92% completion, remaining on track for handover in February 2027.

Through the deliberate internalisation of critical professional disciplines, the department has realised savings

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 152

of approximately R17 million. This reinforces our commitment to cost efficiency, institutional capability, and the accelerated delivery of quality public infrastructure.

This year marks 30 years since the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. A Constitution born out of struggle, sacrifice, and collective aspirations of millions who longed for freedom, equality, justice, and human dignity. Our Constitution remains the supreme expression of the values of our liberation struggle and continues to guide our efforts to build a developmental state, capable of improving the lives of our people.

We also commemorate 50 years since the historic June 16 uprising; we honour the courage and determination of the youth who stood at the forefront of the struggle against apartheid oppression. They understood that language was not merely a medium of communication, but also a carrier of identity, culture, values and ethos. Their sacrifice laid the foundation of the democratic South Africa we enjoy today. It is therefore fitting that we continue investing in the development of young people as part of building the future capacity of the state.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 153

As reported in our previous policy and budget speech, 110 young people successfully completed our graduate internship programme by March 2026. In the financial year of 26-27, the department has made a provision for 224 youth development opportunities across graduate programmes, internships, work-integrated learning, structured youth development initiatives.

Through the Dr Mxolisi Majombozi Barasi Fund ... we therefore support the budget vote. Thank you. [Time expired.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon delegates, I'm sure you'll join me in wishing hon Peter a speedy recovery.

Mr J H P BRITZ: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, Deputy Minister, hon members and fellow South Africans, once again, the loudest criticism of reform often comes from those who benefited from dysfunction and chaos, hon Modise and hon Zikalala.

Let us remind ourselves today of a simple fact. The Minister inherited problems. He inherited a dysfunctional system. Hon Molokomme, you said you must take what belongs to you. The dysfunction and the dysfunctional system belong to you. So now

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 154

own it. Minister, this Minister did not create the estimated R28 billion maintenance backlogs, a Property Management Trading Entity burdened by a R4 billion overdraft. He did not create billions of rand worth of expensive leases or an entity that has failed to achieve a clean audit since 2014. So, thank you, hon Molokomme; I also take it that you take ownership of this.

The question before this House today is not whether problems exist. The question is whether somebody is finally doing something about it. The answer is, yes. We have a Minister who provides oversight to ensure compliance, and a recent High Court judgment confirmed why this oversight is necessary. A lack of oversight is precisely how South Africa got into this mess. If memoranda fail to meet legal requirements, fail to satisfy governance standards or fail to comply with the legislation, they should not be approved, and we commend the Minister for having a backbone.

Afrikaans:

Agb Farmer, jy verwys na die Pacaltsdorp Clinic. Wat 'n swak voorbeeld wat jy gebreuk. As jy jou huiswerk gedoen het, sou jy geweet het dat hierdie kliniek vorm deel van die NHI-pilot project [NGV-loodsprojek] wat gestop was deur die Nasionale

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 155

Departement van Gesondheid. As jy uit feite uithardloop, moenie die Huis misly nie.

English:

What has changed is that the problems are no longer being hidden. That is called transparency, hon members. For the first time, there is an active effort to reduce lease dependency, recover state assets, strengthen oversight and restore financial sustainability. Hon Breedt, the question is not whose time it is. The real question is: Who can deliver? While you are wondering, the DA delivers where we govern.

Hon members, perhaps the strongest evidence that change is underway is the resistance that it has generated. Ghost employee audits are underway. Lifestyle audits are being pursued. Allegations of past political interference are being investigated and suddenly, there are complaints. Hon Mamabolo, while here on my crosshairs, your double standards were on full display today. Neither you nor any ANC member objected to ANC grandstanding, nor did you refrain yourself from political grandstanding while you were at the podium today.

Accountability and transparency are rarely welcomed by those who fear it, are running away from it or benefited from it.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 156

Hon Mabebo, no one in the ANC complained when corruption was ignored. No one in the ANC complained when ghost employees were left undisturbed. No one in the ANC complained when questionable practices continued unchecked. The complaints only started when somebody started switching on the lights in this department, and that was the Minister.

Hon Mokua, the department's Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, Listening Tour exposed allegations of political gatekeeping, manipulated beneficiary lists, ghost beneficiaries and even sex-for-jobs practices. The easy response would have been to deny the problem. The responsible response was to investigate it and fix it, and that is precisely what is happening. The Working on Infrastructure Programme seeks to remove gatekeepers, digitise applications and place opportunities directly into the hands of ordinary South Africans. That, hon Mamabolo, is not politics, that is reform.

The real debate today is not about the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, DPWI. It is about two competing philosophies of government, hon Zikalala. One philosophy says that if a system is broken, protect it, don't be caught, defend it, expand it, excuse it and make better promises.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 157

Speaking about nepotism, hon Zikalala, it was precisely grandstanding and that is despicable double standards. Hon Zikalala, you and the ANC allowed corruption, state capture and cadre deployment. What have you done about it? *Dololo!* [Nothing!]. Just ask Judge Zondo or should I remind the hon House about why you were removed as MEC from KwaZulu-Natal.

On the other hand, there is the DA philosophy that says if a system is broken, fix it, expose wrongdoing, challenge vested interests, demand accountability and rebuild public confidence. This is precisely what the Minister is doing. For the first time in many years, the DPWI is asking difficult questions, confronting uncomfortable truths and challenging entrenched interests. That journey will not always be comfortable, as hon Zikalala so publicly displayed today. The journey is necessary and it deserves this House's support. I thank you.

Mr T M KAUNDA: House Chair, greetings to all the office bearers of the NCOP, hon MECs, Minister, Deputy Minister, hon members, fellow South Africans, good evening. It is indeed a great honour and privilege to participate in this crucial debate during the commemoration of Youth Month in our country,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 158

which was fondly known as the June 16 Youth Uprising. The ANC, from the outset, supports this Budget Vote.

The first president of the ANC Youth League, Anton Muziwakhe Lembede, who made a clarion call for young people to occupy the foremost trenches in the battle for freedom of our people and said:

We are not called to peace, comfort and enjoyment, but to hard work, struggle and sweat. We need young men and women of high moral stamina and integrity; of courage and vision. In short, we need warriors. This means that we have to develop a new type of youth of stoical discipline, trained to endure suffering and difficulties. It is only this type of youth that will achieve the national liberation of the African people.

Hon Zikalala, you fully qualify for this vision that Anton Lembede raised about what kind and the calibre of revolutionaries that we seek to build. So, what you have just said here is not what hon Britz is saying, as if you just claim things which are not backed by evidence. So, what you have presented before us here today, and we also want you to come to our select committee as well, because I think you have

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 159

left the NCOP; you went to the Portfolio Committee on Public Service. We also deal with public service in the NCOP. Please come before us with the Minister to give us all these details, so that we can play our oversight role over the Public Service Commission in the allegations and what you have presented before this House.

I want to give friendly advice; the Minister today - we come from the same province - but you stood very low, hon Minister. I thought when you came here, you would understand your role as the Minister. Yes, you remained a shadow minister for quite a long period on the opposition benches. So, you then got entrenched in terms of attacking everything that comes before your face. Now you are the Minister; you need to rise to the occasion, and the posture that you must take as a Minister when you're given this platform here is to present yourself as a strategic leader who drives the direction and policy of the department, not as an opposition leader. You come here to present yourself, and you claim easy victories, as if there's nothing wrong that is happening in your department.

I am raising all of this because, hon Minister, there is a report that you have presented which is very encouraging about the Matjhabeng Municipality. You went there, of course, driven

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 160

by emotions, thinking that the Extended Public Works Programme, EPWP, in that municipality is being driven in a manner that is not in accordance with the prescripts, and you found nothing, and that report is clear. Everything was done according to the book, and the programme is enhancing the skills of young people. It is employing young people, giving them opportunities in Matjhabeng, and that programme is very successful, and there is no expenditure which was not accounted for. And that's a report from your good self.

I am sure you are happy now that, where the ANC leads, there is good progress. As I proceed, we also want to give this friendly advice: as the ANC, we decided that we must support you, hon Minister, but it is up to you whether you take this support or not. We gave you a well-experienced leader in government, who led without any dark cloud over his head. He was the premier. He was the MEC for Economic Development. He was the MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. He led with distinction. That is your Deputy. Please make use of your Deputy, and you can source wisdom in that Deputy. Please, just take your time.

Hon Zikalala, the problems that you have highlighted, and what we have seen you doing on the ground, I think the manner in

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 161

which we sometimes present reports before this House, the Minister presents as if there was no effective EPWP before he arrived. No, in the government, there's something called a baton. Those who came before you, because in this country, there is no DA policy that is going to govern us. This country is governed by the policies which emanate from the Freedom Charter, and from the Reconstruction and Development Programme, RDP.

The EPWP that you are also leading, as a Minister today, emanates from such noble policies because all ANC policies are tried and tested. We don't spend more time in conferences and waste our time for nothing. So, these policies, even what you can easily do now, hon Minister, I'm challenging you: you can just do the simple thing. Instead of going to every municipality to sniff corruption in this EPWP, just go and conduct an audit. How many senior managers in the government, both in the municipalities, provincial governments and national government, are, as a result, the product of this EPWP? You will get a positive result. This is how the ANC have impacted positively. The young man is saying they are failing, but I'm sure he doesn't understand how the government is run. He has been on the opposition benches for quite a long period. So, as I proceed, because they've blocked my network here, I

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 162

did some work. I also wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute and bid farewell to bro Mzoli ...

IsiZulu:

... uBhungane ...

English:

... who passed on this week. He did respond to the call made by president Lembede for visionary and courageous youth. Mr Mzoli became one of the township business individuals who brought to life the township economy and put into practice the community tourism concept here in the Western Cape, a tale of two cities. He inspired many to join in elevating the informal economy to feature prominently in South Africa's economy. His leadership displayed high resilience, and against all odds, he was able to emerge successfully and attract both domestic and international tourists to come and spend more time and money to experience the kasi [township] economy. The informal economy sector, whose complexity is very much an invisible matrix to channel relationships, community business interactions and social networks. Mr Mzoli managed to unleash the great potential of the township economy, and indeed, he played a crucial role in positioning South Africa and Cape Town high on the world map. We wish to express our heartfelt

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 163

condolences to the Bhungane family for their great loss. Your loss is our loss. May his departed soul rest in peace.

In the same vein, we also wish to acknowledge other players like Mjeyi, ...

IsiZulu:

... u-Max, uMqadi laphaya kwa-Max's Lifestyle, eMlaza, okukhombisayo ukuthi umnotho wasemalokishini uyakhula.

English:

This should be inspirational to the youth of today who are the beneficiaries of the fruits of freedom which the generation of 1976 fought tirelessly to bring about. The ANC-led government has brought about transformative policies which are aimed at unleashing the potential of our youth so that it can put its services at the disposal of our nation. The Outcome-Based Education system was necessitated by the shortcomings which were experienced during the apartheid period. Now, we intend to capacitate the youth through a skills revolution, to prepare them not to be job seekers, but to become job creators.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 164

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, in the Sixth Administration, stood ready to lead the charge in South Africa. The introduction of programmes like the Expanded Public Works Programme came into existence to arm the youth with relevant skills required by our economy, to polish their skills, and afford them with experiential learning to be empowered to stand on their own through skills transfer. His Excellency the President, Cyril Ramaphosa, directed the department, through his state of the nation address, Sona, to move beyond rhetoric and bring about reforms on the EPWP to ensure that it builds sustainable livelihoods. The new pilot focuses on accredited technical skills, installation, repair and maintenance, IRM, moving from short-term tasks to permanent employment pathways for the youth. This will find expression through labour-intensive programmes on water provision, roads and bridges, construction, housing, waste management, energy, grass cutting and verge clearance. In KwaZulu-Natal, the department is accelerating the Welisizwe Programme in collaboration with the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, to repair flood-damaged bridges in the affected areas.

During our Provincial Delegation Oversight Week, we engaged the MEC for Public Works in the province to expand consultation with SMMEs and formal business forums to reduce

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 165

work stoppages. The MEC has reported significant progress on the work stoppages, which are now subsiding. We are also happy with the progress on unlocking two school projects, Menzi High School in Umlazi and Woodland School in the Msunduzi Municipality, which experienced work stoppages, and are now being completed. Some have already been handed over.

We will also urge the department to accelerate the release of the department's properties to municipalities to stimulate economic growth and cater for needs like student accommodation and social housing purposes. The government at all spheres should start applying a shift from tenders and involve communities, especially the youth, women, disabled people and military veterans, to aid in the development of their communities. The focus should be on the provinces, metros and local municipalities. More work on tenders should be shifted towards social enterprises since they turn procurement into empowerment. Every contract awarded to a social enterprise becomes a job created, a family supported and community upliftment. No discussions of growth are complete without confronting the youth unemployment challenge.

Key interventions should include mandatory youth hiring quotas, linked to catalytic projects, the District Development

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 166

Model, DDM, youth economic zones, focus on the digital economy, logistics, green industries, youth work readiness programmes, infrastructure grants, and ensuring every rand spent builds skills and vocational employment. A targeted youth public procurement guarantee. The youth must be involved in the projects, especially on the ones that have been highlighted. Youth-focused SEZs, reforms offering subsidised rentals, provision of startup capital, clear procurement access, and set aside properties assets management of public facilities and regulatory support.

The above interventions will unleash the economic potential of rural communities and township economies to reduce migrations to bigger cities like Johannesburg and Durban. Hon Minister, the intergovernmental debt trap and the fiscal gap, especially budget reductions for provincial departments and municipalities, pose the biggest immediate threats to the national Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's vision. The national Budget allocates millions for infrastructure. So, therefore, we must continue ...

IsiZulu:

... siqhube nomzabalazo wokushintsha izimpilo zabantu bakithi zibengcono.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 167

English:

Thank you. [Time expired.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon delegates, I think I can say I speak for all the members of this House when I wish the hon Montwedi a happy birthday. It is his birthday today. I believe the reason he's not here is because he's baking us a cake so he can bring us birthday cake tomorrow. But hon Montwedi, we celebrate the day with you.

Mr M K MONTWEDI: Thank you very much, House Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you, hon member.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: House Chairperson, let me just say that the hon Kaunda is the last person I will ever take advice from on anything ever because he did such a bad job as the mayor that his party had to recall him, so I will never take advice from him.

He also did such a bad job that for four years, the Auditor-General has been trying to get honest answers about why his municipality is paying dead people and municipal employees

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 168

Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP grants. We are going to get to the bottom of that.

