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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at Nieuwmeester Marquee at 10:05.

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

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY moved: That the House suspends Rule 290(2)(a), which provides *inter alia* that the debate on the Second Reading of a Bill may not commence before at least three working days have elapsed since the committee's report was tabled, for the purpose of conducting a Second Reading today on the Appropriation Bill.

Motion agreed to.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY moved:

That the House-

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- (1) notes that Rule 17(1)(2) of the PARMED Medical Aid Scheme Rules, as amended in July 2021, states that four Members of Parliament from the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces shall be appointed as representatives on the PARMED Board of Trustees;
- (2) further notes the resolution of the National Council of Provinces on 9 July 2024 appointing Mr K M Mmoiemang as the NCOP representative on the Board of Trustees; and
- (3) appoints Dr A Lotriet, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr E J Marais (DA), and Dr S M Dhlomo (ANC), as National Assembly representatives on the Board of Trustees.

Motion agreed to.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: On a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr A Lotriet): Hon Ndlozi.

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Dr M Q NDLOZI: We will get there but stop calling these comrades the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, there is no such a thing in this House. [Interjections.] The ANC lost elections. [Interjections.] Stop thinking you are a majority. Deputy Speaker, help them to readjust. This is the largest party.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr A Lotriet): Hon Ndlozi, that is a matter of opinion and a matter of semantics whether it is majority or the largest. We will continue. Hon Shivambu.

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: On a point of order. Deputy Speaker, it is not a matter of opinion. In the Rules of the National Assembly that we have just amended now, we removed the word "Chief Whip of the Majority Party," because majority means 50% plus one. It is basic. We said it is Chief Whip of the largest party. So, lets align our vocabulary and the words that we use here. There is no Chief Whip of the Majority Party, you are a Chief Whip of the largest party. That is how we are going to proceed from now on. [Applause.] It is a principle.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr A Lotriet): Thank you, hon Shivambu, before I take any further matters, I do have to say that there was a decision taken regarding this, and we are working with a

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guide that still refers to the Chief Whip of the Majority Party. I will therefore in future refer to Chief Whip Ntuli, then we escape all that. So, hon Ntuli, if that is in order with you, you are Chief Whip Ntuli? Please proceed, hon Ntuli.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Yes, Madam Speaker, let me just comment on the first issue that is under discussion before we deal with the next motion. It is quite correct that this matter arose in the Rules Committee. But the report of the Rules Committee is yet to be processed by the House. Now the Rules are determined by the House and not by the committee. So, the matter now is still in that process. So, I remain the Chief Whip of the Majority Party. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr A Lotriet): Hon members, I think let us proceed. We are not going to have a to and from now. Hon Ndlozi, I am closing the matter here. Members, we must proceed. And I now request the hon Chief whip at this point, still in terms of the current Rules of the majority party to read the Third Order. Hon Ndlozi, I have ruled on this matter, and you do know in terms of the Rules, once I have ruled, the matter is closed. Is it a new matter?

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Dr M Q NDLOZI: No, Deputy Speaker, I did speak about delusions, fiction ... [Interjections.] ... and people who are living in disconnection with reality ... [Interjections.] ... The ANC is not a majority ... [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr A Lotriet): Hon Ndlozi ...

Dr M Q NDLOZI: ... there is no majority in this House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr A Lotriet): Hon Ndlozi, please take your seat. [Interjections.]

Dr M Q NDLOZI: The Government of National Unity, GNU, might be a majority but you are all not.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr A Lotriet): Hon Ndlozi, take your seat. You know the Rules well. And in terms of the Rules, I have made a ruling, and the matter is therefore closed. We will now proceed. I recognize, hon Ntuli.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY moved:

That the House-

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- (1) notes that the Rules of the Political Office-Bearers Pension Fund require that, after a general election, members of the National Assembly must elect four members as trustees and four as alternates to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Fund;
- (2) further notes that the Rules provide that two trustees and two alternates are members of the majority party and the remaining two trustees, and two alternates are from amongst members of the minority parties;
- (3) elects as trustees Ms A Ramolobeng (ANC), Dr C H H Hunsinger (DA), Mr E M Ntshingila (MK), and Dr C P Mulder (Other Parties);
- (4) and elects as alternate trustees Ms D R Direko (ANC), Mr J N de Villiers (DA), Mr N Ndhlela (MK) and Ms O M C Maotwe (Other Parties).

Motion agreed to.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY moved: That the House resumes proceedings on the following Bills, which in terms of

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Rule 333(2) lapsed on the last sitting day of the Sixth Parliament, from the stage that they had reached on that day:

- (1) National State Enterprises Bill;
- (2) National Gambling Amendment Bill;
- (3) Electoral Commission Amendment Bill;
- (4) South African Reserve Bank Bill;
- (5) Protection of State Information Bill and the President's reservations on the constitutionality of the Bill as submitted to him;
- (6) Transport Appeal Tribunal Amendment Bill;
- (7) Tobacco Products and Electronic Delivery Systems Control Bill;
- (8) Merchant Shipping Bill;
- (9) Public Service Commission Bill;

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(10) South African Broadcasting Corporation SOC Ltd Bill;

(11) Marriage Bill;

(12) Repeal of South African Airways Bill; and

(13) Immigration Amendment Bill.

Motion agreed to.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ON BUDGET VOTE 35: SCIENCE AND
INNOVATION.**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, this is a report of Portfolio Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation on budget vote thirty-five science and innovation 2024/25. As has been the practice with other budget reports, there will be no declarations on votes. Or votes on this report and I will allow parties to indicate their objections should they wish to do so.

I now recognise the hon Chief Whip. Hon members, given the fact that it is our last day within this term, and the rules

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have not been changed by the House, I will say the majority party.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY. Thank you very much Deputy Speaker for affirming the rules as they exist. And may I move: That the Report be adopted.

There was no debate.

Division demanded.

Bells Rung For 5 Minutes.

The House divided.

The Deputy Speaker announced that, the Speaker had determined that, in accordance with the Rules, a manual voting procedure would be used and that the whips would conduct a headcount of members in the chamber for the purpose of ascertaining quorum and voting.

A quorum being present in terms of Rule 98(1), voting commenced.

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AYES - 235: (ANC - 120; DA - 78; IFP - 11; PA - 7; FF Plus - 4; Action SA - 6; ACDP - 1; UDM - 1; Rise Mzansi -1; Bosa - 2; Al Jamaha - 2; PAC - 1; Good - 1).

NOES - 76: (MK - 48; EFF - 28).

Motion agreed to.

Report accordingly adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS ON APPROPRIATION BILL

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Thanks, Deputy Speaker.
Deputy Speaker, I move that the report be adopted.

Question put: That the report be adopted.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Please note the objection of the EFF. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The objection of the EFF was noted.

Division called.

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The House divided.

[BELLS RUNG FOR ONE MINUTE]

Voting:

The Deputy Speaker announced that, the Speaker had determined that, in accordance with the Rules, a manual voting procedure would be used and that the whips would conduct a headcount of members in the chamber for the purpose of ascertaining quorum and voting.

A quorum being present in terms of Rule 98(1), voting commenced.

AYES - 253: (ANC - 136; DA - 79; IFP - 11; PA - 7; FF Plus - 4; Action SA - 6; ACDP - 1; UDM - 2; Rise Mzansi - 1; Bosa - 2; Al Jamaha - 2; PAC - 1; Good - 1).

NOES - 72: (MK - 43; EFF - 29).

Motion agreed to.

Report accordingly adopted.

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Report agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL B5 – 2024

(Second Reading debate)

Mr M A MAIMANE: Deputy Speaker, Deputy President, hon members
...

Setswana:

... bagaetsho, dumelang.

English:

I want to say that today, as we debate the Appropriations Bill, I counted, indeed a real privilege, to be able to chair this particular committee and ultimately I'm grateful for the support of the members of the committee and the support staff, and wish to affirm that we want to take our role of ensuring that there's greater oversight on appropriations, one we take seriously and will advance with vigour going into the seventh administration.

Fellow South Africans, it cannot be lost upon us that we gather at a crucial juncture. The Bill that is tabled before

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us confronts profound challenges. Low economic growth, geopolitical struggles, climate change and ultimately fiscal constraints. We are looking at an appropriation of over R1,1 trillion for the 2024-25 financial year.

And I think it's important to paint a picture of what it tells us. It tells us that for every R100 that we receive as a government, R60 of it will go to social wage, R16 Rand of it will go off to the national debt servicing costs. It's a story of a low growth and ultimately debt in this country will peak at R440,2 billion in the 2026-27 period.

I think the picture before us tells us of a fiscal framework that's unsustainable. We need to find ways of being able to unlock growth and ensure that in this next decade, what this Parliament does is that it adapts, or it dies. What we can't afford to do is to keep doing the same and hope for a different outcome.

Therefore, hon Deputy Speaker, I want to highlight three areas of reform, on the economy, on education and skilling. Firstly, on the economy, Minister of Finance, I want to endorse the view that this administration needs to think hard about establishing a form of a wealth fund. This way we can ensure

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that we begin to fund for development. I think it cannot be debated that what state-owned entities, SOE's are faced up with is a need for better reform and better management. Eskom, Transnet and the SA Post Office must result in better performance to improve our credit rating globally.

Secondly, I think the contingency funding on Transnet must eliminate inefficiencies and ensure that we've got a world class rail and port system to support develop. Thirdly, I think it cannot be denied that we must be able to borrow to fund infrastructure and run a government that is effective.

Hon members, a matter has been raised in our committee that over the 114 908 invoices that value R10 billion have still not been paid in this financial year. Over 363,069 invoices with the value of R35 billion have only been paid after 30 days.

Hon members, if we are going to support small, medium and micro enterprises, SMMEs, government needs to be effective at paying members immediately and paying for small businesses.

Fellow South Africans, if we are going to reform, let's ensure that the 200 municipalities that are in financial distress are dealt with.

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Hon members, I highlight that the Electoral Amendment Bill is going to be crucial. We must make sure that as we rise and go to constituency periods, that every school, every hospital, every police station that is built, we do indeed get the bang for the buck that we allocate there.

Ultimately, skilling of our young people is going to be crucial if we're going to be sustainable. As a committee, we listen to multiple inputs, but one that sticks out for me is the fact that early childhood development, ECD needs better support and better funding.

But also, it must be criminal that departments are able to return money. Notably, the recent example by the national higher education and ultimately the dilemma that we face in the National Student Financial Aid Scheme. Medico legal cases mean that ultimately, we are not able to finance for more nurses, for more doctors and achieve the goal of universal access.

Hon members, there's an opportunity as we look at climate change. We can finance for sustainable energy. We can ultimately become the battery centre and an electric vehicle centre of the world. Therefore, when we look at this budget

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allocation, it must focus on growth. And I want to indicate that as we transition from coal intensive to sustainable energy, this is a massive opportunity. We support this budget and stand behind the Appropriation Bill. I thank you, hon members.

Ms H E NEALE-MAY: Hon Deputy Speaker, our hon Deputy President, the Speaker, Ministers and Deputy Ministers, hon members and fellow South Africans. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the economic recovery of the world and recovery has particularly been slow in emerging and developing economies.

In most of these economies, including South Africa, the recovery of South Africa was further exacerbated by the July unrest insurrection in 2021, which cost our economy an estimated R50 billion.

Other events including aspects related to geopolitical conflicts, including the effect of extreme weather conditions caused by climate change, which has caused serious destruction to private property and public infrastructure. The latest examples being the current ... the recent tornado that ripped

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through Tongaat in June 2024 and recent floods as we are currently experiencing here in the in the Western Cape.

As a consequence, our finances have become highly constrained, limiting our ability to use government finances to support economic recovery to the extent that developing countries do. Overall levels of public debt across developing economies grew as they borrowed more to respond to the pandemic.

The South African economic growth rate has averaged at 0,8% since 2012, which is far below what is required to address high levels of joblessness and poverty. This means that government is unable to collect sufficient revenue to fund developmental projects and key commitments of the social wage.

Over the period of low growth government borrowing has ballooned to support rising expenditure. As a result, debt service costs are constraining the economy and the public finances. These costs consume one of every R5 of revenue and absorb a larger share of the budget than basic education, social protection or health. And was previously mentioned, the medical legal.

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This reality requires us to act with greater financial prudence and discipline, and we believe the budget allocated strikes the essential balance of protecting the social wage and maintaining critical public services.

To illustrate the point, the budget allocates six of every R10 to social wage, which includes spending on health, education, social protection, community development and employment programmes.

The commitment of government to fiscal consolidation balances the needs of the most vulnerable in society and protects the public finances for future generations.

Recognising that high and rising government debt hamper service delivery and investment by draining ever larger amounts of taxpayer resources for debt service, the 2024 budget strikes a careful balance between fiscal consolidation and development.

And in pursuit of fiscal consolidation, it is imperative to note that where there are baseline reductions, we have reprioritized funds from votes where underspending occurred.

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On education, it is with this understanding and appreciation that the Bill makes substantial and critical interventions to support education. R480,6 billion is allocated to learning and culture in the budget, of which 30% of this figure is allocated towards postschool education and training, and 68% towards basic education.

R9,7 billion is allocated to the school nutrition programme's conditional grants, an increase of 5,6% from the 2023-24 allocation. Given its importance in combating child hunger, more than 9 million learners receive a meal on each school day through this programme.

We welcome the increase in the Early Childhood Development, ECD, grant. This initiative would enable approximately 1,1 million children to access early childhood education. Early childhood offers a critical window of opportunity to shape the child's holistic development and build a foundation for the future and to achieve their full potential.

We know the pain and consequences that the apartheid government perpetuated against the African majority through deliberate acts of underdevelopment. We must not allow our children to undergo similar process of underdevelopment. This

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is why this investment and increased allocation must be welcomed by all.

We further welcome that the learners with Severe, Profound Intellectual Disabilities Grant received R278,9 million, an increase of 7,1% from the 2023-24 allocation.

The allocation of R1,4 billion for the improvement of infrastructure in our schools is most welcome as this is aimed at reducing overcrowding in classrooms, improving access to electricity, water and adequate sanitation facilities and removing inappropriate structures such as pit latrine toilets.

The budget further introduces a new comprehensive student funding model. This aims to support students including those currently not supported by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, bursary and funding policy. To this end, the government has set aside R3,8 billion initial capitalization fund to support the missing middle students. This amount will fund about 31 884 of the missing middle students.

This category of students are those who come from families who have a total income of more than R350 000 but not more than R600 000 per annum.

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On our presidential employment stimulus, through the Presidential Employment Initiative R4 billion will be set aside for the employment of teacher assistants, which will create 32 000 job opportunities. At the core of this education programme is the placement of unemployed youth in schools. This allocation illustrates how the strategic public employment programmes of government give practical expression to our commitment to address the scourge of youth unemployment.

Social development, we have seen the benefits of the Social Relief of Distress, SDR, grant and how it has helped the most vulnerable people of the country. The ANC has committed to the people of this country that the grant will be improved as a step towards income support for the unemployed, and so to this end, R1,17 trillion is allocated for social grants and welfare services. This will strengthen advocacy for women, youth and people living with disabilities.

Expenditure on social grants, excluding the COVID-19 SDR grant, will increase from R217,1 billion in 2023 to R259,3 billion in the 2026-27 financial year to keep pace with inflation and increase access for eligible population.

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Considering all challenges that the country has faced economically, as mentioned earlier, we must commend National Treasury to be at the forefront of enabling inclusive growth and investment in the economy.

The budget is premised on governments clear and stable macroeconomic policies, structural reforms and restoring the capacity of the state.

In pursuit of higher economic growth government remains anchored on the objectives of ensuring a stable economic framework to create a conducive environment for savings, investment and growth.

The implementation of growth enhancing reforms in key sectors, particularly in energy, freight rail and ports is continuing to reduce barriers to economic activity and strengthening the capacity of the state to deliver quality public services, investment in infrastructure and fighting crime and corruption.

These network industries are important in reducing the cost of doing business and living in South Africa by lowering

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production costs. Thus making South Africa attractive for investment.

The emphasis on structural reforms is important and requires international comparison to make the point. The implementation of reforming China in the 1980s enabled China to move from an impoverished state to the second largest economy globally.

Like China, we have to stick to the economic development as a central task, continue to liberate and develop productivity and persistently reform systems that hamper economic growth.

Appreciating the importance of staying the course on fiscal consideration, as the ANC we do not believe this should be a permanent solution to address broader macroeconomic issues related to the reindustrialization of our economy.

In as much as we have to make the necessary amendments to stabilize debt, we should be in a position moving forward to enhance an economy driven by stimulating aggregated demand.

In addition to the structural reforms, our growth will further gain momentum once we start moving to high value-added production to support structural transformation.

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Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC supports the adoption of the Bill.
I thank you. [Applause.]

Setswana:

Rre D D D van Rooyen: [Legofi.] a re leboge
Motlatsammusakgotla,

English:

... as MK under the outstanding leadership of our highly recognised President Zuma, we are extremely grateful for the opportunity granted to us by millions of voters. To represent them in legislative platforms of this country, both in Parliament and provincial legislatures. Deputy Speaker, I must indicate that when I'm referring to the voters, I'm here referring to those of the votes were officially declared, but also those of the rigged votes. [Applause.]

It is of the essence to note that the masses of our people can't wait for an opportunity to extend the mandate that they've given to us to municipalities. We want to assure them that as MK MPs collective, we have landed on the beachhead, working with other progressive forces under the banner of progressive caucus to unleash its arsenal for the realisation

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of their real freedom. [Applause.] Happy birthday in advance to the Economic Freedom Fighters. [Applause.]

Deputy Speaker, our understanding is that budget process is an axis of any development agenda. Allocating money from national revenue fund is practically an indispensable process for the functionality of governments. Governments execute their mandates based on what has been generated as revenue by governments. This is a real fact not fiction nor any form of illusionary imagination. No money, no execution of government mandate as promised to the electorate.

In our situation, Deputy Speaker, where the annual average cost of household food baskets is above R500 000 far higher than national minimum wage of general workers, which is close to R4 000 in real terms. Where social grants are the second most important source of income for households at 23,5% or more. Where above 7,5 million people experience hunger on a daily basis.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr A Lotriet): Hon member, hon Van Rooyen, please take your chair. Please take the chair. Members the noise is unacceptable. I cannot hear the speaker. I know that you are allowed to heckle, but please do it in such a way that

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you do not keep the speaker from being audible. Thank you, hon Van Rooyen please proceed.

Mr D D D van ROOYEN: Where above 7,5 million people experience hunger on a daily basis, while only three out of 10 of the poorest children attend early childhood development centres compared to eight out of 10 from the richest households. Where revenue generating opportunity is missed by only checking two per cent of containers entering our Richards Bay port of entry. Hence, proliferation of untaxed illicit goods and drugs in our country.

Where, Deputy Speaker, one of the 9 provinces is technically in recession and our people die of hunger. Eastern Cape is currently changing from a province of legends to a province of hunger and miseries. [Interjections.] If it is bigger, that is Eastern Cape for you. Deputy Speaker, where 4,7 million young people are unemployed. Indeed, our situation is dire and requires radical interventions, not the liberal and wild capital friendly programmes allocated for in this bill.

It can't be business as usual. Those who voted for us deserve better and are tired of being told of market stability and rating agency's reaction when radical interventions are mooted

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for their development. As MK party, we have heard their cry. When they declare that they are not interested in market stability, that failed for 30 years to resolve their unemployment, poverty and living status. [Applause.]

Deputy Speaker, the South African economy remains extremely concentrated in the hands of few white owners. This is in terms of market share and wealth, with a higher level of financial institutions monopoly. Therefore, structural economic transformation rather than the fiscal consolidation is required to steer the economy onto a new economical just path. It is our collective submission as ...

Setswana:

... lerumo la setšhaba...

English:

... that the budget should and can be used to contribute towards achieving inclusive growth and fiscal sustainability by directing more resources towards struggling poor households, public services and infrastructure development in pursuit of a demand led growth.

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As expected, the Deputy Speaker, the popular reaction from white supremacists, and their praise singers us to this novel call will be, where is the money? This was confirmed by the Head of State yesterday in his response to the Presidency Budget Vote. Deputy Speaker, our beloved country, South Africa is a country of plenty with a plethora of mineral endowments for its indigenous people to be poor. Instead of doing a spanner boy job of...

IsiZulu:

...thatha la beka le...

English:

... for White capital, MK expects the President and his executive to be leaders of a developmental state that leads pro-poor interventions meant to give the masses of our people the real freedom that their forebears fought for and sacrifice for.

Those who voted for us, say nationalise Reserve Bank and tamper with its inflation targeting policy because it is causing hardships to households and impeding the much-needed economic development. Nationalise the land and major financial institutions to be the custodian of credit issuance and the

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country's finances. As much as MK party agrees that Parliament is another terrain of struggle, our people must also know that it takes more than us as their representatives to hold these GNU government accountable. [Applause.] Their activism as society is needed now than before. We also edge patriotic South Africans to use all public-participation processes ...

IsiZulu:

... izimbizo ...

English:

... sector engagement and others, to ask this simple question: Why President Ramaphosa led administration opted for an unreliable, expensive source of energy, at the expense of natural inherited resources, coal? It is because in practical terms, we know that Eskom's renewable or IPPs is the single biggest increasing contingent liability. It is important to note that despite the hullabaloo about fighting corruption and new dawn, now, weaver birds all the renewable projects, including those that are operated by the sitting President's, relatives are guaranteed by the state. [Applause.]

Now, the danger is the failure of this and reliable IPPs option will result into what we call an allocative

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inefficiency that will trigger a massive expenditure gap that will create generational gap burden to our future generations. We must do it for our country. We must do it for future generations. Deputy Speaker, this Appropriation Bill means the target. It doesn't deserve MKP vote, and I submit. Thank you very much.

Mrs W R ALEXANDER: Deputy Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, today we stand at a crossroads in South Africa's economic journey. The budget is not just a collection of numbers, but a blueprint for our nation's future. The DA supports this budget, but make no mistake, our support comes with significant reservations and a clear vision for a better way forward.

We support this budget for one critical reason: to maintain our country's fiscal credibility. Like households living on credit, our nation depends on borrowing to keep afloat, and just as a family needs to pay its bills to maintain good standing, we must honour our fiscal commitments.

Let's be clear, our support is not one of endorsement as business as usual. For years, the DA has been the voice of fiscal reason, crying out from a wilderness of waste and

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mismanagement. Today it seems that our ideas have finally found some fertile ground. We are pleased to see two key DA-driven initiatives gain traction: the expansion of the zero-rated food items and the lowering of the fuel levy. The expansion of the zero-rated food basket makes essentials affordable for South Africans and the lowering of fuel taxes will cut transportation costs, sparking positive ripple effects throughout the economy. For those struggling to put food on the table, know this: we hear you. This is not just about cheaper groceries but about dignity. This is about ensuring South Africans don't have to choose between their families, feeding their families and keeping the lights on.

