

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 1

THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at Nieuwmeester Dome at 14:00.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members ... Order, hon members. Please take your seats. Hon Mente, is there a point of order before we've even started?

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: I just wanted to check, Deputy Speaker ... The prayer was extremely long. Is it because it's Vote 2? Are we praying for our budget?

An HON MEMBER: No, it's because they are in court. MK!

[Laughter.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, let's proceed with the House. Hon members! The first item on the Order Paper ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 2

[Interjections.] Hon members, order! The first item on the Order Paper is a motion in the name of the Chief Whip of the Opposition. I now recognise the hon Douglas.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

(The late Mr Ntandoyenkosi Nkosentsha Shezi)

Mr W M DOUGLAS: Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

- (1) notes with deep sadness the passing of Mr Ntandoyenkosi Nkosentsha Shezi, a Member of Parliament representing the Mkhonto weSizwe Party in the National Assembly;
- (2) further notes that Mr Shezi dedicated his life to the service of the people of South Africa as an educator, community leader, trade unionist, church leader and champion of economic transformation, carrying out his parliamentary responsibilities with diligence, discipline and unwavering commitment;

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 3

- (3) recognises his contribution to the struggle for social and economic justice, including his advocacy for workers' rights, black economic empowerment and the upliftment of disadvantaged communities;
- (4) acknowledges his leadership roles within the education sector, civil society and community formations, where he consistently advanced the ideals of fairness, equality and radical economic transformation; and
- (5) conveys its sincere condolences to his wife, children, family, friends, comrades, the Mkhonto weSizwe Party, and all those whose lives were touched and inspired by his leadership and service.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Douglas. Before I give other parties an opportunity ... [Interjections.] Hon members! Hon members to my right, we are busy with the motion of condolence. I do expect that we show the necessary respect.

An HON MEMBER: They don't know what that means.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, please do not open your microphones without being recognised. Hon members, I also want

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 4

to recognise the presence of the hon Shezi's family in the gallery – his wife and four sons. [Applause.] I now invite the hon Maeco.

Mr S M MAECO: Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC to honour the life of hon Nkosi Shezi of the Mkhonto weSizwe Party. I worked with him for a short time in the Portfolio Committee on Employment and Labour. In that short time, he reminded us of what this job is about.

Hon Shezi was humble, straightforward and allergic to nonsense. He will listen to a 20-minute presentation full of graphs and policy jargon, then lean forward and say, "Chair, with respect, what does this mean for the worker in Rustenburg who hasn't been paid?" The room would go quiet because he had just cut to the bone.

If you knew hon Shezi, you knew one other thing: The man loved a camera more than a good subsidy claim loves red tape! On oversight visits, before we even got out of the minibus, his phone was out. He was already filming the gate, the factory floor, the notice board, the lunch room! Officials would still be clearing their throats to start the briefing when Shezi would say, just a second, let me get this for the people.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 5

In committee meetings, it was the same. If a department gave us a weak answer, he would turn to this phone and say, let me record this for TikTok so the workers can see what we are dealing with. And he did. The next day, our WhatsApp groups would be full of 30-second clips with Shezi saying, "they told us the inspectorate is fully capacitated; here is the truth."

We teased him about it. We said, Comrade Shezi, are you a Member of Parliament or a content creator? He would laugh and say, "I'm both. If the people don't see us fight, they will think we are not fighting for them." And he was right. Shezi understood that power needs to be recorded. He used video and photos to close the distance between Parliament and the people who sent us here. He made oversight visible. He made accountability visible for those who prefer darkness.

Politically, he never forgot where he stood. He was a Marxist in practice, not in just slogans. For him, the Employment and Labour Portfolio Committee was not about paper compliance. It was about the balance of power between capital and labour. He pushed for stronger inspection, for decent work, for the rights of the most vulnerable. He would argue, debate, disagree, but he never made it personal. You could clash with him at 11 a.m. and share a joke at lunch. This is rare in this

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 6

House. His honesty was his strength. He would tell department officials to their face when they were misleading the committee. He will tell us in the ANC when we were soft. He kept all of us sharper.

To his family, the wife and the kids, I say, you raised a man who loved his people more than his comfort; a man who believed that Parliament belongs to the worker, the domestic worker, the farm worker, the unemployed youth in the township. You will miss his voice, his frankness.

And yes, we will miss him pulling out his phone mid-meeting and saying, hold on, let me get this one on camera.

Let us honour him by doing the same thing he did. Keep fighting for the working class. Keep bringing the contradictions into the light and recording it.

May his soul rest in revolutionary peace. I thank you.

[Applause.]

Mr M N MDLULI: Hon Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Democratic Alliance, I rise to express our sincere condolences on the passing of the hon Ntandoyenkosi Nkosentsha Shezi. We extend

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 7

our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, loved ones, colleagues in the Mkhonto weSizwe Party, and to all those who walked this journey of public life alongside him.

Hon Deputy Speaker, for many of us from KwaZulu-Natal, the name Nkosentsha Shezi was not unfamiliar in political discourse. I remember first reading about him in the media in 2017 while I was still an undergraduate Economics student at university, following politics closely and trying to understand the evolving political landscape of our province and our country.

Even then, he was regarded as a vocal and committed political activist who carried strong convictions about the future of South Africa. Years later, it was somewhat remarkable to eventually meet him here in Parliament after he had been sworn in as a Member of this House. Despite the obvious differences in our political homes and ideological outlooks, one could still appreciate his passion for politics and his commitment to the causes he believed in.

In fact, we would often greet each other jokingly in the corridors of Parliament. He would enthusiastically say, Gwaza Mkhonto! And I would respond, Gwaza! It was one of those

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 8

light-hearted exchanges that would remind me that different political traditions and perspectives are able to gather under one constitutional roof, not as enemies, but as fellow Africans entrusted with serving the public.

Hon Shezi served on a number of portfolio committees, including Employment and Labour and also as Tourism. In those committees, he participated actively in discussions and oversight processes aimed at addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing our people, particularly unemployment, economic hardship, and inequality.

As Members of Parliament, we often engage in fierce political consultation. We challenge each other robustly, and rightfully so, but moments such as these remind us that, behind every seat in this House is a human being with a family, with loved ones, with hopes, sacrifices, and responsibilities. To his family, this loss is not the loss of a politician or a public representative alone. It is the loss of a son, a relative, a friend, and a loved one.

We extend to them our heartfelt condolences and pray that they may find comfort and strength during this painful time. South Africa's democracy is strengthened not only by agreement, but

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 9

also the willingness of people with differing views to participate in public life and contribute to the democratic process. Hon Shezi was part of that democratic journey. May his soul rest in peace. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mnu C MATIWANE: Mandibulise Somlomo, ndibulise nakusapho lelungu elihloniphekileyo uShezi. (Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.)

[Mr C MATIWANE: Let me greet the Speaker and extend my greetings to the family of the late hon Shezi.]

Today, as the EFF, we join this House in paying a warm and heartfelt tribute to a dedicated servant of the people, a committed revolutionary, and a passionate fighter for justice, the late Hon Nkosentsha Shezi. Comrade Shezi left us on 23 March 2026, just one day after celebrating his 50th birthday.

His passing came after a courageous battle with an illness that stole his voice far too soon, cutting short a promising parliamentary career at only 50 years of age. South Africa lost a son of the soil who had dedicated his entire adult life

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 10

to the liberation struggle and the pursuit of radical economic transformation.

Today, as a representative of the EFF, I stand before you to honour not only his service in this House, but the selfless life he lived in defence of the poor and the marginalised. Nkosentsha Shezi's commitment to the liberation of our people began long before democracy. He was forged in the crucible of the African National Congress during its internal strife, where he stood firmly for the principles of pro-economic freedom. He understood, as few others did, that the promises of 1994 remained unfulfilled – that land, wealth and dignity had to be returned to the black majority who had bled and sacrificed for freedom.

This conviction led him to champion for radical economic transformation with unwavering determination. Together with like-minded comrades, he helped found the African Radical Economic Transformation Alliance, serving as its secretary-general and working tirelessly to build an organisation rooted in the aspirations of the working-class and the landless. His journey took him from the rolling hills and townships of KwaZulu-Natal – where he mobilised communities in Durban, Umlazi, KwaMashu and Pietermaritzburg – to the national stage.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 11

He stood in courtrooms defending the principles of justice, joined countless vigils and travelled dusty roads across the country to rally support for the economic emancipation of our people. He later joined the uMkhonto weSizwe Party, where he continued to serve as a capable and principled Member of Parliament until illness intervened.

Throughout his life, Shezi embodied a deep love for the Zulu heritage. He grew strength from the warrior traditions of the KwaZulu Nation, its resilience against colonialism, its rich cultural heritage legacy. This heritage fuelled his passion for restoring dignity to all South Africans.

Above all, Nkosentsha Shezi lived a selfless life. He sacrificed personal comfort, financial security, and stability for the greater cause. Like many true revolutionaries, he placed the struggle for economic freedom above his own well-being. He endured marginalisation, hardship, and vindictiveness, yet he never wavered. His life was a life of quiet strength, steady where others faltered, calm in strategy, even in the heat of battle.

He taught young cadres the value of principled unity and strategic patience. In every role as an activist, leader, and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 12

parliamentarian, he served with integrity and love for his people.

We acknowledge with deep respect that his beloved wife, Thule, and his dear children today sit in the public gallery. Thule and your family, thank you. Thank you for the love, strength, and support you gave to Nkosentsha as a husband and a father. You stood by him through the long nights of activism, the difficult political choices, and the personal costs that came with fighting for justice.

The Shezi family made huge personal sacrifices – time away from home, financial strain, emotional burdens, and constant uncertainty – all so that Nkosentsha could dedicate himself fully to the liberation of the people of South Africa. Your sacrifices do not go unnoticed. They strengthened his resolve and allowed him to serve with a full heart. We thank you for sharing him with the nation. May you find comfort in the outpouring of respect from this House and from all who knew his work.

The EFF stands firmly with you in this time of grief. Indeed, Nkosentsha Shezi deserved far more recognition than he received in his lifetime. He gave everything to the struggle,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 13

often without fanfare or reward. Yet, we are grateful that Parliament has set aside this moment to honour him as a member of this august House. His tribute, though belated, affirms his contributions to our democracy and to the broader fight for economic justice have not been forgotten. To his wider family and especially his comrades in the Mkhonto weSizwe Party, your loss is shared across the House. Though the EFF and the Mkhonto weSizwe Party party may differ on certain paths, we recognise and respect dedicated service.

Hamba kahle Dlaba, Shukulasi, Mnomiya, Dludle,
Dludl'owadl'imihlambi yamadoda, Wadl'izinkomo zamaNdebele.
Lala ngoxolo Mkhonto. (*Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.*)

[Go well, Dlaba, Shukulasi, Mnomiya, Dludle,
Dludl'owadl'imihlambi yamadoda, Wadl'izinkomo zamaNdebele.
Rest in peace, Mkhonto.]

Umzamo uwufezile, ugqatso uluphumelele. (*Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.*)

[You have completed your earthly journey and fought the good fight; you have run your race with distinction.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 14

Aluta continua! [Applause.]

Mr T M LANGA: Hon Deputy Speaker, the IFP joins this House in expressing its deepest condolences on the untimely passing of the hon Ntandoyenkosi Nkositsha Shezi – uSgananda, as I would call him. His passing is not only a loss to his family, friends, colleagues and his political home, the Mkhonto weSizwe Party, but also to Parliament and the democratic institutions of our Republic.

I got to know Sgananda in person through the hon Malinga of the Mkhonto weSizwe Party on our weekly commute from Durban to Cape Town and back, as we members from various parties frequently meet at the airports. Oh, what a humble and jolly soul. Hon Shezi served this institution with commitment, diligence and dedication. During his time in Parliament, he contributed meaningfully through his work in the Portfolio Committee on Employment and Labour and all other committees he served before.

His service reflected a commitment to advancing the interests of the people of South Africa. As Members of Parliament, we may come from different political traditions and ideological perspectives, but moments such as these remind us that, beyond

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 15

politics, we are all servants of the people entrusted with a shared constitutional responsibility. The sudden loss of a public representative is always painful, particularly when that life was still actively contributing to the work of democratic governance and oversight.

On behalf of the IFP, we extend our sincere condolences to his family, loved ones, colleagues and the Mkhonto weSizwe Party during this difficult time.

Engathi umphefumulo kamhlonishwa uNtandoyenkosi Nkosentsha Shezi ungalala ngokuthula. Ngiyathokoza. (*Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.*)

[May the soul of hon Ntandoyenkosi Nkosentsha Shezi rest in peace. Thank you.]

Mr A !Q SAULS: Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

At this moment, on behalf of the PA South Africa and abroad, we wish to express our deepest and sincerest condolences to the family of the hon Shezi and also to the Mkhonto weSizwe Party. The best we can do in times like this is bless you with

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 16

a scripture and a prayer. The scripture that I would like to share with the family, and the Mkhonto weSizwe Party is John chapter 11, verse 25. In this verse of the Bible, Jesus says: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even though they die." Death on this side of life is not the end; you will see the hon Shezi again.

Hon Chair, I would like to use my remaining minutes to pray for the family and to pray for my fellow colleagues. Those who wish to pray with me, you may close your eyes.

[An unofficial language spoken.]

Heavenly Father, we come before you in this trying time. I don't only pray for the family of the hon Shezi. We know that you are a God who is our comforter. I pray that you comfort the family, that you are with them during this trying time. But I also want to pray for my fellow colleagues. Just like in the days of old when you said they must put a blood mark on the doorpost so that the Angel of Death must pass, I pray for my fellow colleagues. I speak life over each of them. I pray that you will protect and guard us all, Lord. I plead the blood of Jesus over each and every one of us, that the spirit of death passes us, just like it did in the days of old. May

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 17

the work we do be seed that will speak life into our children and their children until the 14th generation as you promised. This I pray now, and everyone that believes with me, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mr P A VAN STADEN: Deputy Speaker, delivering a speech of this nature in Parliament is never an easy task. Although I did not have the privilege of knowing member Shezi personally, nor of working alongside him in the portfolio committee, he nonetheless remains a fellow member and colleague of his House. Although his political views and positions differ fundamentally from my own, I can only but respect a man who stands firmly by his convictions.

