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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

The Council met at 09:31.

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

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: ... hon members on the virtual platform, our special delegates ... [Inaudible.]

An HON MEMBER: I cannot hear this side. I don't know if the Chairperson is muted.

An HON MEMBER: Any sabotage? Who is sabotaging our Chair?

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you very much. Hon members, once again, I take this opportunity and welcome you to the sitting. I would also like to take this opportunity and remind the delegates that the Rules, in particular, subrules 21, 22, and 23 of Rule 103 will apply in this virtual sitting. I have

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been informed that there will be no notices of motion or motions without notice, except for the motion on the Order Paper.

I now call on our hon Chief Whip to read the motion on the Order Paper. Over to you, Chief Whip. Chief Whip, we cannot hear you. The volume, put on your volume.

The CHIEF OF THE COUNCIL: Am I fine?

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Yes, you are audible now. You may proceed, hon Chief Whip.

**SUSPENSION OF RULE 218(1) TO ALLOW FOR CONSIDERATION OF
APPROPRIATION BILL**

(Draft Resolution)

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE COUNCIL: Chairperson, I move the draft resolution printed in my name on the Order Paper, as follows:

That the Council resolves that Rule 218(1), which provides *inter alia* that the consideration of a Bill may not commence before at least three working days have lapsed since the

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committee's report was tabled, be suspended for the purposes of consideration of Appropriation Bill [B4-2026].

Question put: That the Motion be agreed to.

IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, Western Cape.

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

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon delegates, before we proceed to voting on the Appropriation Bill, I wish to remind you of the following, that delegates will vote on the Votes and Schedules first before proceeding to the voting on the Appropriation Bill. There are two Schedules to the Bill – Schedule 1 and Schedule 2. All the declarations made may include both Schedules. I have a list of names of delegates who will make declarations of vote on behalf of their parties.

All delegates, including the special delegates present, are entitled to vote. The SA Local Government Association, Salga, representatives are not entitled to vote. I want to repeat this: only special delegates and permanent delegates. In this

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instance, the composition of each province is 10, so there cannot be more than 10 votes per province. It is either 10 or less than 10, depending on the members delegated to come and partake in this Appropriation Bill. Salga representatives are not entitled to vote. Where there is no call for a division, a Vote shall be carried, and we shall proceed to the next Vote. Where a party wishes to object to a Vote, that objection shall be noted, and there will be no need for a division.

If there is a delegate that wishes to call for a division, the delegate must draw the attention of the Chairperson to that fact. In terms of Rule 80(3), a call for a division must be supported by at least four delegates. In accordance with Rule 81, when the division has been called, delegates that are outside the virtual Chamber will be given, in respect of the first Vote, three minutes to join the House and 30 seconds in respect of the Votes thereafter. No delegate shall be allowed to enter the virtual Chamber whilst voting is in progress. Once the question is put, delegates that wish to cast their votes must do so by using the raised hand button. Delegates must keep their hands raised until voting is closed. All hands will then be lowered after every vote has been cast, and the Secretary will tally the votes.

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If delegates are disconnected from the virtual platform whilst voting takes place, the vote of that delegate will be ascertained, and the record will be amended accordingly. Now, hon delegates, having said that, I would like to proceed to the First Order, which is the Consideration of Votes and Schedules on the Appropriation Bill.

APPROPRIATION BILL

(Consideration of Votes and Schedule)

Vote No 1 - The Presidency - put.

Declarations of vote:

Ms L P MHLONGO: Greetings, Chair, and thank you so much. May I please be permitted to switch off my video?

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

Ms L P MHLONGO: Thank you, Chair.

IsiZulu:

Ngibingelele abahlonishwa, ngibingelele uSihlalo ohloniphekile, ngibingelele amalungu aseNingizimu Afrika, ...

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English:

Chairperson, the MK declares that the Presidency has failed oversight while the country burns. Our state institutions sit without leaders. The SA Airways, SAA, has no permanent CEO. Eskom has had eight CEOs in 10 years. Every year the Auditor-General reports that billions are lost to waste, fruitless spending and corruption. Yet the Presidency acts surprised. Ministers sign and the President watches in silence. Leadership without accountability is betrayal – betrayal of the worker in Gqeberha who pays tax for the lights that never come on; betrayal of every South African who voted for change and got excuses. If the Presidency cannot fix management in government, how will we fix the 33% unemployment rate? If there are no consequences for failure, then failure becomes policy and policy becomes poverty. The people in all the nine provinces are tired of silence, tired of cover ups and tired of commissions that report and nothing changes. We did not vote in 1994 for the Presidency to protect cadres. We voted for the Presidency to protect the people. The ... [Inaudible.] ... declares that when Presidency fails oversight, when billions disappear, when institutions have no leaders, then leadership without accountability must resign. Section 9 says the President is accountable to Parliament. Section 95 says the President holds office at the pleasure of the people and

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the President must answer to Parliament and to the people. Where leadership fails, leadership must go! Appoint leaders, fire failure! Account monthly. That is the mandate, that is the law, that is what we demand to every day. Therefore, the MK rejects the Vote. Thank you, Chair.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP (Mr K M Mmoiemang): Chairperson, thank you for the opportunity. Allow me to rise on behalf of the ANC to express support for Vote 1 in the name of the ANC for the following reasons. Firstly, the leadership role displayed by the Presidency is beyond doubt. Therefore, the fact that the Vote allocates resources to the Presidency is meant to ensure that there is continuity on the part of the Presidency to continue to provide leadership for the country. The President, His Excellency, Cyril Ramaphosa, is the third democratically elected President to pursue the vision as encapsulated by the forebears in terms of ensuring that the vision of the founding fathers of the ANC continues to find resonance across the length and breadth of our country, particularly in terms of the values of the founding fathers, Mayibuye iAfrika [Let Africa return.]

The leadership provided on 29 May 2024, where the ANC, through the Presidency, was able to choose the path of national unity

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in recognition of democracy and fundamental values and the principles of the Freedom Charter. It bears testimony to the fact that the Presidency, under President Ramaphosa continues to do great work. It is on this foundation that today we have a Government of National Unity. True to his commitment to the ideals, principles, and vision of the founding fathers of our Constitution, the ANC continues to lead. Therefore, the ANC leads, the ANC lives. Under the presidency of President Ramaphosa, South Africa has more inclusive and .. [Inaudible.] ... governance system that allow us to integrate diverse voices in public policy-making. President Ramaphosa is unprecedented in expanding the space for integration of marginalised voices in national governance. Hence, the initiative of the National Dialogue continues to be under the stewardship of his Presidency. Therefore, the vote in support of Vote 1 is to instil confidence in the work that the National Dialogue continues to do. Therefore, Chairperson, the ANC supports Vote 1. Thank you.

Vote No 1 agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe dissenting.)

Vote No 2 - Parliament - put.

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Declarations of vote:

Mr F J BADENHORST: Chairperson, the DA supports a strong independent Parliament, and to do that, it needs a budget. But we will never support a Parliament that demands accountability from everyone else while shielding its own administration from scrutiny. This Budget Vote is not merely about funding an institution; it's about whether taxpayers can have confidence that Parliament practises the same standard of transparency and accountability that it expects from every department, municipality and state entity.

Nothing illustrates this better than the office of the Secretary to Parliament. At a time when millions of South Africans are unemployed, municipalities are collapsing and departments are being told to do more with less, the Secretary to Parliament received a total remuneration exceeding R6 million in 2024-25 financial year. This extra ordinary remuneration package did not emerge in isolation, it followed an appointment process, remuneration decisions and benefits that would have been the subject of sustained public concern and repeated calls of accountability.

Instead of embracing transparency, Parliament's leadership has too often appeared more interested in protecting the office

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than protecting the reputation of this institution. The greatest threat to Parliament is not the experiences from members; but the perception that one set of rules apply to all the public servants, but not to those who occupy the highest administrative office in Parliament.

How can we summon the Director-Generals to committee to account for excessive expenditure, when Parliament cannot convince and explain its own executive's remuneration decisions? How can we lecture municipalities on financial discipline or rewarding administrative access within our own worlds? Parliament exist to oversee the executive, not to emulate its worst habits. Every additional rand appropriated to this institution should strengthen oversight, committee support, research capacity and constituency services.

Instead, South Africans increasingly see headlines about executive remuneration, questionable governance decisions and an administration that too often mistakes accountability for inconvenience. The DA believes Parliament must once again become the gold standard for public accountability. That starts with subjecting the Secretary to Parliament and parliamentary administration to the same level of scrutiny

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that we demand from every accounting officer appearing before our committees.

Until that happens, this institution will continue to ask the country to trust standards that it is unwilling to apply to itself. The DA will support this Budget Vote. I thank you.

Ms S NDHLOVU: Chairperson, I rise in support of Parliament, Budget Vote 2 for 2026-27. This budget is tabled at a defining moment. We mark 30 years of this Constitution; we are implementing key legislation such as the Climate Change Act, which has varying impact in the different provinces, and citizens are demanding more from all spheres of government. Parliament cannot be a spectator to that.

Our support for this budget is premised on three priorities. Firstly, ensure that there is representation of the provinces and local in Parliament's work. The NCOP has made significant strides to fulfil its mandate of representing the provinces and local government and ensuring that the provincial interests are considered in national legislation and debates. We welcome the increased allocation to committees, as this will support committee oversight and public participation.

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It is for us as members to ensure that the budget allocation is translated into action. We must see more NCOP weeks in provinces, more local government engagement, and more oversight of conditional grant on the ground; not just the committee rooms in Cape Town. If we are serious about co-operative governance, then the NCOP must be where citizens in rural provinces like KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Limpopo, and Northern Cape meet their Parliaments. Their budget must meet that possibility.

Secondly, we must intensify our oversight of the just transition and climate implementation. The Climate Change Act 22 of 2024 commenced on 17 March 2025, places new duties on provinces and municipalities to develop adaptation plans and sector targets. This budget must resolve the select committees to track the Presidential Climate Commission, carbon budget, and the Just Energy Transmission Implementation Plan, JET IP.

Workers in coal communities, farmers in drought-stricken provinces and the municipalities struggling with floods, must know that the NCOP is holding the executive accountable for a transition that is truly just. No province can be left behind. Thirdly, strengthening Parliament's independence and capacity. A People's Parliament needs people with skills. We support the

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funding of committee support staff, including content advisors, researchers, and interpreters.

As we continue to build the capacity to support members in our work, we will be able to make a more meaningful impact on the lives of citizens. But we must make sure that we also guard against waste. The Joint Standing Committee of the Financial Management of Parliament, JSCFMP, will continue its work in overseeing planning and expenditure and working with the executive authority and the accountable officer accountable.

Everyone in this budget must go to the open Parliament's doors wider, to strengthen committees and to make laws that improve lives. As ANC, we support the budget. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Vote agreed to (EFF and MKP dissenting).

Vote No 3 - Co-operative Governance - put.

Declaration(s) of vote:

Ms T BREEDT: Morning, Chairperson, and thank you for the opportunity.

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Afrikaans:

Wanneer mense stem, stem hulle nie vir beleidsdokumente nie. Hulle stem vir die toestand van hul dorp. Hulle stem vir die straat waarin hulle ry, die water wat uit hulle krane kom en die veiligheid van hul gemeenskappe. En dit is juis waarom die toestand van plaaslike regering vandag een van die grootste aanklagtes teen die ANC regering is.

Die Departement van Samewerkende Regering ontvang miljarde rand om munisipaliteite te ondersteun maar inwoners sien min daarvan op grondvlak. Ons sien eerder verval. Ons sien vervalle paaie, ons sien riool wat in riviere inloop, ons sien onwettige stortingsterreine, ons sien dorpe wat eenvoudig ophou funksioneer.

Die regering se antwoord is telkens administrasie, maar administrasie self het 'n sirkel van mislukking geword.

Neem Sol Plaatje Munisipaliteit in die Noord-Kaap as 'n voorbeeld. Nadat ernstige probleme erken is en die munisipaliteit in Mei vanjaar onder administrasie geplaas is, word daar reeds gepraat van 'n terugtrekking daarvan terwyl talle onderliggende probleme wat die aanvanklike ingryping genoodsaak het steeds voortduur.

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Die vraag is dit. Hoekom politiek speel ten koste van elke inwoner in daardie munisipaliteit? Of ingrypings al ooit suksesvol was is 'n gesprek vir 'n ander dag.

Die VF Plus glo dat plaaslike regering nie deur nog verslae, nog komitees of nog administrateurs gered gaan word nie. Dit sal deur verantwoordbaarheid gered word. Munisipale amptenare wat faal moet aanspreeklik gehou word. Raadslede wat belastingbetalers verraai moet vervang word en gemeenskappe moet weer beheer oor hul toekoms kry.

Hierdie jaar se plaaslike regeringsverkiesing gaan nie oor politieke slagspreuke nie. Dit gaan oor die vraag of inwoners bereid is om nog vyf jaar van verval te aanvaar.

Die VF Plus glo daar is 'n beter pad. Dorpe kan weer werk. Dienste kan weer gelewer word. Belastingbetalers kan weer waarde vir hul geld ontvang. Maar dit vereis politieke verandering. Dit is elke gemeenskap se tyd.

English:

It is our time.

Afrikaans:

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Ek dank u.

Mr E NZIMANDE: Chair, ...

IsiZulu:

... bengihlale ngizwa kuthiwa abantu baseMpumalanga ...
[Ubuwelewele.] ... [Akuzwakali.] ...

USIHLALO WOMKHANDLU KAZWELONKE WEZIFUNDAZWE: Ngena odabeni,
mhlonishwa uNzimande. Hlukana nabantu baseMpumalanga.
Ngaphandle uma ukhuluma kahle ngabo.

English:

Mr E NZIMANDE: ... The MK Party objects to this undesirable
outcome. Chair? Chairperson? [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: If you can get a better position,
hon Nzimande. Try; you are quiet now.

Mr E NZIMANDE: The MK Party objects to this Bill since it will
not lead to a desirable outcome of enhancing the capabilities
of municipalities to address the infrastructure delivery,
management, and governance challenges prevalent in
municipalities. A reduction in the allocated budget, in real

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terms, shall not offset historical backlogs in water infrastructure and local roads maintenance, money owed to water service boards, and neither will it lead to continuous performance improvements.

The Bill fails to make appropriate interventions as a preventative measure to the municipalities' known challenges, which potentially leads to interventions as reactive measures. No positive impact shall be experienced by our citizens. Sewer spillages and nonrevenue water shall never be eliminated, and the cost of this failure will be carried heavily by the citizens. Municipalities will remain in debt crises as a consequence of their inability to provide basic services, including electrifying unserviced areas. Accordingly, the MK Party objects to this Bill.

IsiZulu:

Bengithi ekuqaleni, Sihlalo, bengihlale ngizwa ukuthi abantu baseMpumalanga bayandiza. Ngibona ngezinwele zakho ukuthi ziyandiza la kwikhompyutha. Ngiyabonga. [Uhleko.]

USIHLALO WOMKHANDLU KAZWELONKE WEZIFUNDAZWE: Ngizoyivala ividiyo ngoba angifuni ukundiza.

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Mr K CEZA: Chair, the EFF outrightly rejects the 2026 Budget Vote of the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. The current state of local government across South Africa is a national crisis, characterised by widespread corruption, crumbling infrastructure, and a blatant disregard for the basic needs of our people. The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs has catastrophically failed in its mandate to support and stabilise local administration, allowing corruption and cadre deployment to hollow out municipal capacity.