While we are glad that the government has finally seen the light, or perhaps they are just tired of hearing us talk about it. But speaking of light, let's talk about the SOEs, those perpetual black holes in our nation's budget. For far too long these entities have been a burden rather than a boon. We've been bailing them out for so long you would think we were taking swimming lessons. It is time to stabilise these organisations and to ensure they add value to South Africa's people instead of subtracting from our collective wallet. The SOEs can leverage private sector expertise and capital to enhance their efficiency and profitability by forming

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strategic partnerships, the SOEs can tap into cutting-edge management practices, and technological innovations, and add funding sources.

Partial privatisation can inject fresh capital, introduce market discipline and improve operational effectiveness. Joint ventures can allow our SOEs to benefit from private sector know-how while retaining public oversight. The outsourcing of noncore functions to specialised private firms can reduce costs and improve service quality. Additionally, adopting private-sector performance metrics and incentive structures can drive productivity and accountability in the SOEs. By embracing these collective approaches, the SOEs can transform from financial burdens to valuable assets, collectively adding to South Africa's economy.

Addressing the cost of living and fixing the SOEs is just a start. We need to grow our economy by creating jobs and not, handing out government jobs like party favours, does not count as job creation. Real jobs mean fostering an environment where the private sector thrives and expands. It means removing the red tape that strangles our small businesses. It means investing in education and skills development to prepare our workforce for the jobs of tomorrow. It means supporting

entrepreneurs and innovation to drive our economy. When we talk about job creation, we are talking about sustainable and meaningful employment that contributes to the economy productively. We are talking about jobs that offer paths to careers and skills. We are talking about building an economy where hard work and merit are rewarded, and not political connections. So, let us put to bed the myth that expanding government employment is the answer to solving our job crisis. It is time for real solutions that create real opportunities for South Africans. The plan for economic revitalisation has to be clear and decisive. It needs to prioritise the transformation of SOEs from financial drains to one of growth and effectiveness. By investing in infrastructure we are creating jobs, enhancing services, and building a solid foundation for our future.

In addition, we need to cultivate an environment where businesses can flourish, recognising that when enterprises thrive, job creation follows, and the economy expands. Such comprehensive approaches address both our immediate needs, while also laying the groundwork for sustainable, long-term economic success. But here is the rub, we have a huge concern about how the budget will be implemented. We are deeply troubled by track records of departmental budgets, wastage,

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fiscal leakage and poor prioritisation. It is as if some departments consider the national Budget as their piggy bank. This needs to stop.

We do support the budget to keep the ship afloat but make no mistake, we will be watching you like hawks to make sure that every rand is spent wisely. We expect to see improvements in the upcoming Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement Adjustment Budget and the 2025-26 Budget. No more blank checks for incompetence and corruption. In conclusion, the budget is a necessary step, but it is far from sufficient. The DA's vision within the Government of National Unity, GNU, is one of prosperity, effectiveness, and opportunity for all. We support this budget not because it is perfect, but because it is necessary. We will continue to fight for the changes needed to transform our economy. We are a responsible partner within the government of genuine unity. Our support does not come freely, but with conditions that the Cabinet puts South Africans first. We want to govern for you. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: Deputy Speaker, allow me to start and greet the commander-in-chief, the president of the 26 July Movement that is turning 11 years this coming weekend in Kimberley, the EFF officials, leaders of the progressive

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caucus and members, Dr Ndlozi, let me first start by saying a common thread that must run across the budget items must be labour-absorptive industrialisation. Government departments must be enforced by law to procure locally produced goods. It will boost both growth and industrial development. The budget in front of us, Deputy President, doesn't do any of this. Instead, we are going to buy toothpicks and toilet paper from abroad.

We are approving a budget that we're going to import most of the things and buy them abroad instead of producing them here in South Africa to ensure that there's effective economic development. During the Budget Vote debates in the past two weeks, colleagues in this House raised concerns about the disorganisation and confusion around the mini plenary's availability of documents and the failure to scrutinise the proposed budgets. That should concern all of us, especially the many South Africans who are paying taxes and expecting better service from the government. It is concerning, chair of the Appropriation Committee, because it has never happened in the past 10 years serving on that committee. We are expected to scrutinise Bills and budgets in that committee in three weeks which was supposed to be scrutinised within a month. If

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you look at the records, you will see that we have active public participation in hearings within that committee.

In the past, the committee would receive briefings by departments of key programmes, presentations by the Financial and Fiscal Commission, FFC, and the Budget Office and thoughtfully engage. This has not happened this time, hon Maimane. We will even see in the past that after we have done this, we will have public hearings with the Congress of South African Trade Unions, Equal Education, and the Public Service Accountability Monitor, this time around it hasn't happened, and you are standing here, and you are approving a budget. Why?

This time around there's no explanation, no answers, no meaningful engagement with this proposed budget by the National Treasury. After the public hearings, hon Maimane, you would have noticed that we would call in the National Treasury and scrutinise them on the findings that we have found. It has not happened.

Mr M A MAIMANE: Hon Speaker, on a point of order: Just at the risk of entering into a debate, I want to say that the points the member is making are contained in the Appropriation

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Committee's report, so it must be reflected accurately, or the member runs the risk of misleading today. I just wanted to raise that point.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr A Lotriet): Hon member, that is not a point of order. Hon Ntlangwini, please proceed.

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: Welcome back, hon Maimane, it's a point of debate. We are agreeing to a budget of R600 million to Parliament when we cannot appoint much-needed language interpreters, appointment legal researchers to assist members with Private Member's Bills and cannot maintain the building to meet proper safety and health standards requirements. We are agreeing to a budget cut of R367 million to the Department of Home Affairs when home affairs offices are not accessible because they are largely in major cities and not in rural areas.

We agreed to a budget cut of R1,1 billion to the Department of Public Works's budget when government departments are serving in debilitated buildings and the construction industry is retrenching people daily. What are we agreeing to on this budget? We're agreeing to a budget cut of the chief justice's budget, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's

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budget, the Department of Employment and Labour's budget when we don't have inspectors and a budget cut of R1,1 billion to our people's housing and the people were promised 1 million houses in Alexandra, still today, they are not there but we are cutting that budget.

We must again state it very clearly here, us objecting to this budget is not saying that we are objecting to services like the ANCs will come after this and state, we are objecting to the process on how this process was handled. We don't say our people must not get services. We are objecting to this budget because no proper scrutinization was done in bringing up all these entities and departments, but we know some of them are just here today in their numbers as voting cattle because they want to spend this money. They have commitments that they have made during the national government elections, so they need to pay those businesses that they are coming here to vote for that money. We do know that.

We will see when we are opening Parliament again, they won't be here because we are not approving the appropriations budget, Deputy President. I hope when we are doing questions and answers to all of these portfolios of these Ministers, they are here in their numbers as they are here today to vote

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for an Appropriations Bill to use and steal our people's money.

IsiZulu:

Amasela.

English:

We reject this thing. [Applause.]

Mr N M HADEBE: Madam Deputy Speaker, the Standing Committee on Appropriation Bill has a difficult task in balancing the debt of our nation, as a result of years of maladministration, now having to provide, a budget to the government of national unity, GNU, which seeks to bring South Africa back in terms of service delivery, jobs and economic prosperity.

The committee has noted and approved the proposed vote of the Bill in the amount of 1,1 trillion overall for the 24-25 financial year, which the IFP will support.

However, we are cognisant that this budget will struggle to address the needs of South Africans rapidly. It is encouraging that 73% of this allocation is directed towards subsidies and grants, which can benefit citizen nonprofits.

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These funds are particularly important in supporting social grants, conditional grants, university grants and National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, which are crucial for social stability and achieving educational development progress.

As compared to the 2023 budget, we see a reduction of 80,6 billion in principle noninterest expenditure. With such reduction in budget, it is ever more vital that the newly appointed Ministers in this seventh administration, deal with matters of corruption urgently and trim the fat on wasteful expenditure. If we are able to recoup the losses due to mismanagement. There are some chances that South Africa will be in a better economic position by next year.

Further, we will start to reignite the confidence in investment in South Africa. As a country, we will need to emphasize generating investment as we are currently seeing a large-scale decay of one's beautiful cities that promised economic benefits for all. We must, however, own this investment if we are to roll out rail infrastructure, it must be our people who get the jobs to supply raw materials, build, manage and maintain them.

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We cannot sell our development to another country and expect that the interest of this nation will be paramount, sure we can engage and partner, but we must not fall into the trap of alienating relationships with another country only to fall into the clutches of debt with another.

The IFP has long been calling for a rethink in the way grants are provided to the poor. We have always believed in the value of giving a hand up, not a handout. One of the most oppressive things we can do as a country is to rob people of any incentive to seek work, which perpetuates a vicious cycle of poverty.

We believe that government grants must stay. But where people are able to be skilled, these grants must offer skills training for them. This is the only way that we can create a stable base for small scale businesses and jobs in our economy.

We are unwavering in protecting the most vulnerable against starvation, and they must be given tools to work independently of the reliance of the government to better their conditions.

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While we support the extension of the social relief of distress, SRD, grant. We align with the Financial Fiscal Commission in advocating for a sustainable and impactful support structure to relieve social economic distress. It is crucial to balance social support with initiatives that promote gross domestic product, GDP, growth to avoid becoming overly reliant on welfare measures.

Regarding healthcare, the committee supports the Financial Fiscal Commission, FFC's submission for universal health coverage and urges the government to consider the full implications for the provinces. The IFP has maintained that the view that we need universal healthcare, we support.

We do not believe that the current model either of what it is being proposed to provide universal healthcare called the National Health Insurance, NHI, is a model that will be able to deliver the required services to the people. The current model requires most of the population to be working and income tax contributing in order to even meet a basic level of standard, let alone the need for an abundance of a well-functioning hospitals.

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In some cases, in the last administration, we found that the simple [Interjection.] printer cartridges were difficult to procure. The IFP Madam Deputy Speaker supports the Appropriation Bill. Thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Ms J S PETERSEN: Good morning, hon Madam Deputy Speaker, hon members. As a young Member of Parliament, 22 years young and even needing to stand on a step so you can see me on the podium, I must say I'm a bit disappointed in the manner some proceedings go.

I'd like to point out specifically when points of orders are being raised, when other members are on the podium. There is a major issue of lack of respect for members. Many points of orders not only interrupt, but delay proceedings, but many are personal attacks and others were approached with high degree of disrespect.

It is concerning that as a young person, I must remind you to respect your elders. People don't stop being elders when becoming parliamentarians. Respecting someone doesn't mean you should agree with him, but still show respect.

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I humbly ask those with the shoe fits, wear it and learn from it so that we can proceed without being rude. The youth are watching these proceedings and the very youth we have come to represent are facing major problems such as 50% of unemployment and expensive data, and yet they are subjected to these ill-mannered behaviours.

Please, honourable members, I implore us to remember, the South Africans are counting on us to make this thing work and take the country forward. We support the Appropriation Bill. Thank you, salute. [Applause.]

Mr W W WESSELS: Hon Deputy Speaker, I don't need a step, I don't think so. Hon Deputy speaker, the hon Maimane is correct that the current fiscal framework is unsustainable to provide for a conducive environment, for economic growth, which we need to create jobs.

We need economic growth that is sufficient to really bring about change and alleviate poverty. By talking about structural reforms are not enough. This is a legacy budget based on policy priorities which have not yielded results.

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And Deputy Speaker, we will have to have a rethink about the budget process in the year of an election where there might be a change of administration. Because currently you have policies and a budget that's informed by policies of the previous administration and many things have changed. And that we could see in this election, and we will see in the future again.

The hon Neale-May, it's not correct to say that COVID-19 is to blame or solely to blame for the fiscal position that we are in. We have had a budget deficit since 2009, importantly, 2009. Government debt and debt service costs have since 2009 been ever increasing and has become a very, very big expenditure item in our budget. The hon Van Rooyen, asks the question, where is the money? But where did the money go? What caused this budget deficit? Did the money go to the elite? Did the money go to those who were involved in state capture? And there's a lot of that money currently in Dubai.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the FF Plus supports this Appropriation Bill. But there are few specific budget votes which we can't support because of the legacy nature thereof.

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If we look at higher education, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme has failed the majority of students in South Africa and has not provided the necessary financial assistance to them. State owned-enterprises are failed and unsustainable and they remain bottomless pits in which taxpayers' money disappear.

Our public health system is in a dire state. The National Health Insurance, NHI, is currently presented to instil hope for access to decent healthcare for all. But it will not solve the systemic problems facing public health care. Whilst facilities are not firstly upgraded and improved, and human rights violations are truly addressed.

Employment equity and role players black economic empowerment policies have failed. As it is, generally not contributing to the development and restoration of those who really need it, the marginalized and poor South Africans. Hon Deputy speaker, we support the Appropriation Bill. Thank you. [Applause.]

Dr T K S LETLAPE: Chairperson, I guess we've just moved from the youngest newcomer to the oldest newcomer. We talk about from a coal intensive nation to sustainable energy. We can't build our country on debt when endowed with natural resources.

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We can't export our coal and import loans for green energy. What we need to do is to understand that low-cost energy is what will create jobs, what will give us security.

What we need to do is to ensure that as we utilise the wealth under our feet, we conform to international emission standards. We make sure that our power stations all work. We aim for an energy availability factor of 90 plus. And if we can give ourselves low-cost energy as the Eskom of 20 years ago gave us, which was a power utility company of the world, we will be doing ourselves a favour.

Let me remind you of what our Constitution stands for. Section 27 of the Constitution talks about progressive realisation of health within available resources. What it recognises is that the resources are there. The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures within available resources. It doesn't speak of creating fictitious funds. It speaks of managing what we have.

To re-emphasise what the President said. Let us build on what we have. We have an equal public and privatised sector, that are both sick. Let us fix them as a matter of priority, to be able to fulfil our constitutional obligation of a right to

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health for all, which also include access to water, reproductive services and sufficient food.

We should not be speaking of benefit packages or certificates of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, Leed. We should be talking about health services based on Leed not defined by experts and packages. Let us ensure that the available resources are utilised properly. Let us ensure that private practitioners are utilised for the benefit of all citizens. We do not want to come up with a law that decides which private practitioner can work or who can't.

Let us uphold what the courts decided yesterday that the certificate of Leed is unconstitutional. Let us not waste money going to court to challenge what we should have known.

I hope that the president who found a pen to sign the National Health Insurance, NHI will gather courage to remove Parmed Medical Aid Scheme so that we can lead in the national health reforms that we advocate for as parliamentarians. It has to be good for us, for us to be able to feed it to the rest of the nation. We support an Appropriation Bill that looks at the needs of the people and not business as usual.

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Mr S N SWART: House Chair, the ACDP wishes to commend the hon Peterson for her voice from the youth and reminding us of respect and decorum in this House. I think it's great that one of the youngest members of this House reminds us of how to conduct ourselves. Let us take heed of her request.

We have taken note of the Appropriation Committee's Report. The passing of the budget is one of the most important oversight mechanisms that Parliament can use. For those that read the report, it is noteworthy that the Appropriations Committee pointed out, and this is probably due to the rushed nature of the consideration of these Budget Votes in an election year. The ACDP requested a possible amendment to the statutory requirements to finalise it in such a short time.

But the Appropriations Committee said that portfolio committees did not make use of their legal powers in terms of the money Bills Act to recommend amendments to the budget to that very portfolio committee. This can be done, and it's regrettable that it hasn't, again due to time constraints. But the question arises, there's one item, there's R570 million that's not assigned to any Vote. It's hanging in the air. The question then is, why are so many budgets cut when you have an amount that is hanging in the air? Why is R171 million cut

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from the Special Investigating Unit, SIU, which can collect billions of rands, and it has money hanging in the air?

So, if you are diligent with me, go through the figures. We can find within the fiscal framework funds that can shift, and we as portfolio committees, can approach the Appropriations Committee. We come and during all the Budget Votes that are participated in, we wring our hands, and we say there must be more money. Defence Force, of course there must be more money, but let's find that money in other budgets and we can, using our powers, we can have those funds reallocated and I would urge us going forward to do that.

Of course, there were many concerns in the budget. The question is, are we and is government going to be a good steward of how they spend these funds and are we going to exercise our oversight particularly carefully in this new government. *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* Who will guard the guards? Who will watch over the Government of National Unity, GNU? That is the role that we as the ACDP will play as effective oversight.

There are many concerns with the budget and of course one of them is the contingency reserve. And so, when one raises the

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number of issues, we as the ACDP given the fact that this budget comes from the previous administration, will not support this budget. I thank you.

IsiXhosa:

Mnu N L S KWANKWA: Molweni. Sekela Momgameli ndinombuzo, olu hlahlo lwabiwo-mali lolukabani kuba sidibana nalo apha endleleni thina asilwazi. [Uwele-wele.]

English:

South Africa's growth underperformed during the past decade. Gross domestic product, GDP per capita was already lower in 2019 than in 2008. Unemployment remains high at more than 30% and youth unemployment in particular even exceeds 50%.

Spending pressures are mounting to close the funding gap in health, education and providing the much-needed social security safety net for the poor. In order for us to be able to finance these spending needs, spending efficiency is required in government. Minister, government exposure to state-owned enterprises remains high as a ratio of GDP. It remains a concern for us as the small, medium and micro-sized enterprises, SOEs are moved to the Presidency, that steps

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should be undertaken to make sure that there's proper accountability sooner rather than later.

Restoring the finances of the SOEs has an impact on the financial health of the country. We also need to address market concentration in some areas in various sectors of the economy, in order to help improve competition and transform these sectors. This would actually address the lack of openness and competition in a number of sectors.

Whilst there had been a need for fiscal consolidation over the past years, it should not be done at the expense of poverty, inequality and unemployment. In other words, we support fiscal consolidation, but it must make sense. It must not be done on the backs of the poor.

We support the proposed additional allocation of R33,6 billion to fund the extension of the COVID-19 social Relief of Distress Fund, the SRD grant until 2025. However, we are of the view that, since it falls below the inflation adjusted national food poverty line, which stands at R760 per person per month, the R350 should be increased and converted into a basic income grant to provide more reasonable social safety net for the poor and the needy.

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This can be done by doing exactly what you once highlighted, Minister, that there needs streamlining of the various social grants that we have on the system to make sure that we're able to provide more efficient protection for the poor. Inflation targeting is something of the Central Reserve Bank ...

IsiXhosa:

... endiyicaphukela ngenene. Ilungu elihloniphekileyo uVan Rooyen linyanisile xa lisithi ...

English:

... - yes, it is true. One of the complications with inflation targeting is that with high levels of debt, when debt is high it complicates the fight against inflation. But once the Reserve Bank increases the interest rate, you come here and complain about debt service causes as if they fell from the sky. They didn't. it's part of managing the fiscus properly. Even the property market is complaining about this ... [Time expired.]

IsiXhosa:

Xa ndiqala ukungena enantsikeni, unomona.

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The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon House Chairperson, we have observed a foreign tendency that is happening in the House. Tea or any other things are not allowed except for water. Let's respect the decorum of this House. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): May I ... Order, hon members. This applies hon members. It was mentioned yesterday in the Chief Whips Forum. Can we observe that please? Hon Ndlozi.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: House Chairperson, the people who keep reminding us.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): I can't hear the hon member. There's too much noise.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Sorry, the microphone was also far. The people who keep reminding us of Rules and all of that, they must quote them. They must say in this Rule it says I cannot drink tea. Which Rule is that?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon member. Please take your seat now.

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Dr M Q NDLOZI: I'm asking you Chair to help us. People say the Rules, the decorum. Quote the Rule.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, please take your seat. Please take your seat hon member. Hon members, order! The next speaker is the hon Gana.

Xitsonga:

Mr S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu, ndzi khensa nkarhi lowu u nga ndzi nyika wona.

English:

Rise Mzansi will be making declarations in respect of two Budget Votes. But I would like to say that we are supporting the Appropriation Bill. One of the reasons we joined the government of national unity was that Bills such as these should pass with no fuss so that people of South Africa do not suffer any further. They need these funds and need them urgently.

I also wish to remind you that it was on this podium in 2009 that President Motlanthe outlined the package exceeding R740 billion over five years to stimulate the South African economy. These funds were supposed to go mostly to

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infrastructure, that is, trains, roads, bridges and so on. It was this package that set off the feeding frenzy of corruption we now know as state capture.

At Transnet, Eskom, Prasa, water boards and other agencies stealing continued at an industrial scale. Today, the money is gone but we do not have this infrastructure and very few people have been held accountable.

While the stealing was going on from 2014-15 financial year, Cabinet and Parliament approved annual budgets that reduce spending on land reform and restitution and yet the same people who had supported that reduction, financial report for land reform demanded changes to the Constitution because they blamed it for slow progress in land reform.

The Seventh administration and Parliament cannot engage in this kind of dishonesty. There's only so much the Treasury can do. It cannot run municipalities that waste money and permit stealing. It cannot micromanage corrupt executive and politicians who oversee with no remorse, borrowed billion being stolen while power stations take forever and more money to build.

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South Africa's economic crisis is born by the ideology of entitlement of stealing or creaming off the top. When you tabled this Budget in February you said the government pays between the ratio of 1:5 and two times for goods and services. This is an unsustainable ratio, and it cannot stand. The Constitution demand that South African people get value for their money. We now pay more for services that we do to keep South Africans alive. We even borrow to pay debts. The endowment left by the previous third administration has been squandered and leaving South Africans hopeless and angry. Building a new endowment must begin in this House. [Time expired.]

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa swinene, Mutshamaxitulu.

Ms N L WEBSTER: House Chair, hon members and Suth Africans watching this debate, the Appropriation Bill has all an important job of ensuring that every department in government is able to implement its plans, its policies and its programmes in delivering basic services to the 61 million South Africans. It directs R1,1 trillion of public funds to government entrusting politicians and public office to spend it wisely, fruitfully and honestly. It is then this House's

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responsibility to oversee and ensure that the spending of these public funds is done in the way that should to hold government accountable for every cent.

I wish to highlight three aspects of the Bill to this House. Firstly, the underfunding of the Department of Small Businesses Development at R2,4 billion out of a total allocation of R1,1 trillion, this is just simply not enough. South Africa has an unemployment crisis with over 11 million South Africans that are jobless. And this is a crucial department that has been mandated with placing small, medium and micro enterprises, SMMEs, at the centre of economic growth and job creation. So, 2% is simply off the mark given that the National Development Plan, NDP, states that 90% of all new jobs should come from SMMEs by 2023.

Secondly, we welcome the R24 billion appropriated directly to the Department of Water and Sanitation because we have a water crisis that is looming. However, we note that R44 million was returned by the Department of Water and Sanitation to the treasury for having not been spent, and as Bosa we reject any underspending until there is clean drinking water in every home.

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Finally, as Bosa we wish to raise the issue of indigent peoples in this country to improve. It is our responsibility to improve access to free basic services for those who cannot afford and despite the measure need for social assistance and funding constraints, the indigent grant is underspent significantly as many municipalities are not compiling the registers properly so that those who are entitled to these assistances actually get them.

President Ramaphosa in his reply this week addressed this matter. To expedite this process as Bosa we call on the Minister of Co-operative Governance to ensure that each municipality reports on the number of indigent households and accounts for spending in this regard. We have a duty to be able to protect the most vulnerable and to ensure that they have dignity and are protected from suffering from extreme poverty.