Hon delegates, let me also say this, if someone wanted a continuation of the previous government, they would have voted for it, but they didn't. They gave that party, the ANC, 39% in Parliament. The truth of the matter is that they still don't accept that, they still don't realise that, and they still want to keep going as if nothing changed. But you know what? If they don't want to accept it and they don't want to change their ways, then so be it.

I accept that those that have a lot to hide will want to distract and distort and move us in all sorts of different directions. But I won't accept people standing up here grandstanding, when they say they're not grandstanding, without ever raising internal issues or taking internal opportunities to do so.

I look forward to any and all investigations, especially into appointments and people who sit on panels without even disclosing that they have personal relationships with candidates before them, and that they followed them from their different offices. That is unlawful.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 169

I also look forward to the Public Service Commission, PSC, investigating staff members being called to study a group by members of the executive and being made to do unlawful things and to be able to brief them. I look forward to that.

I also look forward to the Public Protector's findings on the process of the previous former chair of the Independent Development Trust, IDT, who happened to be the former member of executive council, MEC, of Education for KwaZulu-Natal, being appointed in violation of the deed trust of the IDT. I look forward to that.

I also look forward to the PSC investigating the raft of appointments that were made in the department between 2023 and 2024, mostly if not all related to KwaZulu-Natal and from former executive office bearers in that province. You must be careful what you wish for hon delegates, because sometimes you get it and you don't like the outcome.

I look forward to coming to the select committee, and I look forward to bringing my representations that I've made to the PSC. And I can tell you right now that you are not going to like what is in there because it is going to open up a can of worms.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 170

In fact, there is even an admission in writing from a member of the executive who admits to interfering in the administration of the department and being a shop steward for officials. They actually put that in writing. We will get to the bottom of that.

I do want to also commend our MECs and provincial Ministers for the work that they are doing. They are honest brokers, honest people and supporters of what we are doing. And it's good to have partners like that.

The MK, I don't know what he was saying. I'm not entirely sure. He knew what he was saying. But at the end of the day, if he wants us to enact some of the reforms that he himself was talking to, there's no better way than to support the budget.

Hon members, I also want to thank three provinces in particular. The Western Cape continues to be a shining beacon of infrastructure delivery; infrastructure spend and infrastructure budgeting.

I also want to acknowledge the Northern Cape that is doing a sterling job in disposing of public assets. The government

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 171

does not need to own everything, but it also does not need to sell everything. And they are doing a good job in ramping up the disposal of those assets.

And I also want to acknowledge some of the work that is being done in the Free State with us, with Agbiz and AgriSA, where we are looking to actually use data to work on roads so that we can lower the cost of living and the cost of food production as well.

I also want to pay tribute also to the province of Limpopo, which will be launching our next version of working on infrastructure. And that is actually what progress looks like, hon members. It will be the most decisive shift in EPWP in 20 years.

While people sat on their hands for 20 years and watched the system be abused, the DA has come into government and has done something about it.

Thank you so much.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, that brings us to the end of the debate on Budget Vote 17 on Public Works

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 172

and Infrastructure. I would like to thank the Minister and Deputy Minister for participating in the debate. I would also like to thank the MECs that have been here today and all the special delegates.

Hon delegates, we will suspend the proceedings and will resume at 7pm on the same link that was shared this morning. I have arranged for it to be reshared now. Hon delegates, I understand there is a bit of pressure on people from Laboria and Pelican. I urge you to make your way to your transport immediately and we'll see you at 7pm online. The House is therefore suspended.

Business suspended at 18:00

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): ... I am going to apply in this city, and I think that all the provinces and the delegates are represented in this city.

Without further ado, my first thing I will have to do this evening is to really appreciate our Minister, hon McKenzie for having led by example in supporting our boys all the way to Mexico. We wish them well. Let us hope that they bring the cup back home. I know that it is a tough call, but God works in

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 173

mysterious ways. We know that something is going to happen. So, without further ado, hon delegates, we shall now proceed with the Second Order. The Second Order is the resumption. The Second Order is the policy debate on Budget Vote 37: Sports, Arts and Culture Appropriation Bill. I have been informed that the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture has shown us virtually, as you can see with his ... That is a true South African and then and he is currently that of the country attending the preparation for the 2026 Soccer World Cup. I now call upon ... Before I call the hon Minister, I also got information that the hon Deputy Minister has provided an apology for not attending this. I don't know whether she is going to join later.

APPROPRIATION BILL

(Policy debate)

Vote No 37 - Sports, Arts and Culture:

The MINISTER OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE: Hon House Chairperson, before I even start, I just want to appreciate the NCOP for affording me this opportunity to do this virtually. And it is something I truly, truly do not take for

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 174

granted. Chairperson of the NCOP, hon Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane; Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, hon Poobalan Govender; Chief Whip of the NCOP, Kenneth Mmoiemang, hon premiers; Ministers and Deputy Ministers present; hon Embassies for Sport, Arts and Culture; chairperson of the Select Committee on Education, Science and Creative Industries, hon Makhi Feni; hon permanent and special delegates; Salga representatives; acting director-general, and the executive team; distinguished guest; members of the media; ladies and gentlemen; 2026 is a special year. Thirty years ago, the South African Constitution was signed into law, carried to that day by the 1956 Women's March, and by the 1976 Youth Uprising, and by every act of courage in every province across this country.

As we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Women's March and 50 years since the youth of 1976, this department commits itself to advancing the ideals of a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist society. We are accelerating the Women's Development Programme across all nine provinces, and we are launching Patriotic Fridays in schools across our country - a programme to instill patriotism, civic responsibility, and national pride amongst our young people, in honour of the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 175

youth of 1976, who took to the streets in the fight for freedom.

This House exists for one reason, to make sure that no part of South Africa is forgotten in the decisions taken at the center. That is the discipline of the NCOP and that is the discipline I have tried to bring to this portfolio, learning from the NCOP, because a budget for sport, arts and culture is not really a budget for stadiums, museums and libraries. It is a budget for the child in a village school who dreams of running for South Africa, for the elderly woman in rural communities whose language has finally been recognised, and for the township artists creating something the world has never seen before.

The work this department does has to reach every province, every district, every community. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has been allocated R6,617 billion for the 2026-27 financial year to develop, to transform, preserve, protect, and promote sport, arts, and culture, and through them, to build a nation that is active, creative, winning, and cohesive in every one of our nine provinces.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 176

To sport and recreation, under Programme 2, recreation, development, and sport promotion, we are allocating R1,341 billion on sports for every province. The mass participation and sport development conditional grant transfers R652,6 million directly to provinces this year. This is the lifeblood of school sport, club sport, and community sport. Every province receives a share. Every district sees activity and 5 000 learners will compete at the National School Sport Championship this year, drawn from every corner of this country.

We thank First National Bank for their significant investment in school sport leagues - a partnership between public ambition and private commitment that this portfolio is becoming known for. With this conditional grant and our Active Nation programme, equipment and attire continue to reach hubs, clubs and schools that have never been resourced before. I must just add, we are bringing something new to this department where we cannot just rely on government. We are bringing the corporate sector to hold hands with government.

Federation support this year is R108,1 million. It is directed to about 60 national sports federations with strengthened compliance and government requirements, because the days of

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 177

federations receiving public money without meaningful accountability are over.

On Women in Sport, who can forget when Bafana Bafana won the Africa Cup of Nations 30 years ago? That win boosted national pride and inspired the youth. As we commemorate the milestone of this year, we also acknowledge the remarkable achievement of our women in sport. Banyana Banyana qualified for the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations, WAFCON. The Proteas Women have excelled in ICC Women's T20 events. Our SA Women's Hockey team retained the African Championship title for the eighth time. The Women's Springboks reached the quarterfinals of the Women's Rugby World Cup for the first time ever. In rowing, Chloe Cresswell won silver at the Lightweight Women's Singles Sculls. And Gerda Steyn won the Two Oceans Marathon for a record seventh time. She is the only person ever to do so in the whole world.

To strengthen our policy on women in sport, DSAC will host women in sport dialogues across provinces, so that the policies that we formulate are informed by the lived experience of women in sport themselves.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 178

On ministerial infrastructure projects, beyond the conditional grant, this department has earmarked R102 million for the delivery of ministerial infrastructure projects this year. These projects reach across provinces - four new swimming pools, long-needed upgrades to Eldorado Park Stadium in Gauteng and Mmabatho Stadium in North West, expanded combi courts and outdoor gyms, which includes play areas for children in communities throughout the country, and a boxing arena at the Orient.

In the last financial year alone, our combi courts and outdoor gym rollout reached 53 municipalities. That has never happened in the history of this department. These are facilities where the next generation of South African athletes will be discovered, to make sure that no talented young person is excluded from sport, because there is nowhere to play. This year we are targeting 100 new outdoor gyms and 50 combi courts. Building on the 70 outdoor gyms, 33 of them have already been completed, and of the 31 combi courts, 17 have already been completed, delivered last year, which reached 43 municipalities. These facilities are the difference between a child finding a talent and never knowing if it existed.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 179

On LIV Golf and Fifa and Beyond, South Africa successfully hosted LIV Golf at Steyn City in March 2026, attracting elite international players and extensive global media coverage. The 2026 Fifa World Cup, hosted across the United States, Canada, and Mexico, saw South Africa's 2010 legends facing Mexico's 2010 legends in a commemorative legends match in Pachuca on 7 June, three days ago, honouring the only Fifa World Cup ever hosted on African soil. I must add that the stadium was sold out. There was no space. LIV Golf was the most successful golf tournament on the African continent ever. The spirit of 2010 is living on and the various engagements we are having here in Mexico will bear fruit for years to come in sport as well as in culture and arts.

Our support for Bafana Bafana and other national teams has never been higher. The national supporter mobilisation campaign with our corporate partners ... And on this, I want to be clear, because I see some people want to get political mileage out of this. The people that have been chosen has been chosen by journalists to go to Mexico. These are people that support our football, sometimes taking two or three taxis to get to a football match. These are the people that have been behind our teams. Betway, Honor, Cell C, and Old School, was the one that gave the money for these South Africans to also

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 180

have an opportunity, because football is not an elite sport, it is a sport of the masses. And they were behind us.

Looking further ahead, the 2027 ICC Cricket World Cup, which we co-host with Zimbabwe and Namibia, is being treated as a key national project. Infrastructure upgrades are underway at the Wanderers, Newlands, and Kingsmead facilities that serve Gauteng, the Western Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal. We are using the tournament to accelerate transformation in this important spot and leave a genuine development legacy in townships and rural communities.

On the Olympic front, work on Project 350 continues - our plan to send the largest and most competitive team of South Africans ever to Los Angeles in 2028. The department and the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee, Sascoc, are working with provinces and federations being drawn in their respective roles. Together we are continuing the work on our bid for South Africa to host the Summer Olympic Games in 2036.

On video assistant refereeing, VAR, nearly two years ago when I took office, I promised South Africans that video-assistant refereeing would be rolled out. And this department will

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 181

ensure that it happens. The South African Football Association, Sifa, is currently busy with the procurement of all the necessary VAR equipment. It must happen through them only, through Fifa guidelines. Having VAR in our League Cup tournaments and internationals will not only raise the fairness of our game, but it will also raise its quality.

Our players will learn that they need to earn the wins the hard way, the honest way, and the country's most loved sport will be left far better off. We have given the money for video-assistant refereeing. There is nothing that the Minister or the department can do more. We have done everything possible. Fifa requires us now to give over to Sifa. Sifa is now procuring, but we are keeping our eye on what is happening. There is progress.

On arts, culture and creative industries, under Programme 3, arts, culture and promotion and development, we are allocating R1,809 billion. Regarding the Creative Industries Councils, CIC, sector clusters, on 30 March 2026 at Nirox Sculpture Park in Krugersdorp, we officially launched the 17 CCI sector cluster organisations. It is 30 years of frustration being answered with structure. The clusters have boards, signed declarations of accountability and people agitating on behalf

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 182

of creators for the first time with institutional weight behind them.

Importantly for this House is that they are not concentrated in one or two metros. They are designed to serve creators in every province, including those who have historically been the farthest from opportunity. For 30 years, artists never had representation in this country. I can stand before this august House today and say that artists now have representation. It is going to be very difficult to exploit our artists, going forward.

Regarding the Presidential Employment Stimulus, Pes, programme, the department has secured nearly R400 million from the Pes programme Phase 7, implemented through our four entities - the National Arts Council, the National Film and Video Foundation, the National Museum and the National Heritage Council. Provinces that have historically received less are being prioritised for this allocation, because it happens sometimes where Cape Town and Gauteng always get the bulk of the money, but the rural areas have been forgotten. This time, we are prioritising those areas that have been neglected, because we are all South Africans.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 183

We expect this investment to create 10 000 work opportunities in the creative sector this financial year. The Cultural and Creative Industries programme has already supported 125 organisations and practitioners. The Touring Ventures programmes have enabled 26 organisations and practitioners to carry the South African arts and culture to nine countries.

Regarding community arts centres and provincial programmes, while community arts centres do not receive a dedicated conditional grant, we have used the Mzansi Golden Economy as a strategic intervention to support community arts in townships, rural areas, and underserved communities. It is communities that have been seen as undeserved in the past. We are now looking at those underserved communities.

To the Provincial Community Arts Development Programme, all nine provinces are implementing programmes focused on skills development, youth empowerment, job creation, and support for emerging artists. We stated that this programme was a standardised framework for monitoring, and quarterly reporting. It is a national review panel for provincial business plans and implementation workshops with all provinces in May 2026.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 184

Allocation letters were issued to all provinces on 18 May 2026. The impact is already visible in Mpumalanga. Twelve community art centres have been supported, 19 centre managers have been trained, more than 1 300 community participants reached, and a provincial arts indaba hosted with over 100 delegates in the Western Cape, 10 community arts festivals have been implemented, 20 cultural entrepreneurs supported, and beautification projects and capacity building workshops delivered with strong youth, women, and disability participation.

Regarding women in the arts and culture economy, as we commemorate 70 years since the 1956 Women's March, we will not honour that legacy with commemoration alone. We are accelerating the Women's Development Programme through targeted partnership, dialogues, exposure, platforms, and economic empowerment opportunities.

Thirty percent of Mzansi Golden Economy and Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme funds have been targeted to benefit women practitioners. Fifty percent of young people have been recruited into our two flagship programmes, the Young Creatives Programme under the National Youth Service and the Debit Fund Programme for Youth Entrepreneurship.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 185

Our young women, this work is not statistical; it is structural. South African women in the arts are not asking for a seat at the table. They are building new tables, and this government stands with it.

On stories, books, and languages, the DSAC publishing hub has produced 91 works to date, 12 proudly in Braille. The Art Bank of SA has acquired 180 works this year, creating a national collection of 850 artworks for 522 visual artists.