Furthermore, this 2026-27 Budget Vote also exposes a complete disregard for traditional leadership. Traditional leadership authorities ... [Interjections.] ...

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Ceza, can you hold on? There is a hand in the name of hon Noe. You are raising an issue, hon Noe?

Mr P NOE: Chairperson, on a point of order: I think it is the Rule of the House that if you do not have the Parliament background, you switch off your camera. It is not appearing dignified for the House. Thank you.

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The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you, hon Noe. I think those arrangements, for the reason that you are raising, that for the purpose of completeness, we need to have this background, but there's no Rule that says that specifically. And therefore, ... [Inaudible.] ... and if he feels comfortable to switch off his mic, I think it's brotherly advice, as I was advised previously ...

IsiZulu:

... ukuthi izinwele zami ziyandiza nami. Ngakhoke ngikhethe ukuvala ividiyo. Ngicabanga ukuthi naye umhlonishwa uCeza ...

English:

... will take it in good spirit. Thank you, hon Noe.

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Ziyandiza, Sihlalo. [Uhleko.]

English:

Mr K CEZA: I don't know.

IsiZulu:

USIHLALO WOMKHANDLU KAZWELONKE WEZIFUNDAZWE: Ubungekho izolo. Hlaliseka sisi. Qhubeka, mhlonishwa uCeza.

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English:

Mr K CEZA: Advice taken. I will switch it off, Chairperson.

... are continuously undermined and underfunded, let alone by the department that deals with traditional leadership, and used as political pawns rather than being genuinely respected as custodians of our heritage and rural development. As we approach this crucial 2026 local government election scheduled for 4 November 2026, the EFF views this budget as an insult to the electorate. Our communities are exhausted by empty promises and the utter failure of the ruling elite to manage local affairs. The 2026 elections will serve as a definitive referendum on municipal collapse. Voters are fully aware that the current administration has abandoned them. The EFF demands a complete overhaul of how local government is funded and managed. We call for the immediate insourcing of municipal workers to ensure job security and eliminate tender corruption and restore dignity to our communities. We further demand stringent and immediate consequences for officials and politicians who misappropriate municipal funds. Our municipalities require visionary, pro-poor leadership, not recycled budgets that enrich a few and marginalise many.

The EFF rejects this Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Budget Vote in its entirety, as it is

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fundamentally disconnected from the lived realities of the South African masses, and offers absolutely no hope for the salvation of our local government. We reject this budget. Thank you, Chair.

Mr T M KAUNDA: Hon Chairperson, greetings to all the office bearers of the NCOP, all delegates present in the meeting, I'll start by saying that, as the ANC, we support this Budget Vote, both in relation to the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and we are also calling upon the municipalities to respond directly to the Auditor-General's findings using strict consequence management to eliminate unauthorized, irregular and wasteful expenditure.

We also welcome the Auditor-General's report and congratulate the municipalities that continue to raise the bar to ascertain that communities do receive services. But we also note the challenges that are facing municipalities; we have noted them in the NCOP and Parliament, and we have agreed and adopted the approach that the Ministry is driving through the President's directive to ascertain that there is a review of the White Paper on Local Government, as well as the review of the funding for local municipalities. We call upon the National Treasury to do the same: what he has applied to municipalities

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that owe Eskom to deduct what they owe to Eskom, to deduct what departments, provincial and national departments, are doing to municipalities when they owe them the big debts that we have recognised. So therefore, we are calling upon the National Treasury, through the allocation of the equitable share, to deduct what is being owed to municipalities so that we can make our municipalities work better for their communities.

We are also calling upon all role players within the local government accountability ecosystem to use the District Development Model, DDM, as the premium mechanism to ensure vertical and horizontal co-ordination across the three spheres of government. We are calling upon the Ministry of Co-operative Governance and our provincial executive councils, through our MECs for Co-operative Governance, to elevate section 154 of the Constitution to provide support to municipalities. And we also acknowledge, in the allocation in this budget for the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency, Misa, the good work that Misa is doing to support municipalities in terms of infrastructure implementation.

With those few words, hon Chairperson, the ANC fully supports this Budget Vote. I thank you.

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

Vote No 4 -Government Communication and Information System - put

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

Vote No 5 -Home Affairs - put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr S A ZULU: Hon Chairperson and hon members, good morning. The MK Party rises to reject Vote 5, Home Affairs, because this budget does not match the scale of South Africa's immigration, water security and the governance crisis. While the department received R13,766 billion for 2026-27 financial year, almost R6,5 billion is transferred to two entities, including the Electoral Commission, the Political Parties Fund and the Border Management Authority.

The department's own operational capacity is therefore far smaller than the headline budget suggests. Mostly concerning is the immigration affairs, the programme responsible for

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illegal immigration, deportations, asylum management, visa processing and immigration enforcement receives only R625,2 million, less than 5% of the total budget. At a time when South Africa faces borders, document fraud, trafficking syndicates and growing public concern over illegal immigration, this allocation falls far short of what is required.

The department is operating at roughly 40% of its approved staffing capacity, with only 5 023 of 12 727 funded posts. Offices have remained closed for extended periods in some provinces, staff shortages persist, and immigration operations remain under-resolved. The Auditor-General's failure exposes serious governance failures.

Home Affairs received a Qualified Audit Opinion disclosed more than R526 million in irregular expenditure, and R130,5 million linked to digitisation irregularities, and almost R18 million in impaired receivables. Since July 2024, 63 officials have been dismissed and 95 misconduct cases have been opened, demonstrating that corruption within the department remains an ongoing problem.

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The MK Party believes South Africa deserves secure borders, inefficient and corruption-free Home Affairs, and a department capable of protecting our national sovereignty.

This budget does not provide the resources or accountability needed to achieve those objectives. For these reasons, the MK Party rejects Vote 5 on Home Affairs. I thank you, hon Chairperson.

Ms A MATSHOBENI: Hon Chairperson, greetings to you, greetings to the members. Sorry, Chair, can I switch off my video?

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Yes, you can switch off your video, hon Matshobeni.

Ms A MATSHOBENI: Hon Chairperson, the EFF reject the Budget Vote for the Department of Home Affairs. This is a critical department tasked with safeguarding the identity and citizenship of our people, managing immigration, securing our borders, and providing essential services. Yet, it is failing dismally to serve capacity constraints.

I must draw attention to the critical staff shortages within immigration services. The effective enforcement of immigration

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laws is vital for national sovereignty. However, in areas like Idutywa where I reside in the Eastern Cape, there are reportedly only two immigration officials responsible for serving a vast geographical area. This shortage places immense pressure on staff and completely compromises the department's capacity to monitor illegal immigration, conduct inspections, and respond to community complaints.

The department must urgently address this vacuum and strengthen its capacity in underserved regions. Furthermore, we are deeply concerned about the department's fixation on location of Home Affairs offices, primarily in expensive shopping malls.

For our rural communities, especially the elderly, people with disabilities and unemployed travelling to open malls is costly and highly inconvenient. Although we recognise that local government is trying to bridge this gap, for instance, the Mbhashe municipality went as far as making a municipal wall available to ensure residents could access services while waiting for the completion of the new offices at Mbhashe Mall.

The government must meet this commitment by prioritising accessible public spaces over commercial hubs.

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Finally, we demand answers regarding the total collapse of mobile Home Affairs services in rural communities. We remember when fully equipped mobile units were actively deployed to bring civic services directly to remote areas. The people of Mbhashe benefited greatly from these units. Today, these vehicles have vanished from our communities, leaving residents stranded and wondering what happened to these vital services delivery tools. This department must account for the status of these mobile units and restore them to the rural areas where the need is greatest.

The EFF cannot support a budget that burdens rural South Africans. We reject this Budget Vote, Chairperson. I say thank you.

Mr M BILLY: Hon Chairperson, the DA proudly supports Budget Vote 5 because it reflects a department that is finally moving from excuses to execution. For far too long, Home Affairs was synonymous with endless queues, corruption, weak border management, and failing systems.

Today, under DA Minister Leon Schreiber's leadership, we are seeing decisive action to modernise one of the most important departments in the government. The expansion of Smart ID

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services through banks, the rollout of digital visas, the introduction of biometric technology, the strengthening of border security, and the relentless fight against corruption demonstrate what capable leadership can achieve. The results are already visible. Nearly 110 000 deportations have been carried out over the past two years, while the Border Management Authority has prevented more than 945 000 undocumented or improperly documented persons from entering our country, South Africa.

These are measurable outcomes that strengthen national security while improving service delivery. Some will argue that these reforms began under previous ANC administrations, but the reality is that announcing a policy is not the same as implementing it.

South Africans have heard promises for years. What they are demanding now is delivery. So, this budget invests in digital transformation, secure identities, efficient immigration systems, and modern border management. These are not only administrative reforms. They are investment in economic growth, in national security, in public confidence in South African states.

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The DA believes that the government must work for the people it serves. Home Affairs is proving that with political will, which the DA Minister is showing, with competent leadership, which the DA Minister is showing, with a clear vision, which the DA Minister is showing, meaningful reform is possible. For these reasons, Chairperson, the DA supports Budget Vote 5, Home Affairs. I thank you.

Mr P NOE: Hon Chairperson of the NCOP, rhetoric will remain rhetoric. It does not matter whether you are in visual or you are in physical. It is a pity that parties continue to reject what they want to happen. It shows they need to follow up, but they are only disappointed by not ensuring that the money that is needed to support the problems.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Noe, there is an echo in your background. It looks like you have two gadgets on. If you can switch off one and dispense with one.

Mr P NOE: I am not sure, Chairperson. Is it still like that, or should I switch ... [Inaudible.] ...

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The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: No, we are fine. You can proceed.
Thanks.

Mr P NOE: Okay. Therefore, Chairperson, the ANC is in full support of Budget Vote 5, as tabled by the department in this House. We believe that with the allocated amount, as well as the outlined intent and purpose, the department will continue to redress and improve the key areas central to the mandate, which, among others, includes digital transformation, through which the government aims to reduce and ultimately eliminate the waiting time and unnecessary long queues at physical offices. I hope hon Matshobeni is listening.

And the national security and border management, of which government has committed to ensure that it keeps the undocumented immigration, prevent illicit border crossings and frontline service accessibility, one of the critical areas of the service delivery, of which the department is expected to improve the services by reaching out to remote areas by means of mobile offices, hon Matshobeni, and service delivery queues for the benefit of rural communities and under-serviced areas.

Finally, accountability and oversight in this instance, the ANC is satisfied that, through this budget, the department has

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appropriately accounted for its past performance and how it projects to suspend the budget and continue to address all the identified objectives which are to be achieved within this financial year.

And this, it is our belief, and it will remain like that, that all, as hon Billy has said, it is carrying out of what hon Minister Motsoaledi has started and, indeed, they are implementing on the basis of that foundation. It does not matter about the labelling of the individual they put. They only support the individual, not the programmes of government all the time.

There is no title in the Cabinet Executive of the President Ramaphosa that says a Minister starts first by the DA Minister. There is nothing like that. It remains a government programme. Therefore, the ANC supports this budget in full. Thank you, Chairperson.

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

Vote No 6 - International Relations and Cooperation - put.

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Declarations of vote:

Mr V GERICKE: Chairperson, good morning, and good morning, colleagues. The EFF unequivocally rejects the budget for the Department of International Relations and Cooperation. While South Africa has made meaningful strides regarding international relations, the respect for human dignity and sound continental trade relations, this good work cannot be dismantled and destroyed by the vigilante groups that promote sponsored xenophobia and Afrophobia amongst African people.

Government must take full responsibility in how this immigration crisis is dealt with. Corruption and extortion against vulnerable Africans must be uprooted urgently.

Furthermore, it is imperative that our international relations must be restored in Southern African Development Community, SADEC, and the entire Africa.

The Department of International Relations must work overtime to restore relations with our neighbour countries and strengthen economic ties, for the benefit of South Africa and all countries on the continent.

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We strongly condemn this department's silence regarding anti-immigration and urge international relations to step up and restore the dignity and pride of South Africa in the international arena.

The EFF again emphasises that people and businesses entering the country must be documented and in good standing in order to participate in trade and social interaction.

On these grounds, the EFF rejects this budget. I so move.
Thank you.

Ms J S MANANISO: Hon Chairperson, as the ANC, we want to support the budget, and we want to pledge that we'll continue monitoring in terms of the work that needs to be done, in terms of ensuring that we bring the best services. And continue where the work has been done from the Sixth Administration, as we have committed on renewal and reflecting and as well as giving what we have to give to our people as best services, for better life for all. I thank you, Chair.

Question put.

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

Vote No 7 - National School of Government - put.

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

Vote No 8 - National Treasury - put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr J S MAJOLA: Chairperson, the National Treasury is an engine of the national government, as amongst its responsibilities, is to manage the national government finances, that includes revenue and expenditure, appropriating funds to a various department, through Appropriation Bill, that is what you are doing now.

Contain on Schedule 1 of the Appropriation Bill in front of us - the R37,9 billion allocated to Vote 8 indicates that there is no intention to do further studies and research to supplement the addition to over 90% tax revenue collected by SA Revenue Service, Sars, in particular considering the new

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innovation like the world tax to those who benefited from the previous era.

That will mean Sars will rely on the already exhausted sources such as the personal income tax, value added tax. The MKP believes that we need to allocate the adequate funds for the other innovations in terms of revenue, so as we will have the adequate revenue, so as we will appropriate the enough funds to the departments.

Therefore, the MKP believes that we need to look for other alternatives in terms of revenue.

Therefore, the MK Party object Vote No 8, the National Treasury Vote. Thank you.

Mr P J SWART: Chairperson, the DA supports Budget Vote 8. National Treasury remains one of the most important institutions safeguarding South Africa's public finances. We welcome its continued commitment to fiscal sustainability, debt stabilisation, improved procurement systems, structural reform, and greater accountability.

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Treasury has correctly identified that economic growth remains too low and that stronger state capability, is required to create jobs and reduce poverty.

However, to support this vote cannot be interpreted as satisfaction with the state of public finances. South Africans continue to witness billions of rands lost through corruption, irregular expenditure, wasteful spending, and procurement failures.

While Treasury continues to strengthen financial controls and oversight frameworks, there remains a serious gap between identifying wrongdoing and holding those responsible accountable.

The DA is particularly concerned that consequence management across government remains weak. Too often, audit findings are repeated year after year, while officials implicated in financial misconduct face little or no consequence.

We are equally concerned about persistent underspending on critical infrastructure and service delivery programmes. At a time when communities need roads, water infrastructure, schools, and economic opportunities, government departments

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continue to return unspent funds while citizens are denied essential services.

The DA supports Treasury effort to improve procurement systems, modernise public financial management, and strengthen municipal finances. These reforms must now be implemented with urgency and measurable outcomes.

The DA also welcomes the progress made with a targeted and responsible service task initiative. Every rand saved from wasteful, inefficient, and non-performing expenditure is a rand that can be redirected to infrastructure, policing, education, and economic growth.

We look forward to a more intensive implementation of tasks with measurable savings, stronger oversight, and tangible improvements in public spending.

The success of tasks will ultimately be measured not by the number of reviews conducted, but by the real impact it has on improving value for money for every South African taxpayer.