To the hon member from the EFF, a simple reading of the report you will have noted that there were various consultations with various institutions including public consultation. It is one of the reasons why as Bosa we can support the Appropriation Bill. I thank you. [Applause.]

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THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Mr M G E Hendricks): Hon House Chair, a consolidated Budget deficit of 4,5% is projected for 2024-25 narrowing to 3,3% of GDP by 2026-27. Furthermore, the 2024 Budget for cost revenue is R1,8 trillion for the year, which is R53 billion less than the projected in the 2023 Budget. Where do we find the R53 billion? The Financial Fiscal Commission further stated that this shortfall is due to the country's weak economic conditions and lower consumer demand. I don't agree. The Financial and Fiscal Commission, FFC, should do oversight and illicit financial flows. This is money flowing out of the country without benefiting the nation. If dealt with meaningfully that will assist our dented economy which was drawn from various sources to keep the country afloat.

The streets, the country one their full pawn of flesh no more illicit financial flows. The social relief of distress grant, SRD, grant is possibly seek funding for a universal basic grant before the term end of the Seventh Parliament. Let's go basic income grant, BIG. This injured no one in South Africa will have less than R1000 per month in their pocket by 2030. The basic income grant, Big, will ensure that South Africa achieves its goal for the eradication of poverty by 20230, the commitment South Africa made to the world Global Forum and in

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our National Development Plan. The clock is ticking. There are six years left. One thousand rand per month is nowhere near the R12 000 everyone should have in their pockets in South Africa. We need the nest of minds to achieve the 2030 NDP goal. It is this best of minds representing 70% that is taking the first tip to come big by supporting the Appropriation Bill, B5 of 2024

President Ramaphosa is taking the lead so that South Africa becomes Big. Smell the coffee. Aljama-Ah is throwing its full weight to become a Big ambassador and be sure of B5 of 2024. Thank you very much

Mr M S LEKGANYANE: Hon Chairperson, greetings to the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy President, the Chief whip of the Majority Party. I extend warm greetings to the Deputy Minister of National Treasury, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Appropriations, hon Mmusi Maimane. I express my profoundest gratitude for your diligent and sagacious stewardship.

You are resolved to ensure that we come before this August House with a comprehensive report that incorporates the inputs of interested parties and complies with specific provisions of section 10 and 44 of the Public Finance Management Act. It has

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not gone unnoticed. You embody the values, the activism, rigor and forthrightness, desirable for the Seventh Parliament to succeed. Your commitment should be an inspiration to all of us, to unite around the common purpose, which is to give the citizens of this country equality and robust representation that can enhance and maximize opportunities for them to realise a better life.

On behalf of the ANC, I support and urge this House to adopt the Appropriation Bill B5 2024. This Appropriation Bill is in the name of the voiceless and vulnerable segments of our population, the infirm, and meek voters that we transported to voting stations. It is in the name of the job seekers, some of whom are becoming despondent by the day. It is in the name of African and coloured students, whose communities are victims of apartheid, exclusion and have suffered further harm caused by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, Nsfas, mismanagement.

It is an unpardonable injustice for a student of a working-class background not to receive his or her allocation when Parliament has provided for that. We do it for the approved beneficiaries on the waiting list of human settlements

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programmes and beneficiaries of the necessary poverty alleviation and social protection services.

It is our resolve to advance and expand empowerment and inclusive policies to allow unhindered participation of the historically marginalised and excluded in the economy of this country. By now, it should be common knowledge that since 1994, the democratic state has consciously, consistently dedicated programmes and resources to alleviate and eventually eradicate the patronising apartheid legacy and colonial heritage.

The resilient triple fault lines of a rise in unemployment, pervasive poverty and a deepening of inequality remain the fundamental defining realities, demographically compounded by pronounced racial spatial disparities. This gives us context, why the structure of the budget is heavy on social protection services.

However, we should express our displeasure on the escalating debt and related service costs. We welcome all initiatives aimed at stabilising and reducing the debt, including the cogent logic to open the Gold and Foreign Exchange Contingency

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Reserve Account, GFECRA, which demonstrates government's commitment to fiscal prudence and discipline.

Outlining the main priorities of government in the medium term, the President of the Republic emphasised the importance of achieving rapid and inclusive growth, reducing poverty and the cost of living, and the pursuit of a capable ethical and developmental state. The ANC appreciates that the previous administration introduced reforms under the auspicious Operation Vulindlela that enormously impacted on various sections of the economy, where government use this allocation to expedite the remodelling of state-owned enterprises, SOEs, to eliminate the multiform and multiplicity of functions.

The SOEs in their current form have been a huge burden and a debilitating risk to the fiscus. Some of them have been conduits of insatiable ovaries and plunderous predation. Thus, they have relied heavily on bailouts, experiencing decline in the value of their assets and have been found wanting with their balance sheets and income generation. The remodelling of SOEs is one step in our way to debt reduction and ultimately resolving the debt crisis, in general, while simultaneously closing the thrive of corruption.

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The President has correctly pointed out that growth happens at a local level where people live and work. Inextricably linked to the implementation of reforms is the strengthening of human capital at local government level. We have to courageously attend to the deteriorating state of local government. We are concerned about numerous municipalities that routinely fail to pay employees and municipalities that are unable to account for failure to deliver basic services in our communities.

For local government to be trusted as a dependable ally in the transformation of skewed racial spatial development patterns in the maintenance of services and attracting investments, it should recruit appropriate skills for efficient and effective operations. Municipalities must create an enabling environment for the implementation of these reforms and explore possibilities for enhanced local economic development, investment and growth. Such initiatives must be located within the framework of their IDPs and the District Development Model.

We further urge collaboration between the National Treasury and Cogta for the revitalisation of township economies to succeed in Hammanskraal, Thembisa, South Pinetown, Delphi and New Brighton. With additional allocation to Sars, it is

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recommended that collaborative efforts should be had with Home Affairs to ensure that all businesses are tax compliant, including combating any form of tax evasion and abuse.

We note with great appreciation the progress achieved in effecting structural reforms, particularly in the freight and logistics sector. The challenges in this sector impacted negatively on the growth of the economy with the mining, manufacturing and agricultural sectors on the receiving end. This results in revenue loss for the state. The reforms allow for private-sector participation to be introduced to container terminal operations, facilitating new investment in upgrading equipment, expanding terminal capacity and improving operational performance. The state should enforce inclusivity in the sector and, when necessary, break the barriers to expand participation.

With 28 out of 40 lines fully operational and functional stations increasing from 236 to 256, Prasa should accelerate the pace to recover more rail services. The reform of the visa system did not only enhance our opportunities for investment and attraction of committed skills, but also greatly enhanced our tourism. There is a need to invest more in our indigenous

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and cultural heritage and strengthen the liberation heritage route.

We are equally concerned about the reduction of allocations to food security programmes, as it limits support to land reform beneficiaries and previously disadvantaged small-scale farmers. This is also a snipe on the NDP targets of job creation in the sector. This comes after the Competition Commission finding that less than 1% of sales of fresh produce comes from smallholder or previously disadvantaged farmers. We need to advance reforms in this sector and eliminate barriers to entry by the historically marginalised.

We have listened to the profaners of social progress and their mutual implications about the downfall of the ANC, and them allocating no less than two years for the GPU. We have observed with deprecation and contemptuous ridicule, the frenetic ... [Time expired.] We support the Bill.

Dr M J BURKE: Chair, just over a week ago, on the sidelines of a debate across the road from here, the hon Minister of Finance for our Government of National Unity said something to me. He said something to me which I have heard him ask as a question a week before in a Treasury briefing. He said

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something that has had me thinking about how we approach our national budget ever since. So, I rise to address the House on the Appropriations Bill. Yet, I want to talk today as if speaking with a family in crisis. I believe we can only improve those things which we understand, and when we speak to each other with respect. The way that old friends do.

So I would like to touch on three key areas. One, where we are with South Africa's addiction to an overdraft. Two, what we should do about where we are. And three, what happens next? Trained economists say things like South Africa's debt to Gross Domestic Product, GDP, ratio is just shy of 75%, and then most people open Instagram and check out of the conversation. Instead imagine this, from January of next year, every single salary in South Africa gets donated to our hon President to pay off our national debt. That includes the Secretary of Parliament, Mr Xolile George's salary of more than R5 million. And includes all of our individual parliamentary salaries of more than R1 million per year.

Imagine then that Pick n Pay and Checkers donate every rand spent in all of their stores. Vodacom hands over to hon Ramaphosa all of the money they charge too. Toyota, PostNet, FlySafair, everybody hands over all of their earnings. If

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everyone would get all that they made from January, we would all only be able to start buying again what we need for survival in September, nine months later. In simple terms, this is a scary problem.

In addition to our dizzying levels of debt, we are now spending almost a quarter of our budget on servicing that debt. But note that the debt is increasing year on year, which means our debt servicing is really us just making interest payments. Or to put that even more simply, we are spending more on debts overdue credit card bills than the whole family's safety, or health, or basic education. And that is frankly insane, and it needs to stop.

So where do we go from here? It is a collective sense of our society that there is extreme waste built into every facet of the state's operations. Waste and leakage, which has been confirmed by numerous respected research organisations, indicating our procurement is deeply inefficient. Where government should be asking for a discount, we are paying a punitive premium. There's a principle in business called zero based budgeting. Where we go and systematically build up where the budget actually starts at nothing. So we say Correctional Services you get zero, not R26 billion. What do we need to

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accomplish? Well, we need salaried guards of course. We need protective equipment and facilities. We need food for prisoners and so on. And from a base of zero, we ask which line items are essential for the running of our department. And we will do the same with all our hon Ministers.

It cannot be - although of course it is - that we are now spending R58,7 billion around a year on National Students Financial Aid Scheme, Nsfas. We have given a massive R10 billion more to students. Yet across the board, the individual experience, by all accounts of those students is that their experience has deteriorated. And while we are on the topic of Higher Education, it cannot be that we need 50 times more resources for a 20-year-old than for two-year-old. Yet that is what the budget tells us, with R58,7 billion allocated to Nsfas, and only R1,1 billion allocated to Early Childhood Development, ECD, grants. We need to start at zero and work up investing in the future of our country.

This logic of frugality and smart targeted expenditure extends to upgrading our ports, to bringing in revenue, instead of bleeding business. In our household, if the front gate stops working, everyone knows to pull together to get things fixed. We need to buy the infrastructure our industry deserves and

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needs, not by higher salaries to underperformers. While we're trimming in efficiencies, we also need to throw the kitchen sink at increasing the sources of funds to shore up our fiscus. And no, I don't mean selling our foreign exchange reserves. We are endowed with some of the richest mineral resources and the land and sea anywhere in the world.

So what happens next? What the hon Minister Godongwana was saying to me, and really asking all of us is simple. It's simple, yet it has ripple effects. What happens if we pay bursaries directly to universities? Which by the way are geared for managing student financial admin. What happens if we streamline instead of relying on yet another umbrella body to distribute funds inefficiently? What if that Nsfas number ends up two thirds of the current number and students are better off? What if we start to spend half of what we spend now on Correctional Services, yet the outcomes are better? In short, what if we start running this country like a business? Well, that's how you pay off debilitating debt and you start building a sovereign wealth fund.

In a lucid moment, President Biden once said: "Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value". So while it has our support as a responsible

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member of the Government of National Unity, this is not our budget. It is the last ANC budget drawn up before South Africa's seismic election. The family is in trouble, Mr Chair. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members. Order!

Dr M J BURKE: The family is in trouble. We can face it together; the way old friends do. However - unlike ever - I do care about what comes tomorrow, and we need that to stop spending money like it's December boss. [Applause.]

Ms N A GCALEKA-MAZIBUKO: Hon House Chair, hon Deputy President, hon members and fellow South Africans, I rise on behalf of the ANC in support of the Appropriation Bill, which will enable the various departments to implement their annual performance plans and spend the monies allocated to effect change and transformation in our society. Hon members, taking from the words of our leader, utata, uNelson Mandela when he said:

As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest.

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Hon House Chair, the budget remains a key instrument to transform the lives of the people of South Africa and as such, those charged with implementing it should embrace innovation to advance service delivery and to ensure safety and security for our citizens.

Hon members, as a country, we continue to have the highest income inequality in the world with high levels of poverty and unemployment. The unemployment rate, sitting at 32,9% of the official definition and 44% of the expanded definition. In number 10, out of the working population, currently 11,7 million people are unemployed, and the youth bears the brunt as they constitute 58,4% of this portion.

Hon Chair, R6,1 billion has been allocated to the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure for co-ordination of the public works programme to accelerate the efforts aimed at creating job opportunities and provide training for unskilled marginalised and unemployed people. Hon Chair, in the coming days, as the country is turned into a construction site, as per the declaration of our President Cyril Ramaphosa, this programme must play a pivotal role, ensuring that the unemployed are first in line. While at the same time bringing in radical ways in collaboration with the private and public

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institutions to transit the participants into meaningful jobs through providing them with support to use their acquired skills to access further opportunities. As such hon members, participation in the public works programme should be stepping stone and not a permanent reality.

Hon members, the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan has elevated infrastructure as a key driver of economic growth and job creation. To this end, R44 billion has been allocated for 37 regional bulk infrastructure projects across the country aimed at providing communities with clean and safe water. Hon members in Mpumalanga, the Department of Water and Sanitation, is co-ordinating the Loskop Bulk Water Supply Project to build a pipeline from the Loskop Dam to Thembisile Hani Local Municipality. Hon members, the project has already created 2000 jobs through the infrastructure and public works programme. Certainly, hon Van Rooyen, the situation is not dire.

In the North West province, there is the co-ordination of the R400 million Bulela Metsi programme. Hundred job opportunities for locals have been created thus far and close to 22 000 household and population of 942 1000 will benefit from the

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successful completion of the reservoir. Certainly, the situation is not dire.

In KwaZulu-Natal, Infrastructure projects are being made in the Msunduzi Local Municipality, Amajuba District Municipality, King Cetshwayo District Municipality and uThukela District Municipality, amongst others, to improve water and sanitation services with approximately R2 billion. The projects thus far, hon members have created close to 400 jobs. Certainly, the situation hon Van Rooyen is not dire. [Applause.] There are but some of the practical interventions the government is making to transform the face and structure of our economy and improve the lives of our people.

Hon members, in this Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF there is an increased allocation in financial and human resource to improve safety and security. The ANC manifesto calls for the intensification of war against crime in order to make the communities safe. This includes action against drugs, organised crime, gender-based violence and femicide infrastructure theft and vandalism, extortion and gangsterism. Hon members, it is for this reason that we support the increased allocations made to enhance police visibility, improve community responsiveness, increased detection rate and

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crime intelligence capability, as well as ensuring public confidence in the police service.

Over the MTEF period, more police personnel will be recruited to bolster the fight against crime. This strategic intervention is crucial for addressing the growing demands of our communities and ensuring that we can effectively combat crime across the country. To this end, for the 2024/25 financial year, there is an additional funding allocated to the SA Police Service to appoint 10 000 police officers. An additional R2,8 billion has been set aside for Information and Communication Technology infrastructure upgrades to modernise and improve efficiencies in combating crime.

To address the issue of high crime rates required a multi-pronged strategy that includes an effective education system which will produce competent and well skilled individual and reindustrialisation of our economy to enhance job creation. Crime cannot be addressed without tagging along its two blood sisters, which are education and job creation.

IsiXhosa:

Sihlalo weNdlu, xa ndiza kuhlala phantsi...

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English:

... we still have a long way to address the many social ills. However, we have confidence that the capable leadership of President Ramaphosa under this Government of National Unity, the people of South Africa, shall be the biggest beneficiaries of this budget. Hon members, this obsession of opposing for the sake of opposing must come to an end.

isiXhosa:

Sizele ukumela abantu apha.

English:

Therefore, hon Chair...

IsiXhosa:

... siyaqhuba...

English:

... and we support the Appropriation Bill.

IsiXhosa:

Enkosi, ndiyabulela...

Sepedi:

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Ke a leboga.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: House Chairperson, on a point of order: On a point of privilege, we have been requesting since we have been in the tent for the platform for us who are down to earth. You see now, the audience has swallowed the hon member and cameras only see her hair. Please let us get a platform for us who are vertically challenged.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Ndlozi, please take your seat. Provision has been made. It is available and it is up to the member. You can even use it hon Ndlozi. Hon Van Rooyen.

Mr D D D VAN ROOYEN: House Chairperson, on a point of order: I am standing on Rule 92. I did not want to disturb the speaker because it was her maiden speech. But I think speaker conducted herself in such a way that it was unparliamentary because she lied to the nation by saying the situation is not dire. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, hon member, take your seat. Please, take your seat, that is not a point of

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order. Order, hon members. I want to remind hon members not to abuse Rule 92 to make political statements.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (Dr D Masondo): Hon Chair, hon Frolick, the Deputy President of the Republic, hon Paul Mashatile, hon members, let me start by thanking the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Appropriation, hon Maimane and the committee for guiding this Appropriation Bill. The approval by this Parliament, the National Assembly, of the Appropriation Bill will grant the legal authority of departments to spend.

Hon members have spoken about the problem of the public debt, and we agree with the observations on how the public debt erodes public expenditure. We spend R300 billion on debt service costs – money that we could be using to finance very important needs of our people. Let me briefly talk about how we are dealing with this problem. Firstly, it is important for us to realise what we call the primary budget surplus which means the revenue is supposed to be higher than the expenditure. In that way we reduce the budget shortfall – the deficit – which will reduce the need to go out and borrow more money. In so doing, the cost of borrowing become lesser and lesser.

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Dealing with the public debt is in the interest of economic growth. However, we borrow this money from the savings of South Africans, and this is the money that should be available also to the entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses. If all these savings are sucked by the public debt, it means the entrepreneurs will be without capital money that they require to invest in their businesses. If money is limited, which means supply is limited, it also means the cost of borrowing will increase. So, it is in the interest of dealing with the public debt that we grow our economy.

Of course, as we always say, borrowing in itself is not bad. The question is, can you afford it and what are you borrowing for? Members have articulated well the problem with the way in which we have been using the money that we generate either from tax or from borrowing that we have been spending it more on bailing out failing state owned enterprises, SOEs, and consumption.

Hon Van Rooyen says that we should not be concerned about the inflation. Hon members, inflation erodes the purchasing power of the poor. The increase of prices erodes the buying power of the poor. The social grants we provide to the poor should be

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able to buy goods and services in the market. Similarly, workers should be able to afford what is in the market.

The President has articulated in this opening address to this Parliament that one of the priorities of this Government of National Unity, GNU, is inclusive growth, dealing with poverty and reducing the cost of living. So, dealing with inflation is in the interest of the poor, but also economic growth, because if our goods and services that we produce here in South Africa are too expensive, the rest of the world will find it very difficult to buy our goods. Our export performance will be negatively affected and as a result our growth will be stunted.

The hon Van Rooyen says that we shouldn't care about price stability. So, today bread must be R20, and then tomorrow it should be R50. How do you plan as a household, how are we going to plan, ourselves here in the budget processing? You budget also on the basis of the cost of the things that you have to buy as government.

Hon Ntlangwini, I am not so sure if you live in this country because you say South Africa does not produce toilet paper. You just have to move around factories here in Cape Town,

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there are a number of companies ... there is a difference in saying that you don't produce tissues in South Africa and the people who are producing toilet paper, but you are saying that South Africa does not even produce tissue. I don't think it is empirically correct. We agree with you that we are interested in industrialisation. It is for this reason that this budget supports industrialisation, including the production of electric vehicles in South Africa.

Yes, there have been cuts in certain programmes, and this is largely because of, in some instances, underspending. We want to really ask this House to look very closely around under expenditure by different departments. The National Electrification Programme and the Community Works Programme we adjusted them once we took that money to allocate it to municipalities and the presidential employment initiatives.

Hon Wessels, the Black Economic Empowerment, BEE, is in the interest of economic growth in this country. [Applause.] President spoke about inclusive growth. What apartheid did in this country denied South Africa entrepreneurship of black people. Black people's land was taken away. If you read Colin Bundy, *The rise and fall of the peasant*, he demonstrates how the African peasantry was participating in the industrial

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growth in this country, where mines were growing and selling and some of the white farmers.

Apartheid in this country denied black people and suppressed artificially income distribution wages, and in that way denied South Africa the growth of its market. All what we are doing is to simply grow South Africa. So, do not present an argument that seems to suggest that anything black, anything that participates in the economy which is black is not in the interest of economic growth. Of course, inflation ... [Time expired.] Thank you. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

Division demanded.

The House divided.

Voting [Take in from minutes]

Bill accordingly read a first time.

ADJUSTMENTS APPROPRIATION BILL

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(Consideration of Votes and Schedule)

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon members, I wish to thank the parties for advising the staff on which votes they will make declarations where they will record objections and on which they intend dividing. This information is useful to assist the process this afternoon. I will put each vote and ask parties for declarations of vote as they have indicated. Members who are in the Chamber may make declarations of vote from the floor microphones or the podium. But at this point I want to request the hon members who are then sitting nearby or opposite the hon member who will use their seat in the Chamber not to make noise while they make their declarations, otherwise they will not be audible. After the declarations have been completed, I will put the vote for a decision. Hon members are reminded that in terms of Rule 108, subrule 5, a global time for declarations of vote has been agreed upon, and parties will be allowed to make declarations as per the agreed time allocation. Once a party has exhausted its allocated time, it will no longer be recognised to make further declarations. For divisions, bells will be rung for 30 seconds for the first division, but for further divisions following immediately thereafter, the bells can be rung as soon after

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the lapse of 15 seconds as the presiding officer may direct in terms of Rule 112.

Lastly, I've also been informed that a request has been submitted to prioritise Budget Votes No 21, 24 and 28, which deals with Police, as well as Vote No 34, related to Mineral Resources and Energy. These Budget Votes will be taken first to enable the relevant members of the executive to participate in the NCOP plenary sessions scheduled at 2pm this afternoon.

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

Question put.

Division called.

Bell rang for 30 seconds.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon members, take up your allocated seats. We'll follow the same manual procedure that was followed earlier.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: On a point of order ...

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): What is the order, hon member?

Dr M Q NDLOZI: The bells must be rung for five minutes, not 30 seconds.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, it's my discretion to decide, hon member.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: No, we are still counting.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): In terms of Rule 112, the presiding officer can decide, and I announce that the first vote will be 30 seconds ...

Dr M Q NDLOZI: But you said five minutes. You have decided.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, are you challenging my decision?

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Yes, I am challenging ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): We are proceeding with the vote.

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Dr M Q NDLOZI: Okay, House Chair, just be consistent. If you say five minutes, and then the House gets suspended ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Member, you are delaying proceedings.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: No, I'm not. I am addressing you to run this House properly.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, I have made a ruling. I am not going to change it.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: That's fine. You have power, but don't abuse it.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): I am not going to change it.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Yeah, that's okay, but don't abuse your power.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): So, take your seat. Take your seat. I will now request the hon Chief Whips of the different political parties to indicate their votes.

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Voting.

Agreed to.

Vote No 24 - Independent Police Investigative Directorate -
put.

Question put.

Division called.

Bell rang for 15 seconds.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members.

Could you take up your allocated seats. [Interjections.]