The Mzansi Book Fair is also being launched this year. It is a commitment to the literary creation in South African voices, including Quedam, Nama, Khoi, San and South African Sign Language. Our National Language Summit in March 2026 produced the Communication, Education, Quality, and Access, CEQA, Declaration and established a national task team to drive a unified language policy framework.

Four human language technology projects are being supported across all 11 official languages, including South African Sign Language. The Use of Official Languages Amendment Bill seeks to strengthen the use of official languages in national government, and to formally include South African Sign Language in its jurisdiction.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 186

Regarding entity oversight, I recently convened all board and council chairpersons to present a clear roadmap. Oversized structures must become active centers of accountability, not ceremonial structures that meet quarterly while institutions decline. Public entities must be stable, ethical, functional, and capable of delivering measurable value to our country, wherever our people live.

Of special mention is that Robben Island's infrastructure programme is advancing with six capital projects underway. The first phase of the Nelson Mandela Prison House is also being prepared for opening in July 2026.

Regarding heritage, under Programme 4, the heritage programme preservation, we are allocating R2,912 billion, including R1,718 billion transferred directly to provinces for community library services. We are supporting 18 new and upgraded library facilities throughout the country this year, to promote access to information and to instill in the culture of reading and writing, particularly amongst young people.

A library in the community is not merely a building. It is an open door for a child whose home cannot afford books, for an unemployment adult looking to reskill, for an older person

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 187

finding history in print. Libraries are where the future of this country has been quietly built, page by page.

Regarding repatriation and restitution, our repatriation programme is not slowing down. On 23 March 2026, His Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa and I led the reburial of 63 Khoi and San ancestral remains in Steinkopf in the Northern Cape as part of restorative justice after these remains were taken during colonialism to promote racist, pseudoscience.

In April, we returned a Zimbabwean soft stone bird alongside eight ancestral human remains to Zimbabwe. We are accelerating the efforts to return every unethically acquired artifact of human remains in our museums. I am going to repeat that. We are accelerating the efforts to return every unethically acquired artifact of human remains in our museums. We cannot call on the west to return what they hold of us, if we do not lead by example on our own continent. Technical teams have visited Lesotho and in the 2026-27 financial year, the focus is extended to Angola, Lesotho, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

There are still thousands of our heroes buried on foreign soil. We will not rest until they have reached the final rest. We

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 188

have given ourselves 150 days to return every stolen artifact that is in our museums, which I must add, there are many.

On archives and oral history, the memory of a nation lives in its archives. The 25 annual archives Awareness Week was hosted in Mpumalanga under the theme, Digital Footprints: Archives and Records Management in the Digital Era, bringing together 1 100 participants.

The 22nd Annual National Oral History Conference was held in Polokwane in October 2025, continuing the work of recording the stories of those whose voices were silenced by history. The National Archives and Records Service of SA faces real infrastructure challenges. We are addressing this through the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning, HVAC, project with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

We will deliver mobile shelving for an additional 20% storage capacity. A Cabinet memorandum on long-term archival infrastructure is under review.

On the Mandela Collection, the Nelson Mandela Collection gives a reading from children's drawings to diplomatic objects from ... [Time expired.] thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 189

Mr M FENI: Hon House Chairperson, let me take this opportunity to greet our Chairperson of the NCOP, hon Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, the Chief Whip of the NCOP, hon Kenneth Mmoiemang, our Minister and Deputy Minister. Minister McKenzie, the whole team is behind you as you are the one who is leading our national pride, Bafana Bafana. We are saying ...

IsiXhosa:

... nibuye nogqatso apho nikhoyo.

English:

Hon members of this august House, hon premiers, MECs and delegates from the different provinces, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity once again in this evening to greet you all.

Today, this Budget Vote is different to other Budget Votes. That is why the ANC is fully behind and supportive of this Budget Vote, because it reflects the road that we have transversed since the dawn of democracy. It is therefore upon of these hon members to be consistent in terms of remembering where we are coming from. We will do so by dedicating this Budget Vote to our first Minister of Sport, the late hon Steve Vukile Tshwete ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 190

IsiXhosa:

... uThangana, uKрила ...

English:

... from the Home of Legends as you have indeed raised it Chair. This giant, a freedom fighter, an intellectual and a servant of his people who understood profoundly the role of culture, identity and values in shaping a just and united society. He was a nation-builder and belonged to a generation that reorganised our struggle, and understood that our struggle was not only political, but it was cultural, moral and spiritual. He understood that sports, arts and culture are instruments of our healing, tools of unity and platform for dialogue.

That is why it becomes our task now as this committee and this august House to follow his footsteps, by reviving the nation-building project through a deliberate and sustainable programme that brings South Africa together as a united front across race, language, class, and geography. It is therefore his footprints and understanding that must guide us today on how to better confront a society, still fractured by inequality and social decay.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 191

It is indeed an honour and privilege to debate the budget of this important Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, especially at this time when the country finds itself at a crossroads, perceived as having anti-immigration sentiments. I need to reiterate that our people, the South African loving people, the patriots are not and will never be xenophobic, but are merely raising a genuine issue of illegal immigration that needs to be confronted, as the President has announced that it also creates opportunities for exploitation of our labour laws, illicit trade, and growing incidences of identity theft. This is a clarion call from the real Chief in Command, the President of this country hon Ramaphosa.

Therefore, South Africa remains a nation in search of itself, and this budget must do more and fund programmes. It must also fund belonging. It is important to note that the mandate of the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture is not merely administrative, but it is also the conscience of the state. It was Bob Marley who said, I quote:

Emancipate yourself from mental slavery. None but ourselves can free our minds.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 192

Therefore, the work of this department must speak to the minds, hearts, and aspirations of South Africans. Sports, arts, culture and heritage are not luxuries or afterthoughts but are main architecture of social cohesion and nation-building. It is more important now than ever to unite as a nation, but one has to ask, are their programmes of the department reaching communities or do they only end in auditoriums?

When the department states in its key performance indicators, KPIs that it conducts community initiatives on gender-based violence or implements initiatives to promote social cohesion and nation building, what does that mean? How do we measure this? How does the department know when these KPIs are achieved? These are very important questions to ask ourselves because we cannot agree to a budget unless we know that it will have a real impact on the ground rather than just being another tick-box exercise.

I agree with the hon Minister when he's saying that this is a budget for the masses. Such initiatives must speak to the consciousness of our communities and ensure that the gains of our democracy are not reversed. We cannot live in a state where the ... [Inaudible] ... ideas of the so-called

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 193

independence are openly promoted by individuals with questionable agendas to drive division and disunity among South Africans. Cape Town will never be an independent state in our lifetime and beyond. They can even build big walls, but the reality of this nation is that people of this country are patriots and loving nation-building people.

Therefore, when we say that the programme of the department must speak to the consciousness of our people, we mean that they must forge unity rather than divisions. The national symbols must be displayed. The national anthem and the African anthem must be sung at all state events and not selectively. That is why you see us today, hon Chairperson, as led by your good selves, showing the symbols of this country. We are following as such, as you can see today in this august House. The South African flag must fly at every government building, school, and public institution. These are not ceremonial gestures, but an act of social cohesion and nation-building.

We therefore appeal to the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture to continue working with the Department of Basic Education in ensuring that all our 24 000 schools display the South African flag on their premises. This must be prioritised within the budget. Further, we will add that to our checklist

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 194

during our oversight visit to schools and hold this department accountable for any noncompliance with this act.

Ubuntu-Botho and moral regeneration must be led by the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture in collaboration with our community-based organisations such as churches, traditional authorities, and community support, arts and cultural organisations. Ubuntu is not a slogan, but the reflection of how communities should connect and interact in the spirit of compassion, solidarity, dignity, respect, and consensus.

If all public servants adopted this spirit of Ubuntu in their work environments, there would be better services for our communities in our hospitals, municipalities, and other public institutions. This would significantly improve public trust in our government. Therefore, provinces must tell us how the moral regeneration movement is being facilitated at community level within their provinces. How are the sports and arts programmes reinforcing ethical conduct amongst the youth, as we are celebrating a Youth Month?

As the department states in its annual performance plan, APP that it will support over 600 sports and recreation activities

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 195

in communities, these events must not only merely be sport competition but also serve as a vehicle for instilling moral and ethical values among our youth. At the end of this financial year, we will not judge the department on the number of sport events it supported. Still, we will also question the impact these events contributed to moral regeneration in our communities.

The ANC's 55th National Conference was clear on combating racism, tribalism, and ethnicity in our country. The ANC and government must lead this sustained campaign. One fundamental question that we also need to ask ourselves is whether our community arts programmes across all nine provinces incorporate explicit antiracism messages. Our community arts centres are part of our social infrastructure and are important spaces for promoting antiracism and antitribalism. In the same way we build roads, we must continue to build creative spaces.

Our select committee conducted oversights in Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, where we visited a historical facility, the Red Location Museum in New Brighton and Dan Qeqe Stadium, where the hon Minister made a promise of ensuring

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 196

that he is going to assist those communities to revamp and revisit whatever that has led their status to deteriorate.

Hon Minister, we are still behind you, saying that this budget must be reflective on that, as the select committee has made promises to those communities that we will be behind our hon Minister to ensure that those become realities. Till this day, 13 years later, as this museum was totally vandalised, it is our clarion call hon Minister, that we will be behind you as we are currently doing in the events that these beautiful people of this nation, are following to support you.

Youth participation in sport and arts through club development programmes, sports hubs, school sport, as well as arts in school programmes, should be strengthened. These programmes are crucial if the country is to realise its fight against youth unemployment and drug abuse. Sports participation and physical education must be compulsory in schools, as envisaged by the National Development Plan Vision 2030.

When we conduct our oversight in schools, one of the items on our checklist is learner participation in sports, arts, and cultural activities. Most often, our rural and township schools lack access to sport facilities, dedicated coaches, or

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 197

physical education teachers, and show a lack of interest in sport amongst school principals and teachers who prioritise academic performance and overlook sport participation.

It is often disappointing to see many of these under-resourced schools celebrating one or two learners out of thousands in the entire school, who manage to overcome all obstacles and reach national championship events. However, if you visit a former model C school, you will find that the majority of learners participate in organised sport and represented at higher level in national and international events.

This anomaly reflects systematic exclusion of our young people in sports participation opportunities. Therefore, it is the mandate of this department to bring young people from marginalised communities into the system, where they too have an equal opportunity to participate in organised sport. Gone are those days when our talented young athletes would only participate in one-day tournaments with no upward mobility and no opportunity to be identified by talent scouts. We also want township schools to be part of the tournaments. We see on the Super Sport Channel for school ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Feni.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 198

Mr M FENI: The department's ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Feni, I agree that the township schools must be part of the mass participation. But when you said that your time had expired. Thank you for your participation.

Mr M FENI: The ANC indeed supports the budget. I thank you, hon House Chair.

Ms H S BOSHOFF: Chair, if you allow, I would like to switch off my video. Thank you very much.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Yes. Alright, you can do it. Thank you.

Ms H S BOSHOFF: Chairperson, hon Minister, hon Deputy Minister, hon members, and fellow South Africans, good evening.

An active, creative, winning, and socially cohesive nation – of all of the departmental visions before this House, this is the one I want to support wholeheartedly. This is not merely a department of sport, as it may appear at first glance. It is

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 199

the department of artists, actors, musicians, writers, dancers, filmmakers, and creators. It is the department that should unlock economic growth, create jobs, preserve our heritage, and inspire a nation.

However, there is a profound difference between what is written on paper and what is happening in reality.

Afrikaans:

Soos ons in Afrikaans sê: Papier is baie geduldig. [Like we say in Afrikaans: Paper has more patience than people.]

English:

The department promises opportunity, yet the Mzansi Golden Economy programme, the very programme designed to support artists, performers, and creative enterprises, faces a drastic reduction over the medium term, declining from R680,7 million to R298,4 million within a year. That represents a reduction of more than 56%. At precisely the moment when the creative sector is fighting for survival, government is withdrawing support, and the consequences are already visible. This is shocking.

The National Arts Festival, Aardklop, the Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, the Cape Town International Jazz Festival, and many other iconic festivals have struggled to survive following funding disruptions under Minister Gayton McKenzie. These festivals are not luxuries. They are economic engines.

Aardklop injects between R50 million and R65 million into the North West economy annually. The National Arts Festival contributes approximately R58 million to the economy of Makhanda. The Cape Town International Jazz Festival supports approximately 1 500 direct and indirect jobs and contributes nearly R522 million to the Western Cape economy. When government abandons the arts, it is not only artists who suffer. The entire value chain suffers. Hotels suffer. Restaurants suffer. Small businesses suffer. Entire local economies suffer.

Yet, whilst festivals fight for survival, government continues to find resources for headline-grabbing initiatives, such as taking artists and soccer legends to the Fifa Club World Cup at an estimated cost of between R14,2 million and R19,2 million. We heard you joking about it just now before we opened the debate. As soon as we saw the Minister positioning himself front and centre during the Springboks Rugby

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 201

Championship celebrations in 2024, South Africans should have realised that this era of sport, arts, and culture would be no different from that of previous dysfunctional ANC-led Ministries.

It is a Ministry increasingly focused on headlines and publicity rather than on the nuts and bolts that form the essence of this department. Whether it is surfers travelling to Jeffreys Bay, comedians and artists performing at cultural festivals, proposals around the video-assisted referee, VAR, or the renaming of streets and towns at significant public cost, despite objections raised during public participation processes, the emphasis too often appears to be on publicity rather than delivery.

Programme 2 raises another serious concern. The department proudly reports that its targets will increase from 126 programmes to 600 activities, but activities are not outcomes. An activity can be a meeting, an event, a workshop, or a report. I hope you do not fall off your chair, House Chairperson. The department appears increasingly focused on counting what it does rather than measuring what it achieves. Parliament cannot determine whether lives are being changed or whether statistics are simply being inflated.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 202

South Africans are entitled to genuine outcomes, not statistical gymnastics, and so the contradictions continue. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture says literacy matters, yet direct support for libraries declines while literacy levels remain in crisis. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture promises infrastructure expansion, yet infrastructure support falls from R307,9 million to R232 million over the medium term. Furthermore, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture speaks of preserving heritage, yet spending on capital assets declines from R140 million to just R78 million over the same period. Government acknowledges that social cohesion remains a challenge, yet allocates millions to initiatives without ...

Mr B J FARMER: Chair ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Farmer, what are you rising on?

Mr B J FARMER: Chairperson, I rise on Rule 48.