It is this steadfastness that saw him move from the ANC to the EFF, then to co-founding the African Radical Economic Transformation Alliance, and, in his last days, representing the Mkhonto weSizwe Party here in Parliament. All that I can say today to his family and colleagues in the Mkhonto weSizwe Party is the following: The day of tomorrow is a gift for everyone. We don't know if we will still be here tomorrow, and therefore it is important to live every day to the fullest, as it is your last day on earth. But we will all receive an internal life after our lives come to an end here on earth.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 18

I want to end with the following scripture out of John 14, verse 1 to 3:

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms. If that were not so, would I have told you? But I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me, but you also may be where I am.

The FF Plus wants to convey its sincere condolences to the members here, his family, friends, colleagues, and the Mkhonto weSizwe Party caucus during this difficult time. May his soul rest in peace. I thank you.

Ms L M NGOBENI: Hon Deputy Speaker, the House at large, Members of Parliament, I never knew hon Shezi personally, but I want to offer these condolences on behalf of ActionSA and extend our sincere condolences to the family, friends, colleagues, and the entire Mkhonto weSizwe Party on the loss of your colleague, hon Shezi. The passing of a member of this House is always a solemn reminder that, despite our political differences, we are united by a shared commitment to serving the people of South Africa.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 19

Hon Shezi, as we have come to know him, and as we've heard other colleagues mention when expressing their condolences on his passing, was a person who dedicated himself to public service and fulfilled his responsibilities in Parliament with diligence and commitment, particularly through his work on the portfolio committees on Employment and Labor, Tourism, and Trade and Industry, and Competition. Those who served alongside him tell us that he will be remembered as a colleague who approached his duties with dedication and who sought to contribute meaningfully to the work of Parliament. His passing is a loss to his loved ones who are here with us today.

We honour them who are here today as well, his party, the Mkhonto weSizwe Party and also this institution of Parliament. As representatives of the people, we often engage in robust debate and hold differing views on the challenges facing our country. Yet, moments such as these remind us of our common humanity and the sacrifices made by those who chose public life and public service.

To his family, we extend our deepest sympathies and pray that they may find strength and comfort during this difficult time. We also convey our heartfelt condolences again to the Mkhonto

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 20

weSizwe Party and all who had the privilege of knowing and working with the hon Shezi. I think all of us in this House can feel what this family is feeling as well as what the Mkhonto weSizwe Party is feeling. May the legacy of hon Shezi – a legacy of service – endure in the lives he touched and the through contributions he made to our democratic Parliament.

Re le ActionSA re re: Thobela! (*Translation of Sepedi sentence follows.*)

[ActionSA greets you all!]

May his soul rest in perfect peace. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr S N SWART: Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the ACDP, may I express our deepest condolences to the Shezi family, friends and to the Mkhonto weSizwe Party. Hon Shezi was elected in 2024, and as the other speakers has indicated, he served on various portfolio committees. He dedicated his life to the service of the people as an educator, community leader, trade unionist, church leader and a champion of economic transformation.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 21

Other speakers have indicated on his passion for politics and his hard work on committees and exposing wrongdoing on social media. I would also like to appreciate hon Sauls's prayer for protection on each one of us because hon Shezi's passion illustrates how fleeting life can be. As a church leader, he would have been acquainted with James chapter 4, where we are asked a question: How do you know what your life would be like tomorrow?

James adds, your life is like the morning fog. It is here a little while, then it is gone. James is right.

Life is short and uncertain. There are no guarantees about tomorrow, let alone next year or five years or 10 years from now. If we ignore this lesson, we will not live our life properly, in the light of eternity according to God's commands and purpose. To ensure that we do, we, like the hon Shezi as a church leader, must live our lives as he did – to the full, and in a right relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, repenting of our sins.

Life is short. Death is a certainty. Let us make sure that we spread love, forgiveness and reconciliation wherever we go. Our nation is desperate for this.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 22

May I pray that our Heavenly Father surrounds the Shezi family and the Mkhonto weSizwe Party with His love and comfort at this time. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr N L S KWANKWA: On behalf of the UDM, I extend our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the family, friends and the loved ones of Mr Ntandoyenkosi, hon Nkosentsha Shezi.

Ndima apha ngegama lombutho i-UDM, ndisiza kubhekisa kusapho lakwaShezi nombutho wakhe i-MKP. Gwaza mkhonto! Ilungu elihloniphekileyo, uShezi lingene kwiikomiti ezininzi apha ePalamente. Siyaqwalasela ukuba ezi komiti ebekuzo bezinxulumene nokuphucula iimpilo zabantu, ukulwa nentswelangqesho nokuqinisekisa ukuba ezi ngxaki zethu sijongene nazo zogoqosho ziyasombululeka. Sithi namhlanje ubulijoni lomzabalazo ebelisincedisela kwidabi lokuphucula ubomi bomzi ontsundu nokuphucula ubomi babantu baseMzantsi Afrika.

Sifuna ukuthi kuni sapho lakwaShezi, nangakumbi ukuthi ndibabonile oonyana bayafana noyise. Sithi ke, tutwini, akuhlanga lungahlanga kodwa utata wenu, umalume, umntakwenu nomnyeni unishiyele umzekelo ekufuneka nicangcathe kuwo xa nijonga isikhokelo soMzantsi Afrika obheka phambili. Menze Thixo aphumle ngonaphakade, umkhanyisele ngokhanyiso

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 23

olungacimiyo. Enkosi. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[I rise on behalf of the UDM to convey our heartfelt condolences to the Shezi family and to his political home, the Mkhonto weSizwe Party. Hon Shezi served with distinction on several parliamentary committees dedicated to improving the lives of our people, addressing the scourge of unemployment, and contributing towards solutions to the economic challenges facing our country. Today, we pay tribute to a committed servant of the people and a soldier of the struggle. He played a meaningful role in advancing the cause of social and economic justice, particularly in the quest to improve the lives of black communities and all South Africans.

To the Shezi family, we extend our deepest condolences. As we look upon the children of the late hon Shezi, we see a reflection of their father and the values he stood for. While you mourn the loss of a father, husband, brother, uncle, and family pillar, we trust that you will also draw strength from the remarkable legacy he leaves behind. His life was one of service, commitment, and dedication to the people of South Africa. May Almighty God grant him eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon him. Thank you.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 24

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu, ... (*Translation of Xitsonga sentence follows.*)

[Mr S M GANA: Chairperson, ...]

... on behalf of Rise Mzansi, we do send our deepest condolences to the Shezi family, the Mkhonto weSizwe Party and the House at large. I personally did not get to work closely with hon Shezi, but I knew of him. I knew of him before he came to Parliament. Actually, I saw more of him outside of Parliament than in Parliament.

I think those who have been around politics ... from his activism whilst wearing the ANC colours, to the time that he left to join ... I think he joined the EFF. No, he joined the hon Carl Niehaus at the African Radical Economic Transformation Alliance, Areta. He left there to join the EFF. He was quite vocal as a politician and very passionate.

You could tell even when he gave interviews that he believed in what he was saying. Even if you doubted whether what he was saying was true, his passion was never in doubt.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 25

So, our interaction in Parliament ... actually, I felt like he was calmer in Parliament and his demeanour was more respectful when he was in Parliament than when he was outside Parliament ...

... bavutha umlilo ... (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[...they were inflaming tensions...]

However, when he came to Parliament and we engaged with him, he was quite respectful. The only time I saw him was when we came to the House. He was always, you know, humble. We convey our sincere condolences to the family and once again to the Mkhonto weSizwe Party. May his soul rest in peace.

Moya wa yena a wu etlele hi ku rhula. Ndza khensa. [Va phokotela.] (*Translation of Xitsonga paragraph follows.*)

[May his soul rest in peace. Thank you. [Applause.]]

Dr M A MAIMANE: Fellow South Africans, fellow Members of Parliament, ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 26

... bagaetsho, ke batla kere gompieno go losika la kwa Shezi le lekoko la kwa Shezi ke romele matshediso. Ke kope Ramasedi a le fe kgotso mo lobakeng le lo leng mo go lone le. *(Translation of Setswana paragraph follows.)*

[...my fellow people, today I want to send my condolences to the Shezi family and to hon Shezi's party. I ask the Lord to give you peace in the time you find yourself in.]

Hon Shezi was a Member of Parliament since 2024. If there is a genuine truth, it's simply that we all come to serve in public office as a response to a calling to be in the service of the people of South Africa. I did not know hon Shezi myself, but I can appreciate that his service was always to the people of South Africa and to his political party. A genuine reminder of our shared humanity.

Gore bo botlhe re tletse fa go tla go berekela setšhaba sa Aforikaborwa. *(Translation of Setswana paragraph follows.)*

[All of us are here to work for the South African nation.]

Therefore, when a life in public service is cut that short, scripture always compels us to mourn with those who mourn.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 27

Indeed, as fellow Africans, we mourn with those who mourn and we mourn with your party and we mourn with his family because ...

... ke botho. *(Translation of Setswana sentence follows.)*

... it's human.]

It is our shared humanity, and in that, I pray for peace and comfort. I pray you would know that his legacy will be continued. Therefore, with those short words on behalf of BOSA, I say my deepest condolences.

A Morena a boloke setjhaba sa heso. *(Translation of Sesotho sentence follows.)*

[May God bless our nation.]

God bless. [Applause.]

Ms T L MARAWU: Hon Deputy Speaker, the leadership of the Mkhonto weSizwe Party, members of the Shezi family ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 28

... ndikhahlele bethuna kwisizwe samaHlubi esihleli phaya kwigalari. Molweni bethuna. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[... I salute the Hlubi nation seated in the gallery. Good day to you all, my compatriots, and thank you for being here today.]

The ATM rises today with a heavy heart to convey its deepest, most sincere condolences on the untimely passing of a dedicated servant of the people, hon N Shezi. Hon Shezi stood without fear in the struggle, a symbol of discipline, courage and responsibility. From the dusty streets of KwaZulu-Natal to the halls of Parliament, he fought for justice, with humility and resolve. He championed the poor and the marginalised, ever loyal to the cause of social justice and equality. In Parliament, hon Shezi served with diligence on the Employment and Labour, Tourism and Trade, Industry and Competition portfolio committees, where his voice was always for the voiceless.

We remember a leader who was disciplined in action, courageous in conviction, and who listened even as he led. He was known as a true patriot, whose work in Parliament inspired many. We

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 29

were inspired by his humility. He never spoke of himself but always lifted the community.

As the ATM, we pray the Almighty grants comfort, strength and peace to the Shezi family during this dark hour of grief. May you find solace in the last legacy of public service he leaves behind. To his political colleagues and friends, we stand with you in solidarity as you navigate this painful loss. May his soul rest in eternal and perfect peace. I thank you.

Mr J S MALINGA: Hon Deputy Speaker, His Excellency, former President Jacob Gehleyihlekisa Zuma, the leadership of the Mkhonto weSizwe Party, the Shezi family, comrades, commissars and members of the Mkhonto weSizwe Party ...

... sanibonani ... *(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)*

[..greetings...]

... dumelang ... *(Translation of Sepedi sentence follows.)*

[...greetings...]

Masosha kaMdala. *(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)*

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 30

[Mdala's soldiers.]

Today we are not gathering only to mourn ...

... kodwa sihlangene ukuzobonga impilo yeqhawe, ...

(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)

[...but we are gathered here to honour and give thanks for the life of a hero ...]

... a revolutionary, a servant of the people, the son of the soil, the guru, the caterpillar, the late Comrade hon Nkosentsha Ntandoyenkosi Shezi. The late Comrade Nkosentsha Ntandoyenkosi Shezi was born on 22 March 1976 and called by the Lord on 23 March 2026 after an illness. Hon Shezi lived a life of commitment, sacrifice and courage.

Bafowethu nodadebethu ... *(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)*

[My brothers and sisters ...]

... the hon Shezi was not just a politician; he was a radical economic transformation activist ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 31

... umuntu wabantu ... (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[... a person of the people ...]

... a fighter for economic freedom and dignity, especially of black people. As a Member of Parliament serving on the Portfolio Committee on Employment and Labour, he understood the pain of farm workers, domestic workers, security guards, Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, workers, unemployed graduates and struggling families.

O be a tseba bohloko bjoo batho ba bo kwago kua mešomong, tšatši ka tšatši. (*Translation of Sepedi paragraph follows.*)

[He knew exactly how hard it was for workers on a daily basis.]

He believed Parliament should not be a zone of comfort but a place in which to fight for the poorest of the poor. Mama Winnie Mandela once said: "I am the product of the masses of my country." Indeed, hon Shezi remained a product of the masses until his last day.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 32

Akazange azihlukanise nabantu. (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[He never distanced himself from the people.]

President Oliver Tambo taught us that: "A nation that does not value its youth does not deserve its future." Hon Shezi dedicated himself to ensuring that young people and workers receive opportunity and dignity in their democratic South Africa. The former President of this country, Babu Mhlanganyelwa, once said: "This tragedy continues because economic freedom has not yet been achieved." That message defined the life of hon Shezi. He believed that political freedom without economic justice is a crime. Even during his sickness ...

... akazange alilahle ithemba. (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[... he never lost hope.]

He continued to encourage comrades, advise young leaders and stand firm on revolutionary principles. To the Shezi family,
...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 33

... siyabonga ukusiboleka iqhawe lenu. (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[... we thank you for sharing your hero with us.]

Re a leboga. (*Translation of Sepedi sentence follows.*)

[Thank you.]

Thank you for allowing South Africa to benefit from his wisdom, discipline and leadership. As the late hon Shezi was a man of God, let me quote from the Bible, 2 Timothy 4, verse 7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Today we can proudly say that the hon Shezi has fought the good fight. May we honour him not only with tears, ...

... kodwa ngezenzo ... (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[...but through actions...]

... by continuing the struggle for justice, equality, service delivery, and economic transformation.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 34

Hamba kahle, qhawe. (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[Go well, hero.]

Your legacy will live forever in the heights of our people.

Aluta, continua [The struggle continues.]

Gwaza Mkhonto, gwaza! (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[Strike, Mkhonto; strike!]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, that concludes the speakers' list on this matter. I take it that there are no objections to the motion being adopted. Will members please rise to observe a moment of silence in memory of Ntandoyenkosi Nkosentsha Shezi.