Please take up your seats. Hon members, we are following the
same voting procedure, and I will now recognise the Chief
Whips of political parties to indicate their vote.

Voting.

Agreed to.

Vote No 28 - Police - put.

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Declarations of vote:

Mr I CAMERON: The DA acknowledges that this is a legacy budget, and we support it in order to allow the Government of National Unity, GNU, to continue with its work. However, we will engage with the ANC and other parties within the GNU. The following points over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and the next budgets: Collaboration with police unions, civil rights bodies, private security industry and other law enforcement agencies; adequate protection of whistleblowers with regards to investigations like that of targeted murders, like Babita Deokaran; increasing capacity within the SA Police Service, the SAPS, generally; improving the quality and implementation of wellness programs of the SAPS members; adequate budget is allocated to combating gender-based violence and family violence and focusing on improving ground level resources, growing detective services; re-establishing specialised units and restructuring of crime intelligence units.

The DA supports the budget and will do everything in our power to ensure that future budgets are aligned to the crucial programmes in order to make our community safe and secure.

Thank you.

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Ms M S LETLAPE: Chairperson, I rise on behalf of the EFF to reject the proposed budget on the Department of Police, Independent Police Investigative Directorate and Civilian Secretariat. The EFF notes that it has already on different platforms indicated how crime has become a haven for criminals in this country, and there's no one who takes accountability for it. Weekend after weekend, we do not have less than 30 murders in Cape Town alone - in the Cape Flats. We know that gender-based violence is a pandemic in this country. Even in the budget of this Seventh Parliament, there is no specific and no strategic plan on how to combat gender-based violence and femicide. Therefore, we reject it on the basis that no one went to Thohoyandou to go and check why is there high gender-based violence and rape in particular - rape crime. No one in the SAPS department has gone to these areas, Umlazi for example, to go and check what is the reason for these crimes. Therefore, you come here and request for a budget that is not informed by what are the indicators of these crimes and how to fight these crimes. You want us to give you a huge amount of budget so that you and the President himself can increase his security and not the security of women and children in this country. [Interjections.]

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Gender-based violence is a pandemic here. No one goes in detail on what are the impacts of these crimes in our families. Young children and women are raped by their own partners, and by their uncles in their homes. There is no one who has given a responsibility to iron out and single out these perpetrators in our homes. Young children are subjected to being sex slaves because there are no jobs in this country. They are hating families, and they are supposed to be protecting their families and providing for their families. That is why they are subjected to being sex objects. So therefore, we reject this budget of the department which concludes that they have failed women and children in South Africa. Women and children have no comfort zones in these police stations. Instead, they get abused in the police stations. They get ridiculed in police stations. They get re-traumatised of the experiences that they face on a day-to-day basis in these so-called safe spaces - the police stations.

This department must be held accountable. The annual performance plans, APPs, must be reviewed and speak directly to the crime crisis that we have in this country. The Minister must also be held accountable.

Setswana:

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Ga re bue ka ditanka tsa metsi, re bua ka maphelo a batho mo,
le maphelo a bana ko magaeng a rona.

English:

So, when the Minister and the chairperson of this portfolio committee speak about police, they need to speak about the direct impact that young people, children and women in this country are facing - the high rate of crime in Cape Flats. No one goes to Cape Flats and identifies the issues that people in Cape Flats are experiencing because these areas have been identified as no-go areas. Even the police themselves feel unsafe to go to these areas. But we want to stand here and give out a position that the police can protect this country. We reject this budget and for as long as no one has ever put and considered the lives of our people, the lives of women and children. We will never support a budget that excludes women and children. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon member. Yes, honourable member. Why do you want to be recognised?

An HON MEMBER: Hon Chair, I just want to ask if the member would be willing to answer the question.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, there is no time for questions now, hon member. The member has left the podium.
[Interjections.]

Mr S S ZONDO: House Chairperson ...

IsiZulu:

... ngiyafisa nje ukuthi ngithathe leli thuba njengoba ngangenzile ngonyaka ophelile, ngafika kule Ndlu ngazocela kulo owayenguNgqongqoshe ngaleso sikhathi ukuthi balubukele eduzane udaba lobugebengu obuwela imingcele. Manje ngiyafisa ukuthi namhlanje ngilenze iqiniso lokuthi ngikushayele ihlombe izinyathelo umhlonishwa uBheki Cele azithatha ezenze sabuka kuboshwa izigebengu eziningi ezinye zize zidudulane namaphoyisa ezisusa. Simshayele ihlombe kakhulu ngalokhu akwenzayo.

Siyafisa engathi umsebenzi awuqalile umkhaya wami ongene kulesi sikhundla ebehleli kuso uNdosi, sengathi angaqhubeka la egcine khona. Ukungenelela kwakhe kuyawenza umehluko. Izinga lonugebengu lehle ngezinga eliphezulu uma kukhulunywa ngobugebengu obuwela imingcele

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Kodwa namhlanje ngiyafisa ukucela lokhu, ukuthi izimoto eziwela umngcele ziweliswe ziye ngaphesheya ko-Mozambique nasemazweni angomakhelwane, namanje azibuyi noma zitholakala phesheya kodwa azibuyi eNingizimu Afrika. Ngicela ukuthi kulesi sabelomali kube nayo into eyicebo lokuthi izimoto zabantu bakithi, ngikhuluma nami ngiwumuntu imoto yakhe yathathwa yawela, ngakhoke ngibuqonda kahle ubuhlungu bokuthathelwa imoto, kuthathwe wena uyolahlwa ehlathini emgodini wemvubu kusho ukuthini. Ngakhoke siyacela ukuthi izimoto zethu eziningi esihleli e-Mozambique nakwamanye amazwe angomakhelwane ukuthi zibuyiswe zibuyele eNingizimu Afrika kubanikazi bazo.

Uma ekwazile ukwenza lokho, uyobe ehlenge izimpilo zabantu abaningi abekade bedlwengulwa kuthathwe izimoto, kulalwe nomama phambi kwamadoda abo, kudlwengulwe izingane phambi kwabakhwenyane bazo nabazali bazo. Lobo bugebengu sifisa ukuthi ungenelelo lukaNgqongqoshe lungangapheza, angasheshi alungamule, lusawenza umehluko. Ngifisa nje ukumphathisa lokho umphathiswa. Uma enze njalo uyobe usebenzele isizwe sakithi.

English:

Thank you. The IFP supports the report.

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Declarations continued:

IsiNdebele:

Nom D M SKOSANA: Sihlalo, uyabona nje ihlangano ye-MK ivela tshatshalazi nakufika inntweni ezinje. Uyabana into yakwagogo yokobana nalaba boRhulumende woBumbano weNarha, GNU. Hhayi, ningangirhwelile.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members!

IsiNdebele:

Nom D M SKOSANA: Asivumelani naso isabelo mali lesi, ngennzathu ezilandelako.

English:

Firstly, in our plenary session, we were very clear that ...

IsiNdebele:

... lendabale yokobana abantu bagadwe ekubeni basebenzela umphakathi, isabelo malesi, yebantu ababaluleke khulu, VIP, ayisuswe bakwethu. Esinye isizathu ngiyazi bona ngigadanga abantu iminwe.

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Sinekinga yokukhanjiswa kwenndakamizwa. Sinennkinga ezinengi emphakathini esifuna ukobana umbuso lo uzicalelele.

Lemali enengi kangaka esetshenziselwa ukuthlogomela abantu ayiphi ingqondo.

Abantu bayalila. Imapolistetjhi awakalungi emakhaya. Khengalinganisa kuNgqongqotjhe ngathi; eNgwelezane KwaZulu-Natal kunabantu abahlangana ne-15 000 ne-120 000. Kunepolistetjhi yinye eyakhiwe ngamasenge. Yinye! Nawungaphuma uyengaphande uyobana bona amapholisa angangani, ukugada abantu abakhethwe babantu akunikezi ingqondo into leyo.

English:

Now, I am saying representing the MK party ...

IsiNdebele:

... asoze sasekela isabelo mali lesi esingasingesabantu! Isabelomalesi nalokha lingangirwelela kangangani, abantu - nali isokana elinye liyasikima lapha.

Sihlalo, ngibawa ungivikele.

English:

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick: Hon member, please just take a seat.

Why are you rising, hon member?

Mr M G MAHLAULE: Hon House Chairperson, I just want to check if the hon member is willing to take a question?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick: Hon member, are you prepared to take a question?

IsiNdebele:

Nom D M SKOSANA: Ngizothatha umbuzo nangisuka la. Hayi ngisese la!

Okwanje ngisakhuluma nabantu abalaleleko lapha nasemakhaya.

Bakwethu akhe sibe neciniso. Abantu bayalila. Ubugebengu bungangani. Imbalobalo zikubeke kwabonakala.

Abomma abadlwengulwako ngelanga bangaba-70%, umzuzu nomzuzu.

Iye.

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Innkoloyi ezithathelwa abantu zinengi kangangani. Amapholisa la agadako ngabe mhlambe ngiwo agada labo ababizwa njengesgungu esiphetheko ngabe ngiwo agada abantu emakhaya.

Nase ngiphetha ukusuka kuhlango ye-MK, ngitjho bona i-DA leya, unyaka ophelileko, ingasi kade ni, baphikise isabelo malesi bathi isgungu esiphetheko seKhabinethi sinengi ngokweqileko. Ngiyazi kobana baphiwe innkhundla ababaphezona, kodwana thina sicacile sithi imali yamapholisa ayisebenziselwe ukuthuthukisa abantu emapolistetjhini, njengalokha ngitjhwileko ukobana kunepolistetjhi eyakhiwe ngamasenge ngaphezu kweminyaka eyi-15! Hayi aninamahloni.

Kodwana uNgqongqotjhe wamapholisa uthembisile bona izinto ezinjalo zizicalwa, ingasi eNgwelezane kwaphela, inarha yoke iphelele.

Imingcele yethu nayo ayisimnandi. Kodwana nina nihlalele ukusitlewula! Niyasitlewula nasithi siyakhuluma lapha. Kunokobana nitlola phasi ukobana niyolungisa izintolezi. Kodwana ke ngombana benndlebe ezikhanya ilanga kwangathi banisulele masinya. Niyalazi iciniso. Nibuya enndaweni esibuyakizo.

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Mina ngiyanibawa, ngithi bantu bakagogo akheni beni
nennhliziyo hle, abantu bayalila emakhaya.

UKomitjhinara wenarha noNgqongqotjhe, ngiyanibawa ukobana
isabelo malesi esikhona, akhe niyisebenzise ngendlela yakhona.
Ningathomi nikhulume amala ebantwini, ngobana amala la
aniwakhulumako, emakhethweni alandelako le-40% izobayi-20%.
Ngiyathokoza. [Iwahlo.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick: Hon member, will just
take a seat please.

Hon member, why do you want to be recognised?

Dr S M DHLOMO: Hon House Chairperson, the term "ukutklewula"
is unparliamentary.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick: Hon members, I cannot
hear the hon member.

Order, hon members.

Dr S M DHLOMO: The term "ukuklewula" is unpaliamentary. It is
an insult.

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IsiZulu:

Ngesizulu, akekho umuntu oklewulayo. Kuklewulainja.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick: Hon member, thank you.
Your point is noted.

Order, hon members. I have asked the table to check Hansard
for me. I will make a ruling later this afternoon.

You see hon members; it is difficult even to hear the
translation because of the noise that you are making. One must
listen to the hon member on the podium, listen to the
translation and then there is a lot of noise coming from the
Chamber. So, it is not easy to immediately make a ruling.

I ask for your co-operation. The ACDP.

Mr S N SWART: House Chairperson, the ACDP would like to thank
all those members in uniform and those that are not in uniform
that serve in the SA Police Service, SAPS, dedicated everyday
doing their very best and many of them have given their lives.

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Yes, we know there are rotten apples amongst them, but they try their very best. However that having been said, it is the central role of government to protect its citizens yet, we believe that it is failing in this regard. People do not feel safe in their homes, at work and public places.

Our communities are ravaged by crime, and we see that SAPS and law-enforcement officials are not doing sufficient in this regard. We even had a Member of Parliament that was kidnapped.

House Chairperson, so, what is the most efficient deterrent to crime. That is the sure knowledge that you as a perpetrator will be apprehended, successfully prosecuted and sentenced to a lengthy period of imprisonment. Yet sadly many criminals get away with their crimes. If apprehended are not successfully prosecuted. What is needed is more efficient policing, and prosecuting. One point five million dockets were returned by the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, to the SAPS over a period of years and this is thuggery.

Yet if one considers the SAPS budget, it has seen an increase of R50 billion over the past 10 years. The question is whether this increase and these funds are being properly spent.

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What is also concerning is that poorly trained SAPS officials have cost the taxpayer R2,2 billion in civil claims over the last financial period. This is more than the entire budget for the forensic science laboratories. It is almost the third of its budget for crime intelligence and nearly a quarter of its budget for boarder security.

House Chairperson, far more needs to be done to improve law-enforcement and our criminal justice system to ensure the safety and protection of our citizens. I thank you.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu ...

English:

... I rise to put the Seventh Administration and the Minister of Police on notice. The people of this country are not safe. The people of South Africa are not safe, Minister.

Xitsonga:

Holobye, a hi hlayisekangi.

English:

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I said this when we were debating that we are spending billion on protecting ourselves. It cannot be. That we are spending billions protecting politicians. One just had to see on the opening of Parliament. It was us there, but the number of police officials that were deployed there on a Thursday, it was just an over deployment.

On Friday, it was still the same people attending the session, but there were less police. That should tell you something. The way this budget is being used, Minister, is not correct.

This is what we want to see as Rise Mzansi. We want to see the budget currently used to protect, Ministers, Deputy Ministers and politicians to be reallocated to fight criminals carrying illegal guns in communities.

We want to see the budget currently allocated to protect politicians to be reallocated to increase the number of detectives. For here is a situation, as you all know, criminals are arrested, but very few are prosecuted. As the hon Swart said that investigation of criminals is actually not going right. That is why those arrested within few days or weeks they are released back to communities and continue with criminality.

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So, we have said we put a notice, Minister. We have heard what you said, and we think you mean well. This time we will support this budget for this round, but in the next coming year you are still saying over R4 billion to protect politicians, we are not going to support it. We will support because we want to see what you are going to do with it. As from next year, we do not want to see billions supporting politicians.

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa swinene, Mutshamaxitulu. [Mikavanyeto.] Ndzi ya tshama ehansi.

Mr M A MAIMANE: Hon House Chairperson, fellow South Africans, over 70 of our fellow South Africans were murdered, today, yesterday, the day before, daily the number of citizens being killed in this country is unacceptable.

Second to this issue is the fact that too many of our citizens are being asked to pay protection fees when they are trying to figure out how to get to work and look after their livelihood.

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I stand here to support this budget and want to Minister, make a few proposals particularly going into the term going forward.

The first one is: I think we cannot deny that we need to figure out on how to reform the efficacy of policing. In part, the 1994 consensus was such that we kept SA Police Service, SAPS, as a national competence. I do think the time has come that we need to think harder about whether how many more powers we allocate to provinces. Furthermore, how do we ensure that we can aggregate the number of police with metro police particularly in centres.

Second and along to this issue, the ratio of policing on the average at this point in time is for one policeman for every 450 odd citizens. In truth the international benchmark is less than that one to 250. In other communities it can be exaggerated further. There are more private police in this country than there are actual national police. We need to increase this number, aggregate it with metro police, commission a review.

Lastly, I want to say that in supporting this budget, I genuinely want us to consider what aspects of digitisation do

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we put within the policing so that we are far more effective. This way we can ensure that our response time is quicker, and we do not inherit a historical legacy of how we allocate resources.

So, in that regard Minister, along with how we do the reviews in the next while, I endorse the budget, but urge that we make those serious considerations going forward. I thank you very much. [Applause.]

Adv S SALIE: Hon House Chairperson, hon Ministers, hon, members and viewers, as-salamu alaykum. Crime remains not only high, but criminals are becoming more sophisticated and more brazen due to the inability of the government to ensure sufficient presence and availability of adequate, skilled and specialised police officials. The killing fields on the Cape Flats must come to an end. Women and children are daily being killed. Gender-based violence is a pandemic. The best endeavours of the police are not helping.

Many of our people of this country have lost faith in the courts and SA Police Service, SAPS, and it is due to many cases being withdrawn and nolle prosecute due to lack of proper investigation.

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We note the budget for police service has been increased. However, that is not enough considering the high crime rate in the country and the fact that we know SAPS has been underfunded, overloaded on cases and under-resourced. For many years, this sector needs a large amount of the budget to be channelled and effectively equipping the police in combating crime by providing them with adequate resources, skills and training and earn a decent salary.

Increased of specialised and investigative skills in offices is vital for the success of cases which is often set up for failure due to lack of skills set provided to ensure proper collection of evidence and prove the elements of crime which will ultimately lead to a successful prosecution.

Crime is keeping the citizens of our country hostage. One of the major factors crippling economic development in poor areas. This is evident on the Cape Flats. The new police recruits do not suffice for the loss of police officer who leave the sector. We have many dedicated and hardworking officers, but when these officers are undervalued, undermotivated and underpaid, we have witnessed that these officers move to corruption. The corrupt elements along with incompetent leaders must be dealt with and removed even if we

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manage to address the lack of resources in the sector. The presence of corrupt officials will undermine all good functions.

This budget needs to be reallocated to fight crime and protect citizens. Eradicate crime and use the budget effectively and not frivolously. I thank you.

Ms D E JAMES: Hon House Chairperson, I sometimes wish that a budget could buy passion, will and common sense. Irrespective of how many times we pass these budgets whether they are sufficient or not sufficient, our communities continue to be dwenged in drugs.

Hon members, Action SA objects to this budget in the absence of it addressing policeman who use drugs, in the absence of this budget not including many reservists in our country that has served this country for years and they are being ostracised and excluded.

Action SA, objects to this budget for the mere fact that we have been calling for a specialised unit to address drug abuse and to date our children on the Cape Flats, Eldorado Park, Riverly and Westbury are dying. They are no longer dying.

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Afrikaans:

Hulle vrek.

English:

While many of us as mothers has to stand with buckets and mobs to mob up the blood on our front stoeps and at our gates, we continue to stand here and call this business as usual.

For me this afternoon, budget or no budget there is no interest to serve our communities where our children are dying. I thank you.

Mr M S MOELA: Hon House Chairperson, we as the ANC supports the Budget Vote of the Department of Police because we believe in the commitment of government to reducing the level of violence, crime, fraud and corruption both in private and public sector.

We also believe that we prioritise gender-based violence, GBV, and resourcing of the SA Police Service, family violence, child protection and sexual offences will ensure that police intensify the fight against GBV and Femicide, thus ensuring the safety of our women and children.

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Among other things, the department will also ensure that the capacitation of the Director of Priority Crime Investigation, DPCI, Cyber Multidisciplinary Units, as well as the capacitation of crime intelligence and skills and development.

It is also important to note that the department will focus on the capacitation of the public order policing to ensure public order and the adherence of the law by the public and protests amongst other things.

It is common cause that the police alone cannot win the fight against crime. As the society we must work with the police to fight crime in our communities. We also require that of the victims on one side and the witness and the whistle blowers on the other get protected and encouraged to report crime and corruption. The ANC supports the Budget Vote No 28 of the Department of Police. I thank you. [Applause.]

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe, Economic Freedom Fighters, African Christian Democratic Party and Action SA dissenting).

Vote 34 - Mineral Resources and Energy - put.

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Declarations of vote:

Mr H D SELEPE: Hon Chair, my President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, my capable leaders, Dr Hlophe, commander Sihle, I greet you all my colleagues in the progressive caucus. As the MKP, we reject the budget with the following reasons. A key legislation that has been tabled to Parliament for amendment, the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, this Act has been subject to many legislative processes due to various legislative gaps. As a result, the mining sector is confronted with significant policy uncertainty.

The committee has expressed the need for this Act to be amended and tabled to Parliament as a matter of urgency.

However, this did not happen during the Sixth Administration, with a simple reason. This Act is in favour of the historical disadvantaged South Africans. The same government that is in the House now, the Government of National Unity, GNU, the government of apartheid, is the one that wants to advance this thing so that people who were disadvantaged by apartheid could not access the opportunities in the minerals of South Africa.

That's why we are rejecting this. The families at Lily Mine are still in search of their loved ones. The families are

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trapped down there, but the very same government behaves as if there's nothing, while the decision has been granted to the department that mine should be opened because this government is slowly dragging the South Africans who voted for their respective political party.

The people at home don't know about the GNU. They know their parties that they voted for, but now there's this animal in the House called the GNU that's not in favour of the communities. The Minister is citing this thing of illegal mining, why they don't hold Anglo-American accountable? Anglo-American has been leaving these areas of mining without doing rehabilitation. That's the reason why there's so many illegal miners that are accumulating in the places that are unattended in South Africa. It's because the Minister is not doing his job.

Mr G MICHALAKIS: House Chairperson, on a point of order: Correct me if I'm wrong, but I heard the member at the podium refer to the members in the GNU as animals, and I would like, if that is the case, for him to withdraw please.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, hon members, please take your seat, hon member. Hon members, the reference

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was made to a broad group. It was not to a specific member of the House. So, that point of order is not sustained. Please continue hon member.

IsiZulu:

Mnu H D SELEPE: Amasela ayatatazela. Tatazelani masela. Nizotatazela masala, i-MKP ifikile. [Ubuwelewele.]

English:

The very same government promised people the seven national priorities, of which it was capital and ethical development state, economic transformation and job creation, education and skill consolidation, and the social wage through reliable qualities and basic services, but up until now, no job was created in those seven priorities that were made ... promises to the people by the same government of ...

IsiZulu:

... amasela.

English:

I thank you. [Interjections.]

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Mr M G MAHLAULE: Chairperson, on a point of order: Here in front of me I have an Unparliamentary Expressions Book, Seventh Parliamentary Edition, amasela [thieves] and Isela [thief] have been ruled unparliamentary in 2019, and I let it go when hon Ntlangwini said it, but I can't let it go when it's repeated. It's unparliamentary and you must rule it as such.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you very much. Hon members, we will request you that we must always refer to one another in respectful terms. It's very often a reflection on you as well with the type of language that you use. So, let us desist from using language that can be offensive to other Members of Parliament, and let us abide by the Rules so that we can conduct our business in an orderly manner.

What we do and say here and the type of language we use have an impact in society that you will ultimately be confronted with when you're outside these chambers. So, let's abide by referring to each other in respectful terms and steer away from conduct that can be interpreted in an unparliamentary manner.

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Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Chair, on a point of order: It's correct that you guide how the House should operate, but it's factually incorrect that there was a ruling that the member who gave a point of order says exists. There's no such a ruling. There is no such thing.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): I will check, hon member. I've made a ruling that now we proceed. Thank you.

Mr N F SHIVAMBU. Let's deal with it in the Rules Committee properly and appropriately but the manner in which the intervention is carried out is not a reflection of reality.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon member.