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South Africa does not suffer from a shortage of plans, it suffers from a shortage of implementation, accountability, and consequences for failure.

The DA will continue to champion clean governance, value for money, economic growth, and the protection of every taxpayer's rand.

For these reasons, the DA supports Budget 8. I thank you.

Ms S NDHLOVU: Chairperson, the ANC rise in support of the National Treasury Budget Vote 8. We support this budget vote because National Treasury remains ... [Inaudible.] ... to the expansion of the democratic state.

It is through this vote that government is able to coordinate public finance, protect fiscal discipline, and ensure that national resources are directed towards the priorities of the people.

As the ANC, we understand that the budget is not merely a technical document. It is a political and developmental instrument. It must speak to the lived realities of our people

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in provinces, districts, towns, townships, villages, and informal settlements.

This budget vote is therefore important because it enables the allocation of funds to provinces and ultimately to local government where services delivery is experienced most directly, through provincial reputable shares, allocations, conditional grants, and transfers to municipalities.

This budget will support critical services such as healthcare, education, housing, roads, water, sanitation, electricity, community development, and local economic growth. These are not abstract figures, they represent clinics that must operate, schools that must function, roads that must be maintained, and municipalities that must deliver basic services to our communities.

The ANC also welcomes their continued emphasis on accountability, prudent financial management, and improved monitoring of public spending.

Allocating funds is important, but ensuring that those funds are spent effectively, efficiently and honestly, is equally

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important. Our people deserve value for every rand spent in their rands.

We therefore call on all members of this House to support the National Treasury budget, including the EFF and the MKP, not as an administrative exercise, but as a commitment to provinces, municipalities, and the people we are elected to serve.

As the ANC, we support the budget and also welcome my Member of the Executive Council, MEC in this budget platform.

Thanks, Chairperson.

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

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

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

Vote No 10 -Electricity and Energy- put

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Declarations of Vote:

Mr N H PIENAAR: Deputy Chairperson, I rise today on behalf of the DA in support of this budget. The Minister has made meaningful progress over the last three years, particularly in reducing load shedding and expanding the role of independent power producers. Now, the Department must turn its full attention to grid infrastructure. The planned construction of 14 000 new transmission lines over the coming years must become the department's foremost priority. If we want businesses to flourish and employ the millions of unemployed South Africans, we need energy certainty.

Our grid infrastructure is reaching its limits and can no longer keep up with the growing demand and new generation capacity. The independent transmission projects led by the private sector are specifically designed to address this challenge and must receive support from across government. For years, we have spoken about taking hands with the private sector for the betterment of South Africa. This is our opportunity to do exactly that.

Energy and electricity security are amongst the greatest determinants of economic growth and investment. Without reliable electricity, there can be no industrial expansion, no

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new factories, and ultimately, no sustainable job creation. Eskom's monopoly has taught us a painful lesson. Centralised control does not work, and it is ordinary South Africans who pay the price.

Independent power producers and independent transmission projects are the path to long-term energy stability and prosperity. Gone are the days of centralised government control, poor workmanship, and cost overruns that have cost the taxpayers billions of rand. South Africa's energy future will be built through competition, private investment, and reliable infrastructure. The DA proudly supports that vision. I thank you, Deputy Chairperson.

Mr M G MODISE: Deputy Chairperson, I hope I'm audible. Hon members, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish both hon Noe and the legendary Doctor Khumalo a happy birthday and hope that hon Noe's family will make it a memorable one. The ANC declares its full support for the Budget Vote of Energy and Electricity because we understand that energy is not a nice to have. Energy is the foundation of modern life. You cannot study in the dark. You cannot run clinic without power. You cannot build industries on load shedding.

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Apartheid gave electricity to some and denied it to the majority of this country. It built power stations for the mines and the suburbs and left townships, villages, and schools in the dark. That was energy apartheid. The department exists to end it. It exists to connect, to protect, to generate for everyone and everywhere. We support the department because it must deliver three things.

It must deliver energy security and end load shedding. It must fix Eskom. It must maintain the grid. It must bring new generation online and no more excuses. A just energy transition that creates jobs. Coal built this country; coal workers will not be left behind. Renewable gas, nuclear, and storage must expand, but they must expand with South Africans building, owning, and working in them.

To those who say energy is a political weapon, we say you can switch off the grid, you cannot switch off the people's will. The ANC will not rest while one school studies by candlelight, will not rest while one factory closes because of the power failure. The ANC stands with the department. We stand with the line workers, the engineers, the power station staff. We stand with every household that deserves the light.

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Energy is freedom. Electricity is dignity, and this government will deliver them both. Phambili [Forward] with energy security. Pambili [Forward] to the people's power. Amandla! [Power!] Thank you, Chair.

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

Vote No 11 -Public Service and Administration- put

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

Vote No 12 -Public Service Commission- put.

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

Vote No 12 - Public Service Commission

Vote No 13 - Public Works and Infrastructure - put

Declarations of vote:

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Mr E NZIMANDE: Chair, the MK Party object to this Budget Vote, for it will not result to continued performance improvement of the department. South Africa continues to face significant infrastructure deficit. Schools require upgrade, hospitals require maintenance, clinics require refurbishment and government buildings require rehabilitation. Communities continue waiting for infrastructure while maintenance backlog continues growing. The pace of delivery remains lower than the pace at which infrastructure deteriorates.

The amount allocated shall not offset historic backlog on refurbishment and maintenance, the rising service tariffs and the continuous need of capital upgrade. No tangible changes in ownership, contract development, enterprise growth and economic participation for historically disadvantaged will be realised through this Bill. Power relations shall continue to tilt in favour of the previously advantaged people. By giving such strategic department to the DA, was like asking offenders to adjudicate and offer justice to their victims.

That is what the ANC of Ramaphosa subjected our people to. Operation Bring Back, to recover and repurpose public assets remain significantly smaller than the scale of the problem. Vacant and underutilised state properties shall persist to

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impose costs on the fiscus while government remain dependent on private landlords. No strategy to address the Property Management and Trading Entity, PMTE, debt collection challenges, revenue management weaknesses and financial sustainability content.

Disguised unemployment in a form of Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, continue to be used to hide failure of government to create quality employment for the rest of the country. On the other hand, it is confronted by public employment paradox. Unemployment remains stubbornly high.

IsiZulu:

Ngalokho, Sihlalo, sithi ...

English:

... a budget cut worsened the situation of PMTE and ...

IsiZulu:

... asiyivumi le nto eyenzeka la. Sithi, siyakuphikisa lokhu okubizwa ngeVoti leSabelomali. Hhayi, alihambe liyongena olwandle. Siyabonga.

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Mr F J BADENHORST: Is it my turn, Chair? Sorry, I just lost connection for five seconds.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON (Mr P Govender): All right. Thank you, go ahead.

Mr F J BADENHORST: Can I go ahead?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON (Mr P Govender): Yes, go ahead.

Mr F J BADENHORST: Thank you, Chair. The DA supports Budget Vote 13. We do so with clear understanding of where this department comes from and where it must still go. For many years, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure became a symbol of state dysfunction, an institution entrusted with managing billions of rand in public assets became associated with maintenance backlogs, poor asset management, wasteful leasing arrangements, weak project delivery and chronic financial instability.

The budget was spent with very little to show for it. The Property Management Trading Entity remains burdened with a R28 billion maintenance backlog, a R4 billion overdraft facility and billions of rand in unpaid debt owed by client

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departments. These problems are the result of years of neglect, poor governance and a lack of accountability. Against this backdrop, it is important to acknowledge the progress made since Minister Dean McPherson assumed political leadership of the department.

The Minister inherited an institution in need of fundamental reform. Rather than managing decline like his predecessors, he has set about rebuilding capability, restoring accountability and repositioning Public Works as a driver of economic growth and infrastructure delivery. Infrastructure is being strengthened to improve project preparation and unlock investment. The Independent Development Trust has increased its order book and exceeded its infrastructure delivery targets.

Efforts are underway to reform the Expanded Public Works Programme with greater transparency, digital systems and skills development opportunities. The department has also initiated investigations into ghost employees and other governance failures that were previously ignored. Equally important is a strategic shift reflected in the department's annual performance plan.

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Public Works is no longer presented merely as a custodian of buildings, but as a catalyst for infrastructure-led growth, investment and job creation. Despite malicious resistance from within, for the first time in many years, this is evidence of a department moving in the right direction. That progress did not happen by accident. It is a result of leadership, accountability and reform.

This Budget Vote demonstrates that DA policy is making a difference in government today. It shows that capable governance delivers results, that public assets can be managed responsibly and that reform can replace decline. For that reason, the DA proudly supports this Budget Vote. I thank you.

Ms T I LEGWASE: Hon Deputy Chairperson, I've been kicked out of the system and been accepted back. I'm sorry for that. Allow me, Deputy Chairperson, to switch off my video.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON (Mr P Govender): Yes, you may go on.

Ms T I LEGWASE: Chairperson, I rise on behalf of the ANC to support the Budget Vote on the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. For the ANC, Public Works is a developmental department. It is a custodian of the state's property, the

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lead department for the Expanded Public Works Programme and the face of a government that must reflect dignity and capability to all South Africans.

We cannot speak of a capable state while thousands of government buildings across the country stand empty, vandalised and in despair. An abandoned state building sends a message of abandoned citizenry. This budget must therefore prioritise maintenance before reconstruction. Maintenance protects public asset base and costs less than reconstruction. We must also end the contradiction of paying for expensive rate leases when state-owned businesses remain unused.

The department's strategy to refurbish, occupy and make productive use of the state must be accelerated because every rand saved on wasteful leases is a rand that can be redirected to service delivery. On unemployment, the EPWP must be more than just a short-term relief. It must be a real pathway to skills and economic participation. This budget should fund EPWP that trains participants as artisans, infrastructure maintenance technicians and property managers with clear linkages to the Tvet colleges, the Sector Education and Training Authority, SETAs, and small, medium and micro

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enterprises, SMMEs, incubation so that participants exit into the real world of work and enterprise.

As the ANC, we support a clean, auditable and transparent immovable asset register, decisive action to reduce dependence on private leases and consequence management for those who abuse the system. Public funds must build infrastructure and services, not private ones. The ANC calls for the rigorous implementation of the Expropriation Act. We view this Act as a tool for radical economic transformation, social cohesion and equitable land reform. This legislation must facilitate land reinstitution and enable the state to expropriate land in a public interest addressing historical injustices caused by colonialism and apartheid. There is no time for a pushback.

Finally, Public Works is a backbone that enables other departments to deliver. When courts, police stations, clinics, or offices cannot function because of leaking roofs, faulty water and broken fences, justice, safety and health services are delayed. We, therefore, expect the department to work with Justice, Police, Health, Education sectors and with municipalities so that infrastructure planning follows service delivery needs. The ANC is building a capable, ethical and developmental state. We support this budget so that the

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department can maintain ... The ANC supports, Chair. [Time expired.]

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

Vote No 14 -Statistics South Africa- put

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

Vote No 15 - Traditional Affairs - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr E NZIMANDE: Hon Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, the MK Party objects to this Appropriation Bill because it does not elevate and accord authority required of traditional leaders on local governance but coerce them to be conformist in a Eurocentric design institution. There is no real value brought by the Appropriation Bill. The budget vote focuses too much on the compliance and organisational performance information rather than focusing on the impact of traditional leaders in transforming and improving lives in their communities.

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IsiZulu:

Siyi-MK Party, sithi, ... [Akuzwakali.] ... njengoba nanikeza izimoto nina njenge-Government of National Unity, GNU, KwaZulu-Natal emakhosini athize acheme nani ngokwezombusazwe. Nikezani wonke amakhosi ezweni lonke. Ngeke siseseke lesi sabelomali uma nisaqhubeka ngokuthi amanye amakhosi ngeke azithole lezi zimoto.

English:

The budget vote further lacks strong accountability measures, risk mitigation strategies and clear explanation on how the output indicators will be measured and achieved due to a lack of clear planning as well as clearer implementation guidelines. Supporting this Bill is equivalent to supporting Eurocentric design institutions to degrade and reduce traditional leaders as subjects of politicians. We refuse to be part of such a reckless conduct.

IsiZulu:

Ilizwe sifuna libuyele emakhosini. Siyafisa ukuthi amakhosi kube yiwona ashaya umthetho ngezwe lawo. Hhayi ukuthi abe okhongozela kubantu bezombusazwe. Ngaleso sizathu sithi, siyalichitha leli Voti leSabelomali. Siyabonga.

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ADV INKOSI M NONKONYANA: Hon Deputy Chairperson, hon Special and Permanent Delegates of this august House, inclusive, of my leader today, the MEC of Finance from the province of the legends, hon Mvoko, distinguished guests and fellow South Africans ...

IsiXhosa:

... molweni.

English:

I rise on behalf of the ANC deployees to declare on its behalf the support of this vote in contrast to MKP which has just publicly pronounced that it is opposed to this budget vote, whose primary objective is to assist the institution of traditional and Khoisan leadership in South Africa to play its role in the South Africa we all want. In doing so, we are cognisant of the heroic struggle against foreign domination in which our forebears were led by the traditional leadership as far back as the 16th century. They handed over the baton to the ANC they formed in 1912.

We are mindful of the role needed to be played by the institution of traditional and Khoisan leadership in our country and as the only political organisation that supported

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the institution to have traditional councils, houses of traditional and Khoisan leaders and its department in South Africa. We are determined to work with progressive formation, like the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, Contralesa, and all structures that have been installed by this progressive government to restore the pride and dignity of the institution of traditional leadership in South Africa.

We are concerned, though, Chair, about the reaction of forces within and outside South Africa who want to mislead our traditional and Khoisan leaders to leave their political home, ANC, as envisaged by the false promises from the reactionary state of Israel and some political parties promising some of them mayoral chains to gain political mileage in the envisaged local government scheduled to take place on 4 November 2026.

We are aware of the needs raised by the traditional and Khoisan leaders and happy to note that the ANC-led government is determined to address them. Hence, the money set aside in the APPs of this department is meant to address them within the financial constraints.

We believe that the department is in able hands of a triumvirate of a kind. I mean, leaders who are tried and

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tested from KwaZulu-Natal, Minister Hlabisa, Eastern Cape and Limpopo. We are impressed about ... [Time expired.]

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

Vote No 16 -Basic Education- put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr M K MAMPURU: Deputy Chair, greetings to the people of South Africa. As the EFF, on behalf of the people of South Africa, we reject the budget of the department that is responsible for the continued abandonment of the black and working-class learners at schools such as Umqhele Secondary School in Ivory Park here in Gauteng.

This department repeatedly claimed to prioritise education, yet it subjects our children to conditions of profound neglect and institutionalised discrimination. At Umqhele Secondary School, for instance, learners are expected to pursue academic excellence without basic school furniture, forcing them to study under undignified conditions.

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Classrooms feature falling ceilings, broken doors, shattered windows, and constant blocked and dysfunctional toilets. This exposes both learners and educators to severe health and safety hazards daily. The structural overcrowding crisis at Umqhele Secondary School is a direct consequence of the state's failure to invest in public education, as there are only 40 classrooms, forcing more than 70 learners into a single class.