Thank you, hon members. You may be seated. The presiding officers associate themselves with the motion and the condolences of the House will be conveyed to the Shezi family. Hon members, you may also sign the condolence book after the condolence motion. A special bound copy of members' contributions will be sent to the family to convey the sentiments expressed by members.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 35

APPROPRIATION BILL

Debate on Vote No 2 – Parliament:

The SPEAKER: Deputy Speaker, House Chairpersons, leaders of political parties in Parliament who are present, Chief Whips of all parties, chairpersons of portfolio committees and joint standing committees, hon members, ladies and gentlemen, people of South Africa, today I want to open this debate with an African proverb which says, once you carry your own water, you will remember every drop. This African proverb highlights that experience teaches what observation cannot. This proverb serves as a reminder that our people who struggled for freedom, and drafted the Constitution that we celebrate during this year, have known the pain of dispossession, have known the pain of segregation and they know what it means to be poor. They know what it means to be secluded.

It is for this reason that when we sit here in these benches, we must always remember what they've gone through and what we as public representatives committed we would do to change their lives for the better. Today, we table Parliament's 2026-27 budget for the House's consideration and approval.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 36

At the beginning, I want to state that we would like to extend our thanks to the Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament, which actually scrutinises the work that we do as the executive authority as well as the administration. It is this committee that also takes into consideration how the resources of this Parliament are actually dealt with.

Similarly, it is this committee that also looks at governance issues, as well as some of the issues that deal with our administration. I would therefore like to thank all members from various parties who serve on the Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.

Hon members ... this budget we allocate resources towards the key mandates of this institution, which are lawmaking, oversight, public participation and international relations. These resources are also aimed at building administrative capacity to support the work that we do as Parliament.

Today's debate is the primary instrument that also allows us to account to the electorate about the work that we do, as well as the resources and expenditure that we actually utilise. It is a barometer that enables citizens to gauge how

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 37

Parliament's programmes improve their lives and continue to contribute to the transformation of society.

This budget debate takes place when we as a country mark 30 years of our Constitution. This seminal document laid the foundation of the South Africa we want. It created institutions that will be anchors of our country, but more importantly it laid the basis for nation-building.

Each day, whatever we do, we do this as Members of Parliament, to ensure that we realise the ideals of our society of having a united, nonracial, nonsexist and prosperous South Africa.

As we commemorate three decades of our maturing democracy, we ought to be constantly mindful that the Constitution and the laws we have drafted, approved and finally promulgated, do not represent a perfect state. Rather, they are a testament to the daily struggles. They are also living articles that we as Parliament must continuously evaluate and strengthen to ensure that we find the best way to take forward the principles of freedom, dignity and equality.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 38

During these 30 years, there have been instances where our law-making processes, as well as our rules and procedures, have at times been found wanting.

The recent Constitutional Court judgement has found that some of our rules are not consistent with the Constitution, and therefore require review and amending. The Court also found that in the application of our rules and procedures, we may have misdirected ourselves. This last Constitutional Court judgement, and other rulings before it by other courts, require us as this Parliament to be rigorous in how we make legislation, rules and procedures.

At the same time, what came out of this judgement and others also reminds us that there is a need to have various engagements so that as the different arms of state we do not encroach on the mandate of another ...

Our oversight mechanism requires strengthening and proper resourcing. It also needs an early warning system so that our portfolio committees are able to pick up issues early enough and address them.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 39

A case in point are issues that came out which led to the formation of the ad hoc committee dealing with issues of allegations by Gen Mkhwanazi. At the core of it, I think it also makes us as parliamentarians on portfolio committees reflect deeply ... that when matters are presented before us ... in the way in which we scrutinise, are we able to pick up matters that we must address and deliberate on timeously.

I want to say that the allocation to committees was aimed at enabling proper planning and execution. Seated here as presiding officers, we can say that we have seen improvements in how committees are planning and utilising resources allocated to them.

However, we are also the first to say that those resources are not quite enough for all the committees, and it is for that reason that we do have consolidated funding, so that when committees overspend their resources they can be allocated ... to do their work.

I want to applaud all committees for the work that they've done in attending to issues of oversight, but also in ensuring that they pass the relevant legislation that they need to.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 40

The scrutiny by the Auditor-General over the financial affairs of local government over time has brought into light the complexity of oversight across spheres without usurping the responsibility of each sphere of government. This has been demonstrated by the integrated way in which the Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs portfolio committees have undertaken their task.

It is equally important that the two Houses of Parliament engage on how we can undertake oversight without duplicating effort and resources.

Similarly, it is also important that in undertaking our oversight work, that we are also mindful of the issues that require better engagement between ourselves as the legislature and the executive.

In the past year, the National Assembly processed and passed 18 Bills, including key legislations such as the Eskom Debt Relief Bill, the Economic Regulation of Transport Bill, the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill, the Marine Oil Pollution Bill, the public service Bill and the Older Persons Amendment Bill, including the public sector Bill. The test of these legislations will be in their implementation,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 41

but also in how we as members of this Parliament continue to oversee their implementation and whether indeed the legislations we've passed have impact.

While we celebrate the milestone reached thus far in terms of lawmaking, our legislative programme remains huge. Presently, we have 18 Private Member's Bills and 22 executive Bills. I do hope that in the coming year, the portfolio committees will focus more of their energies on legislation.

As part of our oversight and in holding our executive to account, we've improved our approach to questions by having a hybrid system of interpolations and normal questions. Oral and written questions enable members to raise concerns from their constituencies, as well as to follow up on commitments made by members of the executive in the House and in the portfolio committees.

We do appreciate the effort that has been made by members of the executive in addressing questions that come from members. However, there remains areas of challenge where we'll need to work together with the Leader of Government Business so that we can improve our response and our response times.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 42

Administratively, we are also examining how best we can address some of these issues to ensure that ... the questions that are given to members of the executive, we as Members of Parliament also take into consideration that some of them will require time because of consultations that might need to happen with provinces or the local government sphere. Therefore, the question that arises is whether the time we allocate for responses to written questions is actually adequate.

Two new portfolio committees have now been set up and are presently in operation. These are the Committee on the Presidency and the ... Petitions Committee. The two committees have held their workshops and are already undertaking their work.

We know that the local government elections will take place on the 4th of November 2026. These elections will represent another landmark in the evolution of our democracy. We all recognise the essential services offered by local government and we as members of this House must ensure that we can support councils to address the many challenges facing our community.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 43

We must also encourage all eligible South Africans who are not yet registered or who have changed their place of residence to ensure that they are registered and their details are updated on the ... electoral commission.

We should appreciate the measures taken by the National Assembly Programming Committee to offer opportunities for members to return to their constituency for longer, particularly this year. This is an important mechanism to deepen the bonds between Parliament, the people and the communities in which they live.

At the same time, the parliamentary programme must balance our other commitments and make time for lawmaking, committee oversight and members' business.

Our history has taught us that we cannot take freedom for granted. We also know that our future is fundamentally interlinked with other nations across Africa and the world. For this reason, this Parliament must continue to build relationships with our partners through multilateral platforms that our Parliament participates in.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 44

In the past year, we have successfully hosted the 11th P20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit, which is a parliamentary segment of the G20, and the 58th Plenary Assembly of the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum, which was held in Durban in December.

These two high-profile events position South Africa as a credible and capable convener on the continental and global stage, but also ... agenda setting on issues that need to be deliberated on that not only affect people in South Africa but also globally.

In September this year, Parliament will host the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference here in Cape Town.

Our Parliament continues to fulfil its obligations of building a better Africa through its involvement in the Pan-African Parliament, PAP. Our Parliament has reached an agreement to second an official from Parliament – a Serjeant-at-arms – to the PAP to strengthen the institution's capacity and deepen our co-operative relationship.

Our Parliament plays a pivotal role in a number of fora, some of which are actually undertaken by our various committees,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 45

particularly the engagements that we have with the European Union that is chaired by our chair of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Co-operation.

I do want to say that at times we may differ here in the House about positions that we take, but what has been encouraging is how we have represented South Africa as a united force in these multilateral fora.

Last year, we committed ... to address legacy issues from previous Parliaments as it relates to the independence of institutions supporting democracy. I want to report to you that we have had various engagements with these constitutional bodies, also ... how we can harmonise guidelines to be adopted by Parliament on statutory appointments and removal procedures of commissioners.

Working with the National Treasury, we have also started the work to shift the budgets of constitutional bodies to Parliament, as it should have been from the beginning.

I do want to say that there have been issues of concern, some of which are dealt with by our institutions supporting democracy – the Chapter 9 and Chapter 10 institutions –

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 46

particularly the one that relates to the work of the religious community. I wish to thank the Portfolio Committee on Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs that has been engaging our religious formations to find a way in which we can deal with issues that relate to that sector in an amicable way.

Parliament continues with its strategic partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa on delivering a rebuilt Parliament that we are all yearning for.

As part of the rebuilt project, I just want to say that we have completed 210 offices and three committee rooms with audiovisual and broadcasting equipment at 90 Plein Street. This has enabled many of you as members to come back to Parliament and to have a space from which to work.

We have also completed additional offices which will accommodate parliamentary staff so that they too can actually support you better by being present in the precinct.

We have successfully installed this place, the Dome, as a functional facility to enable us to do our work. I want to thank the Minister and Department of Public Works for having

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 47

worked with us to ensure that, regardless of the challenges we have faced with our Parliament, we can have a space in which to work.

In supporting the work of the committees of Parliament, we have reviewed human development policies and strategies which focus on talent, retention and nurturing to strengthen our succession plan. The acquisition of capable and qualified personnel, and the empowerment of young people, has been very important. We have also filled critical posts, which committees have actually requested us to do, such as researchers, experts and content advisors. We will continue to conclude the remaining one.

I want to indicate that in this budget this Parliament is allocated 3,3 billion, which includes the rebuild programme. These are the resources that have been allocated to the various divisions of Parliament, as well as to political parties for their constituency work. We do trust that as we engage with this budget, we will be able to improve where you would suggest improvement, but that we will also be able to utilise it in a manner that continuously improves the work of this House.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 48

I wish to thank the leaders of portfolio committees as chairpersons and their Whippery, who have really ensured that our committee work, which is an engine of the work that this Parliament does, happens in a manner that it should.

I want to thank the chair of the ad hoc committee for having steered the work that was important ... that needed us to actually see what we can do about matters that were brought into the public domain as it affects our security structures.

I want to thank the Whips of all political parties. I want to thank the Whips of all parties who have actually made it easier for us to do the work in this House. I thought the Whips of parties were going to clap for themselves.

[Applause.] However, my thanks goes to each and every member of this House for the dynamic work ... and the commitment that you have shown in the various committees in which you serve. That has actually enabled us to become a better Parliament each day.

I want to thank ... Well, I will have to say, I want to thank the ANC, the MK Party, the EFF, the DA ... [Applause.] ... Rise Mzansi, Bosa, Action SA, the IFP, FF Plus, the ACDP, the UAT, the PAC, Good, all of you, the UDM ... [Interjections.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 49

... I have thanked the DA ... [Interjections.] Who else hasn't been thanked? The NCC, the ATM. [Inaudible.] ... thank you very much.

In earnest, I want to thank all the political parties for the commitment that they've shown in ensuring that each and every year, despite looking at issues from different vantage points, we've done so with the spirit of building our country and ensuring that it is better than what it has been.

Without the support of the Deputy Speaker and the House Chairpersons, as well as the Parliamentary officers of the President and the Deputy President, we would not have been able to achieve what we've achieved.

However, it would be amiss of me not to thank our ardent parliamentarian from the executive who is always present, even though at times ... becomes very naughty and disruptive. ... hon Mantashe. [Applause.] He is not going to trouble you more, but I just want to thank him because he has been able to ensure that he remembers that before he is a member of the executive, he is a parliamentarian. That doesn't mean that other Ministers and Deputy Ministers do not remember that, but

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 50

it's just that sometimes they are so engaged that we do not see them every day. However, thank you to all of you.

As I step off this podium, I indeed just want to pay tribute to the members whom we have lost during the past year, and their families. The contributions of hon Shezi, Princess Buthelezi, hon Mnganga-Gcabashe and hon Sithole to this House will always be remembered. I thank you. [Applause.]

Dr N P NKABANE: Madam Deputy Speaker, today as we debate Budget Vote 2 for Parliament, we take heed of the clarion call made by South Africans coming from all society who, 71 years ago in Kliptown, declared in the Freedom Charter that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people.

Those words born from struggle and sacrifice found profound expression in our 1996 Constitution, which is the supreme law of the country that entrenches human dignity, equality, non-racialism, non-sexism, the rule of law, and a democratic society where the people shall govern.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 51

Leading to the adoption of the Constitution in 1996, retired Constitutional Court Judge Albie Sachs observes, I quote:

As much as some individuals, including politicians, would like to discount the critical role played by the Freedom Charter, the people of South Africa would never allow the Freedom Charter to be relegated to the dusty archives of South African history. After all, its principles are firmly entrenched in the Constitution of South Africa.

Another member of the ANC Constitutional Committee, Ms Brigitte Mabandla, explains that the final Constitution of 1996 embodies the Charter's ideals in law. Its preamble, founding provisions on the Bill of Rights, translates the aspirations of Kliptown into enforceable rights and state obligations.

From the right to dignity and equality to access, to housing, to education, to health care, the Constitution equals the Charter in both spirit and structure. The South African Constitution, therefore, in its commitment to political, social and economic rights for all, to a government based on the will of the people, and to build the South Africa that belongs to all, equals the aspiration of the Freedom Charter.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 52

From the very beginning, Parliament has been at the centre of our constitutional democracy. As the constitutional Assembly, this House drafted and adopted the supreme law of the land, a constitution hailed worldwide as one of the most progressive. It enshrines the values of human dignity, equality, non-racialism, non-sexism, social justice, as well as the rule of law.

Under the ANC leadership, Parliament has been the engine of transformation. We passed the landmark legislation that dismantled apartheid structures and laid the foundation for a better life for all. The Restitution of Land Rights Act, the Employment Equity Act, and the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, and many more because the ANC has done a lot.