Mr L J BASSON: House Chairperson, there is a great deal to dislike in this budget. It's funding a ridiculously long cadastral acquisition process. It does not close the door on corruption amongst officials. It's supporting red tape regulations that enforce barriers to entry for explorers and new miners that keep our people out of employment. It pushes new nuclear Bills with no assurance it will not deteriorate into a looting frenzy like Medupi and Kusile.

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All of this would be reason not to support this budget, yet we have decided to be part of the GNU because we believe we can change these and other failings. The first step in doing so is to keep the government going by supporting this budget. We do so because we have faith there will be changes in future. There cannot be business as usual. We need to have transparency.

Why do we have to launch Promotion of Access to Information Act applications to see what should be public information? We need to know the timelines, status and costs associated with both the long-term operation of Koeberg and the Nuclear New Build. We need to see the process followed by Petro SA and the records of decision in the appointment of Equator Holdings and Gazprom Bank. We need a relaxation of, not an intensification of red tape of the Mining Charter. We need a monthly dashboard that records license applications and backlogs. We need a working cadastral system, not a continuously extended target. This budget has our support, but do not take our continued support for granted. [Applause.]

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Hon House Chairperson, we won't be supporting this budget, nor will we support preceding budgets of this department until the container that holds the remains

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of Pretty Nkambule, Solomon Nyirenda and Yvonne Mnisi are retrieved. So, we're putting you on notice, Makuphe.

Mr P NDAMASE: Hon House Chair, this budget is an indication of the ANC's resolve for transformation and growth of the mineral and petroleum industries. For example, load shedding and illegal mining that have been a thorn in the flesh of the ANC-led government are on notice. The two anathemas are a fly in the white milk called the ANC government. The ANC finds solace in the words of the Chinese philosopher Confucius when he counsels as follows, "Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall." We dare say we can see clearly now the rain is gone. The ANC supports Budget Vote 34. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Division demanded.

The House divided.

Mr N F SHAVAMBU: House Chair, on a point of order: The ANC has been voting at 137 throughout, now the Minister and the two Deputy Minister of Police have gone to the NCOP for the other Budget Vote. [Interjections.] We need to count physically, one-by-one as to how many people are there.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Shivambu, we will get the chamber staff with the ANC Whips just to check their numbers and then see if it makes any material difference to the outcome. Hon members, there are still members who are switching on their microphones without being recognised. We are going to ask you to leave the chamber if you do that and not return for the day. You are disturbing the proceedings.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon House Chairperson, on a point of order: I want to dispute what the hon Shivambu is saying. The hon Minister of Police is seated there at the back. The NCOP is starting at 14:00. Thank you very much.

AYES - 241: (ANC - 136; DA - 74; IFP - 12; PA - 7; FF Plus - 4; ACDP - 1; UDM - 2; Rise Mzansi -1; Bosa - 2; Al Jamaha - 2).

NOES - 84: (MK - 51; EFF - 27 Action SA - 6).

Vote accordingly agreed to.

RULING

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon members, there was earlier a point of order on the use of a particular word. I have now been assisted by the National Assembly Table, and indeed amasela is unparliamentary and it will be ruled as such in 2019 when a ruling was made and that ruling will be sustained. [Interjections.]

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: House Chair, on a point of order: This how Parliament Rules operate. You object when a member makes a specific reference to one member and say, this person is isela [thief] then you can object on that. When you make a reference in the context that you are doing, that is how the Rules of Parliament are applied. Don't rush to deal with these things that way because the Rules prescribe that if there are multiple interpretations of how certain rulings are handled, we go to the Rules Committee and subject that to a review and develop a common perspective.

Don't rush to take a conclusive view on this because we will expose you later on that what you are doing is inconsistent with the Rules of the National Assembly. So, what you have done now is inconsistent with the Rules of the House.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon members, I have made a ruling. If you have a problem with the ruling take it to the Rules Committee. It is up to the Presiding Officer presiding at the time the word was used to decide whether that word has been used in a particular context, against a certain member or against the party or whatever, but we can't pre-empt that hon members. The Presiding Officer at the time will have to decide and look at the context.

Mr S N SWART: House Chair, may we suggest that we have a shorter lunch break. Do we really need an hour?

BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT 13:38 AND RESUMED AT 14:41.

Vote No 1 - Presidency - put.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honmembers, I now put Vote 1 - Presidency. Declarations of vote have been requested. I will now call upon the MK Party to make a declaration. The MK Party has requested to make a declaration, but I do not see any member from the party.

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: On a point of order, Deputy Speaker!
Deputy Speaker, something unprecedented is happening at these

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gates, and many of our members are still stuck at these gates. So, when we say the recess... [Interjections. - No, wait, do not try to find relevance through me. If we are going to say the break is a certain amount of time, then we should not be stopping members the way they are stopped there at the gate, like common criminals. The police there at the gate are not letting the members in. The members are standing there at the gate and that interferes with the business of the day. We had to run to get here, please. We had this situation in the Sixth Parliament. Those who were not here will not know. - Those who are shouting from the ANC side. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ntlangwini, yes, you have made your point. That is not really a point of order, but I am quite aware that it could cause a problem. Could I just check with the MK Party, do you have your speaker who would make a declaration on Budget Vote 1? Hon Reddy.

Declarations of vote:

Mr V G REDDY: House Chair, hon members of Parliament, the uMkhonto weSizwe Party led by President Jacob Zuma will vote against this Budget Vote in particular. And here is why, to the masses, to the youth of South Africa the most unemployed in the world and to the over 55% living in poverty, the

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majority of whom are black people, and here I include South African Indians and coloureds as well.

The President in his budget said "*fokol*." His fancy words in the queen's English amounts to lies ... [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, please take your seat. As from the Chair, we do have certain conventions that we do uphold the dignity of this House and even when you quote. I would ask you to please respect the dignity and decorum of this House in terms of the language that is used in this House. Thank you.

Mr V G REDDY: ... That word was used by the President and declared parliamentary. So, the President has likened us to "breakers." We embrace this label because we seek to break the chains that bind our people in poverty and misery...
[Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, please take your seat, there is a point of order.

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There is now a bit of confusion. You have made a ruling and said that the member should not use unparliamentary

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language. The person at the podium now says there has been a declaration that it is parliamentary to use that word. We need a ruling on that please.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Trollip, I did not say it is unparliamentary as I asked the member to please uphold the decorum and dignity of this House, I did not say it was unparliamentary.

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Sorry, I am saying that the member at the podium says it has been declared parliamentary. We need clarity on that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Trollip, no, it has not been declared parliamentary. Yes. It has been declared unparliamentary so there is your ruling, but once again I do want to reiterate that as members, we have a responsibility towards the public and the voters out there that we do uphold the decorum of this House with the language we utter. Whether it is parliamentary or not, thank you.

Mr V G REDDY: ... Thank you. For the member's information, please read your booklet on parliamentary and unparliamentary words. It has been challenged but not declared but not

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declared unparliamentary. The President has likened us to "breakers." We embrace this label because we seek to break the chains that bind our people in poverty and misery. We aim to shatter the illusion that South Africa is prosperous and that its people are content. We strive to dismantle the divide between the rich and the poor... [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member at the podium, please take your seat. Hon Trollip?

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Deputy Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, I do not want to belabour this point, but you have now made a declaration and you have said it is unparliamentary. The hon member at the podium continues to say, "read the booklet, it is parliamentary." There is an impasse, and we need a ruling on it because I do not believe it is parliamentary or acceptable language.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Trollip, it was in fact declared unparliamentary. So, it is my ruling and at this particular point, I would urge you to then write to the Speaker, if you do have a problem with my ruling now, thank you. And that is the end of the discussion, hon Trollip. I am not going to go into a debate with you at this particular point. Thank you.

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Mr M G MAHLAULE: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and my apologies, my hand has been up, and you could not see it. Indeed, this word has been declared unparliamentary in 2022, and I accept your ruling. However, what hon Trollip is not taking, and I am not prepared to take, is for the member to continue to mislead the House, to say, "it was considered unparliamentary or parliamentary" and continues to move in that direction. He must withdraw an unparliamentary language, must be withdrawn. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank hon member very much. I have already made my ruling and I will come back to the House after this. The member can now proceed.

Mr V G REDDY: ... like the fictional character Pinocchio that has a big nose that grows every time he tells a lie, the President has lied to the nation, to his ANC and to himself. The truth is that our country is in a worse state than it was 10 years ago. Over 55% of our people live in poverty, and unemployment has skyrocketed to over 30%.

The only beneficiaries under Ramaphosa's ANC are the billionaires today who were millionaires during apartheid. The privatisation of state-owned enterprises is well underway.

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Friends and colleagues understand that the sale of this country is well underway under this President. The President of the ANC is busy selling off our state-owned enterprises. Now it is payback time because you remember, during the ANC conference, R1 billion was paid by his white monopoly capital industries so he can become President of the ANC and become President of the country. So, he can sell off our state-owned enterprises ... [Interjections.] ...

Dr C P MULDER: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I have been trying to get the attention of the table. The hon member at the podium made this statement that the President has lied. That is unparliamentary and that should be withdrawn.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mulder, you are correct in terms of Rule 85, it is unparliamentary and you cannot cast an excursion. Please withdraw.

Mr V G REDDY: I withdraw, he tells untruths.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, which means the exact same thing. So, you are not going to get away with that.

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Mr V G REDDY: ... I withdraw. So, the most important thing. And I conclude with this. The President is selling out the future... [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Reddy, please take your seat. hon Dlakude what is your point of order?

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY (Ms D E Dlakude): Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon member on the podium is casting aspersion on the President. He said that "the white monopoly capital paid for the President to become a President." If he believes in that, he must bring a substantive motion to the House. Thank you.

Mr V G REDDY: ... I will bring the substantive motion ... [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Reddy, I have not made my ruling yet, please sit!

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Deputy Speaker!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ndlozi, I am still busy with a ruling. Please take your seat. I will not recognise you before I have

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made my ruling. I have not recognised you. Hon Dlakude, you are quite correct that if an aspersion is cast or improper motives are ascribed to the President. The hon member knows that he should bring a substantive motion. I will now take your point hon Ndlozi.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Deputy Speaker, the President never denied the contributors of "CR17". Please, Deputy Speaker, indulge me ...
[Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ndlozi, that is a point of debate. It is not a point of order. Please take your seat. Hon Ndlozi, it is not a point of order. You are now giving your opinion.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: ... Deputy Speaker, I am calling for a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order and in which rule is it?

Dr M Q NDLOZI: ... My point of order is that the definition of an aspersion would have said he "stole or he got stolen money. But if they say, "capital gave him money to campaign." That is

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true, which he admitted here you are suppressing freedom of speech, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are now going into a debate about the matter, and it is not a point of order... [Interjections.] ...

Dr M Q NDLOZI: ... But you are suppressing freedom of speech. It is not an aspersion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... That is your opinion about an aspersion and your definition. So please take your seat. It is not sustained. Hon Shivambu, what is your point of order?

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: There is a huge difference between an aspersion and statement of fact. The President of the ANC spoke in Parliament and admitted to the "CR17" money which was used to buy an ANC conference. He of course gave a different context that he was not supposed to declare it here, but he did give that admission. To then rule that as if it does not exist, it is wrong. It sets a wrong precedent. You cannot have a Parliament that is based on wrong information and lies, that is a statement of fact which you cannot say must be withdrawn in terms of this particular process.

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Shivambu, I have now ruled in terms of this matter, and this is where it will end. I will not take any further matters on this. I have ruled that it is out of order and that a substantive motion will be brought. That is the end of it. If anyone else has a problem with it, please write to the Speaker and it will be referred to the rules committee. Hon Reddy, please proceed.

Mr V G REDDY: ... In conclusion, the President here is selling out the future of the black child in South Africa. It is time for the ANC to rid itself of this greatest liability called "Ramaphosa" and to return him to his handlers. Under his leadership, the ANC is a lame duck ... [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION (Mr K B Manamela): I rise on a point of order. The speaker on the podium said earlier that the President lied and then he said he is withdrawing. And then he said the President spoken truths. But I do not know which one did he withdraw that the President lied, or the President spoken truths? And if he just withdrew one, can we ask him to withdraw both of them because they are both unparliamentary?

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Manamela, he did in fact withdraw, both because I pointed to him that an untruth is the same as a lie. And he withdrew both.

Mr V G REDDY: ... So, under his leadership, the ANC is a lame duck. He was sent to destroy this ANC from within. You have an agent right inside your ANC. And if you cannot see it, then you are blind. Thank you.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Point of order, Deputy Speaker. Members of the ruling opposition benches, disrupt permanently members of the opposition with frivolous points of order. Can you please reign on them? Some of them are senior people here in the Cabinet howling. They are here as howlers. Please reign on them not to drown speakers in the opposition benches, please, deputy speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ndlozi, it is for the presiding office to decide to decide what is frivolous or not. And you are also doing that. I am hearing howling from both sides. Members, please lower the noise because we cannot hear the speakers. Hon members, on both sides, - Hon Ndlozi, please switch off your microphone. We now proceed to the Chief Whip of the Majority Party.

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The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Deputy Speaker, the ANC supports Budget Vote 1 - Presidency. The budget supports the constitutional duty of the President and the Deputy President. As a strategic centre that leads and co-ordinates, we believe that the President should be capacitated to address the complex structural challenges of unemployment, inequality, and poverty.

The budget also supports the various initiatives of the President, to ensure that we continue to play our role globally and, on the continent to create a better life for all. The President also focuses on public engagements and initiatives that develop social compacts and co-ordinate policy implementations.

As Parliament, we should continue to hold the President and the national executive to account for the use of this appropriation. The outcomes of the initiatives and interventions led by the President have yielded positive outcomes and we need to do better and more. Therefore, the ANC fully support the budget of the President. Thank you.

Question put.

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DIVISION CALLED.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, the Speaker has determined, in accordance with the rules and manual voting procedure, will be used for this division. We have determined that there is a quorum, and that party Whips will now be given the opportunity to confirm the number of the members present and indicate if they vote against for or against the question. Any member who wishes to abstain or vote against the party vote may do so by informing the Chair.

VOTING [TAKE IN FROM MINUTES]

Agreed to.

Vote 2 - Parliament - put.

Declaration of vote:

Mr C M DUGMORE: Deputy Speaker, we support Budget Vote 2 given that it, in fact, supports the execution of the constitutional mandate of Parliament as an arm of the state. As the ANC we support Budget Vote 2 to support the different functions of this Parliament. Parliament as the tribune of the people should always be in contact with the people to ensure public

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involvement and also to assist the resolution of challenges by government.

Through this Vote, Parliament supports the business of Parliament, it covers constituency work, communications, party-political funding and the compensation of parliamentary support staff who play a critical role in supporting us as public representatives in executing the Constitution's obligations.

This budget also allocates funds for the restoration of Parliament which is a major project to restore, our national heritage and the House. Therefore, the ANC supports Budget Vote 2. I thank you.

Division demanded.

AYES - 237: [TAKE IN FROM MINUTES]

NOES - 85: [TAKE IN FROM MINUTES]

Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

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Vote No 3 - Co-operative Governance - put.

Declaration of vote:

Mr N Z BUTHELEZI: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members in the House and millions of South Africans who we owe our being here to. On behalf of the IFP I must express a sense of hope, and not because the budget before us is faultless, but because the programmes that the budget will fund are now under the authority of a political head who not only understand local government, but respect the crucial role of traditional leaders.

My late father, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the founder of the IFP, was the longest serving traditional Prime Minister to the Zulu monarch and the nation, serving under three consecutive kings. Yet as an inkosi even he, was faced with the lack of support and financial logistical resources from government. For seven decades he was the most outspoken champion of traditional leadership. During the constitutional negotiations he compelled Parliament to reconvene for one day for, specifically to enshrine the recognition of the king. Very sadly this amendment fell in the crack travelling from draft to be final in the Constitution.

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He constantly reminded Mr Jacob Zuma of the commitment he had made to the amakhosi as the Deputy President before the first local government elections, a commitment to protect the role, powers and functions of traditional leaders; commitment that was never honoured.

As an inkosi myself now, I am encouraged by the hope that now we will see many promises made to the traditional leaders fulfilled, not because these promises were made by the IFP, but because the IFP believes in doing the right things. The stability of amakhosi and ubukhosi is the stability of this country across all provinces. It is very pivotal.

For that same reason as the IFP's member of the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Cogta, portfolio I together with my colleagues in our portfolio undertake that we will robustly fulfil the role of the executive oversight with vigour and without fear or favour. I thank you.

Ms D R DIREKO: Deputy Speaker, as the ANC we support the Budget Vote because we believe that the core of our community service delivery lies within local government. As a result of that we are hopeful that this budget that we are adopting here

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this afternoon is going to deliver services to our people, is going to promote economic development in our local communities and it is also going to assist the councils to ensure that they deliver on their mandate. I therefore support the budget.

[Applause.]

Division demanded. The House divided.

AYES - 239: [TAKE IN FROM MINUTES]

NOES - 79: [TAKE IN FROM MINUTES]

Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

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

Question put.

Objection of the EFF noted.

Division called.

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[BELLS RUNG FOR 15 SECONDS]

The House divided.

Voting:

AYES - 240: (ANC - 132; DA - 73; IFP - 10; PA - 7; FF Plus - 5; Action SA - 5; UDM - 2; Rise Mzansi -1; Bosa - 2; Al Jama'a - 2; PAC - 1).

NOES - 80: (MK - 51; EFF - 28; Action SA - 1).

Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 5 - Home Affairs - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Ms L M NGOBENI: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. As Action SA, as you know, we are definitely for the strengthening of our borders. We think that the sovereignty of our country gets to be undermined when our borders are as porous as they are. So, we ask that this department strengthen the ability of the BMA to do their work. I think that we should - who was that? I

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think that we should definitely make sure that the BMA is strengthened.

We want to have more boots on the ground. We don't have enough boots on the ground in terms of the number of officers who are able to undertake this work. So, as far as we are concerned, as ActionSA, we are saying that the ability of illicit goods and people - human beings - to come through our borders is unacceptable and we are unrelenting in that stance. So, we are declaring as ActionSA that this is the reason why we will not support this particular budget. Thank you.

Ms S G KHOJANE: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. As the PA, we do support the budget, but we would just like to state that we want to plead for faster and more efficient systems to acquire IDs and passports and the arrest of corrupt individuals at the department, as well as the deportation of illegal immigrants.

I want to conclude by saying that if you visit someone, you do not simply walk in and begin to eat the food in their fridge. You knock, you identify yourself and then you state why you are visiting. You will then be warmly received.

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So, this is not an attack on foreign nationals. We are asking for respect in the same degree that we respect their countries and their borders. Thank you.

Ms M MODISE-MPYA: On behalf of the ANC, we stand before this house in support of budget vote five on the Department of Home Affairs and its entities. We believe this budget allocation will enable the Department of Home Affairs to continue with its modernisation programme of digitising home affairs records.

We also believe that this budget allocation will enable the department to finalise the implementation of the ABS system as well as the BABS programme, so as to first check the services of home affairs to our people. We will play our oversight role to ensure that the department implements the recommendations of the Lubisi report, which includes among others, to address the challenges with regards to visa application backlogs.

We are encouraged by the Department of Home Affairs that it has developed and is in the process of implementing its anti-corruption strategy. This anti-corruption strategy will go a long way in uprooting corruption from the home affairs as part of building an ethical developmental state. The ANC supports

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Budget Vote 5 on the Department of Home Affairs and its entities. Thank you.

Question put.

Objections of the MK Party and the EFF noted.

Division called.

The House divided.

[BELLS RUNG FOR 15 SECONDS]

Voting:

AYES - 234: (ANC - 132; DA - 72; IFP - 10; PA - 7; FF Plus - 5; UDM - 2; Rise Mzansi -1; Bosa - 2; Al Jamaha - 2; PAC - 1).

NOES - 85: (MK - 51; EFF - 28; Action SA - 6).

Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Agreed to.

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

Question put.

DIVISION CALLED.

[Bells rung for 15 seconds]

Voting.

Agreed to.

Vote No 7 - National School of Government - put.

Question put.

DIVISION CALLED.

[Bells rung for 15 seconds]

Voting.

Agreed to.

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Vote No 8 - National Treasury - put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr W M DOUGLAS: Hon Speaker, allowing foreigners and private individuals to own this critical institution poses a significant threat to our economic sovereignty and the wellbeing of our people. The South African Reserve Bank should serve the interests of the nation and its people, not the profit motives of private investors.

The Reserve Bank holds the power to influence monetary policy, control inflation and ensure financial stability. When this power is in the hands of private individuals or foreign entities, it can be wielded as a weapon against the very people it is meant to protect. As President Jacob Zuma, the rightful President of South Africa has rightly stated, the Reserve Bank should be owned by the state so that it can serve the interests of our people and not those of private shareholders.

There are several compelling reasons why the Reserve Bank must be nationalised and returned to the state and to the people. National control of the Reserve Bank ensures that monetary policy aligns with national interests, fostering economic

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stability and growth that benefits all South Africans. A state-owned Reserve Bank is accountable to the people and not individuals and foreign states, ensuring transparency and responsibility in its operations.

This is essential for maintaining public trust in our financial system. Right now, we have Germans and other foreign nationals owning parts of our bank and that is completely wrong. Private ownership can lead to policies that prioritise profits over public welfare, exacerbating inequality and undermining social stability and strategic national security.

The Reserve Bank plays a crucial role in safeguarding our financial security. National ownership ensures that it releases actions that are aligned with broader national security interests of South Africa. The Reserve Bank should be a tool for national development, not a mechanism for private profit. As noted in the business day, the ownership structure of the Reserve Bank is outdated and inconsistent with a need for public accountability and national economic development. The South African Reserve Bank does not serve the people and the MK votes against this Bill. Thank you. [Applause.]

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Mr A D BEESLEY: Deputy Speaker, for the South African Reserve Bank to have a real budget cut of 10% is illogical. The SA Revenue Service collects over 90% of state revenue and such reductions are likely to impact Sars's ability to collect revenue, potentially affecting the overall fiscal health of the country. The SA Revenue Service should rather receive more funding to pursue the political elite and criminal syndicates that remain outside the tax net. Action SA does not support this budget. Thank you.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Deputy Speaker, we just want to deal with a simplistic response given by the hon Masondo to an otherwise legitimate and complex argument about the refusal of the ANC government to use its procurement capabilities to stimulate industrialisation - the local production of the products in South Africa. It was very opportunistic of him to dismiss it using toilet papers. That's why it is very difficult to take him seriously and to respect him as a communist in your ranks.

Government should use its procurement policy to force all departments and entities to procure local products that will lead not only to industrialisation but also to creation of sustainable jobs. If the toothpicks, the clothes, the sheets that you are using in hospitals and prisons, and the uniforms

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of nurses are locally produced – that is the economic substantial point we are making. And the dismissiveness that you came here to demonstrate will make most of us not take you seriously anymore, particularly to respect you as a communist intellectual. Thank you very much.

Sepedi:

Ntate S C SEKOATI: Mohl Sepikara, Kgoro ye ya tša Matlotlo ya bosetšhaba e na le maikarabelo a moswananoši ao ka ona e swanetšego e godiše moruo wa naga e be e tliše diphetogo tšeo di tlilego go dira gore ekonomi e gole, e akaretše batho bohle le go bona gore mašelang a naga a somišwa gabotse.