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

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 203

Mr B J FARMER: I want to check if the member is prepared to take a question.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Alright. Thank you. Hon Boshoff, are you prepared to take a question?

Ms H S BOSHOFF: The hon Farmer knows the answer to that.

Government acknowledges that social cohesion remains a challenge yet allocates millions to initiatives without providing measurable evidence that they are actually strengthening nation-building. Meanwhile, administration expenditure grows from R516,7 million to R558,8 million despite the existence of 83 vacant posts. Too often, government expands bureaucracy whilst frontline programmes are expected to do more with less.

A winning nation is not built through announcements. It is not built through glossier annual performance plans, inflated activity counts, or endless commemorations. It is built through functioning libraries, through thriving artists who receive the royalties they deserve. It is built through the preservation of our heritage. It is built through opportunities that create jobs and change lives. South

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 204

Africa's artists do not need applause from government. They need support, they need opportunities, and they need results. They cannot eat empty promises, Minister.

In closing, I leave you with the words of David Rubenstein:

The world is a complicated place, and there's a lot of division between people. The performing arts tend to unify people in a way that nothing else does.

I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon Boshoff. The next speaker is on the virtual platform.

The MINISTER OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE: Hon Chair ... Hon Chair ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): On what are you rising, Minister?

The MINISTER OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE: Just a point of correction, hon Chair, through you ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 205

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): You can correct it at the end. You have five minutes.

The MINISTER OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE: This is a correction of fact. This is a fact I want to correct. It is not an argument. We are not going to the Club World Cup. It is the Fifa World Cup.

Mr M MONTWEDI: Point of order! Point of order, Chairperson ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Who is raising the point of order?

Mr M MONTWEDI: I rise on a point of assisting people who do not understand how Parliament's processes work. He must respond at the end and stop wasting our time. Thank you, House Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon Montwedi. Minister and hon Farmer, it is true that you have five minutes at the end. Whatever misunderstanding there is, you will be able to explain it at that time. So, can we go to the next speaker?

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 206

The MINISTER OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE: Thank you, Chairperson.

Ms S I LUSITHI (Eastern Cape): Hon House Chair, greetings to yourself, the hon Ministers, the members of the National Council of Provinces, all the members of the executive council, MECs, present. It is indeed a pleasure on behalf of the home of legends, on behalf of the MEC Ngongo, as the acting MEC of sport, to stand here and participate in this important NCOP Budget Vote of the department.

We want to affirm that we don't take this participation in this platform for granted, nor as just a political grandstanding, because we regard it as an opportunity to account to the people of South Africa and to engage meaningfully on the role that sports, recreation, arts and culture play in transforming society, building social cohesion, creating economic opportunities and advancing the national democratic project.

As a province whose history is deeply intertwined with the struggles for freedom, dignity and social justice, we understand the power of sports, culture and the creative industry as an instrument for social transformation. So, these

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 207

sectors have historically united our people. They've challenged injustice and inspired generations to dream beyond their circumstances.

Hon House Chair, allow me to begin by conveying our best wishes to the national football team, Bafana Bafana, as they prepare to embark on their historic Fifa World Cup campaign, hon Minister.

They carry with them not only the hopes of millions of South Africans, but also the aspirations of every young boy and girl who dreams of representing this nation on the world stage. Their journey serves as a powerful reminder that talent exists in every village, township and city across our country. Through hard work, discipline and opportunity, those dreams can indeed become reality.

The Eastern Cape continues to produce sporting legends who inspire our people and place our province firmly on the global map. We recently celebrated the remarkable achievement of Siyakholwa "One Way" Kuse, who won the prestigious WBC Mini-Flyweight World Championship title.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 208

This historic victory was witnessed by the hon Minister himself and remains a proud moment for the people of our province. Kuse has become the first boxer from the province to win this converted title and only the fourth South African to achieve this.

His success is a testament to the resilience, determination and immense talent that resides within our communities. More importantly, it demonstrates the transformative power of sustained investment in sports development programmes and athlete support systems.

Hon House Chair and delegates, government's success must ultimately be measured by its impact on the lives of the people. In our sector, the impact is reflected in increased access to sporting facilities, cultural activities, libraries, museums, heritage programmes and opportunities within the creative economy. These outcomes can only be realised through budgets that are realistic, developmental and responsive to the aspirations of our people.

The Freedom Charter reminds us that, and I quote:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 209

"No government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people."

Accordingly, our budgeting processes must remain firmly rooted in the needs; aspirations and the collective will of our communities. The importance of our sector in building a united society is reflected in the findings of the 2024 South African Social Cohesion Index conducted by the Inclusive Society Institute.

While the National Social Cohesive Index recorded a gradual decline over recent years, the Eastern Cape demonstrated a measurable progress between 2021 and 2024, backing the national trend.

This achievement is not accidental. It is a result of deliberate interventions aimed at strengthening social solidarity, promoting active citizenship, preserving cultural heritage and creating platforms for meaningful community participation.

Central to these efforts has to be the institutionalisation of civic participation, the strengthening of traditional leadership structures, the promotion of food security

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 210

initiatives and the strategic use of sports, arts and culture as instruments for social integration.

Hon members, the Eastern Cape remains committed to confronting societal challenges such as gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, substance abuse, crime and social fragmentation. Through social cohesion dialogues, community forums, cultural engagements and youth development programmes, we continue to mobilise communities around a shared vision of a safer, more caring and inclusive society.

Our approach recognises that government alone cannot resolve these challenges. Success depends on active partnerships with civil society organisations, faith-based institutions, traditional leaders, community structures and ordinary citizens.

Sporting and cultural events continue to serve as a powerful vehicle for nation building and social cohesion. Whether through marathons, indigenous games, arts festivals, community leagues or major tournaments, these programmes create opportunities for South Africans from diverse backgrounds to interact, collaborate and build lasting social bonds.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 211

The unifying effect of sport remains undeniable. We prepare to host the Springboks in Gqeberha later this year. Excitement is already sweeping across the Nelson Mandela Bay. Such events not only strengthen national pride, but they also generate economic activity and create opportunities for local businesses and communities.

We must work tirelessly to ensure equal opportunities for all South Africans, regardless of race, gender, disability, geographic location or socio-economic background.

Transformation is not merely about representation. It is about creating an inclusive sporting environment where everyone has a fair opportunity to participate, develop and excel.

In pursuit of this objective, as a province, we continue to implement programmes that empower women, youth, persons with disabilities through sports, recreation, arts and culture. We are equally determined to ensure that rural communities are not left behind.

Far too often, talent in rural areas remains undiscovered because opportunities are concentrated in urban centres. Our programmes therefore seek to expand access to sporting codes,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 212

cultural activities and creative opportunities in rural and underdeveloped communities.

We will make sure that in our time, leading the geographical location shall never determine your destiny. The creative and cultural sectors continue to demonstrate their significant contribution to economic development and job creation.

According to the 2024 Impact Study conducted by the South African Cultural Observatory, the National Arts Festival generated approximately R57,9 million for the economy of Makana Local Municipality and R131,8 million for the Eastern Cape economy. Importantly, the festival supported 1 570 work opportunities for artists, performers, technicians and creatives.

These figures underscore the importance of viewing the arts not merely as a cultural expression but as a strategic economic sector capable of generating employment, stimulating tourism and driving local economic development. The department continues to work closely with cultural institutes and organised formations to ensure that all communities actively participate in the commemorative events, national days and heritage programmes.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 213

Particular attention has been given to ensuring that minority communities are fully represented and afforded platforms to showcase their heritage, tradition and artistic talents. In this regard, our commitment to nation building remains unwavering.

Hon House Chair, the Eastern Cape Provincial Geographical Names Committee will intensify public participation processes to ensure communities play an active role in matters affecting their identity and heritage. Additional resources have been allocated towards communication, public awareness campaigns and community consultations.

Social media platforms and digital technologies will further enhance accessibility and public engagement. Libraries and archives continue to play a critical role in promoting access to information, education and lifelong learning.

I'm pleased to report that all librarian positions previously occupied on a contractual basis have now been converted into permanent posts, strengthening institutional capacity and ensuring continuity of service delivery.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 214

Capacity building programmes for community librarians continue to be implemented as part of our broader objective of professionalising the sector. The refurbishment of the Qonce repository was successfully completed during the previous financial year.

Although recent heavy rains created new infrastructure challenges, urgent interventions are underway to protect valuable archival records and preserve our documentary heritage.

Hon members, in the area of sports recreation ...

[Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon MEC, when you were preserving archival staff, your time had expired. Thank you for your participation. You deserve a box of chocolate for participating in two different debates today. [Laughter.]

Ms S I LUSITHI (Eastern Cape): Thank you very much, Chair. We support the budget.

Ms L P MHLONGO: Hon Chair, ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 215

IsiZulu:

... nginibingelele, ngibingelele ...

English:

... the hon Minister, hon members and our fellow South Africans. Before ...

IsiZulu:

... ngiqale nje ngifuna ukubungaza kakhulu iBafana Bafana ...

English:

... for qualifying for the Fifa World Cup.

IsiZulu:

... ngithi siyizwe sithi, siyazigqaja ngani futhi siyanincoma kakhulu. Nibuye nayo leyo ndebe. Nongalibuki ibhola, uyalibuka manje.

English:

But while the nation celebrates 11 players wearing the national jersey, Parliament must confront the uncomfortable question of where the next generation of Bafana Bafana players will come from, because beyond the light of national stadiums and the television cameras, sport in South Africa is no longer

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 216

the great equaliser it once promised to be. It has become another mirror reflecting inequality.

A child in Sandton and a child in a rural village or township do not start from the same line. One has access to maintained facilities, trained coaches and organised leagues. The other often plays in a dusty field with no change rooms, no equipment, no pathway to provincial or national structures. The appropriation before us does little to change that reality.

The government continues to speak about social cohesion, nation-building and transformation, but budgets are mere documents; they reveal priorities. And when we examine this budget alongside the department's own annual performance plan, APP, and the outcomes visible on the ground, it becomes clear that the poorest communities remain at the back of the queue. South Africa has produced world champions, Olympic medallists, and football legends, yet many of them emerged despite the system, not because of it.

Talent is not only concentrated in the wealthy suburbs but also found in KwaMashu, Giyani, Lusikisiki, and hundreds of forgotten villages across the country. But there is no

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 217

investment. How many rural sports facilities remain incomplete? How many municipal grounds are overgrown and abandoned? How many schools have no functional sporting infrastructure?

IsiZulu:

Ujikele Kwamashu, eNanda eNtuzuma naseMlaza.

English:

These are not isolated failures. They are evidence that development funding is not reaching the communities where it is needed most. At the same time, the department has repeatedly been overshadowed by governance failures and scandals involving entities that should be promoting arts, culture and sports. Year after year, oversight reports, the Auditor-General findings and the parliamentary committee raise concerns around weak internal controls, irregular expenditure, poor contract management and inadequate consequence management. Yet the cycle repeats itself. Public money is lost while the communities are told to wait.

That is the contradiction at the heart of this budget. There is always money for consultants, events, travel and administration. There is never enough money to build and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 218

maintain community facilities, train local coaches, support school sports and create sustainable development pathways. The department often celebrates major sporting events as evidence of success but hosting events and developing athletes are not the same thing. A country cannot build a sporting future through ceremonies and press conferences. It builds it by investing in local clubs, school leagues, and township and rural infrastructure.

The same pattern is visible in the arts and culture sector. Rural artists, community theatres, local cultural groups, and indigenous practitioners struggle to access funding while resources remain concentrated among established beneficiaries and administrative structures. South Africa's cultural wealth is found in its communities, yet many of those communities see little return from the public funds appropriated in their name. Sport once had the power to unite a divided country. It still can, but unity cannot be built on exclusion. It cannot be built when a child from a village must travel kilometres to find a decent field, while another has access to world-class facilities.

It cannot be built when talent identification depends more on geography and income than ability. A budget that does not

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 219

deliberately shift resources towards neglected rural areas and townships is not a neutral budget. It reinforces existing inequalities. It rewards those who already have and leaves out those who have always had to fight for the smallest opportunities. The measure of this Vote is not how many tournaments are hosted and how many speeches are delivered. It is whether the child kicking a ball in a forgotten village has the same chance of becoming the next national captain as the child playing at a well-funded urban academy. Today, the answer is no.

The department asked Parliament to approve another appropriation while the infrastructure backlogs remain, while oversight findings continue to expose weaknesses in governance and while the pipeline for the developing young talent in poor communities remains fragmented and underresourced. For those reasons, and because this appropriation does not sufficiently redirect investment towards the communities that need it the most, ...

IsiZulu:

I-MK Party iyangaba.

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 220

Thank you, Chair.

Ms L M MABUZA (Mpumalanga): Hon House Chair, good evening to yourself. Let me also take this opportunity and stand on the protocol that has been established by the hon Premier. Of this respectable House, the Mpumalanga province is saddened with ...

IsiNdebele:

... ukukhothama kweNgwenyama yamaNdebele, uMakhosoke II wakwaManala, uMabhena kaMbhongo.

English:

We wish to send profound condolences to the family and the entire Ndebele nation in the province and in South Africa. The King was very passionate about black child education as well as promoting the Ndebele language.

IsiNdebele:

Sifuna ukutjho eNgwenyameni kobanyana ilale ngokuthula.

English:

we are pleased to confirm that the Policy and Budget Vote 37 for 2026-27 as tabled by Minister Mackenzie is anchored on the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 221

legislative mandate of the department and intentional in advancing the priorities of the seventh administration. Accepting that the mandate of the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture is but one of the vehicles to deepen, advance social cohesion and the national transformation agenda towards a historic vision of a better life for all.

This debate comes at a time when as a nation we are reflecting on the milestone of 26 June 1955 and 16 June 1976 because these two commemorative days continue to influence our developmental resources allocation strategy to attain historic ideals of building a non-racial, non-sexist and a democratic South Africa.

It is fulfilling to note that the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture has ensured that as a country we are ready to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of June 16 students uprising against the colonial system of education under the theme "RESET at 50 - The future Calls". These commemorative days must remain to be a glue which holds the nation together, united in our diversity.

The policy and Budget Vote under consideration is resolute on its commitment to unlock a new and high-value cultural and

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 222

sport tourism market, reinforcing our national strategic objective of positioning brand South Africa as a premier destination of choice for international events. Indeed the 202-27 policy and Budget Vote 37 once again goes beyond the field of play to contribute to strengthening South Africa's trade balance.

South Africa continues to benefit from legacies of 1995 Rugby World Cup, the 2003 ICC Cricket World Cup, the 2006 Paralympic Swimming World Championships, the 2010 FIFA World Cup ever to be held on African soil, and the 2023 Netball World Cup. The policy and Budget Vote 37 under consideration has a clear vision to contribute through its development mandate in taking South Africa to the next level in the short-term by ensuring that we are ready for the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup to be co-hosted with Zimbabwe and Namibia.