There are some in this House who are hellbent on reversing these gains. We must never allow that to happen, not in our lifetime. As we debate this budget amid economic constraints, high unemployment, inequality and the negative effects of historic crises, these are not reasons to weaken Parliament. They are reasons to strengthen it. A well-resourced, effective Parliament is essential for rebuilding trust in our institutions and driving the structural transformation which is needed to build a better life for all.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 53

We must spend every rand prudently with zero tolerance to wasteful and fruitless expenditure as well as corruption. Transparency in our own budgeting, operations and expenditure must set the standards for the rest of government. This Budget Vote is not merely about allocating funds; it is about resourcing the very heart of our constitutional democracy, the Parliament of Republic of South Africa, to fulfil its sacred mandate to represent the people, make laws, oversee and scrutinise the executive, and ensure that the promises of Freedom Charter and the Constitution become life reality for every South African.

The Freedom Charter's first demand, the people shall govern, is the foundation of our democracy. Parliament is the embodiment of that principle. Through the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, we give voice to the will of the people across our diverse provinces and communities. In this sense, strengthening the capacity of Parliament is central to the fulfilling of this important principle that places the people at the centre of realising the core objectives contained in the Freedom Charter as well as the Constitution.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 54

Effective oversight is the lifeblood of accountable governance. The Freedom Charter envisioned a democratic state where power serves the people. Our Constitution gives Parliament powerful tools as reflected in Chapter 4 of our Constitution. This budget allocates R3,7 billion for the administration of Parliament.

We are concerned that Parliament, as a separate arm of the state, is entirely dependent on the national executive for the budget it receives. It is noted that the various shortfalls between the budget Parliament requested for 2026-27 and the budget National Treasury had allocated will be funded from the R772 million for goods and service budget. This intervention is entirely unsustainable and may erode the authority and independence of Parliament and undermine the implementation of its strategy to meet its constitutional obligation.

The institution should prioritise the finalisation of funding model and the Joint Standing Committee on Financial Management of Parliament, JSFMP, should receive quarterly updates in respect of progress made as far as establishing a funding model for Parliament, and negotiate a more appropriate approach to allocating its budget with the National Treasury.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 55

With this budget, we must strengthen committee and oversight work, including research, monitoring and evaluation capabilities. We further need to enhance financial and performance oversight digital tools for real-time monitoring of government expenditure, to enhance security and integrity measures to protect the institution from undue influence.

We must also modernise our institution, adequate funding is needed for research capacity, technology tools, Hansard services, and the professional development of our members as well as the staff. A strong parliament requires skilled, independent support structures that can match the complexity of ever-evolving society. In the 21st century Parliament cannot function on outdated systems. This budget must drive digital transformation, improve ICT infrastructure, and mitigate the adverse effects of artificial intelligence, including the risk of cybersecurity attacks.

The Freedom of Charter was not a dream deferred; it became the foundation of our Constitution because generations fought for it. Let us honour that legacy by ensuring that the resources to do its work legislative wise, to oversee diligently, to ensure that the public meaningfully receive the services it deserves, and also to advance the rights and dignity of every

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 56

South African. As the ANC, we support the Budget Vote. I thank you.

Mr D D D VAN ROOYEN: Deputy Speaker, allow me to start our submission as MK Party by sharing the experience of our people who daily face the pinch of South Africa's realities. When asked about the state of law and order in our country, the national community police forum chairperson, Francina Lucas, said, I quote:

Lawlessness is rampant. I really think things are out of control. From where we stand, we are so concerned that lawlessness is the order of the day.

This is confirmed by glaring and shocking anomalies taking place in our country. It is an anomaly that this country has countless laws to address immigration-related problems but not enforced. Hence, the shocking number of illegal immigrants in this country. As a result of the government's failure to enforce immigration laws, hopeless and frustrated South Africans are taking the law into their own hands, attempting to enforce these laws made by this House. It is an anomaly that it remains business as usual when, quarterly, the Acting Minister of Police confirms that the country's murder rate

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 57

remains exceptionally high. On average, our beloved country records 58 murders every day, equating to 46 weekly, 1 624 monthly, and 19 488 annually. This is over 959% higher than the average nation. These are the numbers of people who usually die at war, and under normal circumstances, warrant a sense of urgency. In South Africa, this is just normal. We read statistics and life goes on.

As we debate Budget Vote 2, we must ask ourselves as public representatives difficult questions about our role as lawmakers and, of course, our role as those expected to hold the executive accountable for the implementation of the laws we make. It is our submission as the MK Party that the current foreign Westminster parliamentary system imposes some impediments on both the administrative and financial autonomy of Parliament. Autonomy is critical for a Parliament to function effectively as a separate branch of government. As much as we are currently empowered by our own laws to determine the national budget appropriations, we are still largely dependent on the executive to allocate resources to Parliament. What an anomaly. We are expected to bite the hand that feeds us. How can we be robust as Members of Parliament on the executive performance when we still depend on the National Treasury to fund our oversight and accountability

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 58

programmes? And of course, we still depend on Public Works to manage our facilities. The current system provides a limited opportunity for the Parliament to influence the amount of funding it receives annually. The Ministry of Finance has a strong role in defining the budgets for Parliament and other independent institutions. Hence, as the MK Party, we have made a submission on the development of an independent Parliament roadmap, which is meant to liberate Parliament from the executive capture that is currently taking place. And of course, it is meant to create a multiparty parliamentary budget forum that advocates for adequate budget allocations as well as transparent budget management of resources allocated to Parliament. We cannot allow the divided so-called Government of National Unity, GNU, to have a final say over budget appropriations when our own laws empower us to do so. Making matters worse is the fact that the National Treasury, the proxy of imperialist interests and the champion of neoliberal austerity policy, is leading this abnormality ... [Applause.] ... As in all Budget Votes, austerity measures are at play in this Budget Vote. Parliament's Budget Vote for 2026-27 shows a real decrease of R358 million, representing 11,67% decline in the purchasing power of what is allocated to Parliament. If we do not reclaim our legislative authority as Parliament, the budget trajectory will continue to decline and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 59

erode Parliament's capacity to execute its mandate. Without financial autonomy, this Parliament will be unable to address many of the key reforms captured ... by the way we contributed to those reforms as the MK Party. Those reforms are captured in the Seventh Parliament's strategic plan and the subsequent two annual performance plans. It won't be possible for us to execute on those commitments because we will be lacking resources to accomplish what we want to achieve as this Parliament.

As the MK party, we have noted with keen interest that allocation to Local Government Week and Taking Parliament to the People programmes have been substantially increased, recording 400% and 67% increases, respectively. Our vigilance and our all-eyes scrutiny will be on steroids on these two programmes to make sure that no cent is used for Local Government Elections campaigns or political expediency agendas ... [Applause.] ... noting that committees of the National Assembly will receive R3 million each, and the budget of NCOP committees will increase by 17% to R3,5 million each. The MK Party continues to call for a more transparent and rational funding model for Parliament committees, a model that will be considerate of the varying commitments, workloads, and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 60

equitable resource allocation of the different Parliament committees.

[Applause.]

As Parliament, we should stop relying on the executive to ensure that we have enough funding to meet our constitutional mandate. We must stop singing the narrative that there is no money to fund our freedom. We remain one of the richest countries in mineral resources and strategic marine resources. As lawmakers, we must make sure that we take full advantage of this and ensure that government revenue is increased to fund our development priorities, as well as a proper budget for Parliament activities and programmes. We said it a long time ago, as we strive for our freedom, that we know what it means to enter the phase of socialism. The lyrics of ...

IsiZulu:

... ingoma ethi, Yini i-Socialism ...

English:

... means a lot to us as the MK Party. It means that we must take control of our economy and ensure that the resources, or the revenue generated from our economy, are used to fund our

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 61

freedom. Let us stop pleading poverty while our country is so rich. As MPs, we are empowered to ensure that the economy is in the hands of the government for the benefit of our people ... [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Mrs M O CLARKE: House Chairperson, the report before us today is a reflection of a systemic failure in accountability. We are only now considering a mid-year report for the 2025-26 financial year, halfway through the 2026-27 financial year. That is not a minor delay. It is a collapse of oversight.

When reports are late, accountability is stalled, and when accountability is stalled, this gives room to malfeasance. The report utterly fails to properly account for the work of the administration. Instead, it reads like a summary of Members of Parliament's activities.

The report dismally fails to account for the accounting officer and administration, how funds are used, what was delivered, and whether value was achieved. Across the summary report, we do not see performance actions done. Instead, we see planning. In fact, planning to plan. That is unacceptable. The budget raises even more serious concerns.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 62

Section 53(2) (2) requires the accounting officer to revise revenue and expenditure estimates when necessary. Yet, by the fourth quarter, Parliament had significantly underspent. This raises two possibilities. Either the administration is underperforming, or Parliament is overfunded and unable to spend effectively. Neither is acceptable. We must ask what revisions were made to the approved budget? Why were those revisions not properly brought before the committee? And if they were not approved by Parliament, does this not raise concerns about unauthorised expenditure? We demand answers relating to this.

The underspending is concentrated in critical areas, including the Office of the Secretary and the Rebuild Fund. On the Rebuild Fund, the contradiction is glaring. We are told that more money is needed, yet the existing allocation has not been spent.

We were also told that the rebuilding of Parliament would be completed in time to accommodate next year's state of the nation address. We today must ask, is this still the case? Will Parliament be ready to host Sona, as promised? Or are we now facing further delays? If there are delays, what caused them? Was it procurement failure, poor project management,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 63

contractor issues, or delays by the administration? The rebuilding of Parliament is not just a construction project. It is about restoring dignity and functionality of the institution.

If Parliament cannot manage its own rebuild on time and within budget, how can we hold other departments accountable to infrastructure failures? Should next year's Sona not be in the rebuilt Parliament? Serious questions will be raised.

Another major concern is the compensation of employees. We have repeatedly raised that the Compensation of Employees, COE, budget is lower than the actual Wage Bill.

The administration then shifts funds from services to cover salaries. This is not sustainable. It distorts the budget and undermines delivery service. We must be told how many of the 1 200 positions are funded by the National Treasury, how many are unfunded, and how long this structural imbalance will continue.

On human resources, reports again lack substance. We are not told the age profile of staff, how many will retire in the next three or five years, or what plans exist to preserve

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 64

institutional knowledge. This is basic workforce planning, and this is missing.

We must also address governance failures. There are 12 pending labour court cases. We are entitled to know what these cases are about, what they are costing, and how many relate to the so-called Abacus Report. The report has apparently been used to justify dismissals, yet it has not been shared. How do you dismiss officials based on a report that no one has seen?

Where is this report? The same lack of transparency applies to the audit findings. We are told that they are in progress. For how long? Why has the Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Brics, matter, raised over a year ago, still not been resolved? What point does in-progress become avoidance or corruption?

There are also serious concerns about the Secretary to Parliament, including a gigantic salary increase, consultants, acting allowances, overtime expenditure, and gratuity claims. The ANC in the committee took the resolution that the salary of the Secretary to Parliament, STP, is now a closed matter.

The DA strongly disagrees with this motion. We demand a proper forensic investigation regarding the salary increase of the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 65

STP. If these decisions were taken without proper approval, then we are not only dealing with poor administration, we are dealing with a breakdown in governance.

There are further concerns around appointments, including the appointment of the Legislative Sector Support, LSS, Director. What due diligence was done, what criteria was applied, and how does this appointment serve the needs of Parliament?

We are also seeing an apparent attempt to implement organisational realignment without presenting its outcomes. We are being asked to approve change without evidence. That is not oversight. That is rubber stamping. The broader picture is deeply concerning. Budget inconsistencies, under-closed revisions, underspending, rising administrative costs, delays in the rebuild project, and lack of transparency across key areas. We must insist on a full report on all budget revisions and environments, a detailed breakdown of underspending, immediate access to the Abacus Report, full disclosure of legal cases and costs, a clear plan for COE shortfalls, a legal opinion on the Secretary's remuneration, and a detailed progress on the Parliament rebuild project, including whether Parliament will be ready for the next Sona. If this information is not available today, then we should seriously

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 66

consider postponing this engagement, because oversight of that information is meaningless. We must lead by example. I thank you. [Time expire.]

Ms O M C MAOTWE: House Chair, the EFF does not support the proposed budget allocation for Parliament, and we do so because we have lost confidence in the leadership of the Speaker of the National Assembly. When she was elected after the 2024 national elections, because of our engagements with her when she was House Chairperson and the manner in which she conducted herself as a Minister, we thought that after the disastrous tenors of previous Speakers who were partisan, irrational, who failed to protect the integrity of Parliament, and who engaged in dubious conduct, maybe Parliament stood a chance of revival.

Despite being a member of a former liberation movement that continues to lose power because of its arrogance, we thought that as Speaker, hon Mama Thoko Didiza would restore the dignity to the position of head of National Assembly. We were wrong. We were very wrong. If anything, she is more disappointing because we had expectations.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 67

We thought the Speaker would have learned lessons from the former Speaker, who took forever to accept that the then Secretary to Parliament was corrupt and needed to be removed for abusing Parliament's resources. The Executive Authority, EA, has undermined its own commitment to contain the salary of the Secretary to Parliament, which was raised by the National Treasury as abnormal and excessive. The EA has undermined Parliament's own human resource management policies, which state that every employee, including Mr Xolile George himself, must have a contract before they start working.

The very Speaker who wants to stand here today and say she wants to protect the integrity of the National Assembly, goes to the Constitutional Court to defend unprocedural conduct. Clearly, she has learned nothing. The current Secretary to Parliament, appointed by a former Speaker, who is now standing trial for corruption, was appointed in what we consider to be a corrupt manner.

The advert was posted in newspapers with a salary of R2,4 million in 2021. He worked for two months in Parliament while still being paid by the South African Local Government Association, SALGA, without a contract. The advert was cancelled after recruitment had already started without any

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 68

explanation. Today, the man earns just under R5 million. He earns more than the President, more than the Speaker of the National Assembly, more than the Chairperson of the NCOP, he earns more than all Ministers in Cabinet, more than Deputy Ministers, and more than director generals of all national departments, with more complex and big organisations. It gets worse. We are told that his salary includes a gratuity, like a stock option incentive as if he worked for a billion-rand company listed on the JSC. This Speaker turns a blind eye to this corruption. The Speaker has learned nothing.