English:

The vote strikes a necessary balance between the need to stabilise our public finances and stimulate aggregate demand through social spending by protecting vulnerable groups and preserving essential public services, including the criticality of aggressive infrastructure investment. We are confident that the structural reforms as led by the department and the Presidency will catapult the South African economy into a new growth path that will structurally transform our economy in the interest of all South Africans. Just to clarify further, that the industrialisation strategy is driven by the

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ANC and therefore there is no one in this country who can claim that they understand industrialisation better than the ANC in this House. I rest my case.

Sepedi:

Ke a leboga.

Question put.

DIVISION CALLED.

[Bells rung for 15 seconds]

Voting.

Agreed to.

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

Division demanded.

[TAKE IN FROM MINUTES]

Question agreed to.

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Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 10 - Public Enterprises - put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr W W WESSELS: Deputy Speaker, state-owned enterprise is in a dire state and there is no denying that. They are not functioning, and there are also black holes for taxpayers' money.

We welcome the fact that there is a plan to really reformulate that, but this budget unfortunately does not speak to that in this stage.

We need an adjustment budget because this budget, currently, for example, makes provision for expenditure on a Ministry, 22% of this budget is appropriated for Ministry that does not exist anymore.

So, this is inconceivable, and the FF Plus cannot support this vote.

Mr S I SUBRATHIE: Madam Speaker, the ANC supports Budget Vote 10. The importance of state-owned enterprises, SOEs, in a

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development economy cannot be overemphasised as a key driver of inclusive growth.

SOEs challenges in the past are well known and noted. However, the Department of Public Enterprises has managed to use its past budget allocation to stabilise our SOEs provides solutions and support our SOEs. Consequently, due to the Department of Public Enterprises reforms, restructuring and turnaround plans, the 7th Administration inherits SOEs that are in an upward trajectory where leadership has been strengthened that practice sound corporate governance and financial control. Thank you. [Applause]

Division demanded.

[TAKE IN FROM MINUTES]

Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 11 - Public Service and Administration - put.

Declaration of Vote:

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Mr J N DE VILLIERS: Chair, the public administration is every government employee working in every sphere of government, whether it be national, provincial or local government, including all organs of state and state-owned enterprises. These public administrators are the engine that keeps the car, which is the government running.

Chair, we, the elected politicians are the drivers of this car. As politicians, we set the direction of government by approving budgets and crafting legislation and policy. The public administration, the engine of government needs to function like a machine, transparent, independent professional and use fuel efficiently, economically and effectively.

The budgets we approve is the fuel, a precious and scarce resource provided to us by the hard work of taxpaying citizens. Today we are approving the use of a budget that was crafted by the previous drivers of the Sixth Parliament. But the reality is the car, which is the government, cannot move forward if we the drivers do not give it the fuel it needs.

The government of National Unity, GNU, the new drivers of this government will make sure that future budgets make use of

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taxpayers' money in a way that is in the best interest of all the people of South Africa. The DA supports this budget.

Division demanded.

The House divided.

[Voting take in from minutes]

Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 12 - Public Service Commission - put.

Declaration of Vote:

Dr T K S LETLAPE: Apologies, Chair, I just wanted to check whether I could outspint Joe Biden. We need a Public Service Commission that is independent and well resourced. One of our key problems is not having competent, ethical, nonpolitically aligned civil servants.

The appointment of senior civil servants should be done by this commission. The biggest disabler of service is

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incompetent, politically connected civil servants. The greatest enabler will be to remove political meddling in appointment of civil servants to give us competent, ethical civil servants that can deliver on the mission of public service.

The time for political interference after 30 years is over. It may have been appropriate when we came out and we had never been in administration after 30 years. Let's give them their independence and let's save our country.

Question agreed to. (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 13 - Public Works and Infrastructure - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Dr M Q NDLOZI: We just want to announce to the House that we are going to bring a substantial motion that Ministers must have post matric qualifications. Running government is a very complex exercise. This anti-intellectual, education hate culture promoted in the ranks of the DA's must be rejected.

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The Minister must go to school.

Sesotho:

Ha hona letho le tshosang sekolong.

IsiZulu:

Kumnandi esikoleni. Siyafunda, sidlale sifunde.

English:

Hon - you must go to school, Minister. Thank you very much.

Ms M P KOBE: Hon Speaker, this budget reduction with the largest slash being Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP is reflection on the governing party that they are tone deaf to the current situation that young people are facing right now.

As it stands, as we are in this House, eThekweni there are more than 300 EPWP workers that have been laid off and it is a result of the reduction of this budget. In this current form, the EPWP is at most exploitative, and it ensures that our young people languish in cycles of poverty. As such, we as Action SA are calling for the remodelling thereof.

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We are asking that the temporary solution and fix to our unemployment is not going to work. Start insourcing our young people, ensure that those vacant posts in municipalities and government entities are given first preference to our EPWP workers. We ask you to adopt recruitment policies that do not based on themselves, on political patronage or nepotism, but they are based purely on performance and merit.

And lastly, we ask that you put South Africans first, ensure that in this industry from engineers right down to bricklayers, South Africans get first preference in our industries. As Action SA, we reject this budget and we call you to recall the termination of project in eThekweni. Thank you.

Mr M DLELANGA: House, hon members, as the ANC we support the Budget Vote 13 For Public Infrastructure. Infrastructure development and public works is a critical economic enabler for development, creating jobs, stimulating growth, and improving lives of our people.

Through its programme and its entity plays a critical role in the construction and built environment sector. The department also plays crucial role in infrastructure development through

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Infrastructure South Africa, which is a fundamental part of implementing the economic reconstruction and recovery plan and achieving the targets of the National Development Plan, NDP.

We support the Budget Vote 13 for Expanded Public Works Programme to continue to create critical skilling and job creation programmes, especially for the poor of our country, continue to improve through the creation of government immovable assets, continue to develop small harbours to tap on the economic benefit on the coastal community.

They Welisizwe bridge must continue to stay on course for the benefit of the rural communities. There is much work to be done to create and to ensure inclusive economic growth. We thank you and we support.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon member, you don't have to shout because I asked and there was no hand.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: We are dividing so that they can go and apply for night school. Division! The Minister must go and apply for night school.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): No, hon member. You are out of order. It's either you object or call for a division.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: We are calling for a division hon House Chair.

Division demanded.

The House divided.

[Voting take in from minutes]

Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 14 – Statistics South Africa – put.

Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 15 – Traditional Affairs – put.

Question agreed to. (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

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Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 16 – Basic Education – put.

Declarations of vote:

Afrikaans:

Dr W J BOSHOFF: Die VF Plus ondersteun die begroting vir hierdie departement maar dit kom met 'n groot maar. Ons sal mooi dophou wat die nuwe Minister met moedertaalonderrig en kritiese rastoerie maak. Wat gaan word van die Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill [Wysigingswetsontwerp op Basiese Onderwyswette] en beleidstukke oor die sogenaamde ...

English:

... Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Expression and Sex Characteristics, SOGIESC?

Afrikaans:

Gaan basiese onderwys weer 'n verlengstuk van die kultuurgemeenskap word of gaan die staatsgesentreerde onderwys wat net die individu met matelose keuse, vryheid en die staat erken die departement se beleid bly?

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Verwikkellinge by Laerskool Mikro en vroeër by Hoërskool Vishoek in die DA se Wes-Kaap oortuig ons nie dat die DA ideologies op 'n beter plek as die ANC staan nie. Dankie.

English:

Mr S T D LOUW: Chair, the ANC supports Budget Vote No 14 for Basic Education as it responds to a critical ANC priority which is investing in our children and youth. Over the past 30 years, we have transformed our education landscape and we believe that through this budget together we will build an education system that creates equal opportunities for all South Africans.

In this budget, infrastructure remains our priority to increase the number of schools and to maintain infrastructure, support sanitation infrastructure and other teacher and learner materials. This budget responds to the impact of the cost of living through the provision of nutritious meals and scholar transport. Through this budget, we will sustain the quality of our education in no-fee schools and through the Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill we will be able to transform South Africa. Thank you very much.

Division demanded.

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The House divided.

[Voting take in from minutes]

Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 17 – Higher Education and Training – put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr M P MSEZANE: As we sit here, there are students at the University of the Witwatersrand that are being evicted from their accommodation. As we sit here, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, has divided students of higher learning institutions. As we sit here, NSFAS has not accounted for two consecutive financial years with an amount of R100 billion unaccounted for. As we sit here, our students are victimised by landlords.

However, as MK we are clear that we want free education in our lifetime and we want it now. That is what our young people want and therefore we vehemently reject this Budget Vote. Thank you very much.

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Ms M DLAMINI: Chairperson, we are the generation that was told by Minister Nzimande that we should fall when we asked for free decolonised education but instead of us falling the department itself has fallen, taking back to Treasury an amount of R580 million of a budget they could not use.

IsiZulu:

Sixakekile sihleli la, Sihlalo, ukuthi bacela izabelomali.

English:

They are incompetent.

IsiZulu:

Bakhombisile ukuthi abanalo ikhono lokusebenzisa izabelomali abazicela khona kulesi siShayamthetho.

English:

We are saying that students are not receiving their allowances. As we speak, students are held back from transport and food allowances because there is a chronic incompetence in the department. We reject this Vote.

Dr W J BOSHOF: Chair, in this department there is a new Minister who should be afforded the opportunity to shake up

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her department. Nevertheless, NSFAS on its own has a larger budget than 35 of the 41 Votes that we are considering today. Since its conversion from a credit provider to a disburser of grants in 2017, it hasn't succeeded in living up to reasonable expectations let alone unreasonable expectations.

There are also other reasons. For instance, the department's insistence that Afrikaans as medium of instruction amounts to racial exclusion but as long as NSFAS is under administration we cannot support this Budget Vote.

Ms F HASSAN: Madam Chair, it's hon Hassan from the floor. Even amidst budgetary constraints the ANC is committed to working ... [Interjections.] ... I am a short person ... the ANC is committed to working closely with the department and this is to ensure infrastructure development to support escalating student enrolments in higher education. While acknowledging the challenges posed by budget cuts, particularly with respect to new infrastructure, we support the maintenance of our institutions to be upper levels of infrastructure standards.

The current condition of NSFAS has profound implications for the stability of the higher education system. However, we are encouraged by the Minister's pledge to work towards resolving

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NSFAS related issues, including the 2025 application process. This would be through a comprehensive plan that addresses appeals, delays and payments, thereby ensuring a consistent resolution to these issues.

It is imperative that the allocation for skills development be prioritised and this imperative goes beyond addressing the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment. It extends to empowering young people, particularly those not in employment, education and training.

As the ANC, we support Budget Vote No 17 as it realises the very free education called for in this House. I thank you.

Division demanded.

The House divided.

[Voting take in from minutes]

Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

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Vote No 18: Health – put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mrs M O CLARKE: Hon House Chairperson, the introduction of the National Health Insurance, NHI, is a significant concern. The estimated costs range from R200 billion, to an astonishing R1 trillion per annum. Treasury has repeatedly indicated that this is unaffordable. As the member of the national government of unity, GNU, the DA acknowledges the importance of supporting ...

Dr M Q NDLOZI: On a point of order, House Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majazi): Hon member, I am sorry. Please take your seat. Yes, hon Ndlozi.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: House Chairperson, with respect we request members because we cannot hear them to either go to the podium or get closer to the mic. We cannot hear the declarations and the GNU is falling apart.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majazi): No, that's enough, hon Ndlozi. Your request was enough not to go further. At my

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discretion I would request that if your mic is a bit shorter, maybe you can do the declaration seated. Thank you.

Continue, hon member.

Mrs M O CLARKE: As the member of the national government of unity, the DA acknowledges the importance of supporting the budget and the steps taken to avoid tax increases and maintain medical tax credits this year.

We must highlight the critical issues surrounding the NHI. The financial implications are immense and unsustainable. Instead of pursuing the NHI, these funds should be redirected to address the chronic problems in our health sector.

Infrastructure improvements, skills development, filling vacancies and ensuring our hospitals are equipped to provide quality universal health care should be our priority.

Additionally, the Gauteng High Court, ruling regarding certificates of need in the National Health Act, could have major implications for the implementation of the NHI should the Constitutional Court confirm the High Court judgment.

Judge Miller ruled that sections 36 to 40 of the National Health Act are invalid in the entirety.

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The DA will continue to hold the government accountable and push for health budgets that generally reflects the needs of our people. We support Vote No 18. [Applause.]

Dr S S THEMBEKWAYO: Hon House Chairperson, we want to reiterate our rejection of this Budget Vote because the department is incapable of resolving our health challenges in the country. Recently, we noted numerous complains from the Leratong Hospital in the Esat Rand of which there are some patients who - Leratong Hospital.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon members, hon members!

Dr S S THEMBEKWAYO: Alright, whatever, but the fact remains it is Leratong Hospital.

The HOUSE Chairperson (Ms Z Majozi): Hon member, at the podium.

Hon members, you are allowed to haul, but not this much. You are drowning the speaker at the podium.

Dr S S THEMBEKWAYO: Thank you, House Chairperson.

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The act of the matter is that there are more than 38 patients who have been admitted in this hospital since as of November 2023 and to date they have not received that much needed operation. Is still in July, we got a report that a mother was admitted in hospital in a dying condition. Immediately when the son confronted the hospital and threatened them to go the chief executive officer, CEO, is when they blocked him and said we will be able to continue to treat her. She has survived, but the question is: How many of the family members have died due to this negligence? How many were left there unattended? So, hon Minister, please check this.

In February 2024, the then Minister of Health, went to the media and made an announcement to say ...

The HOUSE CAHIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon member please take a seatt behind you. Oh.

Hon Ntlangwini, why are you raising your hand?

Dr M Q NDLOZI: We were saying commissar. Thank you.

The HOUSE CAHIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon member, please continue.

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Dr S S THEMBEKWAYO: Thank you, House Chairperson. I just wanted to say in February 2024, the then Minister of Health took a podium on media to say hundreds unemployed health practitioners will be employed. To date only a few are employed citing an example of those that applied for a place in Seshego Hospital who got a negative answer to say they cannot be employed because they are overqualified.

We still reiterate that we need clinics to be opened 24 hours, seven days a week so that we can stop these long queues that are followed by our patients. What I can tell you Minister is that the staff at are suffering from language diarrhoea.

Sepedi:

Lilimi, mala.

English:

For they do not know how to talk to patients. When they see the elders, they shout at them to high blood pressure because of shouting. Just take them on courses on how to communicate with patients. Language diarrhoea is their problem. Thank you.

[Applause.]

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Mr P A VAN STADEN: Hon House Chairperson, one thing the FFPlus will never do is to support the National Health Insurance, NHI. Our views are very clear, on this matter and we have stated this constantly in the past five-years from this podium in the Portfolio Committee on Health as well as in the media and in the public domain. We simply cannot support the NHI.

Yesterday the Gauteng High Court in Pretoria has declared that sections 36 to 40 of the National Health Act 61 of 2003 invalid and unconstitutional. Through this judgement a core pillar on which the government centralisation of health care ... [Inaudible.] ... that was indeed declared unconstitutional. Sections 36 to 40 gave government the power to determine where medical practitioners may practice.

We must get rid of the problems in the public sector costing the taxpayer a lot of money. Money that could have been used for the procurement of medicine, medical equipment, beds the ... [Inaudible.] ... of new hospital and clinics, the upgrading of infrastructure, the effective utilising of buildings and the appointment of training of doctors and nurses.

Afrikaans:

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Hierdie uitspraak beteken dat dele van die Nasionale Gesondheidsversekering Wet moontlik ook onwettig en ongrondwetlik is. Die VF Plus het reeds in April 2023 'n regsopinie by die Parlement ingedien, wat aangedui het dat daar tekortkominge in die NGV Wetsontwerp is en dat die NGV ongrondwetlik is.

Die V F Plus was nie verkeerd nie en gister se uitspraak is 'n bevestiging van ons standpunt daardie tyd. Ons het ook in November 2022 'n minderheidsverslag by die Parlement ingehandig, wat hierdie probleme uitgelig het. Ons het ook verlede jaar in November 2023 'n verslag gepubliseer en vrygestel wat verdere probleme uitgelig het, veral die probleem met van skending van menseregte in ons hospitale.

Die VF Plus se standpunt bly onwrikbaar dat die NGV nie daarin sal slaag om openbare gesondeheidsorg te verbeter nie, maar dit sal eerder die teenoorgestelde uitwerking hê.

English:

I have said this many times and I am saying it again today that the FFPlus will strive to establish co-operation between the private and public health care sector so that expertise and facilities can be pulled and the main drive would not be

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transformation but for offering of good accessible health care to all the people of South Africa

Afrikaans:

Wat ons nie kan doen nie en wat ons nie kan toelaat nie is dat die private gesondheidsorgsektor heeltemal vernietig word vir die behoud en oorlewing van die openbare gesondheidsorgsektor. Daar moet plek wees vir beide en daarom bly dit die standpunt van die VF Plus dat 'n gesondheidstelsel ontwerp en betuur moet word deur kundiges, nie politici nie. So 'n stelsel moet beide die openbare en private sektor bevoordeel.

Ja, die President het enkele dae voor die 2024 verkiesing die wet onderteken, maar dit sal nou die plug wees van die Regering van Nasionale Eenheid, die kabinet en die President om daardie selfe wet na die Grondwethof te neem, om dit ongeldig te laat verklaar.

Tot en met vandag toe is daar geen finansieringsmodel beskikbaar oor die befondsing van die NGV nie. Ons kan nie verder toelaat dat miljarde Rande jaarliks van die departement se totale begroting gevat word om in 'n doodgebore stelsel gestort te word nie - 'n bodemlose put.

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Ons moet ook in ag neem dat gratis gesondheidsdienste nie gratis is nie, want iemand moet op die einde van die dag tog daarvoor betaal.

English:

The private sector and the medical aids are willing to find solution for the problems of the health system. Let us give them a chance on this. Not only must section 33 of the National Health Insurance Act be scrapped, but the whole Act must be scrapped.

Afrikaans:

Ons het gewaarsku dat daar baie hofsake oor die NGV van stapel gestuur gaan word, en nou gebeur presies dit. Daarom sal die VF Plus nie skroom om enige instansie, burgerregte organisasie en ander rolspelers in die mediese bedryf by te staan, indien hul die NGV in die Grondwethof wil beveg nie.

Dit is egter ons plig as 'n vennoot in die Regering van Nasionale Eenheid om wel toe te sien dat mense se grondwetlike regte in hierdie verband nie vertrap word nie. Dit is elke persoon se grondwetlike reg om aan 'n mediese fonds te behoort of nie te behoort nie en dit moet beskerm word.

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Die VF Plus voel baie sterk oor hierdie saak en vir solank as wat daar elke jaar miljarde Rande in die NGV gestort gaan word, sal die VF Plus nie hierdie departement se begroting kan ondersteun nie.

English:

The FFPlus do not support this budget. Thank you, House Chairperson.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Mr M G E Hendricks): Hon House Chairperson, the last declaration has to condemn those who cannot afford affordable medical care to death. When President Ramaphosa found his pen to sign the National Health Insurance Bill, the most vulnerable of our people rushed to their mosque, churches, temples and synagogues as their prayers and to us were answered.

Soon after a dozen smart clear villages encouraged by me are in operation already. Staffed by experienced clinical assistance, a doctor and medicine dispenser. There are no long queues and there is a courtesy follow-up. The clinic treats acute care, diabetes, hypertension, immunisation for babies, sexually transmitted infections, STIs, HIV management and wound care.

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You can go to smart cities in Gugulethu, Bothasig, Mitchells Plain and several other areas specifically in places where people die because of lack of affordable health care clinics. This activist empowered initiative is charging patients R350 for a full service and is ready to be rolled out all over the country as National Health Insurance, NHI, rolls out further.

When all of us say yes to this budget there would be no charge to Bothasig, Mitchells Plain and Gugulethu to patients. Those who die because of health care costs will because of your no Vote. Thank you very much.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: House Chairperson, let me say upfront that we support this budget. However, we need to understand for things to work once we embark on national reforms like the National Health Insurance, we need to ensure that health becomes a national competence. Concurrency is not working in health care.

In 2016, we had the Life Esidimeni disaster. The Minister has come back. He got the Health Ombud to investigate the matter. To get into a situation where in the new South Africa that we have patients that are in health institutions that die from

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torture and starvation is an embarrassment. We need to ensure that such should not recure.

I need to remind this House that the notion of taking mental health patients closer to home is a noble intention. However, the execution was spectacularly disastrous. The notion for national health for all of us and common funding is a noble effort. We need to ensure that we do not repeat the tragedy of Life Esidimeni. We need to ensure that we consult. I am not faced by the fact that the CON was chucked out. It should not have happened to start with. We need to negotiate with the health care professionals. We need to build on what we have.

Both our sectors are sick. That is why Members of Parliament, MPs, will not use the public sector. We need to fix both. We need to ensure that the Health Market Enquiry recommendations are implemented to fix the private sector. We need to ensure that we professionalise the public sector. We insource and get rid of harmful practices like remunerative work outside the public service, RWOPS, Minister, so that we treat the health care professionals as professionals. We give them fulltime jobs and not underpay them and ask them to go and run a private practice to augment what they should have.

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If all of us are engaged so that the national health should mean all they need, and it must start with us the MPs. We should be the first in the front and Parmed should be scrapped. I thank you, House Chairperson. [Applause.]

Dr S M DHLOMO: Hon House Chairperson, as the ANC we support Vote No 18. Yesterday the High Court in Pretoria Gauteng division, made a ruling on the National Health Act 61 of 2003. In this ruling, sections 36 to 40 were declared unconstitutional. These sections deal with what we call a certificate of need. It has mainly two points. The first one is the quality of health equipment and health services. The second one is whether a health facility one wants to build is needed or not needed, as it is already happening in South Africa with pharmacies.

We note with great regret that this court ruling has been used as a huge propaganda tool against the National Health Insurance, NHI. So successful is that this propaganda has also asked some of the members in this House have been making enquiries about the sections of the NHI that they believe are declared unconstitutional.

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We want to put it on record that there are two cases that are registered in court against NHI. The date on which these two cases will be heard has not been decided by any court. We want to put on record again that the claim that the certificate of need is the cornerstone or a pillar of NHI is patently false.

Yesterday's court ruling is about the sections of the National Health Act that were past in Parliament in 2003. The NHI was only passed by this Parliament in June 2023. A 20-year gap. Therefore, there is no ruling that any court of law has made against NHI to date. I thank you. [Applause.]

Division demanded.

The House divided.

Ayes - 227: (ANC - 131; DA - 72; IFP - 5; PA - 7; FF Plus - 4; Action SA - 5; UDM - 2; Rise Mzansi -1; Bosa - 1; Al Jamaha - 2; PAC - 1).

Noes - 77: (MK - 50; EFF - 27).

Question agreed to.

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Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 19 - Social Development - put.

Declaration(s) of Vote:

Ms B S MASANGO: Hon Chairperson, the hon President's second strategic priority, that of reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living, speaks to the core of our clarion call when we campaigned for the national and provincial elections. This was informed to the large part by the cries we heard in every corner of this country, coming from the older persons, the young, the persons with disabilities and those who work in the sector.