We also wish to appreciate and encourage the long-term vision range of the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture to assemble strategic building blocks which will enable South Africa to put together a compelling business case for the 2036 Olympic games through a policy and budget vote which confirms to underscore the importance of investing in sports infrastructure and facilities.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 223

Further analysis of the 2026-27 Budget Vote 37 confirms government's developmental role to strengthen federations of various sporting codes ensuring that South Africa remains competitive on and off the field. We fully support the department in its approach to say, the real measure of success is the qualitative impact of giving equal opportunities to the remote rural girl and boy child to use sport and culture to improve their circumstances, enabling them to compete and succeed on the national and global stage.

The resource allocation in various departmental programmes is further aligned to the overarching goal to foster an active, creative, winning and socially cohesive nation. The 2026-27 budget priorities clearly demonstrate that we have set our country on major path of social and economic transformation. Once again, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture continues to lead and co-ordinate on behalf of government, the national Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route with tangible milestones. The resource allocation on repatriation and restitution work is aimed at giving closure not only to the families but to the healing of the entire nation. This mandate comes from the constitutional injunction, I quote: "Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land".

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 224

A critical observation is that the policy and Budget Vote 37 in this financial year is properly aligned with the Medium-Term Development Plan 2024-29, focused on strengthening social cohesion, nation building with clear programmes to promote constitutional democracy and to fight against racism, sexism, tribalism and other forms of intolerance. Indeed, our heritage institutions have a pivotal role to play in building a South Africa that works for all.

We further note with appreciation that the interface between Mzansi Golden Economy workstream, Cultural Development Programme and Presidential Employment Stimulus Programmes are poised to create thousands of much needed job opportunities in the sector. In this regard, the allocation for the maintenance of heritage assets to preserve, expand knowledge and information is one of the key pillars to promote active citizenry.

Indeed, it seems there is a national consensus to put our hands on deck to revive school and community sport hubs, and we are equally convinced that the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture is on track in responding to this national call because the essence of a budget vote is to resource the will

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 225

of the people, which is anchored in our constitutional democracy.

The budget vote's commitment to upskilling and transforming the sport, arts, and culture sector is fully supported. Equally pleasing is to intensify on popularisation of national symbols to emphasise national identity rooted in diversity, patriotism and to completely decolonise the South African heritage landscape.

The policy and Budget 37 continue to focus on inspiring and uniting the nation rooted in diversity. I further submit that it be supported with a favourable resolution by this august House. We also want to wish Bafana Bafana in their first game with Mexico and beyond, with support by the hon Minister, to bring it home. They must relax, play "kasi diski" and really bring it home. To all South Africans and the Mpumalanga people, our commitment is behind the Bafana Bafana in another country. We also wish that those who are participating in the Sunday Comrades Marathon, let the best male and the best female athlete win. I thank you, hon House Chair.

Ms S MASUMPA (Western Cape): Hon House Chairperson, greetings to the Chairperson of the NCOP, the Chief Whip of the NCOP,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 226

all hon members of the NCOP, hon Minister, the MECs and everyone on the platform.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Masumpa, excuse me. Can I ask you to turn your camera on, please?

Ms S MASUMPA (Western Cape): Hon House Chairperson, I believe ...

IsiXhosa:

... ukuqula (sticks fighting)

English:

... was one of the games that was played by the former President Nelson Mandela. Let us give those sticks to Bafana Bafana ...

IsiXhosa:

... baqulele uMzantsi Afrika ukuze babuye nodumo.

English:

A nation that does not protect its women cannot claim to be free. A nation that forgets its heritage cannot claim to know who it is. The budget must respond to both imperatives and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 227

equal urgency. Gender-based violence and Femicide as a national disaster, following the Presidential declaration, Department of Sports, Arts and Culture has incorporated anti-gender-based violence and femicide as its sixth thematic outcome of 2026, a performance area across sports, arts and culture. This must be implemented within the urgency the disaster demands.

Golekane Programmes and GBV sports initiatives. The annual performance plan, APP, targets to sports and recreation initiatives against gender-based violence and femicide, plus dedicated heritage and arts initiatives in 2026/27 financial year. We commend the intent and we must monitor and deliver. Equal pay for women in sports ... Banyana Banyana continues to be paid less than Bafana Bafana despite their superior performance. This is a matter of dignity not a preference. Parliament must hold Department of Sports, Arts and Culture accountable for closing this gap.

Digitisation of archival records. In the 2026/27 financial year, 2 500 archival records are targeted for digitisation. These include the Truth and Reconciliation Commission audio tapes, videos and theatre materials, increasing from 560 records in 2025/26. This raises an important question: do we

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 228

have the technical capacity required to deliver on this commitment effectively? Provinces must confirm local liberation heroes sites being commemorated with government support. Heritage lives in our streets, not only in a national museum.

Repatriation of human remains and artifacts. One approved report targeted for 2026/27. One report is a start but we must ask whether the policy is being implemented and not just reported on. On public libraries, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture supports 18 libraries through the Community Library Service Grant in 2026/27, transitioning to provincial equitable share from 2028/29. Provinces must prepare now because libraries are democratic institutions, not just buildings. Heritage institutions and equitable access, South African heritage resource agents.

The National Heritage Council and Museum received the largest share from the Department of Sports and Culture's budget. Are our rural townships and marginalised communities able to access and benefit from these institutions? The 70th anniversary of 1956 Women's March, Department of Sports, Arts and Culture plans arts and culture events from April to August 2026, culminating in the Women's Rise Concert on 9 August.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 229

This is not only a commemoration but also a call to an action in the present.

The SA Geographical Names Council process must be accessible to rural and township communities. Approved name changes should be properly resourced and implemented without delay.

Identity is not merely something that is announced, it is something people live and belong to. Every proposal for change should therefore be grounded in clear evidence.

The Annual Performance Plan reflects stronger target indicators, increased budget allocations and an expanded thematic focus that now includes gender-based violence and femicide. At the same time, challenges must be acknowledged honestly. Credibility is built through transparency, not defensiveness. We should conclude by affirming that sport, arts, culture and heritage are not peripheral activities. They are central instruments for economic inclusion, social transformation and national healing. I therefore approve this budget. Thank you, hon Chairperson.

Mr M K MAMPURU (Gauteng): Chairperson, let me take this opportunity and greet the people of South Africa. In

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 230

particular, those in rural areas and also in townships. We greet them as we are in solidarity with Bafana Bafana and will be playing in the national team representing South Africa in the FIFA World Cup. I say to them, re kaofela [we are together.]

The Department of Sports, Arts and Culture is entrusted with the mandate to champion national unity, to preserve heritage, to promote linguistic and cultural diversity while facilitating inclusive community through arts programme. Yet, despite this responsibility, this department has failed to fulfil its vision as it is plagued by deep-seated institutional decay, chronic underfunding of grassroots programme and the use of public funds for political patronage.

This department often fails to meet its transformative targets like we have seen in the national rugby team and community infrastructure projects are regularly subjected to delays or abandonment, leaving the rural and marginalised community completely excluded from the national cultural and sporting life.

In the early 1990s and early 2000s, in the village of Mamone in Limpopo, there was a soccer league consisting of almost 18

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 231

teams registered under North Soccer Administration. Every weekend, soccer matches were played and the whole community would gather at different fields to watch the beautiful game. Among these teams was Squatty Masters fc, the pride of the village, nicknamed Leselesele. The team gained promotion from the village amateur soccer league and reached the Castle League.

But today, hardly 20 years later, Mamoni Soccer League under the Nebo North, West Soccer League, it is distant history where only seven teams out of the 18 teams are still in existence. And they are only in existence during holidays, soccer tournament, where they are gambling in amateur soccer league. I am talking about this soccer league and Ntate phala can attest to that because his team from his village was also part of this soccer league. To paint a picture of many other rural communities where sport was the only thing which united them, but the only thing which soccer united them to help reduce crime and build social cohesion.

It took only one non-caring organisation called the South African football Association, SAFA, led by individuals with a questionable character, to not only destroy the sport that was also the pride of society. Just so Mr Jordan can remain in

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 232

power, even though it does no longer service the people of South Africa.

It is not only soccer that has declined; boxing has suffered the same fate. Since the glory days of Vuyani Bungu and Cassius Ndou, South Africa has produced fewer sporting champions. For this reason, the EFF rejects this budget Vote. We do so because the department has failed these communities. Instead of addressing the realities facing ordinary South Africans in sport, arts and culture, it prioritises prestige projects and administrative compliance.

Township and rural schools across the country still lack proper sports fields, libraries, arts centres and other cultural infrastructure. These under-resourced schools continue to be disadvantaged by inequalities that have built up over generations.

In Gauteng, the country's economic hub, independent artists and members of the creative sector have protested against the lack of transparency and persistent delays in provincial funding, arguing that the available resources are insufficient to sustain the broader cultural sector. Likewise, in the Western Cape, major cultural events such as the Cape Town

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 233

International Jazz Festival and the Suidoosterfees have faced financial difficulties because of government budget reprioritisation.

The inability of the state to adequately finance these projects demonstrate a system failure to leverage the arts as a vehicle to economic driver. And well prestigious festivals like the National Art Festival in Makanda in Grime stein receive somewhat of support. Rural communities in Eastern Cape often lack functional community art centres. Local artists and youth in these areas struggle to access provincial development grants, delaying the growth in local talent.

Similarly, in provinces such as Limpopo, which have cultural significance events such as Mapungubwe Arts Festival, rural practitioners often face many challenges with logistics and financial barriers simply to access a market and resources needed to make a profit from their craft. This geographic centralisation directly contradicts the department's mandate to foster inclusive nationwide social cohesion.

Across the country, community halls, libraries and provincial museums suffer from poor maintenance, limited digitised resources and inadequate security. In the Free State, for

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 234

instance, a community arts centre and a regional museum often struggle with deferred maintenance, which restricts public access. The Provincial Arts Council and the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture also face serious governance challenges, including high vacancy rates in critical management positions and irregular expenditure.

These administrative failures prevent the proper disbursement of funds and the execution of basic public art and sport programmes. This, alongside corruption, the misappropriation of funds at the municipal and provincial level, which often means that money intended for township and rural programmes never reaches the grassroots level.

The polarisation of sport and unholy involvement of ANC politicians has put a strain on the unitary sector. The most unfortunate part is that this department is now in the hands of a "26-gang" leader fanatic who has no clue on what must be done to bring the sport back to its former glory.

On behalf of all village and township communities who continue to support sport against all odds ... [Interjections.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 235

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Mampuru, please pause for a moment? Hon Radebe, what is your point of order?

Mr B A RADEBE: I rise on a point of order. House Chair, we do not have gang leaders here but hon members. Can you rule on that?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Yes, indeed. I agree with you, House Chair. Hon Mampuru, please, continue with your speech and address members appropriately.

Mr M K MAMPURU (Gauteng): ... That order was frivolous, Chair. Comrade Chair, on behalf of all township communities ...

[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Mampuru, you have just done it again. I am not a comrade. So, please do not call me "comrade Chair." You can call me "Mr Chair," or you can call me "Chair."

Mr M MAMPURU (Gauteng): ... It's noted, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Yes, please do not do it again. Please continue.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 236

Mr M K MAMPURU (Gauteng): ... On behalf of all village and township communities who are against all odds, continue to add activism in the prime sport in dusty soccer fields and dilapidated soccer arena. On behalf of all young men and women who are now addicted to drugs and many other substances because this government decided to no longer invest in the rural and township sport participation.

We reject this budget because it does not address the plight and the future of South African sports stars and champions. Under the ANC-led GNU, which includes the ANC and the DA, ordinary South Africans continue to experience exclusion from meaningful participation in sport development.

As the EFF, we reject this budget on behalf of the community of Tafelkop, who once had a stadium, but because this government no longer cares, the stadium has deteriorated. We reject this budget on behalf of the people of Mpumelelo in Devon, who once had a stadium and a sports arena, but it has not been maintained and has now deteriorated. On behalf of all South Africans who have been neglected by this GNU and are not receiving support from this department, we reject this budget.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 237

In conclusion, I heard someone discussing the attendance of EFF Members of Parliament in Council. Perhaps that person fails to appreciate that, whether physically or virtually, Members of Parliament, when they attend these meetings in either manner, their presence remains valid. Perhaps that is the problem of individuals with a short person syndrome who suffer from white men's superiority, believing they can be self-appointed mentors of the EFF. Thank you, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you, Mr Mampuru. Let us move swiftly on, then, to the KwaZulu-Natal - Yes, hon Nonkonyana ... [Interjections.]

Adv Inkosi M NONKONYANA: Chair, I rise on a point of order. I just want to make a slight correction, just for record purposes. I did not want to interrupt you, because that man actually raised many other things. You did, actually, when we were calling him to order, by referring to him as "Masumpa." Masumpa is a disciplined ANC cadre and not the EFF employee.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): I beg your pardon. My mistake was, indeed, hon Mampuru. I apologise for that error. Let us move on with the KwaZulu-Natal chairperson of the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 238

portfolio committee that has oversight of sports, arts and culture. Thank you.

Ms S M M MKHIZE (KwaZulu-Natal): Hon House Chair, hon Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, hon members, in a few days South Africa will mark the 50th anniversary of the June 16 uprising, one of the defining moments in the history of our liberation struggle.

The generation of 1976 confronted an education system designed to suppress their aspirations, erase their identity and limit their opportunities. Their struggle was not only about access to education, but it was also about dignity, cultural expression, language, identity and the right of young people to shape their own future. The sacrifices of that generation laid the foundation for the democratic South Africa we enjoy today.

As we commemorate this historic milestone, this Budget Vote provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in advancing the ideals for which the youth of 1976 fought.

Indeed, their struggle was fundamentally about dignity, opportunity, identity and the right of young people to

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 239

participate fully in shaping the future of their country, and through sustained investments in sport, arts, culture, heritage and language development, government continues to give practical expression to these ideals by expanding opportunities for young people to develop their talents, preserve their heritage, express their creativity and participate meaningfully in the socioeconomic life of our nation.

It is from this perspective that KwaZulu-Natal supports this budget. This budget contributes directly to the constitutional imperative of building a united, nonracial, nonsexist and democratic society, while advancing social cohesion, nation-building and youth development.

It also gives practical effect to our ANC's enduring commitment to social transformation and to create opportunities for young people through the sporting, cultural and creative sectors.