The corruption that we will expose regarding the rebuilding of Parliament, a project under the direct oversight of the Secretary to Parliament, whom we believe was appointed in a corrupt manner, is a crime scene. Even if members of the Joint Standing Committee on Financial Management of Parliament collude in a partisan manner to defend the corrupt appointment of Mr Xolile George and insist that the matter is exhausted when it is clearly not, we will remain patient because the court will ultimately resolve this matter as has always been the case when the Government of National Unity, GNU, abuses its numerical majority to shield unlawful and corrupt conduct from accountability.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 69

This Parliament burned down in January 2022. We were told that it would cost R2,2 billion to rebuild it. Three years later, we are told that the cost has escalated to R3,3 billion. By the end, it will be R5 billion or more. With the information we have, which we have handed over to forensic investigators for assessment, we are confident that people will be arrested at the end of this project. These are serious people with influence, but it will not come as a surprise.

It is under her watch, the Speaker, that the BRICS summit held at Emperors Palace saw tenders inflated, services paid for without proper authorisation, and it is clear that money was looted. Costs moved from an approved budget of R3,9 million to over R6 million. Yet no one can tell us whether that money was properly spent or not, and no one has been held accountable.

You can defend corruption because of your unholy union in the GNU, but we are not surprised that the DA will sit comfortably knowing these facts and behave as if there's nothing rotten simply because of blue lights. As the EFF We want our Parliament to go to our people. We want this Parliament to relocate to Tshwane, to be central, accessible, and closer to the people instead of maintaining a colonial agreement between racist Afrikaners and British colonialists. We want people to

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 70

feel part and parcel of this Parliament, but that does not mean it should happen in a manner that facilitates corruption.

We are told that the Taking to Parliament to the People event held in the North West costs R9 million, and you are expected to accept this as normal. For that kind of event, that's madness. We still do not have enough African language translators. We do not have language services in committees, as if Parliament is still run by a racist national party. We do not have the capacity to draft Bills with the speed necessary to make a meaningful impact. The collapse of the effectiveness of this Seventh Parliament is clear for everyone to see.

Ministers don't respond to questions for written reply on time, and when they do respond, they mislead Parliament without consequences, without sanctions, and without reprimand. It is worse with the DA Ministers who are turning this Parliament into a Mickey Mouse arrangement and being toothless.

For this reason and many other reasons, the EFF does not support the incompetent, partisan and corrupt administration

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 71

that uses Parliament to protect a former liberation movement in its dying days. I thank you, Chair. [Applause.]

Mr N M HADEBE: House Chairperson, Parliament occupies a unique constitutional position. It is not simply another department within government; it is the institution entrusted with lawmaking, oversight over the executive, and ensuring meaningful public participation in our democracy. The effectiveness of Parliament therefore directly affects the quality of governance in South Africa.

The Appropriation Bill allocates approximately R2,8 billion to Parliament for the 2026-27 financial year. The IFP notes that this allocation must support Parliament in fulfilling its constitutional mandate, while additional funding has been allocated to contribute towards restoring and rebuilding institutional capacity, following the devastating fire that damaged the parliamentary precinct.

We welcome the continued commitment to rebuilding Parliament, but we caution that rebuilding infrastructure alone is insufficient. South Africans expect Parliament to rebuild public trust, improve accountability, and strengthen oversight over an increasingly unresponsive executive. We remain

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 72

concerned that Parliament continues to depend heavily on allocations determined by the executive through the National Treasury. The joint standing committee itself correctly observed that this funding arrangement undermines Parliament's institutional independence and long-term sustainability.

A constitutional democracy cannot function optimally if the institution responsible for oversight is financially dependent on those it must oversee. We therefore support efforts to finalise a sustainable and independent funding model for Parliament. Parliament must be adequately resourced to perform rigorous oversight, process legislation effectively, and deepen public participation.

We further welcome the increased allocation to oversight committees and constituency-related programmes. Oversight is the lifeblood of accountability, and committees require sufficient resources to interrogate government expenditure, assess service delivery, and expose maladministration. However, increased funding must produce measurable outcomes.

Parliament cannot justify higher expenditure while oversight failures, weak committees' attendance and delayed executive responses continue. The poor responsiveness of Ministers to

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 73

parliamentary questions remains deeply troubling. Too many replies are delayed, incomplete, or evasive. This weakens Parliament's constitutional authority and frustrates the public's right to accountability. Rules governing executive compliance must therefore be strengthened and enforced consistently.

We also note Parliament's plans regarding digital transformation and broadcasting expansion. While these initiatives can improve accessibility and public engagement, they must be accompanied by strong cybersecurity safeguards and practical implementation strategies.

South Africans judge Parliament not by the size of its budget, by its effectiveness, discipline and courage in holding power accountable. Every rand appropriated under Vote 2 must therefore advance constitutional governance, transparency, and service to the people of South Africa.

The IFP will continue to support a Parliament that is independent, accountable, people-cantered, and uncompromising in defending democratic oversight. Therefore, we support Vote 2. I thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 74

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majazi): House Chairperson, Speaker, hon members of the Cabinet, hon members of the National Assembly, members of the Parliamentary Group in International Relations, PGIR, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is my singular honour to be granted an opportunity to contribute to budget Vote No 2 debate on Parliament. This occasion always affords us with an opportunity to present and outline Parliament and the nation at large priorities that will in the long-term inform the activities of the democratic Seventh Parliament with respect to international participation.

As House Chairpersons, our work at hand proceeds from the contribution laid by the hon members of the sixth administration and the legacy left behind for the Seventh Parliament to pursue.

In pursuit of its role in international relations, co-operation, and participation, the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa is a member of a number of inter-parliamentary organisations. Parliament's affiliation and participation in these organisations is driven by the need to uphold universal values and principles of democracy, respect for human rights, and international law, as well as the need to reinforce South

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 75

Africa's foreign policy objectives at the level of International Parliamentary Forum, IPF.

The seventh administration had undertaken to operationalise the implementation of its policy priorities through the development of the draft policy on parliamentary diplomacy. The objective of the policy is to provide an over-arching strategy for South Africa's parliamentary diplomacy in line with the country's legislative framework and national interest, facilitate a co-ordinated and strategic approach to parliamentary diplomacy at both political and administrative levels with the South African legislative sector.

Articulate how South Africa's influence and statue on the international stage can be enhanced through active participation in bilateral and multilateral parliamentary diplomacy, facilitate economic diplomacy that prioritises African-led development. The restructuring of global financial system, promotion of trade policies that empower the global South. Recognises the evolving role of parliamentary diplomacy in global politics and its significance in advancing South Africa's national interest. This policy establishes a framework for the South African Parliament's engagement in international affairs.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 76

The policy further recognises Parliament's unique role in shaping the multipolar world order that prioritises Africa's sovereignty, economic self-sufficiency, and self-determined development. The parliamentary diplomacy must not only support existing executive foreign policy, but it must actively challenge global structures that perpetuate economic dependency, inequality, and marginalisation of African state, including the reform of institutions' global governance.

The PGIR remains consistent in implementing these priorities through our participation in different bilateral and multilateral forum. To this end, the PGIR will convene its second workshop to further redefine its roadmap and participation internationally and to further align our collective missions with our various stakeholders.

It is my pleasure to take this opportunity to highlight the activities our Parliament has been a part of so far since the last budget Vote debate. Starting with the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum, SADC PF, the South African Parliament successfully hosted the 58th Plenary Assembly of the SADC PF in the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, Durban, South Africa, from 30 November to 5 December

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 77

The 58th Plenary Assembly was held under the theme: the impact of climate change on women and youth in the SADC region and the role of Parliament in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Apart from hon speakers of the National Assemblies representing thirteen SADC countries, other dignitaries that graced the 58th Plenary Assembly with their attendance included the guest of honour Acting President of the Republic of South Africa his Excellency Mr Paul Mashatile and the Speaker of KwaZulu-Natal as well as the Executive Mayor of eThekweni to mention just a few.

Regarding the transformation of the SADC PF into a SADC Parliament in July 2025, both the NA and NCOP adopted the South African Parliament's input to the draft Protocol establishing the SADC Parliament which will be sent back to our Parliament for ratification processes during the course of the 2026/27 financial year.

The draft Protocol which was scheduled for finalisation during the SADC meeting of justice attorneys general in July 2025 prescribes amongst others the composition powers, functions procedures and other related matters governing the SADC

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 78

Parliament. The joint report on the Draft SADC Parliament Protocol by the Portfolio Committee Of International Relations Co-Operation and the select committee on security and justice, highlighted the significance of the protocol in advancing regional integration and the role of Parliaments in this process. The report recommends that the draft protocol include a clause to establish structured cooperation between the SADC Parliament the pan-African national Parliament and Regional Economic Community assemblies.

This co-operation should cover exchange on model laws joint summits and shared training academies. The aim is to harmonise local legal frameworks build institutional capacity and ensure synergy in addressing continental challenges.

Among the recommended inputs the report proposed that SADC Parliament must evolve into a binding law-making body over time and have oversight powers over peace making missions trade and human rights.

The South African Parliament permanent delegation of the SADC PF will attend the forthcoming 59th Plenary Assembly to be hosted by the Parliament of the Republic of Seychelles on 04 to 11 July 2026, under the theme: digital violence against

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 79

women in politics. That takes us to the BRICS Parliamentary Forum, BRICS PF.

The Federative Republic of Brazil assumed the Chairmanship of BRICS on 01 January 2025, accordingly Brazil prepared and hosted both the 17th BRICS Summit and the 11th BRICS PF meeting the 11th BRICS Parliamentary Forum which was attended by the South African delegation led by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Co-Operation, Supra Obakeng Ramoeletsi Mahumapelo, took place at the National Congress Palace in Brasilia on 04 and 05 June 2025 under the theme: the role of Brics Parliament in building more inclusive and sustainable global governance.

The 11th BRICS PF brought together heads of parliaments, presidents of chambers and deputies and the federal senators from the 11 BRICS member countries including the delegation from several partner countries the leadership and representatives of the New Development Bank and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU, were also in attendance.

The standout highlight of the 11th BRICS PF was its push for a more inclusive global order led by the global South. Especially through calls to reform international institutions

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 80

like the united states and global financial system. Delegates emphasised that emerging economies should have a stronger role in global decision making.

Several major themes defined the forum reform of global governance strengthening BRICS co-operation support for local currency trade women's political participation and gender equality a joint condemnation of terrorism and South Africa was leading in these ones.

The forum concluded with a joint declaration and the ceremonial handover of the next presidency to India which will host the 12th BRICS PF meeting this year 2026. The impact of our institution parliamentary diplomacy was demonstrated by the active participation of our Parliament in the negotiations and the incorporation of a number of our positions and inputs to the final joint committee.

Our participation in the pan-African Parliament has enabled institutions to continue to support efforts aimed at operationalisation of the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 81

We do take note of the concerns that you have raised in terms of the money that we pay with hosting the pan-African Parliament and we are in engagement and seeking that maybe we find another alternative venue so that we do not pay as much as we are paying now.

In the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, CPA, related matters, the Parliament of the republic of South Africa together with provincial legislatures is affiliated and participates in the political activities of the CPA at both African region and international level. Our Members of Parliament continue to serve in the executive committee substructures of this organisation and supported efforts of transforming the legal status of this organisation into a diplomatic organisation that will serve the agenda of the developing countries within the commonwealth.

It is my pleasure to inform this House that this is finally coming to fruition after many years of our predecessors and ourselves advocating for this change of status. Currently, through the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Parliament occupies the position of the President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, presiding over the processes that will lead to the preparation of the 69th

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 82

Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, scheduled to take place in September, which we all know that we are the proud host this year.

Institutionally, a political steering committee has been established together with the Secretariat led by the Secretary to Parliament who is seized with the responsibility to give regular briefings on the progress of conference preparation and readiness. It is anticipated that Parliament will use this international platform to continue on the path of ensuring that Parliament through parliamentary diplomacy complements the efforts of communicating South Africa's messages already articulated in the recent multilateral conferences our Parliament had successfully convened. The conference will also re-emphasise South Africa's international relations policy on ensuring that Africa acts together and unites in the world affairs.

In conclusion, South Africa, and European Parliament interparliamentary meetings, through our participation in the South African and European Parliament interparliamentary meetings, our Parliament continues to advocate for a commitment to a multilateral trading system that is rules-

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 83

based, open, inclusive, fair, transparent, consensus-driven and anchored in international laws.

The R3,3 billion will assist Parliament to achieve all programmes and activities outlined in our participation in the international forum. As the House Chairperson, I support budget Vote 2. Thank you.

Mr A !Q SAULS: Chairperson, greetings once again in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

[An unofficial language spoken]

English:

Before I delve into the core of the budget, allow me to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation to you, hon Speaker. Your steadfast leadership, unwavering dedication to the integrity of this House, and your tireless work in steering Parliament through complex and challenging times have not gone unnoticed. [Applause]. We commend your efforts to uphold the dignity of this institution and to ensure that the voice of the people remains central to our democracy. To many of us, as young parliamentarians, you are like a mother.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 84

We recognise and commend the significant allocation of R2,6 billion dedicated to the rebuilding fund. Restoring the physical infrastructure of Parliament is a vital step toward restoring the full operational dignity of our legislative arm.

Whilst we rebuild the brick-and-mortar foundations of this institution, we must not neglect its human foundation. We must confront a glaring and unjust reality. Our internal parliamentary security staff, specifically the members of the Parliamentary Protection Services, are being left behind. How do we justify a 23% allocation for the compensation of employees, amounting to R1,4 billion, whilst the very people who secure our lives and this House are blocked from career progression?

The institution cannot speak of fairness when it carries the historical stain of institutional unfairness against its own protection officers. We remember the painful legacy of 2015, when Parliament bypassed its own loyal Parliamentary Protection Services members to headhunt external security members for new chamber support positions, paying them higher salaries despite having lesser service and experience. Whilst the Labour Court may have ruled on a narrow, technical legal definition regarding what constitutes an arbitrary ground

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 85

under the Employment Equity Act, the moral failure remains absolute. Our internal security staff have faced stagnation, zero promotions, and a system that favoured new staff over long-serving, dedicated employees. We cannot preach fair labour practices to the nation whilst practising institutional stagnation within our own corridors.