The time has come to put into action the hon President's strategic priorities for the benefit of all South Africans. Being cognizant of the fiscal constraints within which this budget is being presented, while keeping top of mind the dire situation many South Africans find themselves in, we acknowledge that this is a transitional budget, and we support it in order to allow the Government of National Unity, GNU, to continue with its work.

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However, the DA will engage with other parties within the GNU on the following points towards the mid-term and future budgets : Increasing the child support grant to the same level as the official food poverty line, protecting older persons from abuse, paying subsidies for NPOs doing government's tutorial work, reducing levels of gender-based violence and deploying sufficient social workers, providing them with the necessary resources to conduct their work. Thank you, Chairperson. [Applause.]

Ms C T NONTENJA: Hon House Chairperson, the UDM supports the budget. However, there seems to be a lot of policy issues that the department still needs to deal with. The department should design an integrated poverty eradication strategy that will provide direct benefits to those in greatest needs, especially women, youth and children in rural areas and informal settlements.

The UDM is concerned about the department's failure to fill the vacancies in critical executive positions such as Director-General, Deputy Director-General, etc. As these vacant positions may result in dysfunctionality within the department. Not only that, despite the dire need for social workers in the country, more than 9 000 qualified social

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workers remain unemployed. Meanwhile, the department has not made any significant strides to close the gap and employ more skilled social workers. This shortage of social workers is an impediment towards achieving proper social care for the vulnerable. This issue has resulted in lack of social services to the most needy.

We are facing a prevalent crisis of child-headed households where many children have to fend for themselves without parental care. Census 2022 revealed that there were about 44 000 children living in child-headed households. These children are often exposed to the harsh realities of poverty, lack of education and violence. This is a critical policy issue that needs to be prioritised by the department in collaboration with Human Settlements. House Chairperson, the UDM support this budget. Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Mr M G E Hendricks): Hon House Chair, Al Jama-ah welcomes the hon Minister's statement to speed up the finalisation of legislation to the Victim Support Service, VSS Bill, so the continuous support for victims of gender-based violence and femicide can be rolled out. Fatherhood will also then be strengthened. The department should work hand in hand with the

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Department of Labour, Small Business Development and Trade and Industry to create viable and decent work for the unemployed, even to those above 60 years who cannot survive on state pensions due to family responsibilities.

Decent work means lifelong employment, medical aid, pension, housing and assistance as part of a company package.

Government must listen to the cries of our seniors and persons living with disabilities who cannot survive on the pension and social grants. State pension and social grounds should lead to the story of human dignity and lifting the most vulnerable.

Women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities from poverty and those who can, there must be full employment for them without them losing their grants.

Grant beneficiaries must be encouraged to become entrepreneurs. The Minister and myself are very concerned about the plight of 9 000 unemployed social workers, and we are doing our best in that regard because it is a motto of this department that no one shall be left out. Thats why I appeal to the Minister of Police that your next batch of trainees must be unemployed social workers, and then they can also help us with gender-based violence. Thank you very much, hon House Chair. [Applause.]

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): PA? Please use another mic. Okay, you can come to the front. It's fine. From the MK party side, can you switch off ... Yes, thank you. Try now switching on one of the mics. You can come to the front.

Ms S G KHOJANE: House Chairperson, my apologies for the technical issue. I would just like to say that the PA does support the budget. However, I would like to note just one very simple thing in regard to the pensioners. Between February 2023 and February 2024, the price of the basic food basket increased by R348,96 cents in the span of just one year to R5 277,30 cents. Pensioners are only receiving R2 180 per month from SA Social Security Agency, Sassa. This essentially means that they cannot afford to buy basic necessities. Therefore, we would like to ask the Minister to looking to facilitating more funds to our pensioners who have worked tirelessly for many years and deserve a much more considerable and liveable grant, so that they can, at the very least, enjoy their golden years. Thank you.

Mr T B MUNYAI: Esteemed hon House Chairperson, esteemed His Excellency, the Deputy President, hon Paul Mashatile, and hon members, the ANC rises to support Budget Vote 19 for Social Development. The budget is informed by the constitutional

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mandate and the NDP Vision 2030. In character, this transitional budget represents policy consistency and continuity, such that we end poverty, hunger, unemployment and inequalities.

This budget will provide a comprehensive social security, welfare services and community development programmes. This budget resolutely supports the improvement, with regard to the provision of social grants and the introduction of the basic income grant. This budget will end the gender-based violence and femicide pandemic. By the way, it is the ANC that declared GBV and femicide a pandemic, not any other political party before this House.

This budget will help us to fight against alcohol and substance abuse, care and protection for the children, support the old age and persons with disabilities, and we call the people who are differently abled. This budget will help us as the ANC to fight against alcohol abuse and substance abuse, care for protection of the support of old age and people with disabilities. It will help us to support the appointment of the much-needed social workers to serve the people of South Africa.

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This budget will take our people of South Africa forward, especially the poor and the marginalised majority in rural area and urban areas. The budget represents the governance renewal, our resolve to build a developmental ethical state with both political strategic capacity and technical capacity. I thank you, hon House Chair.

Question agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote accordingly agreed to

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

Question agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote accordingly agreed to

Vote No 22 - Correctional Services - put.

Division demanded.

The House divided.

[Voting take in from minutes]

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Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 23 - Defence - put.

Declarations of vote:

Ms C T NONTENJA: Hon House Chair, the UDM notes the slight increase on the budget, but we are of the view that this will not make a meaningful impact considering that the department is faced with numerous challenges.

We are concerned with the decrease of a billion rand, from R3,6 billion in 2023-24 to R2,6 billion in the current year on special defence account. Such a limited allocation to this fund is reflective of the lack of investment in the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, equipment and technology in recent years.

We suggest that the department allocate more into this fund to ensure investment in the modernization of its armed forces in order to keep pace with evolving security challenges.

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Moreover, the UDM is also concerned with the current insufficient number of 15 subunits deployed for border safeguarding, leading to South Africa's deteriorating border security.

It is concerning that previous funds of R225 million allocated to the border safeguarding technology to serve as a force multiplier to soldiers deployed on the borders was not used by the department for technology acquisition. Instead, only R85 million finally planned for spending on technology, which was ultimately delayed.

The UDM supports this budget vote. [Applause.]

Xitsonga:

Mr S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu ...

English:

I, once again, rise to put the 7th Administration and Minister Motshekga on notice. [Interjections.] So, the defence budget is indefensible.

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Minister, as a member of Cabinet we know that you have a duty to table and defend it, but you cannot be happy with 52% underfunding.

This matter has achieved the impossible, uniting many political parties across the spectrum.

During the budget vote debate, speaker after speaker said our armed forces need more resources.

We will support you, Minister, to argue for more money next year. But you must clean the rot that's in the defence force. There's too much corruption there and it endangers the lives of those who serve the nation.

We will support this budget for now. But next year we will refuse to be part of what future generations will see as criminal negligence in failing to protect the sovereignty of our nation.

For this time, we will support you. But if it doesn't change, our support will be withdrawn. We'll support it this time.

Setswana:

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Rre M D LEGOETE: E re ke tseye tshono eno go leboga Mmusakgotla, ke ise tlotla go Motlatsatautona ya rona, Ntate Mashatile, le maloko otlhe a Palamente ya rona.

English:

We are presenting the Budget Vote 23 of the Department of Defence.

All of us need to appreciate that defence as an aspect of military, it's a science, and any self-respecting nation must invest in its science for purposes of research and development.

On behalf of the ANC I stand in an unwavering support of the proposed defence budget. The budget is a critical investment in our nations' security and a testament to our enduring commitment to peace, stability and collaboration.

As we celebrate the 30 years of democracy, it reflects our dedication to protecting our sovereignty, advancing regional security and enhancing our human efforts.

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The ANC believes this budget will strengthen our peacekeeping mission, modernize our defence capabilities and support our veterans.

I urge all members to support this budget.

But we further want to implore on the Whippers and all parties. We would want to implore on you to appreciate that we must fight common purpose, we must find common citizenship, we must find a South African dream so that all of us can work towards ensuring that 30 million South Africans who, tonight, are going to sleep without food, they can have food tomorrow.

Let's not turn a theatre of statesmen and stateswomen into a circus. This is a legislature in National Assembly, it cannot be turned into a circus. We are not here for purposes of political mambo jambos. Elections are over. We need to focus and deliver services to our people. The honeymoon is over now. We're taking over. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

Question put.

Agreed to.

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Vote No 25 - Justice and Constitutional Development - put.

Declarations of vote:

Adv G BREYTENBACH: House Chair, hon members, the importance of the Security Cluster in restoring confidence in South Africa, the type of confidence which is absolutely vital to attract investment and unlock economic growth and job creation cannot be overestimated.

We can fix all the governance issues that have plagued government over the past years. We can restructure the economy and perfectly position it to deliver inclusive growth. But if we are not seen to be winning the fight against crime and corruption, none of the promise will be unlocked.

If seen in isolation, the budget of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development cannot be supported. The amount made available to the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, and our courts is simply not sufficient to properly support the administration of justice.

The fact that no additional investment is to be made in crafting a truly independent corruption-fighting entity is also a massive concern.

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But the context in which the budget must be considered is, of course, the huge fiscal constraints under which our country operates. A situation ironically caused largely by the erosion of our crime and corruption fighting capacity.

Therefore, and also because the start, however small, was made in the past five years to rebuild the NPA in the fight against crime and corruption. We will give our support to this budget. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr X NQOLA: House Chair, the Deputy President, the Chief Whip, hon members and the entire South African population. We rise as the ANC to support budget vote 25. For it contributes towards an effective and a functioning justice system.

This budget vote gives a meaning towards what we actually call justice. It is important for the upholding of the rule of law to a proper functioning and an independent NPA, which must prosecute without fear, favour or prejudice.

It is important as it supports Legal Aid South Africa, a critical entity for legal representation of accused persons who cannot afford legal representation.

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We know that legal representation is critical for access to justice. This vote is in support of gender-based violence, GBV, justice.

This vote is in support of GBV survivors and victims through Thuthuzela Care Centres.

This vote supports the Special Investigative Unit, SIU and it fights against corruption and malfeasance.

Ultimately, it contributes to our objective of a complete, safe and peaceful South Africa. Thank you very much, House Chair. [Applause.]

Question put.

DIVISION CALLED.

Voting.

Agreed to.

Vote No 26 - Military Veterans - agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

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

Declaration of vote:

Mr C M DUGMORE: House The ANC, House Chair, support Budget Vote 27. We support this budget because the ANC has a proud record of support for an independent and strong judiciary which is a critical component of our democracy.

Our courts are proven time and again that they are independent and resilient despite unwarranted attacks from certain quotas. Our courts seek to ensure that all people irrespective of their financial means are given an audience and that both sides are heard.

Our courts seek to ensure that justice is access by all, and thus the ANC support to judiciary and because of that support this vote. I thank you.

Division demanded.

[TAKE IN FROM MINUTES]

Question agreed to.

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Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 29 - Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development -
put.

Division demanded.

[TAKE IN FROM MINUTES

Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 30 - Communications and Digital Technologies - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr K P SITHOLE: Hon Chairperson, I rise on the matter of the mass closure of SA Post Office centres in this country. It has long been a stable institution that afforded all South Africans a chance to access services. It was one of the pro-poor vehicles by which the poor and elderly relied on to assess their income grants.

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This decision means that millions of South Africans who depend on the Post Office for over-the-counter payment services and cash payments points, CPP services will need to find alternative ways to access their funds. Among those affected are the beneficiaries of the SA Social Security Agency.

The SA Social Security Agency, Sassa supports over 18 million recipients, including those receiving the older persons grant, disability grants or war veterans grant, care dependency grant, foster care grant, child support grant, child support grant top-up and grant in aid. For now ... [Inaudible] ... the closure cannot be reversed, and other arrangements have been made for ... [Inaudible.]

Mr M MRARA: House Chair, the ANC supports Vote 30 on Communication and Digital Technologies. We welcome that over the medium-term, the department will focus on co-ordinating rollout of broadband internet into underserved areas through the SA Connect project. The transformation of this sector and the digital inclusion remain critical to and from our socioeconomic development.

Therefore, we urge our government to proceed on its commitment to connect 1,5 million households with Wi-Fi hotspots and

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finalise the analogue switch off by December 2024. We implore. The department to engage with the regulator that is the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, Icasa and the Competition Commission to ensure further reduction of data prices.

Lastly hon Chair, the ANC calls for the stabilization and sustainability of all entities, in particular sample and SA Post Office, Sapo and the SABC. Consideration must be afforded to deal with the unfunded mandate while ensuring that their programmes and models enable them to have a healthy balance sheet and become self-sustainable. Thank you.

Question put.

Division demanded.

The House divided.

AYES - 227: (ANC - 129; DA - 68; IFP - 6; PA - 7; FF Plus - 4; ActionSA - 5; UDM - 2; Rise Mzansi -1; Bosa - 2; Al Jamaha - 2; PAC - 1)

NOES - 76: (MK - 50; EFF - 26).

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Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 31 - Employment and Labour - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr M BAGRAIM: Chair the DA respects the need to work together in the Government of National Unity, GNU and to ensure that this government is functional forward-thinking and assists civil society in job creation. Unemployment expanded definition still hovers at 41%, the youth at almost 70%, meaning 2,5 million aspiring young South Africans have been left in the lurch.

It was like a breath of fresh air to hear our President saying that we need to relax the labour mark regulations and improve the quality of education. Unfortunately, social engineering, archaic as it is, is still on the agenda. The Presidency has at last recognised that small businesses are hampering by red tape and automatic extension of collective bargaining agreements to a small and new firms. They are job killers.

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If the DA-led Western Cape can show good governance and can grow their economy and lift South Africa out of poverty, then this can be done and replicated in every single province. Chairperson, government should not be trying to create jobs, but should be active in ensuring that the environment is made conducive to job creation. Thank you.

Mr W W WESSELS: House Chair, unemployment is out of control in South Africa. This Budget Vote and the budget policies that informs it, are aligned to actually address unemployment in South Africa. The transformation agenda of this department has not borne any fruit with regards to inclusive growth and creating employment opportunities through a conducive environment for the majority of South Africans.

We need a rethink, and in that sense, we cannot support this Vote, as it won't align and it won't promote a policy environment where we can actually create employment which will alleviate poverty in this country. That is why the FF Plus does not support this. Thank you.

Mr S M MAECO: House Chair, the ANC supports Budget Vote 31. The government under the ANC has been working to address socioeconomic issues since 1994. We affirm the critical role

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of the Department of Employment and Labour in driving the reduction of unemployment, poverty and inequality in South Africa.

We support the department's commitment in creating decent opportunities through initiatives that foster job creation, enterprise development, preservation of jobs, and the protection of workers' rights. Despite budget cuts, the department is committed to ensuring employment opportunities.

The department also plans to review, the national minimum wage, impact on the economy and labour market. Therefore Chair, the ANC supports this effort to foster economic growth and social transformation, aiming to build a prosperous nation for all South Africans. We support this budget. Thank you, Chair.

Question put.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe, Economic Freedom Fighters, Freedom Front Plus and Action SA dissenting).

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

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Division demanded.

The House divided.

Voting.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 33 - Human Settlements - put.

Division demanded. [Interjections.]

The House divided.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members. Any party has a right to a division. Hon Minister of Water and Sanitation, can we have order, please? Thank you.

Voting.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 35 - Science and Innovation - put and agreed to.

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Vote No 36 - Small Business Development - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr N L S KWANKWA: House Chairperson...

IsiXhosa:

. . . eyona ngxaki ebangela ukuba sime apha . . .

English:

. . . is the underfunding of this department, which remains a perennial challenge. Long before, when I still used to serve in the committee, for an example, they used to get about R2,2 billion. A couple of years after...

IsiXhosa:

. . . ndiyishiyile ikomiti . . .

English:

. . . it is R2,4 billion, down from R2,5 billion which is a challenge. President Ramaphosa has cited it many times to be about R350 billion.

IsiXhosa:

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Kungakuhle xa kunobonakala olu bambiswano phakathi
kwamashishini abucala norhulumente ...

English:

... to raise the funding that is required for our people. The other issue, which is very important for us, is the Global Startup Ecosystem Index, GSEI which we should be looking at, is to look at the usual top 10 GSEI and see what it is that they are doing well in trying to create an environment conducive for small businesses to start and their funding models. Minister, it is actually disappointing to me to see what used to happen when I was still a banker, probably like 15 years ago. When Small Enterprise Finance Agency, Sefa uses the intermediaries, they get overcharged on interest rates. It used to happen when I was a banker. I saw an incident in one of the provinces where it is still happening. The government guarantees make these funds to be risk free.

IsiXhosa:

Hayi musani ukungxola, kaloku. Sihlalo weNdlu, ndicela undikhusele.

English:

Can I be protected?

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon members, order. Hon member, you are protected. Hon members, please give hon Kwankwa an opportunity.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: They are drowning me out as I am speaking here in front. Thank you. The production and the sale of counterfeit goods, especially in the townships is a serious problem. It constitutes, in fact, it is a drain on our fiscus because the R200 billion that we are spending on social grants buys these counterfeit goods in our townships. Tax is not paid, in the process. But then, we lose the money out of the country again as remittance because ...

IsiXhosa:

... abantu abathengisayo ezilokishini ngabantu abasuka kwamanye amazwe bengene ngomgunyathi ...

English:

... who have no regard for our laws and no regard for the bylaws. They do as please.

IsiXhosa:

Apha kweli lizwe, kukwavula zibhuqe, kwaxhela eyakhe akabuzwa. Abantwana bethu batya izinto ezindala neziphelelwe lixesha

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lokuthengiswa. Kwezi veki ziphelileyo bendikuQoboqobo, abantwana babalekiselwe esibhedlele buphuthuphuthu ngenxa yokutya okunetyhefu abakuthenge kwezi venkile zooMyfriend. Eso sehlo, asenzanga isankxwe kumakhasi onxibelelwano nakoonondaba, kuba kaloku ngabantwana babantu abantsundu. Kuyafuneka ukuba sizikhusele iilokishi zethu.

English:

The other issue Minister is that, a predatory pricing will always be it whether it is done by few people or not. Monopolies come together to buy in bulk, to force the competitor out of market. This is exactly what is happening. What these illegal immigrants do is that they group themselves and buy in bulk to drive their competitors out of the market. That is wrong and needs to be regulated because they group themselves into a monopoly.

IsiXhosa:

Ukuba asikwazi ukuyinqanda le nto, siza kuba nengxaki...

English:

... of unemployment and socioeconomic challenges that resulted from many Kwankwas being highjacked and held hostage. Thank you.

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Ms L M NGOBENI: House Chairperson and hon members by the end of our time here together, the war cry for spaza for locals will be ringing in all our ears. Minister, we have heard the Government of National Unity, GNU leaders, from the President to the premier of Gauteng, saying that they are going to prioritise township and rural economies. We are going to hold you for that. We are watching this space. You have promised the people of South Africa that you are going to put them first and that you are going to prioritise locals, in that regard. We want the township economy back. We want our spaza shops back in the hands of our people and we are going to hold you for that. So, I repeat, hashtags spaza for locals and we are unrelenting and unapologetic about that. Thank you very much.

Ms M C DIKGALE: House Chair, the ANC supports the Budget Vote 36 of the Appropriations Bill of 2024/25. The ANC has confidence that the programmes and budget of the department, while being too small, will ensure supportive legislation and policy environment for the growth of small, medium and micro-sized enterprises, SMMEs. The entities under the department must support the growth and sustainability of small, medium and micro enterprises, as well as co-operatives, by leading and co-ordinating an integrated approach to entrepreneurship,

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development, promotion and financial support to SMMEs. These entities must lead to sustainability rather than long-term debt. The ANC has confidence that small business sector will improve and the development of the sector will further occur in this financial year. The sector makes an important contribution to the economy, fiscals and job creation in the micro economy. I thank you.

Division demanded.

The House divided.

Voting.

DURING VOTING

Mr S L DITHEBE: House Chair, just for the record, the headcount of the EFF shows that they are 15 members, instead of 25. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Whip of the EFF do you want to recount your members and confirm?

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Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: Can you please ask ... [Sound problems.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Can the ICT again, assist or one of the roving microphones?

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: House Chair, we are 25. That man is being malicious and wants to appear on tv. Thank you.

[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, as we depend on Chief Whips, we will accept that.

Agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

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

Division demanded.

The House divided.

[TAKE IN FROM MINUTES]

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Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 38 - Tourism - put.

Declarations of vote:

Ms B E MACHI: Hon Chairperson, tourism in South Africa is going to become one of the departments that we must place under the microscope and make corrective changes where necessary. This is due to the needs of the country's economy to be bolstered by high traffic of tourism. It is unfortunate that many countries have issued travel advisories which warn potential travellers about the poor safety standards, which the country have. This unfortunately has a deterrent impact on the country's economy and income generation. We need to make measurable changes in this regard. Firstly, we will increase the visibility and the presence of law enforcement officers in areas frequently visited by tourists, such as Cape Town City centre, the Cape Town winelands, the garden route and our popular safari destinations. By establishing special tourists police units, we aim to deter our potential criminals and provide tourists with a reassurance sense of security. We will also need to invest in advanced civilians' technology

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including CCTV cameras and drone monitoring to ensure vigilant oversight in tourist hotspots. These tools will enable us to monitor suspicious activities and respond safely to any incident.

Furthermore, we will collaborate with private security firms and bolster our overall safety, particularly in areas like the V&A Waterfront and Table Mountain.

Public transport safety is crucial for our tourists. We will ensure that services such as MyCiTi buses in Cape Town and the Gautrain in Johannesburg remain safe and reliable. Raising awareness about the risks associated with the intercity trains and the taxis will guide tourists towards safer travel options. Additionally, we will encourage the use of reputable ride hailing services like Uber and enhanced road safety measures including stringent checks against drunk driving and under worthy vehicles. I thank you.

Ms T V B MCHUNU: Hon Chair, the ANC is concerned about the budget cuts in this Vote. The reductions made in Programmes 2, 3, and 4 impacts on job creation, tourism development, and transformation in the sector. However, we are encouraged that the department, working with the private sector will

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facilitate various programmes that will benefit our people. We advocate for these programmes to target villages, townships, small dorpiess [towns], and all the marginalized within our society. The government must focus on growing other areas of the sector such as cultural tourism, sports, tourism, etc. In the same vein, we would like to call upon the department and Ministry to stabilize the South African tourism and ensure that it effectively and efficiently carries out its mandate to market South Africa as a destination of choice internationally, regionally, and domestically. The ANC supports Vote 38.

Vote No 38 - Tourism - agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

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

Declarations of vote:

Mr R W T CHANCE: This is the legacy budget, and the DA supports it to allow the GNU to continue with its work. We will engage the ANC and the other parties of the GNU on the following recommendations for the mid-term and next budgets: Fill critical vacancies at senior management levels, both in the department and its entities to ensure focused and

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accountable governance; loosen up the legislative non-tariff and regulatory framework to ease the cost of doing business for all companies large and small; review and bulk up the incentives available to local businesses to build sustainable export markets and to overseas companies investing in South Africa with the primary aim of boosting exports and entering global value chains; identify and capacitate one or more special economic zones to test the package of reforms to attract investment and create jobs, these would include eliminating or reducing compliance requirements in BBBE preferential procurement and selected labour laws and tariffs with a view to implementing these reforms more widely; and finally, negotiate and finalise, purchase, investment, and management agreements for industrial parks both in townships and former homeland areas to reinvigorate existing tenants and attract new ones, focusing on innovation and exports. I thank you.