Under these conditions, meaningful teaching and learning is virtually impossible. This is not merely poor administration; it is a systematic denial of quality education to the children of the working class. This crisis is further worsened by untidy classrooms, neglected technical workshops, the lack of reliable water supply, and severe shortage of textbooks. These conditions represent a direct betrayal of the constitutional promise that every child has a right to basic education.

The EFF maintains that education is a revolutionary tool to liberate African people from poverty, unemployment, and inequality. Yet the government continues to allocate billions to consultant and luxury expenditures and corruption, while schools in poor communities like Umqhele Secondary School are

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left to decay. With that said, we as the EFF reject this budget. I thank you.

Ms J M ADRIAANSE: Hon Deputy Chairperson, every child gets one chance at basic education. One chance, not a second chance, not a do-over. That is why this budget matters. As the DA, we support this budget because it invests in the foundations that change a child's future for the better. It invests in early childhood development because by the time a child arrives in Grade 1, the foundations for learning should already be in place.

It invests in literacy and numeracy because the foundations have to ensure that rewards can be reaped in years to come. That is why investment in mathematics, science, and technology should be recommended, because it provides our children with the tools to compete in the modern economy, not be left behind by it. But years of failure cannot be resolved overnight. We therefore commend the Minister for taking up the cause of all our children who are still being punished due to years of corruption and cadre deployment.

We know too many children are still learning in schools with infrastructure challenges. Too many communications are still

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waiting for classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and safe sanitation. We know that every delayed project and every wasted rand ultimately steals opportunities from learners.

The real test of this budget will not be what appears in reports, it will be what happens in classrooms. Can more children read? Can more children do maths? Can more children leave school with the skills, confidence and opportunity to build a better life? Because education is not about buildings, budgets and bureaucracy, it's about our children and every child deserves the chance to succeed.

The DA believes we have a Minister who is capable of delivering exactly this to our children. We therefore support the Minister and Budget Vote 16. I thank you.

Adv Inkosi M NONKONYANA: Deputy Chair and hon members, the Department of Basic Education is regarded as the mother of all government departments, as no such department can be led by an illiterate person. It is often said that no house can ever be built without a firm foundation.

This underlines the importance of this department, whose Vote must be approved. The ANC has no hesitation in supporting this

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Budget Vote to enable this department to continue with the ANC policy of free and compulsory education for all, in line with the Freedom Charter's aim to open the doors of learning and culture.

We want to thank hon Minister Gwarube, who continues to acknowledge the good work from her predecessors, unlike some of the colleagues from his DA, who want to claim easy victories and continue with the pack of lies articulated this morning by hon Billy, hon Badenhorst, and now recently by hon Adriaanse. Their eradication of mud schools, construction of decent offices for educators and classes for learners, including ablution facilities, is continuing as part of delivering basic services to promote the needed climate of teaching and learning.

The ANC is pleased to note that there are plans set aside during this financial year and trust that the need to build hostels in schools in far-flung rural areas will be accelerated.

IsiXhosa:

Ndibamba ngazo zozibini Sekela Sihlalo ndisithi le Nkosazana iphuma kwiKhaya leeNgqwele uMphathiswa uGwarube mayiqhubele

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phambili. Aba bamana ukuthetha le naleya ngabantu abasebenza nabo ngokungathi basebenza bodwa abadanise. Kulo rhulumente sifuna abaphathiswa abafana naye, abayihloniphayo into yokuba bakhokelwe ngumbutho wesizwe iANC, kwaye abangenzi ngendlela siza kubakhupha njengoko sele senze njalo. Camagu.

English:

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

Vote No 17 -Higher Education and Training - put.

Declarations of vote:

Ms M KENNEDY: Chairperson, hon members, fellow South Africans, greetings. The EFF rejects the Department of Higher Education Budget Vote. Our sector education and training authority, Seta, completely lack systematic efficiency, proper oversight and alignment with the current labour market. Instead of funding active job placement, Seta suffers from administrative bottlenecks, a severe qualification vacuum left by expired legacy causes and bloated cash reserves instead of funding job placement.

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In rural provinces like Eastern Cape and Limpopo, learners face several geographical barriers due to lack of accredited external integrated summative assessment centres. Furthermore, rural Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET, college students are unable to complete their workplace integrated learning due to lack of local industry opportunities and transport funding. The National Student Financial Aid Scheme also features a multi-billion-rand shortfall, leading to the exclusion of over 100 000 eligible students, widespread allowance and accommodation payments delay.

This clear operational collapse explains why the scheme has been placed under administration for the third time since 2018. Chronic payments delays have left thousands of students hungry and vulnerable during exams, triggering widespread campus shutdowns and protests at institutions such as Durban University of Technology, DUT, Cape Town University of Technology, CPUT, and the University of Cape Town, UCT. So, for this budget to stay relevant, it must resolve systematic deficits and expand support for the vulnerable missing middle.

For Seta to be relevant, it must prioritise budget allocations for learner and apprentice seats, as well as attrition and

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recognition of prior learning tied directly to hard-to-fill vacancies and the centre priority occupations list. Given the history of systematic administrative failures of both Seta and NSFAS, the EFF views this fiscal allocation as abdication of state responsibility that shifts the consequences of institutional incompetence directly on to the poor and working class. Therefore, we don't support this budget. Thank you.

Ms N S DU PLESSIS: Hon Deputy Chair, the Department of Higher Education and Training has a history of fraud, corruption and systemic mismanagement in relation to NSFAS irregularities, Seta's under administration, bogus colleges and university level corruption. Yet, it is one of the departments that is central to sustainable transformation in South Africa.

This is why the DA welcomes any movement towards real accountability in this department that needs to create a nation of work ready women and men who belong and have a future in local and international markets. Various changes have been implemented by the DA Deputy Minister, Dr Mimmy Gondwe, over the past two years, and these bear mentioning. During her stint, she established the Deputy Minister's help desk, which successfully resolves more than 55 000 student

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queries related to NSFAS and diplomas, achieving a 90% resolution rate.

Further, she was also instrumental in forging digital training partnerships with major tech and financial entities, including but not limited to Microsoft, Google, Old Mutual and Takealot. She also took a firm stance against the registration and operation of bogus colleges while actively working to foster collaboration with legitimate private higher education providers. She routinely led institutional readiness and matric support programmes, ensuring school leavers were guided through the transition into post-school education and funding options.

It also bears mentioning that she took a whole-of-government approach when she focused on combating bogus colleges by working with the Department of Home Affairs, Department of Labour, as well as the SA Police Service, SAPS. The DA believes that these interventions will continue under the new leadership, and we look forward to seeing the department catch convicts and clean up callous individuals who feel nothing as they steal the future of our young people. Every person in this department needs to protect the hundreds and billions of

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rounds budgeted for this department as accountability is seemingly increasing, the DA supports the budget. I thank you.

Mr M F MOKWELE: Chairperson, and greetings to hon members, fellow South Africans, special greetings to the leader of the delegation from the Limpopo, MEC Ntate Magwai - mošate wo mogolo! [the chief royal palace - symbol of respect] The ANC tries to support the Budget Vote 17 of the Department of Higher Education. The support for this budget is on the back foot of the department's commitment to ensure that transformation between higher education and training succeeds.

This vote of confidence must be accompanied by the significant increase in the capacity of our higher learning to accommodate the growing, efficient, and modernised skills development programme that are responsive to the needs of our labour market, so that we do not continue to produce the growing number of unemployed graduates. This budget must also recognise the growing influence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the digitalisation of the economy and the equipment of our young people with the digital media needed for the job of tomorrow.

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We call for an urgent intervention to address the governance challenges within the NSFAS and ensure that all deserving students receive the necessary support during their studies. We hope that we will not experience avoidable student protests within the institutions of higher learning. The funding must also align with the department's key performance indicators, KPIs, and unauthorised, irregular, and wasteful expenditure must be avoided. For this reason, House Chair, the ANC declares its support for Budget Vote 17.

Sepedi:

Ke a leboga.

English:

I thank you.

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

Vote No 18 - Health - put.

Declarations of Vote.

Ms L P MHLONGO: Chair, the MK Party declares that our clinics are collapsing while we pretend. As I alluded earlier in my

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debate speech on Health, before this House, medicine is finished in the Eastern Cape, in Limpopo and in the Northern Cape. Nurses work double shifts with nothing in their hands. No gloves, no drugs and no dignity. Mothers giving birth on the floor. Children sit for hours. Cancer patients are sent home to die.

Nelson Mandela declared in '94 that health care is a right and not a privilege. Thirty-two years later, we ask this House: Where is that right for the mother giving birth on a clinic floor? Where is the right for a child waiting eight hours for panado? We warned this House that a sick nation cannot build a nation; a sick worker cannot work; and a sick child cannot learn.

Three decades into democracy, rural clinics still have no doctors, ambulances don't come and medicine shelves are empty. That is not service delivery; that is abandonment, and that is betrayal. The MK Party declares what we declared then: Health is not a privilege. Section 27 is a constitutional right. Fund clinics, fund hospitals, and fund our people. Put people before profits because a healthy nation is a building nation. Until the poorest child in Jozini gets the same care as the richest child in Rosebank, democracy is a lie.

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IsiZulu:

Gwaza Mkhonto!

English:

We object. Thank you, Chair.

Mr M P SIBANDE: Chairperson, during this Youth Month, the ANC would like to declare its support for Budget Vote 18. People must not forget that many youths of this country were arrested. Some went into exile, and others died for their quest for a healthy environment. Therefore, this budget seeks to redress the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

This budget will empower the department in order to amicably discharge their responsibility, to empower the department to be able to bring healthy services closer to the people. Unfortunately, all the prophecies of doom are hell-banned to cause distractions, not to empower the department by rejecting the budget. Some of them are just instrumental to imperialism, while the ANC is still on the back foot with its commitment to the Freedom Charter. The same parties don't have guiding documents. They don't have policies.

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The ANC believe that we must support this budget in order to address all the crises because they are crying babies. They always cry, but they don't bring solutions. The ANC is the only party that can address the solution and bring solutions to the lives of the people - they can change the lives of the people.

What is amazing is that a few days ago, as a multi-party, we went abroad to Sweden. When we arrived in Sweden, we discovered that the proposed NHI health care system for South Africa had long been established in Sweden. People were so surprised. We were together with some of the people who are rejecting the budget in the same delegation. However, they were clapping their hands over there because we were in a foreign country, as if it were right to implement the same model here at home.

Here, as the ANC, we wanted to implement the very same thing: To bring it, to make it cheaper and easier, to empower and to address all the crises in clinics, in hospitals, et cetera. This is to modernise the hospitals and to modernise our services in order to be equal to the task of the diseases of nowadays. However, the ANC supports this budget more than 100%. Thank you, Chairperson.

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Vote 18 is agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe dissenting).

Vote No 19 – Social Development – put.

Declarations of vote:

Afrikaans:

Me T BREEDT: Adjunkvoorsitter, 'n maatskaplike toelaag is nie 'n guns van die staat nie. Vir miljoene Suid-Afrikaners is dit die verskil tussen kos en honger. Dit is waarom die chaos by die SA Social Security Agency, Sassa [SA Agentskap vir Maatskaplike Sekerheid] so ernstig is. Wanneer die stelsel val is dit nie bloot 'n administratiewe fout nie. Dit raak werklike mense; mense soos Johanna.

Johanna het haar aansoek in Januarie reeds ingedien. Die aanlyn stelsel het dit aanvanklik aanvaar. Toe verdywn dit met die opgraderings. En toe verskyn dit weer verlede week. Ses maande later en sy wag steeds vir 'n antwoord, maar niks nie. Geen oplossing nie en geen inkomste nie.

Intussen hoor ons van die voortdurende hersiening van begunstigdes, die omstredenheid rondom die nuwe swart betaal kaarte wat einde Augustus tot 'n einde kom en die onsekerheid

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wat dit alles vir ons mees kwesbare Suid-Afrikaners veroorsaak.

Die probleem is nie dat die staat nie genoeg data versamel nie. Die probleem is dat die staat nie sy eie administrasie behoorlik bestuur nie.

Die Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling moet die mees kwesbare Suid-Afrikaners beskerm maar te dikwels word hulle self deur die stelsel gefrustreer.

Die VF Plus ondersteun maatskaplike ondersteuning vir mense wat dit werklik nodig het maar ons glo ook dat belastingbetalers die reg het om te verwag dat hierdie programme professioneel bestuur behoort te word.

'n Stelsel wat miljarde rand versprei moet betroubaar wees, dit moet vinnig wees, dit moet deursigtig wees en dit moet mense met waardigheid behandel.

Hierdie jaar se verkiesing gaan nie oor beleid nie. Dit gaan oor mense soos Johanna. Dit gaan oor die vraag of Suid-Afrikaners bereid is om aan te hou leef met staatsinstellings wat nie hul basiese verantwoordelikhede nakom nie.

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Die VF Plus glo Suid-Afrika verdien beter. Ons verdien 'n staat wat dienste lewer, ons verdien 'n staat wat mense respekteer en ons verdien 'n regering wat verantwoordbaar is. Dit is elke Suid-Afrikaner se tyd.

English:

It is our time.

Afrikaans:

Ek dank u.

Ms D W FIENIES: Hon Deputy Chairpersons, greetings to the Hon members and fellow South Africans. I declare on behalf of the ANC today that we support the Social Development Budget Vote, recognising its critical role in building a caring and self-reliant society as envisioned by the Department of Social Development. This Social Development Budget Vote is a testament to our commitment to addressing the persistent challenges of poverty, inequality, and vulnerability.

The budget allocations reflect a deliberate strategy to uplift our communities, ensuring that no one is left behind. We note with concerns the real decline to the overall department's budget, particularly on the social assistance and social

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security policy and administration programmes. This tightening fiscal space needs even greater efficiency, transparency, targeted interventions.

We commend the department's alignment with the National Development Plan, the Medium-Term Development Plan, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the African Union, AU, Agenda 2063. The emphasis is on reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living, as outlined in the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP, Priority 2, in particular, crucial. The social grants, especially the Old Age Grant and Child Support Grant remain vital anti-poverty tools, providing essential income support to millions.

We welcome the department's effort to link social grant beneficiaries to economic opportunities and its vision for a basic income support policy. This is a crucial step towards reducing dependency on grants and fostering sustainable income generation.

We also urge the department to address the neglect of children with disabilities, ensuring accessible facilities and services across all provinces, including SA Social Security Agency, Sassa, offices.

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In conclusion, the ANC supports the Social Development Budget Vote, understanding that it requires continuous oversight, adaptation and unwavering commitment. We urge all hon members to support this social development vote to help the department become accountable for its effective and impactful implementation. Let us work together to build a South Africa where dignity, equality, and opportunity are accessible to all.

I thank you, Chairperson.

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

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

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

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

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

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Vote No 22 - Correctional Services - put.

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

Vote No 23 - Defence - put.

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

Vote No 24 - Independent Police Investigative Directorate - put.

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

Vote No 25 - Justice and Constitutional Development - put.

Declaration of vote:

Mr O J MOKAE: Chairperson, good morning, the total budget for Vote 25 stands at just over R26 billion in this current financial year. With these resources, the department aims to accelerate the rollout of its revised digitisation and modernisation strategy, migrating judicial functions towards a

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single independent judiciary, deepening the response to gender-based violence and femicide, and reinforcing efforts to tackle complex crimes, including money laundering and corruption.