The 2026-2027 budget moves us forward in a physical reconstruction, but true institutional success requires that we bring our workers along with us. Let us fix the infrastructure, but let us also rectify the historical and ongoing promotion and wage disparities facing our parliamentary protection staff. I say this as a son to a mother. I thank you.

[An unofficial language spoken]

Afrikaans:

Moenie baiza nie.

English:

The PA supports.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 86

Dr C P MULDER: Hon Chairperson and hon Speaker, it was interesting to listen to the hon Van Rooyen this afternoon when he dealt with the budget of Parliament. I was thinking it could have been very different if he was Minister of Finance long enough to deal with the Budget of South Africa as well, but we didn't get that opportunity to listen, and I think the hon Van Rooyen would have loved that opportunity.

The budget debate of Parliament should be noncontroversial, and it should not be political because we all serve the same Parliament and, if you look at the Constitution in terms of the three tiers of government or the three spheres of government – the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary – they are supposed to be on the same level. However, I want to think that the legislature, and most likely because I am one of the members of the legislature, is the most important of the three, for the simple reason that we represent the people in the House of the National Assembly and, within the National Council of Provinces, we represent the provinces.

Now, the mandate of Parliament is quite clearly set out in section 42(3) of the Constitution, which says the mandate of Parliament in terms of that provision deals with the following functions. Parliament is elected to represent the people, and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 87

that is true; to ensure government by the people under the Constitution, all the people; and to represent the interests of provinces in the national sphere of government, which is what the NCOP does. Members of Parliament elect the President.

We have done that on a number of occasions since 1994.

Parliament further has to pass legislation, and that we do throughout; has to scrutinise and oversee executive action, and that is a very difficult and controversial one sometimes, as it is at the moment; and then, lastly, has to create parliamentary processes to provide the national forum for the public to consider issues and express their views.

Now, it is also true that Parliament has come into trouble on more than one occasion, and we have been reprimanded by the courts on more than one occasion because of some decisions that we took or some actions that we did not take. The question would be: Were we perhaps brought into trouble not because of ourselves but because of the close proximity to the executive? I know this is a controversial one for the simple reason that, if you take into consideration that almost 20% of the members of the National Assembly are also members of the executive, one in five, obviously those influences do have a strong influence in caucuses but also in decisions taken by the National Assembly.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 88

As far as I am concerned, the National Assembly and Parliament should be focused on basically two things: first of all, to find the truth under all circumstances and to act in that instance, and secondly, to act within the ambit of the law, including the Constitution. That is where we should be focused and, at the moment, Parliament is again going into a difficult process, and that will be with regard to the section 89 impeachment committee and the process that will flow through that. The most important thing, from my perspective, would be that we cannot go there and try to play simplistic party-political preferences. We must understand that the public is scrutinising each and every act that comes from Parliament and that we should behave in a manner that really bodes well for what the people expect in terms of seeking the truth and keeping to the law.

You cannot, in a debate on the budget of Parliament, conclude without thanking all the officials of Parliament, each and every one of them. We take them for granted mostly, and we cannot do that because we may be the members, but, without the officials of Parliament, this place cannot and will not function successfully. The FF Plus will support the budget. Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 89

Ms L M NGOBENI: Hon House Chair, the essence of ActionSA's position is that Parliament must fear the people again.

Parliament exists to protect the people from the abuse of power. It is not a sanctuary for failed Ministers, it is not a shield for corruption, and it is definitely not a stage for political theatre. Yet, for too long, this Parliament has failed South Africans. The ANC has used its parliamentary majority not to strengthen oversight but to weaken it.

Ministers were protected, oversight reports were diluted, and accountability was sacrificed at the altar of party loyalty. The Constitutional Court itself had to remind Parliament during the section 89 matter that its duty is to the Constitution first and not to political parties. The crisis in this Parliament is simple: It no longer fears disappointing the people of South Africa. It only fears displeasing political parties.

However, Parliament has also suffered from an opposition that sometimes mistakes noise for accountability. South Africans did not elect us to collapse debates, to chase headlines, or perform outrage for cameras. Noise is not accountability; chaos is not courage.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 90

ActionSA believes accountability requires disciplined action. Despite some of us being from smaller parties in this House, we, as ActionSA, have consistently used parliamentary questions, oversight visits, motions, and committee interventions to expose failures and demand answers from government. We have challenged wasteful expenditure, we have confronted failures at state-owned entities, we have exposed weaknesses in border security and illegal immigration, and we have advanced practical solutions to restore professionalism, economic growth, and capable governance. That is what an effective opposition looks like – not slogans, not theatrics, but results.

Power fears accountability, which is why Parliament must reclaim its independence. Members of Parliament were not elected to defend political parties or protect powerful individuals. We were elected to serve the people of South Africa, fearlessly and without compromise. Yet, today, parliamentary recommendations are ignored without consequence. Reports are adopted without enforcement. Ministers evade accountability and continue as though Parliament is merely ceremonial.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 91

We, as ActionSA, believe that Parliament requires stronger oversight, Madam Speaker, stricter consequence management for effective noncompliance, greater transparency in committee performance, and meaningful public participation in the legislative process because democracy without accountability is deception. South Africans are tired of institutions that speak loudly but act weakly. We are tired of leaders that quote the Constitution but refuse to defend it, and we are tired of a Parliament that bends when it should stand firm. Parliament must fear the people again. Until it does, accountability in South Africa will remain performative.

It is for that reason that ActionSA unfortunately rejects Budget Vote No 2: Parliament. I thank you.

Mr M S LEKGANYANE: Hon House Chair, good afternoon hon Speaker. We have listened here and the amphylate against you has been unending and criticism has been trencered. I want to indicate that the matter of the Secretary to Parliament has been dealt with by the Auditor-General and we received a report at the end of the 2023/24 financial year. As the co-chair of this committee, I want to reiterate that we are forever open to every question that the hon members may want to ask regarding that matter. They should follow the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 92

procedure. We are not hiding anything. I want to thank you very much for your magnanimity. You are the Toko Didiza of impeccable credential that we know from the ANC. [Applause.]

First things first, hon members, I rise to support Budget Vote 2 Parliament for this organ as the central locus of political power in the country to continue with its mandate of ensuring that the objectives of the Constitution are realised and its obligations are fulfilled. Hon members, Parliament of the Republic should be *primus inter pares* in upholding and protecting our national sovereignty and constitutional order. This year marks 30 years of South Africa's Constitution and how the democratic state successfully proliferated its doctrines and values on the continent and globally.

Hon Speaker, we look back with pride for transforming South Africa from a morally vitiating and repugnant psychology of apartheid militarisation and destabilisation in Southern Africa. We have exorcised South Africa from the ghost that haunted its noble intentions on the continent. We look forward with renewed hope and inspiration after repositioning South Africa as a pivot state in global terms, a reputable non-entrepreneur in the promotion of global equity, social justice and solidarity, human rights and peace and lastly, a

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 93

constructive regional hegemony. The ANC restored South Africa's image, stature and moral high ground in regional, continental and global affairs.

Hon Speaker, the African Union Development Agency, formerly known as New Partnership for Africa's Development, Nepad, celebrates the silver jubilee this year. In this context and in view of the ongoing celebrations of the Africa Month, the pantheon of history shines. Former President Thabo Mbeki, Olusegun Obasanjo, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Hosni Mubarak and Abdoulaye Wade for this laudable initiative aimed at poverty eradication, sustainable growth and development, regional integration and youth and women empowerment. These leaders, Honourable Speaker, have indeed heeded the injunction that was made by the former President of Tanzania, President Nyerere, when he said, "Africa must run while others walk".

Hon Speaker, we appropriate this allocation for the Parliament of the Republic to continue running while others are walking, in pursuit of our foreign policy progressive aspirations. We should be unrelenting in pursuit of progressive multilateral order, multilateral accountability and reform or transformation of global power relations to reflect diversity. We have consecrated tenets of Pan-Africanism, African

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 94

renaissance, human rights and solidarity, south-to-south co-operation and regional integration and peaceful conflict resolutions.

Our parliamentary diplomacy should therefore advance these goals, strengthen oversight, protect democracy and ensure that all international commitments and engagements, be it in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, CPA, Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Brics, P20, Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU, Pan-African Parliament, PAP, SADC, etc, make us to run while others are walking.

Hon Speaker, academics like Prof Adebayo Adedeji contend that countries can only be strong abroad if they are strong at home. Our parliamentary diplomacy should complement the efforts of the executive in the fight against unemployment, poverty and inequality. These vexatious matters, together with citizen safety and security of national interests, are the resilient fault lines that continue to undermine our efforts at attaining a better Africa and a better world and frustrate our diplomatic initiatives. They have recently sparked a conflagration of violent confrontation by extremist nationalists and an anti-immigration sentiment that resurrects the apartheid ghost that previously haunted us.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 95

Hon Speaker, these optics are not good for our parliamentary diplomacy. They go against the grain of Ubuntu as the fundamental moral underpinning of our foreign policy. Our approach should therefore seek to forge national consciousness in the affirmation of the humanity of others. Co-operation at African Union, AU, and SADC levels to enforce immigration laws and conformity with relevant protocols.

The relevant portfolio committees should adequately be supported to play the necessary oversight on sector departments. Hon Speaker, the challenge now is for our parliamentary diplomacy to demonstrate that we can indeed run while others are walking. That we share Petrus Lumumba's optimism when he said:

Africa will write its own history, and it will be, to the north and to the south of the Sahara, a history of glory and dignity.

I support the Budget Vote 2. [Applause.]

Mr S N SWART: Hon House Chairperson, Madam Speaker, as we in the ACDP participate in this Budget vote in the 30th year of the constitutional democracy, we must reflect on how effective

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 96

our executive oversight has been. It is a pity that it took the Constitutional Court to remind us that Parliament's duty to hold the executive to account is not a political choice where majority vote or procedural manoeuvres can be used but a strict constitutional obligation. The Zondo Commission into State Capture meticulously set out how Parliament had failed in its oversight duty. And whilst most of the Commission's recommendations to improve parliamentary oversight have been implemented, we still seem to be failing in our oversight duty.

As fraud and corruption is increasing day by day, it is now reaching the highest echelons of the SA Police Service, SAPS, and the criminal justice sector. And one cannot but sense that there is a feeding frenzy, almost like locusts who are looting and stealing our public funds. This is despite the very best endeavours of us as Parliament and law enforcement agencies like the Hawks, the SAPS, Special Investigating Unit, SIU, National Prosecuting Authority, NPA and others. Yet there is always hope. The God I serve promises in his word that he will restore what the locust has eaten. What is needed is more action and more prayer to restore the moral fibre of our nation.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 97

William Shakespeare wrote:

*There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.*

That tide is rising now. It is a clarion call against corruption. It is the cry of helpless citizens who demand an end to corruption, so that state funds can be better spent on clinics, hospitals, schools, police stations, better services, not looted and stolen. As we consider the budget for the rebuilding of Parliament, may we, like Nehemiah, not only rebuild the walls physically, but also rebuild the moral fibre of our nation.

If one has regard to the tree design of the new Parliament, may this Parliament increasingly become a symbol of the tree of life referred to in Genesis and Revelations, whose leaves will be for the healing of our nation and nations around us.

Lastly, may I take this opportunity on behalf of the ACDP to thank the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, House Chairs, the Secretary

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 98

to Parliament and all staff members for their hard work and commitment this past year. I thank you.

IsiXhosa:

Mnu. N L S KWANKWA: Bayicimelani ngoku le nto?

English:

Speaker, in December 2022, we warned you about the dangers of refusing to take the Phala Phala matter to the impeachment committee or the impeachment process and as usual, you did not listen. Instead, you used a warped logic. When I say you did not listen, Speaker, I am not referring to you as a person. I am referring to your colleagues, the ANC. Instead, you used a warped logic by using your majority for contrarian aims or contrary ends or to contrarian aims to subvert checks and balances on President Ramaphosa. In doing so, you breached a very important constitutional principle of accountability. Now, in light of the Constitutional judgement, the chickens have come home to roost. And I regret to inform you that we are not going to shield you from the consequences of your actions. But as we set the process in motion towards this impeachment process, it is important that due process is followed, that the proper sequencing and the pacing of what needs to be done so that we do not end up finding ourselves

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 99

with an egg on our faces by making the same mistakes that we have been found to have breached the Constitution for, insofar as the matter is concerned.

Speaker, the second issue is, I have no time for platitudes. Please bear with me because I am only expected to make points here for two minutes. The second point is when it comes to the Question-and-Answer session, they are really starting to become a waste of time. We call it a Question-and-Answer session, but Ministers, some and not all of them, come here, instead of answering questions, they respond to them. I mean, I wish I were a minister in the Cabinet. If I come to Parliament and I am expected to respond, I will just say ...

IsiXhosa:

... ye hake ...

English:

... and sit down. I mean, that is a response. Whether it answers the question or not is neither here nor there, because we bring them here to respond. And indeed, they respond, but they do not answer questions. [Applause.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 100

The other aspect which I think is very important, is the funding of Parliament. I mean, the discussion actually predates my time in Parliament. When I got to Parliament, there was Speaker Sisulu, and we were talking about the funding model of Parliament. I am about to turn 15, three or four years' time, we are still debating the same issue. I was a youth when I debated the matter for the first time.

The other issue is, which is very important, is funding of political parties. The amount of money, I mean, it is a joke.

I mean, the amount of money I am expected to run the caucus with is the amount of money that Parliament pays a content advisor. That is my annual budget to run an office, to hire support staff members, to pay for operational expenses. It is crazy. But these laws are going to come back and bite you in 2029 when you are in a smaller party because that is where you are going. If you are going to legislate because you are a big party.