It's quite disappointing to hear an hon member from the DA speak about political gymnastics and hypocrisy while every time they scream patriotism during the Rugby World Cup and never question its funding or any form of funding that gets

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 240

allocated to the Rugby World Cup. Yet, we hardly see the same energy and the same patriotism whenever Bafana takes to the international stage. Some of them don't even wear or encourage people to wear the Bafana jersey. To start with, they don't even watch soccer. Now, these are people who are vehemently opposed to the transformation of the sport sector in our country. They live on some island very far from the people they claim to lead.

KwaZulu-Natal understands perhaps better than most provinces the transformative role that sport, arts and culture can play in society. Our province has produced some of the country's finest athletes, artists, musicians, writers, performers and cultural practitioners. We are home to rich cultural traditions, diverse heritage sites and vibrant creative communities that continue to make a significant contribution to the social and economic development of South Africa.

At the same time, KwaZulu-Natal continues to face challenges associated with poverty, unemployment, inequality, social fragmentation and the vulnerability of young people to crime, substance abuse and other social ills.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 241

In this context, investment in sport, arts and culture cannot be viewed as secondary to development. It forms part of the broader social and economic ... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.] ... Sorry, Chair?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): No, order hon members. Please don't interrupt the speakers when they are speaking, even if you agree with them. We are not in the Chamber. We need to make sure that we allow the person on the platform to enjoy an uninterrupted run while delivering their speech. Please continue, hon Mkhize, and our apologies for that interruption.

Ms S M M MKHIZE (KwaZulu-Natal): Chair, the department's programmes promote active citizenship, social cohesion and community participation. They create platforms for young people to develop their talents, strengthen social inclusion and contribute positively to society. These objectives are particularly important in communities where opportunities remain limited and where sport and cultural activities often provide a critical pathway for personal development and social mobility.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 242

This budget before this House continues to prioritise mass participation and sport development. The allocation towards school sport programmes, community support initiatives and athlete development programmes represents an important investment in grassroots development and talent identification.

The department's commitment to supporting schools, clubs and community structures remains critical to ensuring broader participation in sport across all provinces.

From a KwaZulu-Natal perspective, these interventions are of particular importance. Rural communities and historically disadvantaged areas require sustained investment if we are to overcome longstanding inequalities in access to sporting opportunities and facilities. The continued support for school sport and community-based programmes provides an important foundation for transformation and future sporting excellence.

The arts, culture and creative industries remain important drivers of economic activities and employment creation. The ANC has consistently argued that culture must be recognised not only as a social asset but also as an economic resource

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 243

capable of creating sustainable livelihoods, particularly for young people and women.

The department's investment in cultural and creative industries, market access programmes and the Mzansi Golden Economy continues to support artists, performers and cultural entrepreneurs across the country. These programmes are expected to contribute meaningfully towards job creation and economic participation within the sector.

For KwaZulu-Natal, where the creative sector continues to grow and diversify, these interventions create opportunities for local artists and cultural practitioners to access markets, develop enterprises and contribute to local economic development.

The preservation and promotion of heritage also remains highly important. As a province with a rich liberation history and diverse cultural heritage, KwaZulu-Natal recognises the importance of investing in libraries, museums, archives and heritage institutions. These institutions preserve the collective memory of our nation, promote social cohesion and ensure that future generations remain connected to their history and their identity.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 244

The department's continued investment in heritage preservation, community libraries and language development contributes significantly towards these objectives.

As legislators, our responsibility extends beyond supporting budget allocations. It includes ensuring that resources are utilised efficiently, transparently and in a manner that delivers measurable outcomes for communities.

The discussions that have taken place within parliamentary oversight structures have highlighted the importance of strengthening accountability, improving expenditure management and ensuring that resources allocated to sport, arts and cultural programmes reach their intended beneficiaries. These are matters that require ongoing oversight and attention.

However, these oversight responsibilities should not detract from the broader significance of this Budget Vote. This budget supports social cohesion. It supports youth development. It supports nation-building. It supports job creation within the creative economy. It supports transformation within sport, which the DA only hears about and will never know about. It supports the preservation of our heritage and cultural

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 245

identity. Most importantly, it supports the continued development of South Africa's people.

As we approach the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of June 16, we are reminded that the struggle of the generation of 1976 envisioned a society in which young people would have greater opportunities to realise their full potential. Through investments in sport, arts, culture and heritage, this Budget Vote contributes meaningfully towards advancing that vision.

It is for that reason that as the chair of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture in KwaZulu-Natal, and also as a member and representative of the ANC, I support this budget. Thank you.

Ms T BREEDT: House Chairperson ...

Afrikaans:

... Muhammad Ali het eenmaal gesê: ...

English:

... "It isn't the mountains ahead to climb that wear you out; it's the pebble in your shoe" ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 246

Afrikaans:

... en dit beskryf die Departement van Sport, Kuns en Kultuur se uitdaging perfek.

Suid-Afrika het nie 'n tekort aan talent nie. Ons het nie wêreldklas sportmanne, kunstenaars of kulturele erfenis nodig nie. Dit is nie die berg voor ons wat die probleem is nie. Dit is die klippie in ons skoen wat swak administrasie is.

Die onlangse chaos rondom Bafana Bafana se reisreëlings, paspoorte en logistieke probleme wys dit duidelik. Hierdie is nie groot kwessies soos beleid nie. Dit is klein dinge wat professioneel bestuur behoort te word ...

English:

... and yet it is often these small failures that end up causing the greatest embarrassment.

Afrikaans:

Die departement se visie is om 'n aktiewe, kreatiewe, wen nasie te help bou wat sosiaal saamgebind en verenig is. Dit is 'n belangrike doelwit, want sport, kuns en kultuur is nie bloot luukshede nie. Dit is die dinge wat gemeenskappe bymekaar bring wanneer die politiek hulle verdeel. Dit is die

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 247

dinge wat vir Suid-Afrikaners iets gee om op trots te wees
wanneer daar min anders is om te vier.

English:

A winning team inspires confidence, a thriving arts sector creates jobs, a preserved heritage creates identity, and a nation without identity eventually loses its sense of purpose.

Afrikaans:

Daarom verwelkom die VF Plus die departement se ondersteuning van museums, biblioteke, erfenisprojekte en gemeenskapsport.

Maar soms fokus die regering so op die groot projekte dat die klein praktiese dinge vergeet word. Dit help nie daar is boeke binne as inwoners onveilig voel om 'n terrein te besoek nie. In Heilbron sien ons hoe belangrik hierdie klein goedjies is.

English:

Government often measures success by whether a facility was built. Communities on the other hand measure success by whether they can actually use it.

Afrikaans:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 248

Die departement beoog om vanjaar 10 000 werkseleenthede deur die kreatiewe stimulus sektor te skep en 90 projekte deur die Mzansi Golden Economy program te ondersteun. Dit is welkom maar befondsing alleen is nie genoeg nie.

English:

Artists need certainty, creative organisations need stability and taxpayers need accountability.

Afrikaans:

Ons het die afgelope tyd gesien hoe verskeie rolspelers in die kunste hul kommer uitspreek oor onsekerheid rondom befondsing en ondersteuning. Wanneer die kreatiewe sektor onsekerheid ervaar, raak dit nie net kunstenaars nie. Dit raak werkseleenthede. Dit raak toerisme. Dit raak plaaslike ekonomiese groei. Die beginsel van verantwoordbaarheid moet daarom konsekwent toegepas word.

Sportinfrastruktuur bly net so 'n groot uitdaging. In Letsemeng het ons 'n sportgrond wat gevandaliseer is en eenvoudig agtergelaat is. Nog een is uiteindelik op 'n kleiner skaal gebou as wat oorspronklik voor beplan is, wat die tipe sport en gemeenskapsaktiwiteite wat daar moes plaasvind nou ernstig beperk.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 249

Dit is ongelukkig ook nie uniek nie. Regoor Suid-Afrika sien ons fasiliteite wat met groot fanfare geopen word, maar daarna nie behoorlik onderhou word nie.

English:

A sports field that cannot host sport serves no purpose in a community, a cultural centre that cannot host events serves no purpose and infrastructure without maintenance is simply tomorrow's ruin.

Afrikaans:

Vir die jong rugbyspeler wat op 'n stofveld in die Vrystaat oefen, moet dit sy tyd wees. Vir die kunstenaar wat probeer om 'n loopbaan uit haar talent te bou, moet dit haar tyd wees. Vir die gemeenskap wat toegang tot 'n werkende biblioteek, museum of sportfasiliteit wil hê, moet dit hul tyd wees.

English:

However, for that to happen, government must move beyond announcements and ceremonies. It must deliver ...

Afrikaans:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 250

... want uiteindelik word nasionale trots nie deur toesprake gebou nie. Dit word deur geleenthede gebou, want dit is ons tyd. Ek dank u.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you, hon Breedt. If I can ask the administration to just make sure that the timer does appear on the screen again. Hon delegates, there is a limited interpreting facility available. If you are struggling to find it, you can click on the three dots that says more. You can then click on interpretation and select to get an English interpretation of the speech that is being delivered. Let's move on to the next participant in the debate, and it's the hon Du Plessis.

Ms N S DU PLESSIS: Hon House Chairperson, hon Minister, hon Deputy Minister, hon members, and fellow South Africans, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture carries the imagination of a nation. Whether it is the aspirations of a young scholar setting records in athletics, an artist who cannot help but share a vision of the world, or a museum curator who preserves the footprints of the past to guide our future away from the destruction caused by the abuse of power that defined our recent history and affected every culture in South Africa,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 251

this department has a deep responsibility to defend and protect the soul and spirit of our country.

However, this responsibility has not always been taken seriously. During a recent oversight visit in the Eastern Cape, we were shaken by the condition of the Red Location Museum in New Brighton. Initially, R22 million was spent to construct this museum, which was meant to showcase South Africa's sacred history and exhibit art that tells our story. However, the museum was closed in 2013, and after which around R300 thousand was spent monthly on operating costs.

An additional R21 million was later budgeted by the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. The estimated monthly cost of R300 thousand over 13 years totals R46,800 000.00 After an estimated R89,800 000.00 was spent, the building is unusable, destroyed, ghostly and almost irreparable.

A museum that could have given pride to a community, drawn both local and international tourists, and showcased South Africa was instead destroyed by fraud, mismanagement, and corruption. This museum was not protected; it was not respected; and so many stories disappeared within its broken walls. And it is not the only institution that is central to

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 252

our collective history that has not been treated with the care and respect it deserves.

These include, but are not limited to, Goudkoppie Heritage in Matlosana, the Women's Living Monument in Tshwane, the Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Museum in Brandfort, and the Johannesburg Art Gallery in Gauteng, where much of the art has seemingly found feet.

When we do not protect history and culture, we lose a part of who we are, and people forget, only to repeat the abuses of the past that once destroyed millions of lives.

There is no doubt that the allocation for museums can begin the work of rebuilding and restoring these hallowed institutions. However, this can only happen when implementation improves, oversight deepens, and every cent is spent on what it was budgeted for.

Historically, the Mzansi Golden Economy has been mired in controversy that has directly affected the lives of artists in South Africa. It is the mechanism through which the department allocates public arts and culture grants.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 253

However, Mzansi Golden Economy has become associated with political patronage, conflicts of interest, non-compliance, and ghost companies, to name but a few concerns. There has not been a forensic audit to address these well-known allegations. Not one person involved in the Mzansi Golden Economy has been charged or arrested for stealing futures from artists and cultural icons. Yet large amounts continue to be allocated to the programme. Surely this is not aligned with prudent governance.

A passion and dedication for sport often begins in early childhood, in community centres that give people, regardless of their economic circumstances, access to basketball, football, netball, rugby, squash, and swimming. However, the community of Ennerdale is still waiting for the Ennerdale Recreational Centre to be rebuilt, as promised by the Minister in 2025. In fact, during an oversight visit last week, I saw that the swimming pool area had been boarded up with bricks, and absolutely no movement to address the decay. How does this support the dream of an athlete, or help a community stay active and healthy?

The budget, as a document, is not in itself the concern. What is concerning is how the department will ensure

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 254

accountability, will they catch, convict and clean up, so that every cent is spent on improving the lives of all South Africans.

The idea that social cohesion can be strengthened through the protection of sport, arts, and culture in South Africa is both noble and accurate.

However, when we look realistically and honestly at the facts, this is not happening. Our community theatres are not stronger. For example, the Soweto Theatre Company once shifted paradigms, and now it is begging for funding. Rural heritage projects barely hold together the stories of those who came before us, from all backgrounds. Lower-quintile schools have little to no access to sports fields or community centres that enrich and heal communities. And our local artists remain outsiders, and cultural giants from all communities seem to have lost any platform.

It is obvious that the department needs to strengthen internal governance to ensure that the imaginations, the souls, and spirits of all our people are protected. I thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 255

Mr F J MASEKO (Limpopo): Chairperson of the session, the Minister and the Deputy Minister present here, Members of the National Council of Provinces, esteemed members of this House, ladies and gentlemen, let me first start by congratulating our boys, Bafana Bafana for having qualified for the World Cup competition that will be taking place tomorrow, and best wishes for their opening game against Mexico. But further, allow me to extend my best wishes to the 865 Limpopo athletes ahead of their 2026 Comrade Marathon that will be taking place this Sunday.

We are presenting this policy debate during a very critical month that is very historical in the calendar of the liberation struggle. This month is not just a symbolic date on the calendar, but it is a call to action and a reminder of June 16, 1976, when the young people chose courage over fear and redefined the future of our country. To debate sports, arts and culture in this month is to ask this question, what are we doing today to honour that sacrifice?

We take direction from the Minister, Gayton Mackenzie, who has been clear and unapologetic, I quote. "Sports, arts and culture are not a nice to have, they are a must have; they are not luxury, they are a necessity for nation-building, job

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 256

creation and social cohesion". The Minister has further challenged us as a country and provinces, I quote. "We must professionalise the arts; we must stop treating artists like beggars; we must build infrastructure, so that our talent does not die in poverty".

He has insisted that, "Every child must have access to sports because it keeps them away from drugs, crimes and it gives them discipline". Let me start by indicating that as Limpopo, we rally behind this budget to support this budget. We align with the mandate, as the premier of the province has indicated during the state of the province address, Sopa, that sports, art and culture programmes are not extras in development; they are essential pillars that drive social coherent, preserve heritage and unlock economic opportunities for the youth. They are lifelines.

The majority of our athletes are young people and when we fail them, we fail their future. Let me indicate that as a province, we've experienced some setback to excellence during the 2025 National School Sports Championships, NSSC, incident, that happened in Bloemfontein. Members will remember that there were some chaotic activities that happened there, and as a province, I want to assure this House that we investigated,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 257

we enforce consequence management, we ensured that repayments of debt are made, and we said never again we will gamble with our learners' dreams.