This comes at a time when for so many South Africans, justice remains painfully slow, inaccessible, and inconsistent. When court roles are congested, when cases are postponed repeatedly, and survivors of violence wait years for finality. The residents of Galeshewe in the Northern Cape know the situation too well. The Galeshewe Magistrates' Court has been closed since 2023 due to structural defects and does not meet its reopening deadline, with the court now operating from the Kimberley Magistrates' Court.

This has resulted in a backlog of criminal cases growing in Kimberley, and we know too well when justice is delayed, justice is denied, which hinders how we catch, convict criminals, and clean up. What is becoming evident is that South Africans increasingly believe that there are two systems of justice in this country, one for the connected few and the other for everyone else. Very few South Africans feel safe in their own country.

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This budget Vote therefore demands more than just finding solutions or funding allocations. It demands political will, institutional courage, and decisive leadership to truly catch, convict, and clean up. With those words, the Democratic Alliance supports this budget Vote.

Adv INKOSI M NONKONYANA: Deputy Chairperson and hon members, the people of South Africa, notwithstanding centuries of colonial rule and decades of apartheid rule, have resolved to adopt a Constitution with a Bill of Rights having vertical and horizontal application. We have just celebrated its 30th anniversary early this month. This department is inter alia entrusted to process review of the constitution, which is the supreme law of the land.

The Constitution, amongst other things, guarantees that those entrusted by the people to govern themselves in line with fundamental African values espoused in the Constitution and to enable the judiciary to dispense justice without fear or favour. We are happy that the DA, through hon Mokae, is supporting the budget of this department and remain amazed, though, about the DA's negative attitudes against all the departments under the leadership of the ANC cadres.

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Truth be told, the policies that are the basis of the laws of the republic are progressive policies developed by the ANC government. We do not have DA Ministers but only Ministers of states who are implementing laws based on progressive policies of the ANC, hon Mokae and your DA.

Between anarchy and democracy, there lies justice. Without justice, we will be right. The DA continue to enjoy oppressing the have-nots, the poor and toiling masses of our beloved country. The need to provide this department funds to pursue its programmes, as set out in the APP presented to this House, cannot be overemphasised.

We commend that this House approved the budget that was unanimously supported by the Select Committee on Security and Justice under the able leadership of comrade Mananiso. The plans have been provided to us a golden opportunity to perform our oversight responsibility. The ANC has called upon the department to ensure that the customary law is developed to be equal to the Roman Dutch law we have inherited, so that both systems can be subjected on an equal footing to the supreme law of the land, the Constitution of the Republic.

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In this regard, we look forward to the capacitation of traditional courts in South Africa. The ANC supports this budget, Vote. I salute.

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

Vote No 26 - Military Veterans - put.

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

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

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

Vote No 28 - Police - put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr S A ZULU: Hon Chairperson, hon members, good morning once again? Deputy Chair ...

IsiZulu:

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... ngingayisha ividiyo yami?

English:

Can I take down my video, please?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Yes, hon member, you may switch it off. Thank you.

Mr S A ZULU: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson.

The MK Party rises to reject Vote 28. This Vote allocates more than R127 billion to South Africa's policing environment. Yet millions of South Africans continue to live in fear of violent crime, organised crime, extortion, gang violence and corruption.

The Auditor-General continues to report recurring weaknesses in procurement, contract management, consequence management and accountability. Parliament cannot continue approving larger budgets while the same governance failures are repeated year after year.

Communities still experience detective shortages, deoxyribonucleic acid, DNA, backlogs, delayed investigations and poor police visibility. Crime statistics and daily lived

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experiences demonstrate that increased spending has not translated into safer communities.

Recent allegations involving senior police leadership and the MediCare24 contract have further eroded public confidence. Every rand lost to corruption is a rand taken away from frontline policing, forensic laboratories and the victims waiting for justice.

South Africans deserve a Police Service that protects communities, upholds the rule of law and uses public money responsibly until government demonstrates that it can restore accountability, eliminate corruption, threaten oversight and ensure that the public funds reach frontline policing instead of criminal networks.

The MK Party cannot support these appropriations. For these reasons, the MK Party rejects Vote 28. Hon Deputy Chairperson of the Government of Nation Unity, GNU, thank you so much for the opportunity given.

Mr N GOTSELL: Hon Chair, when we debate this Bill, we must stop pretending that the crisis in SA Police Service, SAPS, is

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simply a question of how much money is allocated. The real question is how that money is managed, prioritised and spent.

Over the last few weeks, we have conducted oversight visits across a number of policing facilities, and we found a shortage of management accountability. But yet, instead of addressing the cadre deployment, Lieutenant General Patekile is now writing memorandums to stations to tell them not to engage parliamentarians on oversight.

And when Sergeant Tusani from Nyanga SAPS was gunned down in Lingelethu-West on Saturday, we must ask a difficult question. Will his murder force urgent reform? And we must ask the same about Sinivuyo Dyokwe, a DA activist and candidate who was assassinated in Dunoon on Saturday after helping residents participate in our democracy.

Earlier this year, she opened a case after receiving threats linked to extortion in her community. The system did not protect her. Now she is dead. Her murder raises difficult questions about policing priorities. Sinovuyo's brutal murder is made worse by the irony that Sino campaigned tirelessly for greater visibility in Dunoon.

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During the debate on this budget, I told this House that when the Minister of Employment and Labour visited Dunoon during the by-election campaign, a brand-new SAPS mobile station suddenly appeared alongside the Ministers. Yet, when the Minister and her truck ... [Inaudible.] ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon member, we seem to have lost your audio. I recommend that you switch off your video.

Mr N GOTSELL: Sorry, Chair. The community remained without the sustained policing presence that it had been demanding. And on Saturday, Sinovuyo was shot 10 times in a busy street and in broad daylight. And at a time when presidential protection and VIP protection and the Minister of Labour and Employment was protected, they continue to receive significant funding increases and communities like Dunoon are left asking why resources seem readily available for ANC Ministers, Deputy Presidents with blue light bullies, and other politicians, but not for the residents pleading for basic policing services.

Hon Chair ... [Inaudible.] ... Sinovuyo party representatives that lost their lives over the weekend. And ... [Inaudible.] ... answer rape ... [Inaudible.] ... of the Western Cape for

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gender-based violence, GBV-related investigations in May this year.

How can we claim to stand for victims of gender-based violence when the most basic tools needed to investigate these crimes are simply not available? Until SAPS leadership and people like Lieutenant General Patekile prove that they can be trusted, no budget increase will fix a system that is failing at the most basic level.

I thank you.

Ms J S MANANISO: Hon Chairperson, hon members and fellow South Africans.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Mananiso, can I ask you to switch off your video? Can I ask you to switch off your video as your audio is not clear.

Ms J S MANANISO: Okay, thank you, Chairperson.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: That's better. Continue.

Ms J S MANANISO: Can you hear me now?

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The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Yes, please continue.

Ms J S MANANISO: Thank you, Chairperson. Chairperson, we want to send our message of support to the families of the victims who have lost their lives during the work of the election from different parties.

Sesotho:

Re re phephi ho bona.

English:

We want to say that their lives will not go in vain. We will make sure that we follow through with those cases. We support Vote 28, but we do so with one non-negotiable condition. No budget can rebuild public trust in SAPS without accountability, integrity, and the rooting out of corruption.

The commitment and undertakings by the Ministry are a reflection of a government at work and building safer societies. We demand a Police Service that is clean, professional, and on the side of the law.

Hon Chairperson, we want to commit that with this budget, we will make sure that we follow through with all the Madlanga

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recommendations and referrals and that everything is implemented accordingly. We want to say to those who are found wanting must be taken through disciplinary measures.

We also want to support the lifestyle audit that has been committed by the Minister, that most of those who are in senior positions will be going through. And as the department and the ANC, we will always make sure that we follow through.

In terms of the act of commission referrals, we want to say that all arrests and investigations linked to commission referrals must be prioritised and concluded. Justice delayed is justice denied. Public confidence erodes with every file left to gather the dust.

In terms of issues of discipline and cleaning the house, we require a full review of sub-disciplinary regulations to ensure both fairness and efficiency. Members facing serious criminal charges must be removed from duty immediately. Those convicted of crimes involving dishonesty or violence must be dismissed.

Hon Chair, we want to say to those working for gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, and in different spaces and

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police stations, we want them to understand that GBVF has been declared as a national disaster. We want all hands-on-deck and everybody must do the right thing.

We want to commit that with this budget; we will follow through that every police station must have a rape kit. And if they are not in the police station, they need to indicate in terms of which area should those rape kits be found in, especially the areas where we think there needs to be intervention.

With this budget, we also want to say we advocate for modernisation and automation, to fast-track the services in the department. We support this Vote. And with no... [Time expired.]

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

Vote No 29 - Agriculture - put.

Declarations of vote:

Afrikaans:

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Mnr H J VAN DEN BERG: Voorsitter ... [Onhoorbaar.] ... Die VF Plus ondersteun hierdie begrotingspos. Hierdie broodnodige befondsing moet egter verseker dat gesondheidsorg vir gewasse en diere daarmee gefasiliteer word om uitvoeronderhandelinge en ooreenkomste te laat slaag en om ook navorsing te doen wat dit makliker vir alle boere in 'n onstabiele klimaat kan maak.

Om grond te besit of te huur is nie toegang tot 'n skatkis nie. Boerdery veg harde en moeilike werk, van sonop tot sononder in moeilike omstandighede.

Die laaste ding wat landbouers nodig het is 'n ongefokusde Departement van Landbou. Dit is reeds moeilik genoeg om as boer jouself te motiveer om daaglik te doen wat jy moet doen onder hoë insetkoste, lae winste en geweldige risiko.

Ons rig 'n versoek aan hierdie departement en hul entiteite om politiek en ideologie eenkant te sit en saam te werk deur die ... [Onhoorbaar.] ...

IsiZulu:

Mnu T M KAUNDA: Unyamalele manje!

ILUNGU ELIHLONIKE: Mbuyise, Kaunda. Mbuyise!

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IsiXhosa:

Nksk. M B DLANGISA-NODADA: Masigqitheleni komnye, bantakwethu.

English:

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Van Den Berg?

Mr H J VAN DEN BERG: Yes, I'm here!

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Have you concluded? I lost you there for a while!

Mr H J VAN DEN BERG: Yes, I have concluded. Thank you, Deputy Chair.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: I now call upon hon Mhlongo of the MKP for three minutes!

Ms L P MHLONGO: Hon Chair, I believe the Table made a few errors because with the Higher Education we were listed and we did not table that we would be doing declarations as MKP, and with Agriculture as well, they made an error there as well. Thank you, Chair.

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The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Alright. Thank you very much. That's noted.

Mr M K MONTWEDI: Chair, permission to keep my video off.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: yes, you may ...

[Interjections.] [Inaudible.] ...

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Kukhona umbhede!

English:

Mr M K MONTWEDI: House Chair, we have already reflected as an organisation that we do not support Budget Vote 29. For the purpose of this declaration, we must reply to the response by the Minister of Agriculture when we debated this budget vote as he did not hear what we said. We don't know if we are addressing Minister John Steenhuisen or Minister Fannie Aucamp. Anyway, these are the reasons for ... [Inaudible.] ... opposition.

And we are happy as the EFF that we make this declaration when the new leader of the DA, Geordin Hill-Lewis, has just agreed with us that Minister John Steenhuisen was a liability and has

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failed as the Minister of Agriculture, and we welcome his removal.

Let me now assist the new DA leader with reasons why his decision to remove Minister Steenhuisen is right. Let's talk about foot and mouth disease, FMD. Let me repeat it and I hope hon Badenhorst will hear me correctly this time around. FMD got out of control under Minister Steenhuisen and was better controlled before he came in. And he is fully aware that he dissolved a multidisciplinary team that managed to contain FMD and replaced that team with a DA-led veterinary and only at a later stage reinstated the team that managed to contain FMD. That's why we are saying FMD must be located right in the doorstep of the DA Minister of Agriculture.

Now, the Minister has also failed to coordinate a disaster on FMD and ensured that farmers that lost their livestock as a result of negligence by the state are compensated.

We see defunding of agricultural colleges and failure to upgrade them to a status of institutions of higher learning. A promise that the Minister made some two years ago, up until now not done.

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Infrastructure at agricultural colleges has collapsed and the situation is getting worse now and yet the funds were taken away from agricultural colleges.

Under the watch of the Ministers, farmers are struggling with market access and the National Agricultural Marketing Council is sitting idling, not assisting farmers with markets.

Co-operative and enterprise development that many farming communities benefited from, has since been not implemented when the Government of National Unity, GNU, started because both the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister Rural Development are fighting for control of the programme, with employees idling and not doing anything there.

Now, a promise of 10 000 extension services has not been delivered. Where extension services is stretched, one extension officer services close to 2 000 farmers as opposed to a norm of just 300 farmers.

With that, Chair, we reject Budget Vote 29 of the Department of Agriculture.

Setswana:

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Ke go lebogile thata, Modulasetilo, ka nako.

English:

Kaunda you must stop complaining. Thank you very much.

Mr N H PIENAAR: Chairperson, I just want to apologise to everybody who had to listen to that rumble of propaganda from the EFF.

But with that being said, Chairperson, as the DA we are proud to support this budget. Agriculture is the lifeblood of this country and we will always remain a priority for us ...

[Interjections.]

Mr M K MONTWEDI: Point of order, Chair.

Mr N H PIENAAR: The R7,8 billion being ... Chairperson, can I continue?

Mr M K MONTWEDI: If the Minister was performing, why was he removed as a Minister? I say we agree with the DA leader.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Montwedi, I did not recognise you.

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Mr M K MONTWEDI: My apologies, Chair. My apologies.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Are you still standing on a point of order?

Mr M K MONTWEDI: No, no. You said you did not recognise me. I apologise. I withdraw. Thank you, Chair.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Okay. Alright. Thank you.

Hon Pienaar, please continue!

Mr N H PIENAAR: It's a shame.

The R7,8 billion being invested in the department and its entities must work for our farmers and in turn ensure South Africa's food security.

We also call on provinces to play their part, seeing that more than half of this budget is directly directed to provincial governments as the implementing agents.

We call on Members of Executive Councils, MECs, and Premiers to ensure that these programmes reach the intended

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beneficiaries and that every rand is spent where it is needed most.

Chairperson, agriculture has seen significant improvement over the last two years, from increasing exports to international markets to contributing positively towards employment and economic growth. The sector continues to demonstrate its resilience and importance in our economy.

The food and mouth disease outbreak is steadily being brought under control due to the efforts of the Minister, the department and industry stakeholders. Because of this progress, we are once again beginning to see the reopening of the meat export markets, which is greatly encouraging for the sector and for our economy, ensuring that farmers get the most for their products.

Chairperson, agriculture succeeds when government, farmers and industry work together. We move forward hand in glove with the sector and stakeholders to ensure that no farmer is left behind and to ensure we build a cohesive, competitive and sustainable agriculture sector.

Afrikaans:

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Net saam gaan ons die beste resultate bereik om boere se toekoms te verseker. Baie dankie.

English:

Thank you, Chair.

Mr M G MODISE: Deputy Chairperson, members of the Council and people of South Africa, today as this House of Parliament we take this opportunity to congratulate both hon Kim Medupi and Solly Mabebo on their academic achievements with the University of ... [Inaudible.] ... Business School. Indeed, a revolutionary has the responsibility to be educated.