IsiXhosa:

La masela.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 101

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Speaker, hon House Chairperson, and hon members, I firstly have to say it is quite strange standing here and not sitting listening to members. The National Assembly's constitutional mandate is to represent and ensure government by the people, choosing the President, providing a national forum for public consideration of issues, passing legislation, and overseeing executive action. It requires a strong, capable, and robust House. But we also must remember that a stronger Parliament begins with stronger members. The National Assembly's capacity to optimally execute its mandate rests on strengthening the capacity of its individual members. Building members' capacity is therefore not an administrative addition to our work, nor an optional activity; it is foundational to our work as parliamentarians. And this has always been so. What has changed, hon members, is the urgency. The society for which we legislate and the governance we are charged with overseeing stands at the threshold of a profound technological transformation. The question that should frame our consideration of this Budget Vote, notably in the areas under my mandate, is therefore a simple one: Are we ready? The Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU, explains this transformation clearly. Artificial intelligence, AI, offers real potential benefits to humanity and development. But recent advances also pose immediate risks to

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 102

democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. And the pace of change is outrunning the ability of parliamentarians to understand and regulate it. Parliaments and their members cannot sit on the sidelines. This technology already affects every policy area, and so it is relevant to all of us.

What should readiness mean for us as members? Firstly, it means knowing how to use Parliament to good effect in representing our constituents, understanding our structures, working strategically within the rules and orders, reading the budget with a critical eye, scrutinizing legislation, and asking the right questions in committees and at question time.

Secondly, it means keeping pace with the world around us, understanding how the current technological transformation affects our portfolios and our own work as members, and ensuring its safe and ethical use without smothering the innovation our country needs. Readiness, in short, requires capacity, and capacity-building must be intentional.

Allow me then to turn to members' capacity-building. The Seventh Parliament's strategic plan recognizes that members must be equipped with continued professional development and the digital literacy skills needed in a digitally transformed

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 103

Parliament. The year 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 was the first full financial year in which my Office gave structured effect to the capacity-building mandate assigned to the Deputy Speaker. We focused on laying foundations, a necessary approach, given that more than 60% of the members in this Assembly were newly elected at the start of the Seventh Parliament. In terms of internal training, we delivered six formal training days covering nine substantive areas of parliamentary practice, including the rules on order and debate, committee oversight, the budget process, public participation, and parliamentary diplomacy. Members' satisfaction with the quality of that training remained high throughout. Recognizing the moment we are in, we also intentionally began to build members' digital and AI literacy, promoting international learning opportunities offered by the IPU by a joint programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, the University of Oxford Said Business School, and through other self-paced initiatives. Engagement with counterpart parliaments and bodies such as the IPU continued throughout the year, bringing shared learning and concrete offers of capacity-building co-operation.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 104

The members' attendance across our internal sessions was, however, uneven, and no single session reached half of this House. Our reliance on virtual delivery, while unavoidable during the rebuilding of Parliament, limited the depth of engagement that face-to-face training allows. Many members ask for physical or hybrid formats. As one member put it bluntly in a post-training questionnaire, sessions should be physical, eyeball to eyeball, and I agree with that. Now, despite these challenges, I encourage you to attend. There is always something new to learn about this complex, ever-evolving institution. From 2026 to 2027, we will be moving from foundation to structure. The approach combines competency and skills-based training built around a predictable quarterly rhythm so that training is no longer something we attempt to fit into a crowded calendar, but something members can plan around. It places digital and AI literacy firmly within the curriculum because a member who is ready for the decade ahead can use these tools with confidence and interrogate them with judgment. The strengthening of members and our systems cannot be separated. A member with new skills but outdated systems is held back. A modern system in untrained hands delivers little. Capable people and capable institutions advance together, or they do not advance at all. And so, the second strand of my responsibility is building a digitally transformed Parliament.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 105

The year under review saw tangible progress. Parliament completed systems to automate call processes, amongst them online committee submissions, a digital committee dashboard, and a resolution tracking system, making oversight more traceable. In the year ahead, we will extend to the online tracking of Bills, to digital service delivery dashboards, and to online submissions for the nomination of public office bearers. We have also invested in digital readiness of members and have begun to confront the institutional questions that AI poses for Parliament, including through a course, AI for Parliament - a webinar series offered by the Policy Innovation Lab at Stellenbosch University.

Allow me also to briefly report back on our language policy. Last year, I stressed the need for more interpreters, explaining that Parliament requires at least, that is not optimal, that is at least 44 interpreters to serve both Houses, against the 27 we had then. I am pleased to report an increase to 40, with efforts ongoing to fill the remainder, while AI technologies for real-time interpretation and speech-to-text translation are also explored. And then I also want to report hon members in terms of Parmed, and I know this is a very sensitive matter. I want to indicate to members that the Speaker has approached the Minister of Finance - I want to

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 106

thank you, hon Speaker, for doing that - to discuss the whole issue of affordability vis-a-vis the remuneration of public office bearers, because I know this is something that we need to address urgently.

I return to the question with which I began: Are we ready? If readiness means that the work is complete, then no, we are not. But if readiness means that we have understood what is required, that we have laid the foundations, and that we are building deliberately upon them, then I can report that we are becoming ready and that we intend to be ready in good time. The technological transformation before us will not wait for Parliament to catch up. We must keep up as best we can. That is the commitment my Office will continue to honour. I thank you.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

English:

Hon Speaker, let me address you, because certainly today I get to address you and you are sitting here, not behind me. South Africans are losing patience. They are losing patience with politics, they are losing patience with institutions of

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 107

democracy and they are losing patience with ourselves as Members of Parliament. Trust in Parliament is waning.

Xitsonga:

Vaakatiko va Afrika-Dzonga va lahlekeriwa hi ntshembo.

English:

Whether we like it or not, this institution is under the spotlight. Every member of this Parliament is under the spotlight. The people are asking a simple question, whether as Parliament we hear their cries, we understand their frustrations, their anger and we share in their fears and anxieties?

The South Africa we lead today is a South Africa of deep frustration, rising impatience and growing hopelessness. People are tired of slow responses, tired of excuses, tired of institutions that appear reactive instead of being decisive. That is why Parliament cannot continue to behave as if things are normal.

We are no longer living in 1999 or 2010. The world that we live in has fundamentally changed and the way citizens of our country consume politics has fundamentally changed. The way

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 108

that South Africans engage with this institution has changed and the expectations that they place upon democracy has also changed.

We are being called upon as Members of Parliament to do more than just passing and processing legislation and following procedure. We are called upon to provide direction, to lead society and to act with urgency and agility. Even when we do react, we must do so swiftly.

An example has been made, many hon members have spoken around just the pace that it is taking to rebuild Parliament, which is an important symbol of our democracy. As hon Hadebe has said, we need to rebuild the trust. Rebuilding trust is not about sloganeering. We rebuild trust by the work that we do.

We must truly represent the hopes and aspirations of all South Africans. As Parliament, we have to rise above the destructive politics and focus on what matters most; building a South Africa that is safe, prosperous, equal and united. Because, first and foremost, we are not sent here by political parties. We are sent here by South Africans. And, we need to represent the people of this country with honour and integrity.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 109

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa swinene, Mutshamaxitulu.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: House Chair, we must resist the temptation to approach debates like this one as routine parliamentary processes while we have the weight of the Constitutional Court review against Parliament still hanging over this House.

This is now the second time in less than a decade that Parliament has been found to have acted unconstitutionally in carrying out its oversight responsibilities. First, it was the Nkandla scandal, when Parliament failed to hold then-President, Jacob Zuma, accountable for violating the Constitution. And now again, Parliament has been found wanting.

At its core, this exposes deep structural weaknesses that have developed over 32 years. It is the steady erosion of Parliament's independence from political party interests. Too often, party loyalty has superseded constitutional duty. Members of Parliament have acted as defenders of the executive instead of watchdogs for the public and we see this even in some portfolio committees.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 110

That's why public trust in democratic institutions then declines. Yet, Parliament receives R2,8 billion in this budget precisely to fulfil one central constitutional purpose and that is, to hold power accountable on behalf of the people of South Africa. Many South Africans have reached a dangerous conclusion that Parliament has become too weak, that it has become compromised, that it is politically captured and can't exercise meaningful oversight over the executive.

The Government of National Unity has complicated this with introducing a new and unintended risk because 70% of the Members of Parliament sit on the executive, which makes it one in every five Members of Parliament, MPs, serving as a Minister or Deputy Minister. So, now the Rules of Parliament must evolve to work within the realities of coalition governance.

One of the very important things that must be reformed is the office of the Speaker. A rule requiring a Speaker to resign from political party leadership upon assuming office would be a worthwhile solve, because a Speaker cannot simultaneously function as a senior political actor within a party hierarchy while posing as a neutral custodian of parliamentary accountability.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 111

Then last, is the accountability of the President because at present, the President appears before Parliament once per quarter. We've called consistently that this only comes up to 10 hours in a year. We've called consistently that the President should be coming at least twice per quarter. The growing disconnect between Parliament and ordinary South Africans is dangerous for democracy. It must be that Parliament becomes effective and feared by the corrupt and respected by the public. Thank you.

Ms T L MARAWU: House Chairperson, today we debate more than a budget. We debate the credibility and constitutional integrity of Parliament itself. Section 42(3) of the Constitution states that the National Assembly exists to represent the people and to scrutinise and oversee executive action. That is the purpose of Parliament.

Parliament is not an extension of the executive. It is not a protection mechanism for those in power. It is an independent arm of state entrusted with the responsibility of holding the executive accountable on behalf of the people of South Africa. The people do not fund Parliament so that it can protect political elites. They fund Parliament so that their voices may be heard and their interests defended. One of the greatest

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 112

dangers in any constitutional democracy is when oversight institutions begin to lose their independence.

The Office of the Speaker carries a constitutional responsibility to act fairly, impartially and above party political interests. Once elected, the Speaker is no longer merely a representative of a political party. The Speaker becomes the constitutional custodian of the integrity and credibility of Parliament. The Speaker cannot be seen as an extension of Luthuli House nor as a defender of the President.

Section 55(2) of the Constitution requires Parliament to maintain oversight over the exercise of national executive authority. That oversight obligation cannot be selective. It cannot depend on who occupies the presidency. It cannot be suspended because accountability becomes politically inconvenient. South Africans are increasingly concerned that Parliament is drifting away from its constitutional mandate and becoming too protective of executive power.

When motions of accountability are frustrated through procedural technicalities, the public loses confidence in Parliament. And once public trust in Parliament collapses, democracy itself is weakened. The Constitutional Court has

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 113

repeatedly reminded this institution that Parliament has a constitutional obligation to hold the President accountable. No parliamentary rule can override the Constitution. No procedural interpretation can undermine constitutional accountability.

Hon members, our people are facing enormous hardships. Communities are overwhelmed by crime, unemployment, corruption, collapsing infrastructure, illegal immigration syndicates, drug trafficking and poor service delivery. Yet, too often Parliament appears more focused on managing political sensitivities than confronting the real crisis affecting ordinary South Africans.

Parliament must return to their people. It must become the voice of the unemployed graduates, the voice of struggling families, the voice of communities without water and electricity, the voice of victims of crime, ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Marawu, your time has expired.

Ms T L MARAWU: Thank you. [Time expired.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 114

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon House Chairperson, hon Speaker and colleagues, Parliament's internal arrangements remain a vital part of ensuring the effective functioning of this national legislature, ultimately, to support the critical work members perform. At present, these arrangements remain broad and at times fragmented, with unavoidable disruptions and inconveniences persisting hopefully only until the National Assembly has been fully restored.

It is therefore understandable that members reflect today, as they have, on challenges arising from these interim logistical arrangements. At the same time, however, it is important to acknowledge the significant efforts by all stakeholders to adapt, accommodate and improve these conditions. Of particular note are several important milestones.

This refurbished Nieuwmeester Dome has been in use since the reply to Sona this year, enabling in-person plenaries and Joint Sittings, reducing the reliance on hybrid proceedings and limiting the costly rental of venues such as the Cape Town International Convention Centre, CTICC.

At the same time, one positive legacy of both the COVID-19 period and the period after the National Assembly was gutted

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 115

by the fire which we must acknowledge, is Parliament's increased agility in using online and hybrid platforms effectively and productively. These platforms will likely allow many of us to engage more fruitfully with South Africans on a face-to-face basis during the run-up to the local government elections than would otherwise have been possible.

This year also saw the allocation of newly renovated offices and committee rooms in 90 Plein, which even if the rebuild is complete, will add to the complement of the accommodation Parliament has at its disposal.

The roll-out of fibre optic internet in the parliamentary villages, after being delayed for many years, must also be welcomed.

Developments relating to members' facilities have not only involved infrastructure projects. Parliament has also embarked on a review of the institutional framework governing members' housing facilities. Concerns raised regarding staff accommodation in the villages during the Chief Whip Forum meetings resulted in the National Assembly establishing an ad hoc committee to examine the outdated Parliamentary Villages Board Act and to consider possible amendments to it. While

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 116

this work continues, we trust that the committee will favour this House with practical solutions grounded in the legislative framework that governs public property and public funds.

The Members' Support Forum has also continued to meet regularly to address matters affecting members' interests and convenience. We thank the members who serve on this forum as well as representatives of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and the administration of Parliament for their responsiveness and co-operation. This does not mean that all issues are resolved.

Management, operational and maintenance challenges remain an unfortunate reality in the parks where most of us stay while in Cape Town. If we step back from our own circumstances, however, this debate of course takes place in a time when public confidence in politicians and democratic institutions is increasingly fragile. That reality should concern all of us and guide how we exercise our responsibilities as Members of Parliament. Part of the crisis of confidence we are faced with is, of course, the perception that we afford ourselves as legislators luxury at the expense of our people. Therefore, careful balance must always be maintained between allocating a

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 117

budget that enables members and Parliament to function effectively while demonstrating the prudent use of public resources.