Our youth responded with excellence. During the National Athletic Championship at Pilditch Stadium, team Limpopo secured 24 medals, 12 bronze, seven silver and five golds, and at the SA National School Swimming Championships in the Western Cape, our young swimmers brought home seven medals, including seven golds. From the remote villages of Limpopo province and families with little, these children find sport as a reason to strive and a place to belong. Hailing from rural hardship, these young people, once discovered through sports, find purpose and their place in the world.

This Youth Month must include all youth, including people with disabilities, for people with disabilities' participation challenges stigma and shifts focus from limitation to capability. It creates community, reduces isolation and gives athletes a space to set goals, handles setbacks and experience achievements on their own. Our provincial paralympic team, competed at the Southern African Paralympic Championship in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, from 24 to 27 April 2026. They returned with gold in both female and male categories.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 258

This is what Youth Month means. No youth must be left behind. Well done team paralympic. Youth in arts and culture, from the talent to bear the economy. We are heeding the Minister's call to professionalise the arts. We hosted the inaugural Limpopo Arts and Culture Awards, LACAs. We honoured the young and emerging talents; talents from our very own villages in Limpopo province. We have honoured artists in dance, music, visual arts, craft and comedy with the MEC Special Awards, while our artists with disability received artists with disability awards.

Our vision as the province is that we need to invest and retain our own talent. That is why we are fast-tracking the Limpopo Provisional Theatre Programme, where we are building a state of the art theatre, and with an approval of R18 million, that is going to deal with the operationalisation of the theatre, and it will take care of cultural and the creative industries strategy. As the Minister has said, we must build infrastructure, so our talent does not die in poverty. Look at the Metro FM Awards 2026, where young people from Limpopo dominated.

Our very own music genre Limpopo is now competing on national and international stages, which shows that our youth have a

chance to use their talents to not only build our economy, but also to maintain themselves and their families. I'm talking here about young people who scooped the best new artists, best female artists, best R and B artists, best viral talents and best style artists. I'm talking about Kharishma, Gashandesh, Yomastakeji, Musa Keys. They are from rural villages.

Through collaboration with the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, we are able to make sure that they showcase their talent. In Limpopo, we recognised the challenges facing our young Limpopo artists, as I'm speaking. We have suffered a lot of loss through accidents, and we are saying these are still young people who are on the verge of success and navigating the pressures that comes with early exposure to the industry, it's a very serious challenge, and we have got a plan to address this.

We are hosting the Limpopo Music Dialogue scheduled to take place on the 18 June, during Youth Month, and after having had five dialogues across all the districts during the previous financial year. This music dialogue brings out an effort to organise the creative industry for sustainable growth to globes. The event will provide intervention through

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 260

experienced individuals who will engage artists in character, conduct, and personal development.

There will be a workshop on business in the Arts Palace on spiritual empowerment, self-control, rehabilitation, rights and revenue, and branding. Our goal is for artists to take an active role in shaping their own growth. This will help them build longevity in the industry and learn to distinguish between short-term hype, fame and a sustainable career. Youth and the heritage, knowledge is power. The youth that does not know its past cannot own its future.

We preserve our heritage through the promotion of user services, indigenous languages, indigenous games, and the preservation of our oral history through archives and library services. Allow me to indicate that the department has operationalised the Schoemansdal Museum, which has got an exhibition centre that serves as a gallery. Thank you very much. [Interjection.] [Time expired.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you MEC. Hon delegates, just a reminder. There is a timer on top of the screen, so that you can monitor your progress while you are speaking. Now from the far North of Limpopo to the far South

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 261

of the Western Cape, and we're about to get the input from Mackenzie, who is the Western Cape MEC for Cultural Affairs and Sport. Hon Mackenzie.

Mr R D MACKENZIE (Western Cape): Good evening, House Chairperson, hon members, our national Minister McKenzie on the other side of the world and our other Deputy Minister, I didn't see her here, all protocol observed.

Chairperson, I'd like to begin by saying thank you to the House for inviting us here and, of course, to wish Bafana Bafana well for tomorrow evening, and everyone is going to participate in the Comrades Marathon on Sunday. My colleagues in KwaZulu-Natal, I wish you all the best on Sunday, including myself. I'll be there as well for my first Comrades Marathon. I also want to proudly announce, if you haven't heard yet, the Cape Town Marathon has just been declared an Abbott World Marathon Major. We will be the eighth Abbott World Major. Some of our investments in sport in the Western Cape are clearly paying off.

Hon members, it's an honour for me to participate in this debate, to give our perspective from the Western Cape - a province that believes in the power of these sectors to build

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 262

stronger communities, create opportunities and foster social cohesion. At a time when division, xenophobia, conflict and rising tensions are testing societies across the world, culture remains one of our most powerful tools for building understanding and human connection. As South Africa competes in an increasingly connected world, culture and sport are becoming strategic assets that attract investment, strengthen tourism and enhance our global standing.

This budget is ultimately about people. It reflects how we choose to invest in our talent, preserve our heritage and create opportunities for future generations. At a time of economic pressure, unemployment and growing social challenges, the work of this department is more important than ever.

I always argue that our first Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport was Tata Nelson Mandela. He understood the power of sport and culture. He understood what it means to bring people together and not to divide people. That is the importance of this National Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, DSAC, but it must be grounded on strong accountability, sound governance and effective implementation, and it must be the centre of this budget. Every single cent of this DSAC must be grounded in strong accountability, sound governance and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 263

effective implementation, because we know we don't get the money that police and health get nationally.

Hon members, the recent World Bank Report, and I'm sure many of you have seen it, has indicated that the creative economy is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. It is the job-rich area that we can and must invest in. Artificial Intelligence, AI, cannot replace a person standing on a stage and as you will see tomorrow, AI cannot replace a group of men from South Africa, Bafana Bafana, defeating Mexico. That is the importance of this investment. That is the importance of the industry that we operate in.

We, therefore, cannot cut corners at the DSAC. We must continue to invest in these platforms to merge talent. The creative economy needs money. We cannot take money away from the creative economy. We cannot defund festivals because once you defund them, you kill jobs in this economy. In a country where unemployment is so high, we really ... the national department, by defunding some of these festivals, is killing these festivals and they're killing jobs in the creative economies while the world is saying that this is the fastest growing economy. We're doing it the other way around and it's

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 264

very important that our national colleagues, as a sense of urgency, should relook at some of these festivals.

The Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, KKNK, Suidoosterfees and Cape Town Jazz Festival are festivals that bring communities together and deserve more funding. Hon members, that's why we, in the Western Cape, have made the decision to invest, reinvest and look for private sector partners to invest in these festivals. We understand that the creative economy is a job-rich economy.

Hon members, earlier on, I heard two or three members speaking about school sport. Just recently, I'm not sure if you heard, on Sunday afternoon, a team right here in Cape Town, Hope FC, has just been promoted to the National First Division. They also won the ABC Motsepe Cup and, therefore, will represent our province, Western Cape, on the national stage. These are proud stories from kids of the Cape Flats. Hope FC, based in Mitchells Plain, will now be based on the national stage. In a few years' time, many of these players will play for Bafana Bafana, but it's grounded in a strategy.

It's called the Western Cape School Sport Strategy. We have launched this strategy with a fierce sense of urgency, and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 265

we've raised R130 million through various sources in the Western Cape, where we're investing in school sport. However, we cannot do this on our own. We need the support from national government.

A strategy is not just building a facility in Mitchell's Plain and leaving it behind. A strategy is a league, a competition, school sport, coaches, it's part of development in sport. I would welcome somebody installing a gym somewhere, but a gym cannot be put in a community and left behind. It needs a coach, maintenance and a plan to ensure that those young people become Bafana Bafana or Springbok players and go to Los Angeles in 2028.

Every plan needs a strategy, an implementer and a monitor, otherwise it's just money being thrown down the drain. I agree, hon Feni from the Eastern Cape, hon Mhlongo from KwaZulu-Natal, if my notes are correct, and hon Mabuza from Mpumalanga, because you all three raised the same issue, school sport, and we as the Western Cape certainly have done that. We take it seriously, but we need national colleagues to work with us so that we can co-ordinate, manage and ensure our collective investment in school sport reaches the required outcomes. It is not just about putting up a facility

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 266

somewhere, leaving it and three years down the line, the facility is being neglected. Strategy needs proper co-ordination. That's exactly what the National Development Plan, NDP, has talked about, but we need our colleagues from national government to work with us.

Similarly, there are three key policy decisions that need to be made. The first one is on the transversal tenders, hon members. It cannot be that a school soccer ball must be bought from Pretoria for R500, whereas I can go right now to Pick n Pay to buy it for R100. Transversal tenders, money funding for that needs to be given to provinces at the closest level of where the people are, so that we can buy it for cheaper. So, that R500 can now reach three children as opposed to reaching one child. That policy decision is in the ambit of national Minister McKenzie.

The second policy decision that the Minister can make is helping us with the Municipal Infrastructure Grant. There was a parliamentary standing committee a few weeks back where everybody, rightfully so, raised concerns about infrastructure in municipality sports infrastructure. The solution lies in a policy decision. The Department of Local Government is responsible for municipalities; the DSAC is responsible for

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 267

sport. That money that is currently in local government must go to the DSAC and come down to provinces that can manage it properly and make sure that our infrastructure is properly maintained. That is how we're going to feed sport in this country, once and for all.

The arts sector is bleeding, colleagues. The arts sector is bleeding and they are losing jobs. Whilst we all welcome any support for Bafana Bafana, we must welcome it tomorrow, they must win, but the two issues must not be conflated. The SA Football Association, Sifa, is not Bafana Bafana. Mismanagement of sport is not Bafana Bafana.

Sifa receives hundreds of millions of rands to fix Sifa. We all know about the billions that they received for the 2010 World Cup. They should have bought the Video Assistant Referee, VAR, system. Bafana Bafana is not Sifa. We should not be emotionally blackmailed when we talk about fixing Sifa and mixing it with Bafana Bafana. Bafana Bafana is our national asset. They are our team. We must support them at all times and at all costs. But Sifa being given money left, right ... money that should be going to schools and helping us in our communities should not be conflated with the two issues. Sifa

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 268

must get their house in order, and we must continue to support our lovely team, Bafana Bafana, and hope they go all the way.

Money should not be misallocated. It should be allocated for the benefit of our team, so that they can win and make us proud. We are asking our national department to focus, to relook at where they allocate their funding and to prioritise so that they can help us to fix sport in this country. We're doing our part, but we cannot do so without our national colleagues.

We need funding for the film industry and cultural events. We need our national Minister to please speak to the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, DTIC, because we know there are big issues with incentives. Our film industry is losing jobs. At the moment, with the encounters taking place, any artist or film producer that you speak to is saying that they are struggling with the DTIC and incentives. We're asking national Minister McKenzie to please speak to your colleague to fix that matter, because our film industry is bleeding at the moment. By taking money away from the arts, we are defunding the arts.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 269

Mr B J FARMER: Hon Chairperson, I hope my bandwidth holds but let us proceed. Chairperson, Minister Gayton McKenzie, hon members, I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, our God and Father. Today I rise on behalf of the Patriotic Alliance in full support of Budget Rule 37. This budget is about far more than sport. It is about hope, opportunities, restoring dignity and building a nation that believes again.

For too long, sports, arts and culture have been viewed as secondary priorities, as if they are luxuries that government can support only when there is money left over. The Patriotic Alliance rejects that notion completely. Sports save lives, art create livelihoods, culture preserves identity, and together they build social cohesion in a country that still bears the scars of division.

Many of us know the reality of communities where opportunities are scarce. We know what happens when young people have nothing to do, when gangsterism becomes more than opportunity, and what happens when drugs become easier to access than sporting facilities. That is why this budget matters. Every sports field restored and community arts programmes supported, every library opened and heritage site preserved, every

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 270

talented young athlete discovered, and young artist given a platform. These are investments in our future.

The department has been allocated more than R6,6 billion to advance sports, arts and culture across the country. This budget demonstrates a commitment to growing participation in sport, supporting cultural development, preserving our heritage and strengthening nation-building initiatives. The Patriotic Alliance welcomes this investment. We particularly welcome the continued focus on grassroots sports development, because the next Bafana Bafana captain will not emerge from privilege alone, or the next Springbok star may currently be kicking a ball in a dusty field in the Northern Cape.

The next Olympic champion may be running barefoot in a rural village. The next world-class artist may be performing today in a small community hall. Government's responsibility is to ensure that talent is not limited by circumstance.

One of the most powerful aspects of this budget is its recognition that sport can be a tool against crime. Minister Gator McKenzie often speaks about second chances. His own life story demonstrates that. Young people who are given opportunity can transform their futures. That message

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 271

resonates deeply in communities across South Africa. The Patriotic Alliance believes that every sports programme that keeps a child occupied after school is a crime prevention programme.

Every arts initiative that develops skills is an economic development initiative. Every cultural project that strengthens identity is a nation-building project. These investments save government money in the long run, because they prevent social problems before they occur.

We also welcome the department's commitment to supporting artists and the creative economy. Too many artists struggle to earn a sustainable income, despite contributing enormously to our national identity. Artists are not asking for charity. They are asking for opportunity. The creative sector creates jobs, stimulates tourism, and generates economic activity. It showcases South Africa to the world.

My speaking time has exceeded, but we further commend the department's commitment to preserving our heritage. A nation that forgets its history loses part of its identity. Our museums, archives, monuments and heritage sites tell the story of who we are and where we come from.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 272

While we support this budget fully, we also encourage continuous focus on implementation. Facilities must be maintained, projects must reach communities, funds must be spent responsibly, and opportunities must reach ordinary South Africans. Not only established institutions, but success will also ultimately be measured by what communities experience on the ground.

The PA is proud that one of our own leads this department. But our support today is not based on party politics. It is based on results, on a clear vision, and it is based on the belief that sport, arts and culture can transform lives.

In conclusion, we support this budget because we support hope. We support a South Africa where every child, regardless of where they come from, has the opportunity to dream, participate, and succeed. The PA therefore fully supports budget Vote No 37. Hon Minister, [Moenie Baiza Nie, ma se kind!] salute.

Mr N GOTSELL: Chairperson, Minister, Deputy Minister, members and fellow South Africans, good evening. This budget reminds us of something very important. Sport is not only about competition. It is also about spectacle. It is about

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 273

personalities, and it is about cheerleading. In South African politics, the ANC has found its newest cheerleader in Minister Gates and Mackenzie and the Patriotic Alliance. This budget debate is therefore not just about sport, arts and culture.