Ms N L WEBSTER: House Chair, we do support this Budget Vote, but we want to put these two considerations forward. Firstly, is that the entire economic cluster is not delivering return on investment, that is the investment that is put into it, and this includes the Department of Finance, Department of Small Business Development, the Department of Employment and Labour,

and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition. And so, what we are putting on the table is a wide scale reconfiguration of the economic cluster to make sure that we are delivering on this investment and increase economic growth and job creation.

Secondly, for us to be able to see growth in the economy, we must not only have in planning, in policies and programmes, township economy at the fore, but making sure that the implementation thereof delivers result. And for this to happen, what we would like to be considered is townships being special economic zones. Over the past 25 years, we have seen 12 special economic zones in this country, and none of those are in townships. Not only does making sure that we have special economic zones in townships give the benefits of employment incentives and tax rebates, but what it also does is that it deals with the issues of spatial injustice, it ensures that communities are healthy in that people work where they live. That is what we are putting on the table and asking for consideration even as we support this Budget Vote. Thank you.

Mr L MKUTU: Greetings to the House Chairperson, Deputy President, as the ANC, we support Budget Vote 39. We do so

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because we realise that our transformational objectives are centred around the work of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition. Hon Chair, the Vote is clear on the direction our economy should be taking, which includes the reindustrialization of our economy, supporting black industrialists and SMMEs, and dealing with the structural constraints of concentration in our economy. The budget also speaks to the importance of localization to build the productive capacity of our economy, to create the much-needed jobs and to build the resilience for our economy in a highly unstable geopolitical climate. We further believe that this budget strives to address the necessary integration of the African economy through economic integration using the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, AfCFTA, as a tool to achieve this. Those who support progress and development fully understand how important this is for the greater good of South Africa and the continent at large. Thank you. [Applause.]

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

Vote No 40 – Transport – put.

Declarations of vote:

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Dr C H H HUNSINGER: The Government of National Unity's changes to the mid-term and next budgets in transport on this legacy budget should carefully consider ending the lucrative strain regime in which Transnet and Prasa pay each other over a billion rands every year for sharing infrastructure and assets, this while everything belongs to the same state. The current split in financing between provinces and the SA National Roads Agency, Sanral, to solve the road maintenance backlog is unfair and biased. Provinces responsible for 273 000 kilometres of road compared to the Sanral's 24,000 kilometres receive only 25% of the entire budget allocation, this is unfair and should be corrected. Going forward, public transport should be a primary priority, opportunity, and choice as essential economic multipliers in our efforts to create jobs and offer an enabling climate for investment must strike the right balance, fully recognize all modes of transportation, and connect cities including your bullet train, hon President. Thank you for the time you have given me. I thank you. [Applause.]

Ms N S NKOPANE: House Chair, let me observe all the protocols. The ANC supports Budget Vote 40 on transport. The transport sector is a critical driver of inclusive economic development and job creation. Much progress has been made in commuter rail

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transport and road transport, which must be deepened in this financial year to benefit the working class and poor communities. Programmes of the department, need to be efficiently executed in different modes of transport. The entities reporting to the department have shown marked improvement in governance and financial control. Entities under the department need to ensure that transport infrastructure development occurs in rail and road. The country's legislation in the transport sector is based on best international practice and this needs to continue. In most modes of transport, the country has a safety record second to none. Further improvement on safety on public roads is required and particularly the safety of our school going children in scholar transport, and this must occur in this financial year. Thank you, House Chair.

Question agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 41 – Water and Sanitation – put.

Declarations of vote:

IsiZulu:

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Nk M S KHAWULA: Angibonge, Sihlalo, njenge-EFF ngithi ngiyasichitha leliVoti leSabelomali, isizathu yilesi, nilalele kahle. Abantu abanawo amanzi. E-Limpopo laphaya e-Giyani kunedamu i-Nandoni kodwa abantu abawatholi amanzi. Ejozini kuneMakhathini Flats kodwa abantu abakwazi ukuphuza amanzi. E-Mqanduli le eMpumalanga Koloni, awekho amanzi, baphuza nezinkomo.

Ngisho namanje eThekwini esigcemeni u-50, u-54 kanye no-7 abanawo amanzi. Baphuza amanzi amathangi angcolile, amaloli wona uqobo awakhokhelwa omasipala. Ngaleyo ndlela ngeke sikuvume siyi-EFF sizobona abantu bakithi behlupheka kulo Hulumeni. I-EFF nansi indlela ekumele initshela ngayo, lungisani imifula abantu babuyelwe ekuzakheleni amanzi abo. Nithathe loya mfula loyaya owathathwa i-ZZ2 okufanele uye e-Malamulele niwunike abantu baziqhubekele.

Okwesibili, hambani niyokwakhela abantu amanzi ambiwa phansi ngoba nihlulekile. Ungqongqoshe lo obekade ekhona uhluleke wancama. Safaka icala laphaya sathi umlungu we-ZZ2 makaboshwe ngokuthatha umfula ofanele uye e-Malamulele ukuze abantu baphuze amanzi, anikaze nikwenze lokho kusenoNomvula Mokonyane. Nonke aninamsebenzi nje, aninamsebenzi walutho.

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Nidlala ngabantu bakithi nifuna amavoti kuphela. Othukela kade beshaya itoyi-toyi ngenxa yamanzi. Anikaze niye niyobheka khona, kunokuthi niyobheka nithumela amaphoyisa.

Niyizigebengu, ... [Ubuwelewele.] ... thula wena Ngqongqoshe, nidlala ngabantu bakithi futhi nihola nemali yabo. Namhlanje nibizwa ngabahlonishwa ...

English:

... for nothing.

IsiZulu:

Angiyazi le-GNU yenu ngathi izogcindezela futhi nangaphezulu. Awukho umsebenzi wenu. Bayahlupheka abantu, amanzi awekho.

English:

... we are sick and tired.

IsiZulu:

... ngempela.

English:

... GNU must fall. [Interjections.]

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, please take your seats.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: On a point of order.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yes, hon Ndlozi, why are you rising?

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Yes, Chair, with respect, on a point of privilege, the broadcasting services to the public has stopped. Can you please attend that? Our people need to hear this budget and appropriation debates. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. We will investigate that. Is Al Jama-ah ready to declare their vote?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Mr M G E Hendricks): Yes, the mic seems to be ready. Hon House Chair, water is at the heart of health and wellbeing of people and nature. In fact, people have a human right to water and not merely access to water. South Africa's first freedom fighters hail from the former Transkei, and here I remember, Chief Moshoeshoe of Amanguta clan and others from Al Jama-ah clan - there was an Al Jama-ah clan. They fought for the freedom we

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enjoyed today, yet their descendants are the last to receive for water. [Inaudible.] has now stepped in after 20 years, which is a long wait to enjoy the right to water. Al Jama-ah remains committed to assist the Minister of Water and Sanitation with existing challenges to build a dozen or more dams, the investors are queuing, Minister. Although government has made significant progress in delivering water services to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities and those living in rural areas. We still have the harsh realities of inequality when it comes to the right to basic services such as water and sanitation. It is unacceptable that there are so many households in the Eastern Cape, Limpopo, and the Free State which do not have piped water. I sat on the pit toilet in the Free State on oversight visit. My Minister and former Chief Whip is now going to implement Mandela's promise, no pit toilets. The use of a bucket system must stop as one child's life taken by drowning in a pit toilet is one too many.

Hon House Chair, I was haunted in the Sixth Parliament by party one ... note the objection of my party. Now, in the Seventh Parliament, there is a new kid on the block. We object one from the right and now one from the left. ActionSA must be commended. They vote in terms of the declaration. The party that I referred to did not make one declaration, but they

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voted against everything. We cannot have a situation where we do not work together. Al Jama-ah supports this Budget Vote.

Mr S L DITHEBE: House Chair, Deputy President, Chief Whip, we of the ANC declare our ironclad support for Budget Vote⁴¹ as the as tabled by Minister Majodina. Our support for Budget Vote 41 emanates from its clearest and unambiguous intent to guarantee citizens and unfettered access to safe, clean drinking water and dignified sanitation. During this financial year, the department will continue to roll out major water and sanitation infrastructure projects to ensure that the ANC-led GNU expands and accelerates access to safe, clean drinking water and dignified sanitation to our citizens, and above all, enable economic growth and development. The ANC commends the department for allocating financial resources to maintain existing water and sanitation infrastructure. This allocation will guarantee the maintenance, repair, and functioning of critical infrastructure to ensure life and dignity amongst the people through water and sanitation, respectively. Thus, we urge the Minister to impress upon the President to sign the National Water Resource Infrastructure Agency Bill into law to protect our water resources and grow our economy. The ANC will not be gaslit, nor will it be distracted from its revolutionary path of providing water and sanitation services

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to their people by modern day rogue unreconstructed proto-fascists and pseudo revolutionaries. Once again, the ANC fully supports Budget Vote 41, as tabled by Minister Majodina. I thank you. [Applause.]

Division demanded.

The House divided.

[TAKE IN FROM MINUTES]

Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

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

APPROPRIATION BILL

(Second Reading)

There was no debate.

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Bill read a second time.

UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

(Ruling)

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon members, before we get to the next Order I want to make the following ruling. On the 22nd of July 2024 during the debate on Vote No 2 – Parliament Appropriation Bill, the hon V G Reddy rose on a point of order, alleging that the hon W W Wessels made a remark which was in breach of Rule 64. He alleged that the hon Wessels had referred to the sitting as being a “circus”. I thereafter sought confirmation as to whether the member had made the remarks as indicated. The hon Wessels clarified that he had referred to the conduct of certain members and I undertook to study the Hansard.

Having had the opportunity to consult the Hansard, I wish to rule on the matter as follows. According to the Unrevised Hansard, hon Wessels stated:

However, to ensure oversight and accountability, there must be rules in the House. There must be rules in

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Parliament. There must be decorum. It's a shame that the conduct of many members, especially during the past term, actually makes today's setting of a tent quite profound because the circus is in a tent.

During this term let us avoid being a circus by setting an example to the people out there by providing real oversight and being the voice to and for the people.

I also wish to include the following observation. From having studied the Unrevised Hansard and related material, the hon Mr V G Reddy, after having raised the point of order, said the following remark in reference to the hon Wessels who was by then busy leaving the podium: "Mr Bean is in the House."
Order, hon members.

The constitutional privilege of freedom of speech conferred upon members is subject to the rules and orders of the House. Some of the rules that limit the freedom of speech of members are contained in Chapter five of the National Assembly Rule Book.

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Rule 84 provides that no member may use offensive, abusive, insulting, disrespecting, unbecoming or unparliamentary words or language nor offensive, unbecoming or threatening gestures.

Rule 87 provides that no member may reflect in a disrespectful manner upon the House or its forums and committees or upon the proceedings and decisions.

Furthermore, Rule 82 states that no name to impugn the dignity of any member may be used.

When making a ruling on whether a particular remark was in order or not, the presiding officer must always consider the tone and the context in which the remark was made.

When called upon to clarify his remark, hon Wessels indicated that he was referring to the conduct of certain members in the House. Hon members, whether you look at this reference in terms of Rule 84 – unparliamentary or unacceptable language or in terms of Rule 87 – reflections upon the House, the word or the use of the word “circus” was used in relation to the House being sheltered in a tent and to refer to certain members as being part of a “circus” due to their conduct. This amounts to

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a disrespectful reflection, not only on the said members but also on the House itself.

Hon members, we speak in Parliament as representatives of the public and we should always be mindful of this in order to create public trust and confidence in us as public representatives, and to protect the dignity of the House. We must safeguard the dignity of members of the House and the House itself at all times.

Although the hon Wessels did not refer to a particular member, his statement reflected disrespectfully on sections of the House and did not uphold the dignity of the House. In light of this, I ask that the hon Wessels withdraw his reference to the conduct of members of the House and likening the House proceedings to a "circus". I now recognise the hon Wessels.

Mr W W WESSELS: Hon House Chairperson, I respect your ruling and I do agree that we should uphold the dignity of this House. Therefore, I will withdraw.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you. Hon members, I also wish to rule that the hon Reddy's reference to Mr Wessels as "Mr Bean" is considered patently offensive since

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it is clearly intended to ridicule Mr Wessels. Calling a member of the House by any name that is meant to impugn their dignity is strictly prohibited in terms of Rule 82(3) and will not be tolerated. In light of this, I now request the hon Mr Reddy to withdraw his reference directed at Mr Wessels. The hon Reddy?

Mr V G REDDY: House Chair, I respect the decorum of the House and I respect your decision on the matter, and I withdraw the reference to hon Wessels as a "Mr Bean". Thank you.

[Laughter.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon member. Hon members, we will now proceed to the last Order of the day. The secretary will read the last Order of the day.

CONSIDERATIONS OF THE FIRST REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
RULES FOR THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon House Chairperson, the Constitution states that the National Assembly may make rules and orders to regulate its business with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement. The rules

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enable all members to perform their duties effectively and in a manner that contributes to the advancement of democratic government.

The Rules Committee is the preeminent committee of the Assembly, in that it is responsible for the development of rules. In some cases, the committee can take certain decision itself while in other circumstances it must make recommendations to the House. Rules amendments, for example, must always be sanctioned by the Assembly.

The report before the House today concerns several issues which the Rules Committee has been occupied with since the inception of the seventh Parliament. As members will be aware, the report is divided into two parts.

The first part documents, those decisions taken by the Rules Committee to enable their House to function. Such decisions must be taken at the beginning of every Parliament and include, among other things, the establishment and configuration of portfolio and other oversight committees. The procedures to regulate how members can pose questions to the executive and opportunities for members to move motions.

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We are confident that they agreed configuration of committees, and the arrangement of questions will support parliamentary oversight and foster accountability.

Hon House Chairperson, in making up their aforementioned determinations, the Rules Committee has applied in broad terms, both the principles of proportionality as well as that of multipartyism.

Portfolio committees cannot be, for instance, accommodate all parties. But an effort has been made to ensure that as many parties as possible can participate. A similar approach was taken with questions to the executive. I do wish to note that, to balance these imperatives, the larger parties have considered some of the of the seats and opportunities to which they would otherwise be entitled to the smaller parties. This practice has been applied since 1994 and is indeed consistent with the kind of democracy we aspire to build.

Hon House Chairperson, the second part of the report relates to revisions to some terms and definitions used in the rules as well as speaking and other arrangements. These revisions were necessary because of the distinct configuration of the

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seventh Parliament. The rules now recognize that they may not be a majority party, as commonly interpreted.

In addition, the rules now clarify how the concept of the opposition should be understood. These definitions will certainly assist in the functioning of the House and the roles members can play in proceedings.

Hon House Chairperson, notwithstanding this development, I should stress, while the rules must of course, accord with the letter and in the spirit of court of the Constitution, and should not be varied without a convincing cause. They remain living articles. Research and deliberations in the Rules Committee will therefore continue.

Hon House Chairperson, having made these introductory remarks, I would like to recommend that the House adopt the report before it. I thank you.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: House Chair, may I move for the report to be adopted. Thank you.

Declarations of Vote

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Declarations of Vote.

Mr J S NGUBANE: House Chair, we appreciate House Chair that, now we'll understand what a majority means, and then it will come and sink to others that they will never, ever, ever, ever be a majority in any of our document, House Chair. And we support the report by the Deputy Chief Whip. Thank you.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: House Chairperson, the advent of the formation of government of national unity, sought to erode the opposition. President Cyril Ramaphosa's proposal that all of us in Parliament must become part of his signed government of national unity, GNU, statement would have resulted in a situation where there would have not been an opposition.

Our Constitution does not envisage a situation in its multi-party system of democracy as its founding value; it doesn't anticipate a Parliament without an opposition and therefore the progressive caucus's decision to stay away from GNU is in this slide one of the greatest advents of the bringing into being of the Constitution. It is the defence of democracy against the tyranny of the majority.

And therefore, this is the context in which these rules are important. That ANC should wake up from its slumber. You are

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no longer a majority because the people have spoken. Accept this reality because how people have rejected you. I don't know anyone that has reduced with the drama with which you have reduced in the elections, losing 17%. If I was the ANC, I would have said President Ramaphosa must go home. Because he has dropped the historic victories of the ANC to below 50%.

We must welcome also the fact that we've got a new opposition party, because the madness that the DA wanted to play both sides of the House. They wanted to be part of government and still lead the opposition. It doesn't make constitutional sense. It is the most illiterate ambition from a constitutional point of view that has ever come from their benches.

There's a new opposition, in fact, some of these victories of definitions are crucial. Because they already signify the liveliness of the opposition benches in this government. The leader of the opposition in this Parliament is Dr Hlophe, as the leader of the opposition. [Applause.]

And we're going to work hard to exercise radical scrutiny on the executive. Now, there are some people who always think being criticized robustly, is disrespect. They come here one

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after the other, asking to be respected because they are older. They are asking to be respected, maybe because of the colour of their skin sometimes. They are asked to be respected even when they say things that must be treated with disrespect. We are not going to respect you because you are old, you are going to earn respect by keeping in line with the Constitution.

But above all, we here to oppose the madness of the white capitalist establishment. Which sought to buy the 2024 elections. Many people took money here to eliminate the left. Many of people campaigned for over 12 months now, against the left agenda, against expropriation of land without compensation. But we are here, and all those ideas will never lose voice because the EFF, the MK, and the progressive caucus is alive. Thank you very much.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members. May I request the other political parties who intend to make declarations rather to come to the podium, because we seem to have a problem with the microphones. Order, hon members.

Mr N M HADEBE: House Chairperson, the first report of the National Assembly Rules Committee for the seventh Parliament,

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adequately reflects the new government that will take the custodianship of the country's affairs for the next five years. The government of national unity, GNU, has successfully thrown compromise tolerance and in some ways, Ubuntu/botho is trying to be inclusive of diversity.

If you look at the persons holding certain positions, you will see that, it is a mixture of many different parties, big and small in numbers that fills positions of authority and decision making. We are a growing and flourishing democracy and there must be opposition.

The IFP as a partner of the GNU welcomes, encourages and hope that a constructive opposition is formed whereby the GNU will listen and take note of legitimate concerns. The IFP for many years has set in the benches of opposition. And we have always maintained that what South Africa needs is a constructive opposition and not one that is destructive.

The IFP as a partner of the GNU who will never sell its values and principles to families of state capture and will always maintain a safe distance from unethical and immoral behaviour. After all, development means service for the people, not for the individuals.

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We will champion the most ethical and best practice standards when it comes to dealing with the rules of this House. We are steadfast in the commitment in service delivery to our people and will not tolerate any party or persons who act in a manner that can deprive any South African from enjoying the rights as prescribed in the Constitution of 1996. The GNU ...

[Interjection.] ... the IFP hon House chairperson supports the report of the Rules Committee. Thank You. [Time expired]

Mr W W WESSELS: House Chairperson, the FF Plus appreciate this process. We want to thank the Rules Committee and also the Subcommittee on Rules for this process of adapting the rules of Parliament to the changing and dynamic political environment. This election proved that multi-party governments is the future and is a reality, and these amendments to the rules are an adaptation to that.

We need to adapt to these realities. But House Chairperson, we also need to appreciate the fact that opposition does not equate to oversight. It's not the same thing. All parties in Parliament, whether they are part of the government or not, are here to provide oversight, over the executive and to hold them accountable to the people, and that is our role, and that should be our role.

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It's also our ironic House Chairperson, that the hon Ndlozi, stands here and talks about the Constitution. Yet he is part of a regressive caucus that is here to undermine the Constitution, who does not believe in the Constitution.

The government of national unity is here to uphold constitutional democracy and the rule of law. That is what we are here for. We cannot allow that parties are here to not uphold the rule of law and not to act in the interest of a constitutional democracy which were fought hard for and for the people out there, I thank you.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: House Chair, we just want to think about our history and ensure that what Tata Madiba did for all of us should not be diluted. When Tata formed a Government of National Unity he had a majority in Parliament, and we can now not reduce that act of benevolence to unite the nation using the term of national unity when we do not have a majority.

We should not take the question of unity for this country lightly. We are highly divided, and we need to reserve that term when it can be used appropriately. As many have said, our Constitution refers to a multi-party democracy. I was heartened by the words of the Chief Whip on the first day when

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he said this is a coalition. There is no shame in having a coalition government that ensures that this country can have a government, but we should not use the issue of unity lightly when we know that we are divided.

We should have a concerted effort as Members of Parliament, MPs, elected by the people, to ensure the path of a better South Africa is not deemed by misuse of political terms. The fact that I have just arrived does not mean I don't have a brain, and the brain for me is something to be cherished and used. We wish our government success, but we need to use terms appropriately. [Applause.]

Mr S M GANA: House Chairperson, there is unanimity in Rise Mzansi caucus present here today to support this report. As Rise Mzansi we support this report. Thank you very much.

Ms N L WEBSTER: Build One SA welcomes the report and welcomes the opportunity for there to be a distinctive voice of accountability in Parliament. As Build One SA we welcome and support the report. Thank you.

Mr M G MAHLAULE: House Chairperson, hon Selamolela yesterday mentioned that there is danger when powerful people are

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conversing. You are busy with ice cubes and having a braai somewhere, you will speak out of turn and miss the spirit in which this debate is about. Through consensus we have agreed on definitions despite not holding the same perspective on the matter of hon Hlophe to be the leader of the opposition as well as the Chief whip of the largest party. If you come to meetings without authority, you will speak in turn and not where we are.

We are confident that through the adopted Rules we will be able to have necessary structures and systems to hold the executive to account and to manage the business of Parliament. We must also state that political parties are inherently adversarial and are opponents and not enemies. We all contested against each other, and the voice of the people has prevailed. The ANC made a call to serve, and we shall continue to provide the societal leadership role to tackle unemployment, inequality and poverty.

As the ANC we affirm the principle of proportionality and principle ensuring representativity in all structures and decisions we take. We need to always take into consideration a balance of the two. As the ANC will work with the opposition parties and implore that our interactions should always be

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premised on placing our efforts to constructively critique the national executive and debate with the ANC, based on the balance of evidence.

The ANC is committed to continue to serve the people of South Africa through the Government of National Unity, working with all South Africans to build a non-racial, non-sexist, united and prosperous South Africa. We have further resolved that the Rules will always be adapted as new evidence or when conditions change. The Rules are not static and will continually be reviewed in this House.

The ANC supports the report, and we want to say that Government of National Unity will see beyond two years. We won't be told by those that are making a fictitious - what we call progressives. This is what is going to implode because as you can see, this side is led by the reds and the reds did not gather enough votes to lead. That's why every time they come and tell the MK Party what to do. Thank you very much.

Motion agreed to.

Report accordingly adopted.

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The House adjourned at 19:04.

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