Deputy Chair, the ANC declares its full support for the Budget Vote of Agriculture because we know this truth: that there's no freedom without land, there's no dignity without food, there's no future without farmers.

The Department of Agriculture is not just an office, it's an instrument of restoration. It is the hand that gives back what was taken. We support this department because it must fight to support for small-scale and emerging farmers. It must fight for access to water, access to markets and access to finance.

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No farmer must fail because the state looked away. Food security for every household is a must. A child cannot learn on an empty stomach. A worker can no longer continue building on an empty stomach. Agriculture is not just economics, it is a life.

The ANC will defend this department against budget cuts, will defend it against sabotage, will defend it against those who want the past to remain present.

With that, Chair, I thank you.

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

Vote No 30 -Communications and Digital Technologies- put

Declarations of vote:

Ms H S BOSHOFF: Deputy Chair, the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies is no longer simply responsible for communications policy, it is responsible for helping South Africa compete in a modern digital economy.

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Today, access to affordable and reliable connectivity influences whether a learner can study online, whether a small business can reach new customers, whether a job seeker can access opportunities and whether government can deliver service efficiently. For this reason, the department's continued focus on expanding broadband access through the SA Connect Programme is welcomed. Connecting underserved communities remains one of the most effective ways to bridge inequality and ensure that all South Africans can participate in the opportunities offered by the digital economy.

Under the current administration, there has been a renewed emphasis on accelerating digital transformation, expanding connectivity and creating an environment that encourages innovation and investment. This is why we welcome the Minister's implementation of equity equivalence, which removes the barrier to investment that has kept South African internet expensive and out of rural and poorer communities.

The department has also rightly prioritised digital transformation initiatives aimed at modernising government services, improving efficiency and creating an enabling environment for innovation and investment. These initiatives have the potential to improve service delivery while helping

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South Africa become more competitive and increasingly digital world.

The success of this department should ultimately be measured by outcomes, make sure more South Africans are connected, make sure business are able to compete more effectively, whether government services are becoming easier to access and whether more opportunities are being created in the digital economy. These are the questions that matter.

The digital economy has the potential to become a major driver of economic growth, innovation and job creation. The work undertaken by this department, therefore, extends far beyond the information and communications technology, ICT, sector itself. It affects education, economic development, service delivery and South Africa's overall competitiveness.

We will continue to support reforms that expand connectivity, promote digital inclusion and modernise government services while maintaining oversight to ensure that these initiatives deliver meaningful benefits for all South Africans. Hon Deputy Chair, the DA supports Budget Vote 30. Thank you.

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Mr S P MABILO: Deputy Chair, I rise on behalf of the ANC to support Budget Vote 30. We believe that the allocation will assist us to advance our agenda of changing the lives of the people of South Africa. As the ANC, we recognise that digital transformation is not an option, but a necessity for inclusive growth, job creation and improved service delivery.

Our vision is that every South African, regardless of where they live, must have equal access to digital transformation. The youth, women, people living with disabilities, the workers, the small, medium and micro enterprises, SMMEs, and the elderly must be empowered with digital skills and be afforded the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the digital economy. No one must be left behind.

As the ANC, we support. Thank you for the opportunity, Chair. Thank you.

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

Vote No 31 -Employment and Labour- put.

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

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

Declarations of vote:

Mr N H PIENAAR: Chairperson, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment carries an enormous responsibility. Under the leadership of DA Minister, Willem Aucamp, the department is tasked with protecting our great forest, our vast oceans and our precious natural environment. The DA proudly supports this budget, not merely for ourselves, but to ensure that these critical natural resources are protected for future generations of South Africans.

We have already seen the Minister restore hundreds of fishing licences to small-scale fishermen who depend on these licenses for their livelihoods and survival. We are also greatly encouraged by the decisive action taken against illegal fishing vessels that continue to threaten our waters and deplete our marine resources. We trust that the department will further increase pressure on foreign vessels engaged in illegal fishing, as they directly threaten employment

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opportunities, food security and indeed the sovereignty of our waters.

We have also seen the department drive the 10 Million Trees Programme to protect our indigenous tree species population and ensure that those at risk of extinction are preserved and flourishing for future generations to come. However, most importantly, this budget of more than R9 billion should be viewed as an example of where the economy meets ecology. Protecting the environment and promoting economic development should never be seen as competing objectives.

Environmental protection, job creation and economic growth can co-exist. This budget demonstrates precisely that. By protecting our forests, oceans and biodiversity, we are not only preserving our natural heritage, but also safeguarding the industries, jobs and communities that depend on them. Thank you, Chairperson.

Mrs M B DLANGISA-NODADA: Chairperson, I would like to apologise for the background. I've lost my gadget that has been empowered with the background. The ANC supports Vote 32: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. We support it so that the department can resolve the issue of disservice to the

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small-scale fisheries who are forever denied the right to do fishing because they always get their fishing rights towards the end of the fishing season.

This is why we will find that these people are fishing without the authority because they are always denied the fishing rights. This is the most area where the poor people are forever oppressed, not only here but throughout the country, along the coastal belt where they are doing fishing. With that hope, Chair, the ANC supports the Budget Vote. I thank you.

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

Vote No 33 -Human Settlements- put.

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

Vote No 34 – Mineral and Petroleum Resources – put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr H J VAN DEN BERG: Deputy Chairperson, please let me know if my bandwidth is not carrying. I believe in the previous round

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I had a problem with that, but I have changed my service provider to a new network, so hopefully we last.

Afrikaans:

Die VF Plus ondersteun met versigtigheid hierdie departement. Ons is redelik bewus van die bydrae wat mineralebronne in die verlede gelewer het om hierdie land uit te bou, en ons is bekommerd dat beleidsonsekerheid oor eiendomsreg, lisensies, sekerheid, en onwettige myners daartoe lei dat belegging skerp gedaal het en dat dit ernstig bydra tot verhoogde werkloosheid.

Ons versoek dat hierdie departement met hul befondsing ernstig sal aandag gee aan die bogenoemde probleme, asook 'n gunstige omgewing sal skep vir die uitbouing van die mynbousektor en vir prospektering van minerale sodat beter ontginning kan plaasvind. Baie dankie.

English:

Ms S L SITHOLE: Chairperson, I just hope that you will allow me not to turn on my video so that I can be audible.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Yes, please continue, hon member.

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Ms S L SITHOLE: Greetings to yourself, hon Chairperson, hon members on the platform, and the Republic of South Africa. The ANC rises to support Budget Vote 34: Mineral and Petroleum Resources.

The mining and petroleum sectors are not simply industries of extraction. They are the inheritance of generations, the labour of those who came before us, and the foundation upon which much of our economy was built. The ANC has always held that this inheritance belongs to all the people of South Africa, and the work captured in this Budget Vote gives expression to that conviction.

The ANC commends the department for its continued commitment to mine health and safety. South Africa is now counted amongst countries like Australia and Canada in terms of health and safety. The work of the inspectorate, the audits and inspections undertaken across the country, and the ongoing collaboration with organised labour and employers through the tripartite mechanism in the sector all speak to the recognition that no economic activity, however valuable, can be allowed to come at the cost of the lives of our workers. The dignity and safety of mine workers remain a cornerstone of our approach to this sector.

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The ANC further supports the rehabilitation work being undertaken at derelict and ownerless mine sites, the protection of communities and the environment from the legacy of past mining activity, and the broader efforts to ensure that the mining of today does not become the environmental burden of tomorrow. We commend the work being done to develop a regulatory framework for upstream petroleum health and safety and the steady reform of the legislative architecture.

These are the building blocks of a competitive, transformed, and sustainable industry. The mining sector must continue to create jobs, to invest in surrounding communities through Social and Labour Plans, and to share the wealth of the nation with those who produce it. This is the meaning of the Freedom Charter in our time. The ANC supports this Budget Vote. Thank you.

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

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

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

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Vote No 36 – Small Business Development – put.

Declarations of vote:

Afrikaans:

Mnr H J VAN DEN BERG: Voorsitter, die VF Plus kan nie anders as om hierdie begrotingspos te ondersteun nie.

Kleinbesigheidsontwikkeling is nie onderhandelbaar nie. Dit is 'n baie belangrike begin vir groter besighede, maar hoe dit gedoen word, is baie belangrik, en ons is bekommerd dat hierdie departement hulself besig hou met glansfunksies en forums in plaas van om kleinsake-promovering op mikrovlak te bedryf.

Die beplande Wetsontwerp op Sakelisenensiëring kan geweldig negatief inwerk op klein besighede aangesien dit die informele sektor negatief kan raak. Die VF Plus kan nie die waarde daarin sien dat jong, voornemende entrepreneurs volgens hierdie nuwe wetgewing eers vir toestemming moet vra om sake te kan doen nie. Hoe lank is dit voordat net sekere mense sake mag doen? Hierdie voornemende wetgewing is gevaarlik.

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Hierdie departement het baie befondsing ontvang uit die Begroting, en ons sou dit graag ten opsigte van werkskepping op grondvlak vir alle bevolkingsgroepe wou sien. Ek dank u.

English:

Ms H S BOSHOFF: House Chairperson, South Africa will not solve its unemployment crisis through government alone. The real engine of job creation lies in the hands of entrepreneurs and small businesses that take the risk of investing, expanding, and employing others. That is why the Department of Small Business Development has such an important role to play. Government must create an environment where businesses can grow by reducing red tape, improving access to opportunities, and allowing entrepreneurs to focus on creating jobs rather than navigating bureaucracy. Small businesses cannot create jobs if they are strangled by red tape, corruption, and criminality.

Across our country, entrepreneurs are confronted by theft, extortion, illegal trading, and other criminal activities that undermine legitimate enterprise. The fight against crime is therefore also a fight for economic growth and employment. The proposed Business Licensing Bill has understandably raised significant concerns within the small business sector. Any

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legislation that increases compliance costs or administrative burdens risks making it harder, not easier, for entrepreneurs to succeed. Regulations should enable enterprise, not become another obstacle to growth. It is therefore encouraging that these concerns continue to be robustly raised within government and that there are those who recognise the importance of protecting small businesses from unnecessary regulatory burdens.

South Africa's entrepreneurs need less bureaucracy and more opportunity. Ultimately, the success of this department will be measured by one simple question: Are South Africans finding work because more small businesses are succeeding? That is the outcome we should all be striving for. House Chairperson, the DA supports this Budget Vote. Thank you.

Mr M G MODISE: House Chair, I take this opportunity to send sincere and heartfelt condolences on behalf of Parliament to the family of Cllr Jimmy Mochawe of Ward 41 in Emfuleni, who passed away in the early hours of this morning. Cllr Mochawe was a devoted family man and a committed member and loyal supporter of the ANC, a movement he loved dearly and served with distinction. Death leaves wounds that nobody can heal but

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memories that no one can erase. Rest in peace, Cllr Mochawe.
You were more than a comrade to me.

House Chairperson, the ANC declares its full support for the Budget Vote of Small Business Development because we understand the basic truth, that jobs do not fall from the sky. Jobs are built by people with tools, with capital, and with courage. Those people are our township entrepreneurs, our rural traders, and our young innovators.

The founding fathers of the DA locked our people out of the economy. They gave us labourers without ownership. They gave us consumers without producers. They drew the line between the formal economy and the people. The Department of Small Business Development exists to erase that line. It exists to turn hawkers into owners, to turn spaza shops into franchises, and to turn ideas into industries.

We support the department because it must deliver finance that reaches the ground, not loans that require title deeds that our people never had, not red tape that takes six months but funding that is fast, fair, and aimed at townships and villages. Removed red tape means markets opened – one phone, not 10; one door, not 20. Government must buy from small

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businesses. We will legislate if we must. The gogo selling vetkoek is engaged in a business transaction. The youth fixing phones is in business. They deserve training, safety, and respect, not harassment.

The ANC stands with the street traders, the co-operatives, and the startups. We stand with every South African who wakes up to create work where there was none. Our revolution was not just about votes. It was about bread, it was about business, and it was about ownership. The ANC supports this Budget Vote. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you very much, hon Modise. The House would like to extend its condolences to the fallen councillor's family, friends, and colleagues, and that, of course, includes yourself, hon Modise. May he rest in peace.

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

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

Declarations of Vote:

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Mr B J FARMER: Chairperson, thank you. Good day to you and hon members. May you allow me to switch off my video, please?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Indeed. Thank you, hon Farmer. Please continue.

Mr B J FARMER: Thank you, Chairperson. Chairperson of the PA proudly supports Budget Vote 37, Sport, Arts, and Culture. This budget represents far more than funding for sport, artists, museums and cultural programmes. It represents hope, opportunity and social transformation for millions of South Africans.

For too long, sport and culture have been viewed as secondary priorities. The PA rejects that notion. We understand that the football field can keep a young person away from gangs. We understand that the library can open doors to a brighter future. We understand that an artist, musician or cultural practitioner can create jobs, inspire communities and preserve the rich heritage of our nation.

Hon members, under the leadership of Minister Gayton McKenzie, we have seen a renewed sense of urgency and purpose within the department. The Minister has consistently demonstrated that

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sports and culture are not designed to serve the privileged few, but belong to every South African, whether they live in a metropolitan city, a rural village, a township or an informal settlement.

The PA welcomes the department's continued investment in grassroots development and programmes, heritage preservation, as well as support for the creative sector. These initiatives create pathways for young people who often face limited opportunities in their communities.

Sport remains one of the most powerful tools for nation-building. It breaks down barriers. It promotes discipline. It creates role models. It unites people across racial, cultural and economic divides. Similarly, the arts and culture sector serves as a vehicle for storytelling, healing and economic participation.

As we support this budget, we also call for continued oversight to ensure that resources reach the intended beneficiaries and that programmes deliver measurable outcomes.

In conclusion, the PA believes that sport, arts and culture are essential pillars of a healthy, united, and prosperous

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society. We commend the Minister and the department for their commitment to advance these objectives and for ensuring that opportunities are extended to all South Africans. Therefore, as patriots, we salute you, hon Minister. Thank you, Chair.

Mr M F MOKWELE: Chairperson, may you allow me to switch my video because of the network, if you don't mind? Let me greet you, Chairperson, hon members and fellow South Africans. Allow me first, before I get to my declaration, to take this opportunity to congratulate Bafana Bafana for breaking the record for the very first time in history to qualify for the second round, but also to applaud the President, Matamala Ramaphosa, our beloved President, for supporting Bafana Bafana in this regard. I call all South Africans to continue to rally behind Bafana Bafana.

As the ANC, we fully support Budget Vote 37 for the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture. The support for this budget is not a blank check that will allow the department to conduct its business as they wish without accountability. However, this department has a moral and ethical obligation to ensure that the sport, arts, and culture sector reaches all South Africans, more specifically the marginalised communities.

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The R6,3 billion allocation, if well spent, can go a long way in helping the sector reach its full potential. One of the ongoing challenges facing the sector remains the limited support provided to our creative sector, where we continue to emphasise better funding for the Mzansi Golden Economy Funding to create more job opportunities in the broader culture and creative sector.

We also call for this budget to level the playing field in sport participation and excellence by investing more in grassroots development. This allows for a better succession of the upcoming talent that will succeed the current well-performing Bafana Bafana, as I alluded initially. For this reason, the ANC supports this Budget Vote. I thank you.

Sepedi:

Ke a leboga, Modulasetulo.