It is also about political strategy. It is about a President who saw an opportunity, like any good sports coach, to bring a populist figure into government to revive support for a retired ANC ahead of the next election. But this is not new politics. This is Zuma-era politics in a new outfit, and that is a sports outfit nochal. But let us look at the budget.

This department oversees critical sectors that shape the soul and the social fabric of our country.

Sport keeps young people away from gangs and drugs. Arts and culture preserve identity, dignity and opportunity. Community recreation programmes are often the only positive outlet available in struggling communities. There are programmes in this budget that deserve support. Expanding community sport, supporting federations, investing in recreation infrastructure and growing opportunities in the creative sector are important objectives.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 274

But the question we should ask is simple: are the Minister's priorities aligned with the real needs of the sector? At a time when artists, festivals and cultural organisations are still waiting for funding clarity. When organisations complain about delays and uncertainty around the Mzansi Golden Economy programme, and when struggling athletes continue battling for support.

This department is preparing to spend between R14 and 19 million on a World Cup delegation to North America. Earlier, the Minister referred to compliance and responsive governance as one of his department's so-called core outcomes. Meanwhile, local organisations are hanging by a thread.

Afrikaans:

Voorsitter, 'n mens kan hierdie teenstrydigheid nie ignoreer nie. Hoe regverdig jy internasionaal travel [reis] wat tot R19 miljoen kos terwyl plaaslike kunstenaars en kulturele organisasies finansiële op die rand van ineenstorting staan? Hoe regverdig jy luukse reise terwyl jong atlete en gemeenskapsklubs steeds sukkel om betekenisvolle ondersteuning te kry?

Maar dan, agb lede, vertel die antwoord op 'n parlementêre vra vir ons alles wat ons moet weet oor waarom Minister McKenzie die buitensporige koste goed vra. Een begunstigde van sy departementele besteding is niemand anders nie as 'n senior PA NEC-lid en ook die PA se hoofkapelaan, Mnr Leo dos Santos. Mnr dos Santos baiza glad nie want hy ontvang betaling van die Departement van Sport, Kuns en Kultuur vir sy dienste as 'n seremoniemeester.

Die PA, agb lede, staan vir twee goed: populisme en pinkster politiek. En hier is 'n ironie wat 'n mens nie kan ignoreer nie.

English:

Perhaps the concern is not that the PA has a chief chaplain. The concern is that even the PA's chief chaplain benefits from the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture.

Afrikaans:

As die PA se priester en sy pinkster politiek voordeel trek uit die departement om jobs [werk] te kry, dan is die vraag natuurlik, hoeveel ander PA lede trek voordeel uit die R19 miljoen se Mexico uitstappie [Suid-Amerikaanse toer] wat deur die ... [Inaudible.] ... PA Minister?

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 276

English:

So, it is no wonder that recent revelations have confirmed an ANC and PA co-operation agreement. It is a match made in cadre deployment's heaven. I have often wondered why ANC members cheer louder for hon Farmer than for some of their own comrades. But I get it now. It is the Zuma-era politics. They just cannot get away from it. That is exactly what hon Mkhize KwaZulu-Natal, KZN, got right in her speech, the ANC and the PA's racial division. It is all they have.

Hon Feni said that this department must ensure that our national flag flies everywhere. For once, hon Feni, I agree with you. From a patriotic point of view, it is a good idea. But the real question is, who will get the tender? An ANC cadre or the chief PA chaplain dos Santos? What exactly does the PA-ANC coalition agreement say?

We see it in Joburg, and we see it in Gauteng, where the ANC, the PA and the EFF, let us now call them the looters legion, continue propping each other up while South Africa's economic capital deteriorates under corruption and dysfunction. So, it is rather amusing to see the EFF oppose this budget today while governing alongside the PA-ANC in governments where the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 277

last few pennies are being looted as we speak. Perhaps, hon Mampuru, today's outrage was only for the cameras.

Patriotism and support for "Bafana Bafana," the "Proteas," Die "Bokke" or "Banyana Banyana" can never become shields against accountability. And that is the real danger of Zuma-era politics.

We will support the positive programmes contained in this budget, but we will continue exposing the growing PA-ANC political project, an alliance built less on principle and more on power, patronage and political survival to loot the last few pennies from our state coffers.

A reminder to the Minister, you cannot respond to the debate and deny that the PA's priest is earning big bucks from your department for his MC duties because you already confirmed it.

Earlier today in the previous debate, hon Nkonyana had to be offered some rennies and enos when he realised that a debate led by a DA Ministry means more DA debaters. Well, hon Nkonyana, this evening, matters were balanced out because...

[Time expired]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 278

Mr M P SIBANDE: Chairperson, I would like to greet everyone
...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Can you turn your camera on, hon Sibande, when you greet everyone, please? Thank you very much.

Mr M P SIBANDE: Chairperson, I wanted to greet everyone, in particular, I will start with the Minister and all the protocols observed. Chairperson, without wasting any time, I will start to put some record on straight to respond to hon Gotsell. You see, Chairperson, people must not forget that a few days ago, I mean a few years ago, Mrs Otta Helen Zille was born in Hillbrow, in Johannesburg, and relocated to Cape Town. In her tenure from 2009 to 2019, she was a premier of Western Cape. But what worries me and what worries other people is that coincidentally, during that period and underline, during 2007 and 2015, there was two masterminds, Colonel Christian Prinsloo and Colonel David Naidoo. They were smuggling guns to the Western Cape during her tenure. They were smuggling guns to the Western Cape to gang violence-affected areas and also to right-wing groups.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 279

It was recorded that there were 1 666 murders and the shooting of 261 children. That must tell you something. She wanted to go and contest in Johannesburg. I don't believe that is true and honest. And also, people must be reminded that the issue of illegal foreigners started by her. Do you still recall when she was calling people from Eastern Cape illegal foreigners even though she herself was from Gauteng, Johannesburg? Then I'll come to this point. There is a huge need for well-located sport fields in Cape Town. However, you have DA City of Cape Town that has decided to sell well-located municipal land to foreigners. Some of this land could be used for social housing and also sport and recreation. Three months ago, DA City sold over 50 pieces of land on auction. We have a situation where houses to rent and buy are totally unaffordable. On November 4, voters have a chance to end DA.

Transformation is not a target on the spreadsheet. It is life experience felt on the warmth of the community sports field. Heard in the voices of the township artists performing on the national stage and seen in the face of a young girl from rural school who competes at the national school sports championship for the very first time. Transformation must reach every township, every village, and every school ground. It cannot remain a concept debated in conference halls while our people

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 280

continue to be excluded from the economic and cultural life of this country. The ANC rises to support Budget Vote 37.

We do so not with blind applause. We do so with a mandate from the people we serve to ask hard questions, to hold government accountable, and to ensure that resources of this department translate into tangible change in the lives of those who were most disadvantaged by apartheid. The department of sports and culture and heritage carry an explicit mandate to accelerate the transformation of sports, recreation, arts, and culture and heritage. The mandate is not aspirational; it is a constitutional and policing obligation. We must ask a plain question: Who is benefiting, and who is still being left out?

The 2026-27 annual performance plans, APPs, targets are instructive. The Mzansi Golden Economy programme targets 10 000 work opportunities through the creative sector, stimulates and supports 90 projects in the cultural creative industries. These are significant commitments, but we must interrogate whether the Mzansi Golden Economy remains a powerful concept on paper or has become a lived reality for artists in our provinces.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 281

The musicians in Kanyamazane, the visual artists in Khayelitsha, the filmmakers in Umlazi, are they among beneficiaries? Or are the gains of this programme centralised in the metropolitan areas while our rural and peri-urban communities continue to be bypassed? We call on the department to publish the provision - a breakdown of Mzansi Golden Economy beneficiaries so that this house and the public can verify that transformation is happening equitably across all nine provinces.

Chairperson, another thing which I wanted to bring to highlight to the people of South Africa is that I wanted to remind them that they stole her soul, they drank her blood like vampires while in the whole country and in Mpumalanga province, in Bethal in particular, the whole nation is in solidarity with mum Ernestina Simelane and her family kneeling down in tears, begging, crying for the perpetrators to show us her grave, appealing to the death squads to give us her bones or remains so that we can exhume her and be given a reburial in a dignified manner. Her name is Nokuthula Simelane, she loved sports and arts and culture like other kids. We were robbed of a talented young girl.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 282

Allow me to borrow the words of wisdom from Almirar Cabral, "Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone's head, they are fighting to win material benefits, to live better in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children." Without wasting any time, I wanted to continue by saying 2026-27 APP targets 208 schools, sports programme and district at local level and 5 000 learners competing in the national school sports championship.

We welcome these targets but let us be honest about the challenge that underlines them. There remains a profound painful gap between the sports facilities and programmes available in the former model C schools and those in the historically disadvantaged schools. Let me come to this one. There are two highly decorated sports stars who were born in Mpumalanga at Bethal that have won major international medals in track and athletes.

In 1996, at Atlanta Olympic Games, Josiah Thugwane made history by becoming the first black South African athlete to win an individual Olympic gold medal. In 2000, at Sydney Olympic Games, Llewellyn Herbert won the bronze medal and secured a silver medal at 1997 World Championship. Hon

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 283

Minister, moreover, the community of Bethel has produced such talents, but we don't have proper sports facilities, no sports ground with running tracks, there is no stadium at all.

Hon Minister, the population has grown drastically very high. Also, rate of youth unemployment is very high. Believing that availability of sports facilities can play a major role in the community creating job opportunities. Hon Minister, another thing which I wanted to highlight, I repeat again, the ANC supports the budget. There is a reason why we support the budget. I wanted to call hon Mampuru. You see, if you live in a glass house, don't throw stones because instead of throwing stones, you rather concentrate on building your own organisation because your organisation is shrinking. November is very close - it's very near. Die poppe sal dans [There is going to be trouble].

There was a clarion call made by MEC Mckenzie from Western Cape. I agree with him that national must give money to the government so that government can help provinces but it is unfortunately, MEC, in your call, the disadvantage is that a few days ago in one of the debates in the House, it was exposed that in Western Cape, the national government provide the budget to the Western Cape government but that money is

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 284

not taken to the relevant places where it's supposed to go. What is happening? The money is unspent. Most of the ... I won't mention names. In some of the departments, the money is unspent and the money is returned back to the government because when that money is allocated, it should cater for the disadvantaged people. Like you go to Khayelitsha, Kayamandi, Gugulethu and some of the areas, the situation is horrible. They need to be assisted. I thank you Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you very much indeed, Mr Sibande. Hon delegates, in line with our Rules, the Minister now gets an opportunity to reply for five minutes. I am aware that he has a pressing engagement, and I hope he remains with us. Minister, your chance to reply to the debate.

The MINISTER OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE: Hon Chair, let me start with the mistakes. Of course, we make mistakes. The first mistake that was made was the Red Location in Nelson Mandela Bay. It is a local government initiative, and not a national government initiative.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Minister, I don't mean to interrupt you. But please, your bandwidth is low. It makes you suffer from the same problem as we have in South Africa.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 285

If you like turn off your camera and we will then be able to hear you a little bit better. Thank you, and please continue, sir.

The MINISTER OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE: The Red Location in Nelson Mandela Bay is a local government initiative. It is not for the national government. The second one is the Women's Museum. The very same thing. The third one is that there was a mention by the hon members about the issue of the Fifa Club World Cup. That is not a Fifa Club World Cup happening. The hon member is so wrong. It is a Fifa World Cup which is happening. It is not a Fifa Club World Cup happening.

Before I come straight to what I want to say, one member was saying that previous Ministers were so hopeless and I am continuing the trend. I can't sit here and let the name of somebody like Minister Steve Tswete be dragged here. He is not here to defend himself. Regarding Steve Tswete, until today I benefit from some of the decisions he took. When I visit other countries, people remember him fondly. And for me to hear a member who had oppressed the likes of Steve Tswete to come and say he is hopeless, I think it's disgusting. Imagine!

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 286

We are not where we want to be as the department. But we are definitely not where we used to be. We have made great strides. One big thing, for instance, for 25 years, the Solomon Mahlangu Stadium was not suitable to play a Premier Soccer League game. Today, TS Galaxy is playing there. The last team to play there was Witbank Black Aces. These are the type of stuff to show that we are really making inroads. But we are not where we want to be.

The main thing I want to mention here today is the issue of name changes and the issue of the art festivals. There is a huge complaint. I am going to be very straight. The white-managed art festivals have been making noise every week in the newspapers. Who do they think they are? The time when they just sit there and expect money from government is over. Why should somebody in Lusikisiki apply to the Mzansi Golden Economy, MGE? Why should somebody sitting in Umgababa apply? They just want to sit back and expect. I don't care how many times they put me in the newspapers. They must apply like everybody else. They are not special. Whoever made them feel they are special, to me they are not special. You can say it is job creation, but you are not the only one creating jobs. All small art festivals also create jobs.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 287

Lastly, and most importantly because I don't have much time, I want to talk about name changes. When D F Malan name was changed from D F Malan to Beyers Naudé, nobody made noise. But now Graaff-Reinet has become Robert Sobukwe Town and there's a whole lot of noise. We don't know who Graaff-Reinet is. Graaff-Reinet was an oppressor. I don't care how I lose support, but Robert Sobukwe was a hero. We should not, for political experience, sit here and make Robert Sobukwe and even compare him with the racists like Graaff and his wife Reinet. Robert Sobukwe was a hero. And as the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, I will stand by my decision to agree with the council when they give me the name change.

In conclusion, I heard the member of EFF talking about the 26s. Out of all the members of this House, from all different parties, he must lower his voice when it comes to the 26s gangster matters. He must lower his voice because his leader is straight to jail. They say in monopoly game, don't stop go straight to jail. His leader is on his way to meet those 26s that he is talking about. Let us not insult people if we don't have intellectual capacity to debate serious issues of the country and you then throw insults. I am from jail. He is going to jail. So, what I left behind his leader will still go find it.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

Page: 288

I want to thank all members who voted for the budget. I don't take it lightly. I respect it. The time is not enough to debate all issues, but I want to thank all those members. But we are going forward. The government of national unity, GNU, is working. The country is working. Sports is changing.

We have the best soccer team in Africa, Mamelodi Sundowns. I also want to congratulate Orlando Pirates. I had a dinner with Bafana Bafana last night. They are in high spirit. I want to say that I conveyed to the team all the prayers and the good wishes from all members and all South Africans. We have 60 million South Africans behind them. Thank you to all members who voted for the budget. Thank you, hon Chair.

Debate concluded.

The Council adjourned at 21:47.