Vote 38 agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe dissenting).

Vote No 38 - Tourism - put.

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Vote 38 agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe dissenting).

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

Declarations of Vote:

Afrikaans:

Mnr H J VAN DEN BERG: Voorsitter, die Departement van Handel en Nywerheid kan soveel goeie ekonomiese doelwitte bereik maar nog belangriker, hulle kan deur verkeerde aksies die land negatief beïnvloed, wat ons vir geslagte lank kan seermaak.

Die VF Plus keur hulle begroting goed maar wil die departement tot orde roep en bewus maak dat ons land uit baie verskillende mense bestaan en dat hulle moet meer werk om vir al die landsburgers vooruitgang te bewerkstellig en nie net vir 'n gekonnekteerde paar deur black economic empowerment, BEE [swart ekonomiese bemagtiging, SEB] nie. Ons dank u.

Ms H S BOSHOFF: House Chair, again, South Africa's greatest challenge remains unemployment. Until our economy grows faster, until businesses invest with confidence and until entrepreneurs are able to expand and create jobs, millions of South Africans will remain excluded from economic opportunity.

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That is why the work of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition remains so important.

The department sits at the centre of efforts to attract investments, support industrialisation, expand exports and create an environment in which businesses can grow and employ more people. Economic growth does not happen by accident. It requires policy certainty, functioning infrastructure, reduced red tape and a government that enables, rather than hinders, enterprise.

In this regard, it is encouraging that increasing attention is being given to improving the ease of doing business and reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens. South Africa cannot regulate its way to prosperity. We must create the conditions for investment, innovation and economic expansion.

We must also recognise that economic growth cannot flourish where crime is allowed to thrive. Illicit trade, counterfeit goods, cable theft, extortion and the destruction of economic infrastructure rob our country of billions of rands, undermine legitimate businesses and destroy jobs. Every illegal product sold and every business forced to close because of criminal

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activity comes at the expense of economic growth and employment.

The fight against economic crime is therefore not only a law enforcement issue, but it is also a growth and jobs issue. Equally important is ensuring that our regulatory institutions are effective, efficient and capable of supporting businesses while protecting consumers and maintaining confidence in our economy.

The ultimate measure of success for this department is straightforward: Are more South Africans finding work? Are more businesses investing? Are barriers to growth being removed? And, is our economy becoming more competitive? These are the outcomes that matter. Hon House Chair, the supports Budget Vote 39. Thank you.

Ms S L SITHOLE: Hon House Chair, the ANC rises to support Budget Vote 39 of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition. We do so because we firmly believe that the budget of the DTIC is critical for the economic development and job creation in South Africa.

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The adoption of the industrial development strategy that is anchored on three core pillars of diversification, decarbonisation and digitalisation is a major milestone. This strategy is very important and will boost the nation's manufacturing capacity to halt de-industrialisation and create a competitive advantage. This will be made possible by aligning our economic policies with global trends, stimulating job creation, infrastructure investment, and technological innovation.

The ANC supports this vote because it is responding to the country's economic challenges, which include deindustrialisation, slow growth, declining industrial capacity, dwelling investment in the economic production sector, structural transformation and transition, and a backlog in infrastructure.

In dealing with these challenges, the DTIC must deploy policy instruments to optimise the performance of the manufacturing sector, including the implementation of the sectoral master plan. This master plan will re-fertilise specific struggling or high-potential sectors such as the metal, automotive and clothing industries. The struggling industries must be assisted to get them out of distress.

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Lastly, the ANC calls on the Department of Trade, Industry, and Innovation to finalise trade agreements with countries like the United States of America and China. Trade with African countries must be expanded. The ANC supports this Budget Vote. Thank you.

Vote 39 is agreed to.

Vote No 40 - Transport - put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr E NZIMANDE: Hon Chair, the MKP objects to this Bill, for it does not appreciate the interventionist role of the state in the developmental state. It does not appreciate the revolutionary and radical integration or Integrated Public Transport Network, IPTN, informed by the need to address South Africa's apartheid-era spatial segregation, which has disproportionately affected blacks and Africans. The reduced role of the government to that of a regulator and overseer, weakens the developmental agenda.

The DA, AfriForum and FF Plus ancestors had used transport as a key instrument of an apartheid policy, social control and spatial segregation, which the ANC government failed to

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resolve to date. The Private Sector Participation, PSP, capital programme, on behalf of the Passenger Rail Agency SA, PRASA, including the national station, improvement station modernisation, commercial and development workplace improvement and energy management, is initiated to clarify the scars left by the apartheid policies, social control and spatial segregation, amongst others.

Since 2019, the ANC government pursued a regressive policy, which included the privatisation of key transport assets, with freight, rail and port systems under Transnet being the primary target for the primary benefit of white capitalists and foreign investors. The Private Sector Participation, PSP, models, are driven by the interests of the private sector, rather than the objective and long-term development needs of the country.

The Government of National Unity, GNU, speaks of smart mobility corridors, while rural commuters still walk barefoot on broken gravel. The only smarter theory is how tenders are structured to benefit the few. With this building, there shall be no realisation of economic growth and connection between the rural to the cities and towns. Community journeys shall not be reduced; there will be accessibility to quality

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healthcare services in some parts of the country, where there was none.

The radical transformation of aviation shall be a dream deferred; road fatalities shall not and will not be eliminated, for the department is planning to achieve deaths at a reduced rate, so they stated in the plan. The MKP object to this Budget Vote. Thank you.

Mr B S MABEBO: House Chair, greetings to yourself and the entire hon members. The transport sector remains a strategic pillar of South Africa's economy. It connects people to opportunities, links business to market, and supports trade and economy, economic development and access to our country. This budget will demonstrate government commitment to invest in road, rail, aviation, and maritime transport.

This investment will strengthen infrastructure, stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and improve service delivery. We acknowledge the progress made by the department and its entities in strengthening governance and improving operational performance. This is a strong platform to continue building a reliable and efficient transport system. South Africa continues to uphold internationally recognised aviation safety

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standards, continues investment in airport infrastructure and air navigation systems. It will support tourism, trade, and economic recovery.

Our ocean economy presents significant opportunities, strengthening maritime safety and regulatory capacity. We will protect our environment, while enhancing South Africa's position in global trade. The ANC supports Transport for these reasons. We support the Budget Vote for Transport. I thank you, Chairperson.

Setswana:

Ke a go leboga.

Vote agreed to (EFF and MKP dissenting).

Vote No 41 – Water and Sanitation – put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr E NZIMANDE: Hon House Chair, the MKP objects to this Bill, for it does not appreciate the scale of the problem, and it shall not observe the historically backlog on water infrastructure and wastewater treatment works plant. Accordingly, it shall not result to impactful meaning, for the

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lives of the city board. It is myopia for the department to argue as if it is not part of the Cabinet and the Intergovernmental Relations, IGR.

The Bill continues to subject the black child to the living conditions characterised by the raw sewerage running in their streets and our dams.

IsiZulu:

Singabantu la abamnyama sinenkinga, asinayo imipompi, sisebenzisa imifula okuthi uma siyohlamba kuyona, inyama yethu umangabe senza imisebenzi, siyihlamba ngendle. Uhulumeni akanayo indaba ngathi.

English:

Our dignity is taken away.

IsiZulu:

Abantu bakithi bayaphoqelegeka ukuthi namanje baqhubeke bayozikhulula emahlathini nasemihosheni. Ngeke sivume ngoba lesi sabelo mali asikhombisi ukuthi sizokwazi ukubasiza ukuthi kungabi kusenzeka lokho. Isiminingi le minyaka. Kwezinye izindawo, Njenga KwaHlathi, Uitval, Limehill, abantu kumele baze bateleke bese kuyikhona umasipala wase-Alfred Duma

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uwaletha amanzi. Kwaphela nje isiteleka, ubuyisa amaloli athutha amanzi ngoba yilapho abahlomula khona. Lokhu kwenzekile sikubonile nase-City of Johannesburg, e-Dobsonville, eZola eMndeni, eZondi, naseJabulani ...

English:

... the same thing happened for more than two weeks, the water tankers are used because ...

IsiZulu:

... abantu bafuna ukusebenzisa imali beyisebenzisela ukhetho lwasekhaya. Sithi, woza November zingu-4 sizothatha omasipala, ahambe amasela.

English:

The Bill doesn't assist in water conservation and prevention of water wastage. The outcome as cut in the Bill, has strategic direction of the department in terms of mitigating strategies in relation to water wastages. Furthermore, the way the outcome is counted in the department, is not having long-term goal to eliminate water wastages and water preservation.

IsiZulu:

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Bakhuluma ngokunisela, kodwa kulokhu bayadideka. Abantu abakuqondi ukuthi ...

English:

... the irrigation systems are not necessarily the preventative measure or wastewater.

IsiZulu:

Sithi, ...

English:

... the National Development Plan, NDP, goal, 2024, achieving, has an access on basic water services, remaining an empty undertaking.

IsiZulu:

Abakhishwe laba bantu.

English:

Aluta continua!

IsiZulu:

Asilemukeli. Siyalikhahlela ngezinyawo zombili. Siyabonga, baba.

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Afrikaans:

Me T BREEDT: Huisvoorsitter, water is nie 'n luukse nie. Dit is een van die mees basiese verantwoordelikhede van enige regering. Tog word miljoene Suid-Afrikaners steeds gekonfronteer met onderbrekings, lekkasies, infrastruktuur verval en water onsekerheid.

Ons hoor gereeld van groot planne, meesterplanne en strategiese raamwerke, maar mense kan nie beleidsdokumente drink nie. Hulle benodig water.

Hierdie week het inwoners in Petrus Steyn in Nketoana en Zastron in Mohokare weer vir meer as vyf en sewe dae onderskeidelik sonder water gesit. 'n Hele week en steeds duur die probleme voort, nie omdat daar 'n natuurramp was nie, nie omdat daar oorlog was nie, maar omdat die stelsel eenvoudig nie funksioneer soos dit moet nie en die munisipaliteite nie geld het om tractor loader backhoes, TLBs [trekker laaigrawe] te koop nie of materiaal om die lekkasies reg te maak nie.

Dit is nie twee geïsoleerde gevalle nie. Van Gauteng tot die Vrystaat, van die Noord-Kaap tot KwaZulu-Natal ervaar gemeenskappe toenemende druk op water infrastruktuur wat vir jare nie behoorlik onderhou is nie.

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Die tragedie is dat Suid-Afrika nie 'n gebrek aan beleid het nie. Ons het 'n gebrek aan die uitvoering daarvan. Begrotings word toegeken, planne word aangekondig maar die krane bly droog.

Die VF Plus glo dat die oplossing begin by verantwoordbaarheid. Wanneer infrastruktuur verval moet iemand aanspreeklik gehou word, wanneer projekte misluk moet iemand verantwoordelik gehou word en wanneer gemeenskappe sonder water sit moet daar gevolge wees, want sonder water is daar geen ekonomiese groei nie, sonder water is daar geen ontwikkeling nie en sonder water is daar geen waardigheid nie.

Hierdie jaar se verkiesing gaan oor meer as politieke partye. Dit gaan oor die vraag of Suid-Afrikaners bereid is om aan te hou leef met dienslewering wat al hoe verder agteruitgaan.

Die VF Plus glo dat dit beter gedoen kan word. Ons kan infrastruktuur herstel, ons kan dienslewering verbeter en ons kan vertrouwe herstel. Dit is nou gemeenskappe se tyd. Ek dank u.

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Dr I SCHEURKOGEL: Hon Chairperson, I greet you in the name of Ward 15 in Rustenburg, where it was our time as the DA and that nobody else and the rest tumbled into the sea.

Sesotho:

Metsi ke bophelo.

English:

Water is life. So let me put the only question that matters. Does this budget put water in taps? We can recite the percentages, 90% access to water but the man on the street does not read the annual performance plan, APP. They read empty buckets. He feels that a reliability supply of collapse of 67%. He feels 47% of our clean water is lost to leaks before it reaches our homes. South Africans just want water in taps and the hard truth is, 90% of rural South Africans still do not have reliable water.

One in three has no basic sanitations. South Africans drink from boreholes laced with ecoli which is right besides the very schools where our children learn.

Afrikaans:

Geen water, geen waardigheid nie.

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English:

So, if you have no water, no dignity. This is not charity. Section 727 of the Constitution guarantees everyone the right to access to sufficient water. Section 2 makes that right supreme and says it is our obligation that it is imposed to us to fulfil. Section 63 of this Water Service Act does not ask the Minister to intervene in collapsing municipalities. It compels her to do so. Yet while taps run dry from Gauteng to the Free State, the department hides behind its limited powers and yet forms another failed task team. And then on the water board, all we ask is one simple thing, merit-based appointments with experience in engineering, finance, and among others, to keep the waters flowing. Our people first while jobs go to connected cadres, not to competent people. So, imagine living in a home with no water and returning in the evenings with none. Rain does not fall on one roof. Our responsibility is shared, but so is the urgency. Safe water is not a favour from government. It is our fundamental human rights.

Afrikaans:

Genoeg is genoeg.

English:

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The people judge us not by our plans but whether the water comes out of their tap. So, let us just stop debating powers that those are dedicated to do so and they are afraid to and start delivering water, our constitutional promise. We support this budget, Chairperson.

IsiZulu:

Mnu M P SIBANDE: Mina ngicabanga ukuthi uqedile!

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Alright, have you concluded hon Scheurkogel?

Dr I SCHEURKOGEL: Yes, Chairperson, I want to say we do support the budget. I thank you.

Sesotho:

Ke a leboha!

Mrs M B NDLANGISA-NODADA: Hon House Chairperson, I rise on behalf of the ANC and would like to declare upfront that the ANC supports the Budget Vote 41 - Water and Sanitation. Hon House Chair, we support it for its commitment to intensify support to municipalities. This to the ANC will bring back the

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dignity of the people of this country because we believe that the allocated budget of R12,3 billion through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant will deal with the water leaks that affect the delivery of clean water to our communities.

It is also directed to the completion of long delayed infrastructure project, rehabilitation of water treatment works and wastewater systems, expansion of water supply to unserved communities and a lot as the Minister tabled in the budget vote. Hon Chairperson, with all said, the ANC supports the budget. I thank you.

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

Vote No 42- Land Reform and Rural Development - put

Declaration of Vote:

Ms L P MHLONGO: Hon Chairperson ...

IsiZulu:

... gicela ukubingelela, Sihlalo, bengicela bandla ukungavivuli ividiyo yami?

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USIHLALO WENDLU (Mnu B A Radebe): Yebo.

Nk L P MHLONGO: Ngiyabonga kakhulu.

English:

I rise on behalf of MKP and we declare that land remains the unfinished business of 1994. According to the 2017 state land audits, 72% of farms and agricultural holdings owned by individuals are in the white hands, while millions of black families across all nine provinces remain landless, homeless and without dignity.

Chairperson, we were sold a willing-buyer, willing-seller principle but 32 years later, the willing seller never came. People are born landless. They die landless unless we act now. In this debate, we said, land is not a commodity. Land is identity. Land is security. Land is ancestry. It is the foundation for jobs, food and freedom. We cannot speak on development while the land of our ancestors is still locked away. So, MK Party declares that what we declare then, that the land must be returned to our people, unite for the land to be returned. Every other promise is empty. Until the land is returned, every other promise is empty. MK Party objects.

Thank you.

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IsiZulu:

Siyabonga, Mphathisihlalo.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Kennedy, I am going to count from three and then we will pass and we will not come after hon Modise. Three, two, one, over.

Mr M G MODISE: Hon House Chair, today, we commemorate the 71st anniversary of the Freedom Charter. That is why, as the ANC, we reaffirm our support to the land and reform, Land Reform and Rural Development Budget Vote because the land question is a freedom question. You cannot be free on the land that you do not own. You cannot be dignified in villages with no roads, no water and clearly no future. Apartheid was not just a political tool meant to benefit few, but it also about spatial planning and subjecting the majority to be landless. Apartheid drew lines on farms, on families and on our history. It forced our people into 13% of the land. It made the majority strangers in their own country.

The Department of Land Reform and Rural Development exists to reverse that crime. It exists to return, to restore and to rebuild the majority of this country. We support this department because it must deliver four things. First,

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restoration with urgency. Claims lodged must be settled. Title deeds must be handed over, not in 10 years, but now. We will give land to black farmers, to women, to young people but we will also give tools, training and markets. Land without support is abandonment.

Thirdly, no more evictions at night. No more families with no rights where they were born. The extension of Security of Tenure Act must be enforced. Lastly, irrigation schemes, schools and clinics in rural areas cannot remain without being implemented with urgency. Labour reserves that come from the rural areas must no longer be an issue. The rural areas must be same as the cities and be centres of life and work.

To those who fear land reform, we say, you will not collapse agriculture or this country, we will expand it. The hands that built this country's farm will now own them and grow them. The ANC stands with the landless, the Communal Property Associations, CPAs, the trust and the co-operatives doing the work. The Freedom Charter said it in 1955. We repeat it in this House today in 2026 and our intent is very clear. The land shall be shared among those who work it and the soil shall feed those who till it. The department has our mandate, it has our support and it has our urgency. As the mighty ANC,

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we support the budget vote. Phambili [Forward] with rural development. Phambili. Amandla! [Power.]

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

ADJUSTMENTS APPROPRIATION BILL

(Consideration of Votes and Schedule)

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

Votes of Schedule 2- put and agreed to.

Vote No 3 - Co-operative Governance- put.

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

Vote No 8 - National Treasury- put.

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

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Vote No 11 - Public Service and Administration- put.

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

Vote No 22 -Correctional Services - put.

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

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

Debate concluded.

APPROPRIATION BILL

(Consideration of Bill and of Report thereon)

Ms T I LEGWASE: Chairperson of the NCOP, hon members, permanent and special delegates present here today, and fellow South Africans, it is my privilege to table before this House the Report of the Select Committee on Appropriations on the Appropriation Bill, which is Bill 4 of 2026, which was adopted

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by the committee on 24 June 2026. The Bill was tabled by the Minister of Finance as part of the 2026 Budget in terms of section 27(1) of the Public Finance Management Act and subsequently referred to the National Council of Provinces for consideration.

As part of its oversight responsibilities, the committee received briefings from National Treasury, the Financial and Fiscal Commission, and the Parliamentary Budget Office in accordance with the provisions of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act. In fulfilment of section 72 of the Constitution, the committee facilitated public participation through advertisements published in all 11 official languages and direct engagement with stakeholders. Written and oral submissions were received from several organisations representing labour, civil society, fiscal policy experts, public health advocates, and community-based organisations. National Treasury also responded to the issues raised during the public hearings.

The committee notes that the 2026 Appropriation Bill is tabled at a time when South Africa continues to face significant fiscal pressure, persistent service delivery challenges, and growing demands on limited public resources. The committee

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further notes that the effectiveness of public expenditure depends not only on the availability of resources but also on the state's ability to implement programmes efficiently, strengthen accountability, and improve service delivery outcomes.

Accordingly, the committee made the following key recommendations. First, on infrastructure delivery and public investment, National Treasury and relevant departments should report within 90 days on the performance of major infrastructure grants, implementation bottlenecks, procurement readiness, and measures undertaken to accelerate project delivery. Second, on data integrity and fiscal planning, Statistics SA and National Treasury should report within 120 days on the utilisation of additional funding, progress in filling critical vacancies, and measures undertaken to strengthen the quality and reliability of data used for fiscal planning and equitable share allocations. Third, on conditional grants and expenditure oversight, we agreed that National Treasury should strengthen accountability frameworks, improve performance reporting, and enforce consequence management for persistent underperformance by recipient institutions.

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Fourth, on performance information, departments administering conditional grants should improve the quality, consistency, and standardisation of performance reporting and strengthen the alignment between expenditure and measurable service delivery outcomes. Fifth, on economic development and productive investment, National Treasury and the Financial and Fiscal Commission should, during the 2027 Budget process, outline measures to improve the balance between consumption expenditure and infrastructure-led growth. Sixth, on state capacity and skills shortages, the Department of Public Service and Administration, together with National Treasury and provincial governments, should report on progress made in filling critical frontline vacancies, strengthening employee verification systems, and improving recruitment processes.

Seventh, on municipal governance and financial sustainability, government should strengthen municipal financial recovery interventions, improve revenue management systems, and accelerate the review of the local government fiscal framework. Eighth, on payroll integrity and compensation budgeting, measures should be implemented to strengthen payroll verification systems, improve personnel data integrity, and enhance compensation budgeting processes. Ninth, on governance and accountability of public entities,

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National Treasury should strengthen oversight, accountability, and performance monitoring of institutions receiving transfers and subsidies. Last, on poverty and food insecurity, government should improve the effectiveness, targeting, and impact of social expenditure programmes aimed at reducing poverty, inequality, and food insecurity.

As the Appropriation Bill marks the final piece of legislation in the annual budget cycle, the committee's work will now increasingly shift towards in-year monitoring and oversight. In this regard, instruments such as section 32 reports of the Public Finance Management Act and section 71 reports of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act will become critical in enabling Parliament to monitor expenditure trends, implementation, performance, and service delivery outcomes throughout the financial year.

Now, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to all members of the committee, the stakeholders, the media houses, the public, and the committee support staff for their valuable contributions throughout this process. The Select Committee on Appropriations therefore recommends that this House adopt the Appropriation Bill, which is Bill 4 of 2026, without amendments. I thank you, hon Chairperson.

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The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you very much, hon Legwase, for a well-tabled report. Accordingly, I want to take this opportunity and afford political parties an opportunity to make declarations.

Declarations of vote:

Afrikaans:

Me T BREEDT: Voorsitter, hierdie Begrotingswetsontwerp gaan uiteindelik oor een eenvoudige vraag: Kry Suid-Afrikaners waarde vir die geld wat hulle betaal?

Die belastingbetaler werk harder as ooit, maar te veel departemente lewer minder as ooit. Ons sien dit by munisipaliteite wat verval, ons sien dit by waterstelsels wat faal, ons sien dit by staatsinstellings wat nie eens hul mees basiese administratiewe funksies behoorlik kan uitvoer nie.

Die probleem in Suid-Afrika is nie altyd 'n gebrek aan geld nie. Te dikwels is dit 'n gebrek aan verantwoordbaarheid. Jaar na jaar keur hierdie Parlement miljarde rand goed, jaar na jaar hoor ons dieselfde beloftes, en jaar na jaar sien ons dieselfde probleme terugkeer.

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Die VF Plus glo dat elke rand wat deur die belastingbetaler betaal word met dieselfde sorg bestuur behoort te word as wat 'n gesin sy huishoudelike begroting in 'n maand bestuur. Geld moet resultate lewer, nie net uitgawes nie, nie net aankondigings nie, en nie net nuwe planne nie, maar werklike resultate, veilige gemeenskappe, betroubare water, werkende munisipaliteite, en funksionerende staatsinstellings. Dit is waarvoor die publiek betaal, en dit is waarvoor die publiek stem. Dit is waarom hierdie jaar se verkiesing so belangrik gaan wees. Dit gaan nie bloot oor politiekery nie. Dit gaan oor prestasie, dit gaan oor verantwoordbaarheid, en dit gaan oor die reg van belastingbetalers om te verwag dat hul geld verstandig aangewend word.

Die VF Plus sal altyd verantwoordelike besteding, goeie regering, en aanspreeklikheid steun, want uiteindelik behoort die staat aan die mense en nie die mense aan die staat nie. Dit is ons tyd. Ek dank u.

English:

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Hon Chairperson and hon colleagues, today we spent most of the day debating the various budgets that were placed before us over the past three weeks.

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We must always keep in mind that this is not just about money. It is about how this money can be used to improve the lives of our people. It must be an instrument that will ensure that communities across our country benefit from the budgets that we have approved. Those of us who have conducted oversight in our various provinces have seen the kind of poverty that exists. We have seen the kind of infrastructure that needs to be improved upon so that our economy can grow.

Therefore, it is imperative upon us to conduct our oversight role in a manner that will ensure that this Budget that we are passing will indeed improve the lives of our people. We must take it upon ourselves as elected members representing our provinces to ensure that our provinces benefit from these budgets and to hold the executive to account. It is our sworn duty to do so.

Having said that, Chairperson, I thank you.

Mr J S MAJOLA: Madam Chair, greetings to the colleagues once again. Having listened to the different debates on individual Votes, it is clear that South African borders will still be widely open. A 9,5% reduction on the allocation to the Department of Home Affairs will not address the challenges of

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long queues in the offices of the Department of Home Affairs where people will be trying to access their birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates.

With regards to education, it's clear that the reduction by 0,1% will still deprive the South African child their constitutional right contained in section 29 of the Constitution.

With regards to the negative 22,7 growth of the allocation to informal settlements, people from Khayelitsha will remain in the informal settlements that they are living in right now, and the economy will struggle to grow. At the moment it is struggling to reach the 2% growth, which is against what the National Development Plan, NDP, 2080 requires.

With regards to public participation, we believe that the contributions from the various stakeholders don't give us a clear picture of what is happening in all corners of the country. Therefore, we believe that just eight stakeholders who participated on the public participation processes were not sufficient. Therefore, the MK Party does not support, and we reject the Appropriation Bill, B4 of 2026, as tabled to us. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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Mr J H P BRITZ: Hon Chairperson, the DA supports this Appropriation Bill because it provides the funding required for government to function and to deliver services to the people of South Africa. At the time of economic stagnation, rising unemployment, and increasing pressure on the public purse, Parliament has a constitutional duty to scrutinise every rand entrusted to the executive. That duty makes today's proceedings amongst the most important on Parliament's calendar.

It is therefore deeply disappointing that the ANC chose to downgrade this critical sitting by forcing it onto a fully virtual platform at the 11th hour. The sitting that was scheduled as a fully in-person, three-line Whip, was changed without proper consensus. Largely, because ANC members wanted to return home early. Convenience has been ... [Inaudible.]

Ms J S MANANISO: On a point of order, Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Britz, there is a point of order. Hon Mananiso?

Ms J S MANANISO: Hon Chair, I want to indicate that the member is misleading the country. There is nothing wrong about a

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virtual meeting. There is an agreement that this meeting will be virtual. So, he must not take us back from what could have transpired from yesterday's discussions. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you, hon Mananiso. The order is sustained. Can you please proceed with your declaration, hon member, noting what has been raised by hon Mananiso as a statement ... [Interjections.]

Hon Badenhorst?

Mr F J BADENHORST: Chair, the hon member is busy with a declaration. It is every party's right to declare as they wish on the Bills. So, the point of order you just sustained is out of order. It is our democratic right to declare on the Bill. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Badenhorst, you are very much out of order. The point of order is sustained as raised by hon Mananiso. There is a hand from hon Legwase as well.

Ms T I LEGWASE: Chair, my intention was to talk after the speaker on the podium is done. However, whoever is renaming gadgets, I can't be an EFF member. Kindly correct it.

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The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: The point is noted, hon Legwase. Can we request our front Table to rename hon Legwase's gadget correctly to that of the member of the ANC. Thank you so much.

You may proceed, hon Britz.

Mr J H P BRITZ: Chairperson, the Appropriation Bill is not another routine item on the Order Paper. It determines how hundreds of billions of rands will be allocated across government departments. It deserves robust debate, direct engagement, and visible accountability. Parliament cannot effectively hold the executive to account when members participate from living rooms, airports, and holiday destinations, rather than from the Chamber, where they are expected to discharge their constitutional responsibilities.

South Africans expect Parliament to treat the national budget with the seriousness it deserves. They do not expect Parliament to adapt its programme to suit the travel plans of the ANC.

While the DA supports this Bill, support does not mean giving government a blank check. We will continue to demand measurable outcomes for every appropriation. Departments that

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fail to spend effectively, tolerate corruption, or repeatedly miss performance targets cannot expect automatic increases year after year. Every allocation must translate into better infrastructure, safer communities, reliable services, and economic growth.

The government of national unity, GNU, has demonstrated that capable leadership can begin to restore confidence where reform-minded Ministers are allowed to govern, but Parliament must match that commitment through rigorous oversight and unwavering accountability. The DA will support this Appropriation Bill while continuing to insist that every taxpayer rand delivers value and that Parliament itself lives up to the constitutional standards expected of it, both in allocated public funds and in how seriously it conducts the business of the people. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Chairperson and distinguished delegates, on behalf of the ANC, I rise to declare our unequivocal support for the report of the Select Committee on Appropriations regarding the Appropriation Bill. Our affirmation here today is rooted in the clear mandate given to us by the people of South Africa

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and is firmly guided by the resolutions adopted at the 55th National Conference of the ANC.

This Appropriation Bill is not simply a legislative instrument. It is a practical expression of the will of the people entrusted to us to realise a better life for all. The ANC fully endorses all the recommendations of the select committee and use this Bill as a vital vehicle for the implementation of nation's developmental priorities in 2026 and 2027.

Through this Appropriation Bill, the ANC seeks to achieve the following priorities. Investment in education and skill development. As a result, on our 55th National Congress, education remains the apex priority of the sustained transformation. We therefore support the allocation of substantial resources to improve the quality of basic and higher education, expand access to early childhood development, and advanced technical and vocational training. This approach is consistent with the Freedom of Charter's call that the doors of learning and culture shall be opened.

In driving the industrialisation and job creation, the ANC is resolute in promoting industrialisation, local procurement,

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and growth of small and medium enterprises, stimulating the job creation and broad-based economic empowerment. As the Freedom Charter states, the people shall share the wealth of the country.

In strengthening the social cohesion and safety net, recognising the persistent inequalities in our society, the ANC supports the increased allocation for social development, higher education and training, co-operative governance, police, women, youth, and persons with disabilities. As our resolutions affirm, we are steadfast in building a caring society that leaves no one behind.

As we pass this Appropriation Bill today, we are marking the 71st anniversary of the Freedom Charter. Let us reaffirm the words of the Freedom Charter, South Africa's foundational document for social justice. The Charter declares that there shall be houses, security and comfort. There shall be work and security. The people shall govern.

As I said when I opened, we support this budget, but what is very important here, hon Britz, is that it is not your time now. It has always been your time. The land was taken from the historical disadvantaged people and given to your forefathers

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so that they can work on it, marginalising the indigenous people. So, it has always been your time. You cannot come and mislead us here today. Thank you, Chair. The ANC supports in the Budget Vote.

Question put: That the Bill be agreed to.

Bill agreed to in accordance with section 75 of the Constitution

The Council adjourned at 13:18.