Our debates and decisions must reflect subject knowledge and a deep understanding of the complex issues confronting us as legislators, if we are to make sound decisions in the best interests of all South Africans. Parliament, therefore, supports study and training opportunities for members, not as a prestigious perk, but as an important means of improving our capacity to serve South Africans through oversight, representation and legislation. Currently, 78 Members of Parliament are undertaking formal tertiary studies through parliamentary bursaries in fields linked to our work, including public administration, financial management, economics, governance, political science and, if I may repeat what I said last year, the wisest choice of all, law. In addition, some members are enrolled in short certificate courses, 32 studying towards undergraduate degrees and 36 pursuing postgraduate degrees. I have a full confidence that by this time next year we will have some fresh graduates from this programme in our ranks.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 118

As I conclude, I would hope that all members will agree that as elected leaders representing all South Africans, we must forever strive to perform our duties in such a manner that we will be worthy of the trust of those who gave us a chance to serve. In this regard, I believe all of us must carefully consider the wise words of the late Dean Smuts who served this Parliament, our Constitution and South Africa with distinction. She wrote in her autobiography that individual Members of Parliament invariably have to decide whether they want to make a noise or a difference. And then she added, if you decide, as one should, that your goal is to make a difference, you must also be able to identify those very rare instances when to make a noise will help make you a difference. Thank you.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Hon Chairperson and ...

Sesotho:

... kgotso, Maafrica ...

... and hon members, Parliament is not merely a legislative building. It is a constitutional embodiment of the will of the people. It derives authority directly from the citizens of this country, particularly the poor, the working class, the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 119

unemployed and the historically dispossessed African majority who continue to suffer under economic exclusion, landlessness, poverty and unemployment.

It is therefore deeply concerning when the authority and the institutional integrity of Parliament are weakened through political indecision, executive interference or institutional silence in a moment when constitutional accountability is required.

The UAT notes with serious concern the development surrounding the legal challenge instituted by the President against the process arising from Parliament itself. The failure by Parliament to oppose such application creates a dangerous constitutional precedent. It suggests that the National Assembly may retreat from defending its own institutional authority whenever politically convenient. Such conduct risks undermining the doctrine of the separation of power and weakens the Parliament's oversight responsibility as envisaged in sections 42 and 55 of the Constitution of South Africa.

Budget Vote 2 must therefore prioritise strengthening parliamentary oversight capacity, legal advisory independence, implementing the spirit of Ubuntu, which is godliness, reserve

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 120

support services, committee functionalities, public participation mechanism and the consequences management system. Parliament cannot effectively hold executives accountable while remaining financially and institutionally dependent on the very same structure it seeks to oversee. The UAT rejects Vote 42.

Xitsonga:

Khanimamba!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, members of the executive, hon members, ladies and gentlemen, this year marks the 30 years since the adoption of the Constitution; a refining moment in our nation's history that laid the foundation for a democratic, accountable and participatory state founded on human dignity, equality and freedom.

Parliament's role in oversight over the executive and keeping the executive accountable is one of the constitutional mandates that we must exercise without any fear or favour. It is in this context that the National Assembly reflects on the achievements and challenges in implementing this mandate. I will briefly reflect in my input on what is happening in

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 121

committees and oversight, public participation and also sectoral work that is being done.

The Speaker has reflected on the time it takes to finalise legislation and I can say that once again this morning in the National Assembly Programming Committee this was one of the items on the agenda. We simply need to improve, hon members, and that will require a collective effort from all of us. As things are currently standing we are sitting with 40 pieces of legislation on the programme of the National Assembly and keeping in mind that a lot of us will be busy with local government election work, it paints a bleak picture on the number of pieces of legislation that will be finalized before the end of the year. Proposals are thus currently being made and will be given to the Speaker to guide and improve the legislative frameworks.

Parliament, hon members, is by its virtue a Rules-based institution operating within a constitutional order founded upon the rule of law. Just as the Constitution itself provides a clear framework through which democratic governance is exercised, so too Parliament must continue to refine its own Rules, and a number of members have reflected on this. In this regard, hon members, all of us must familiarize ourselves with

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 122

the Rules of Parliament and its procedures. This is important for safeguarding the integrity, legitimacy and credibility of Parliament.

The Rules that we have, have not been imposed on us from outside. It is Rules that Members of Parliament themselves make and is always subject to improvement and to review. However, we see in different debates taking place that at times there's scant regard for the Rules of the National Assembly and members fail simply to honour the Rules of debate.

For instance, hon Madam Speaker, we also had a convention - and I don't say we must turn it into a Rule - that when a member gets up and debate and make points for debate against, for instance, you as a Chairperson, that the convention has always been that you wait for the reply and for the response of the other member. Otherwise, it's just a speech and you can't enter into a debate and too often we make too many speeches, and we don't debate matters effectively with one another, and we deprive ourselves with the opportunity for constructive dialogue.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 123

Oversight over government remains central to the work of committees and I must congratulate and agree with you the excellent work that has been done by the ad hoc committee that is probing the allegations made by General Mkhwanazi. However, it's also an opportunity for us to look at are our Rules actually designed to deal with these type of inquiries because at times they can become very open-ended, it can become very expensive with no definite deadline that's in place, without the necessary support structures that's in place, either internally and externally. We run the risk that we lose the momentum of the work that hon Members of Parliament are doing.

Following concerns by the Auditor-General regarding the state of municipalities, a number of committees led by Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, as well as other committees in the NCOP undertook joint visits throughout the country. The preliminary findings indeed point to systemic weaknesses in terms of financial management, weak accountability mechanisms and over-reliance on consultants.

To strengthen the co-ordination and improve the effectiveness of oversight and lawmaking, the Speaker's Forum has revived the National Forum of Chairpersons of Committees, bringing together committee leadership from Parliament and all the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 124

provincial legislatures. The forum intends and seeks to strengthen governance, oversight, public participation and co-operation across the sector. The forum aims to build a more co-ordinated and effective responsive committee system across the sector during the seventh Parliament and beyond.

One of the concerns for instance that we have is that last year the President signed into law three pieces of legislation dealing with gender-based violence and femicide.

Unfortunately, when we engage with our colleagues in the other spheres of government, there doesn't seem to be a co-ordinated approach on how do we actually implement this legislation so that we can improve the livelihoods of especially women but also of young girls because they are still being subjected to the most hideous type of offences involving gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF.

The strategic plan of Parliament is aligned with Agenda 2063 as well as the National Development Plan and positions committees to effectively respond to emerging global and continental challenges that impact on domestic governance and development. One of this is the Africa Continental Free Trade Area that provides significant opportunities for economic integration, industrial development and intra-African trade.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 125

Whether we like it or not we are an integral part of Africa and that is where we must make our mark and contribute towards a better Africa and a better world.

At the same time, hon Speaker, we must remain concerned by the rise in incidents of xenophobia and anti-migrant sentiment that continue to emerge in parts of our society. South Africa's Constitution commits us to human dignity, equality and non-discrimination. Values which must continue to guide our national discourse and conduct. As a country shaped by solidarity from across the African continent during our own liberation struggle, we must continue to promote social cohesion, peaceful coexistence and African unity while also addressing the legitimate socio-economic frustrations experienced by many of our communities in a lawful, constitutional and humane manner.

Very often we do hear debates both inside and outside of Parliament that borders on incitement against other Africans. This is something that we need to be very careful of because the temperature and how we articulate our views in Parliament easily becomes receptive in society and can be interpreted as a condonation for the wrong actions that they are participating in.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 126

Climate change also continues to emerge as one of the defining challenges of our time. The World Health Organization has stated that climate change is the biggest global health threat of our century. This, of course, will impact on budgets that's been allocated to the Department of Health as well as other social services. We must thus strengthen our internal capacity to engage effectively on climate governance and other multilateral processes.

Hon members, at the advent of the seventh administration, Parliament has made a concerted effort to ensure that public participation is not merely a tick-box exercise but a cornerstone of the legislative process and our constitutional democracy. We must continue to facilitate meaningful public involvement in all our processes. The responsibility goes beyond compliance; it speaks directly to the legitimacy of our democratic institutions and the trust that citizens place in Parliament as a Parliament of the people. Meaningful public participation will thus ensure that legislation is enriched by the lived experiences, the concerns and aspirations of the people that we serve.

Last year hon members, I introduced the public participation portal which is now being rolled out. The portal marks an

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 127

important institutional shift towards improved co-ordination, record management and accountability in the way Parliament conducts and documents public participation processes. I encourage all members to utilise this platform. The uptake at the moment is very low and we want members to go on to Parliament's website, look at the portal, look at your committee, and look what is recorded there. That's important for transparency and accountability because it will enhance the quality and sustainability of our public participation processes.

In the next phase we are incorporating the National Council of Provinces and provincial legislatures into the portal so that South Africa can begin a truly national ecosystem for public participation. As we continue to strengthen these processes, there is also an opportunity for the Public Participation Division, which has now been capacitated in Parliament, to become more proactive and deepening in broadening citizen engagement.

Then hon members, and this should be of all interest to you, we have implemented a public constituency office locator, and it's also integrated into the parliamentary website. One of the persistent concerns that is raised by citizens is that

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 128

they do not know who their public representatives are, they only see them on TV; where constituency offices are located or how to contact them. Hon members can interact with the locator either on the parliamentary website or at the exhibition at the back hosted by Public Education. In addition to these measures, Parliament has also intensified efforts to improve the accessibility of public participation opportunities through a greater use of digital platforms and multilingual communication.

In terms of sectoral Parliament, hon members, hon Speaker, we will continue to strengthen participatory democracy in bringing people closer to the legislative process through sectoral Parliament processes. This has happened in the last financial year through the Youth and the Women P20 as well as other sectoral engagements. This year the Youth Parliament will be held in Johannesburg during the month of June under the theme: *Youth Empowerment for a Sustainable Future commemorating the 50th anniversary of the June 16 uprisings*. The Women's Parliament will be hosted in the Northern Cape and will commemorate the historic Women's March and the Women's Charter under the theme: *Wathinta abafazi, wathinta imbokodo*. Seventy-years of resistance, 72 years of vision, advancing gender justice, equality and resilient economies for all. And

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 129

we look forward to the active participation of all Members of Parliament irrespective of their gender in these programmes.

As part of reflecting on the 30 years of democracy, Parliament is also strengthening legislative oversight by assessing whether the laws that we pass in fact have an impact on the lives of our people. Do the laws that we pass improve the quality and effectiveness of the life of the legislation that must improve the lives of the people or is it just another law that gains dust on the law books? We are busy engaging as well, hon members, with post-legislative scrutiny where we look at the legislation that has been passed as part of a pilot programme in assessing thus the implementation and impact of the legislation.

As you can see, hon members, there's more than enough work for committees to do in terms of oversight and accountability. In addition, the oversight priority model was developed for committees, and it will be rolled out to another 10 committees in this financial year.

In conclusion, hon members, the initiatives outlined today from strengthening committees and legislative scrutiny to modernising public participation systems across the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 130

legislative sector and engagement through sectoral parliaments are all part of a broader effort to build a Parliament that is accountable, accessible, credible and firmly rooted in the lives of South Africans.

At the heart of this work, hon members, is a simple but profound principle that democracy must always belong to the people and must work in the interest of our people. Our Constitution envisage a Parliament that would not govern above the people but with the people and for the people. A Parliament that will not merely legislate for society but would actively draw society into the legislative process itself. That vision of our founding mothers and fathers remains as relevant today as it was 30 years ago.

I would like to thank the hon Speaker for her continued guidance and support as well as the co-operation from the other House Chairpersons, chairpersons of committee and all the Whips and members of political parties. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Dr C H H HUNSINGER: Hon Chairperson, to function better and rebuild public trust, South Africa's Parliament requires systemic reforms across oversight, lawmaking, political

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 131

independence, financial management, and public participation. The DA proposes the following strategic frameworks that align closely with the structural improvements backed by civil society and independent analysts.

Public interest demands stronger executive oversight and accountability, and to achieve this, Parliament must fully implement its established oversight and accountability model, imposing explicit legal consequences on executive departments that ignore legislative queries. Coupled with legal enforcement, robust tracking mechanisms must be employed. Introducing open data dashboards and rigid resolution tracking software, which will ensure that material promises and Auditor-General recommendations are actively monitored rather than forgotten. Furthermore, although the Zondo Commission's advisory findings are legally non-binding, proactive political and legislative action is critical to translating them into practice, dismantling systemic corruption and protecting South Africa's democracy. As such, the DA will rigorously enforce the structural changes advised by the commission, including implementing strict rules to prevent state-backed procurement corruption.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 132

Ensuring effective government oversight, passing legally sound laws, and maintaining institutional independence depend heavily on boosting research capacity and legal expertise, the second critical area for reform. To accomplish this, Parliament must urgently fill technical support vacancies. Committee staff positions for legal advisors, economists and data analysts must be unfrozen to alleviate overstretched research teams.

Alongside administrative support, we require targeted training for Members of Parliament, MPs. As lawmakers, we need continuous professional capacity-building in public finance, policy analysis and complex legal framework assessment. Parliament must establish dedicated advisory units to expand specialised research access, enabling portfolio committees to independently verify data supplied by state organs rather than relying solely on executive reports.

More than a national focus, sharpening lawmakers is important to strict local government oversight, given widespread service delivery collapse and the need to protect public finances as well as uphold the constitutional rights of South Africans. Further, portfolios must hold state departments to strict deadlines to finalise detailed regulations once a broader Bill

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 133

is signed into law. Simultaneously, mandatory impact assessments must become standard practice to stop national legislation from placing unworkable financial burdens on municipalities.

Unfunded mandates can no longer be ignored or allowed to increase by national or provincial governments. Ultimately, citizens bear the consequences of these unfunded mandates, leaving local municipalities unfairly strained and absorbing the result operational demands.

Overarchingly, the DA believes that lawmakers should expand their scrutiny to actively debate and reject harmful executive regulations instead of rubber-stamping them.

In addition, to optimise internal operations and secure the integrity of the state's budget, Parliament requires targeted structural improvements across its internal spending laws, procurement oversight and the funding models of its independent oversight officers.

Above all, it is important for the DA that administrative accounting officers face immediate personal liability for wasteful expenditure. Achieving this requires reforming the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 134

legislative funding model by amending the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislators Act to mirror the strict consequence management protocols of the Public Finance Management Act.

Parliament must also establish legislative mechanisms for emergency budget shifts to prevent administrative gridlock during unexpected structural crises, such as the recovery aftermath of the 2022 parliamentary fire. In addition, clear legal guidelines are necessary to dictate how Parliament detains and rolls over underspent funds at the end of a financial year, without violating national treasury conditions. Clear laws will avoid a repeat of the structural tensions that occur during the processing of the Financial Management of Parliament Amendment Bill, where Parliament's administrative body and the National Treasury clash over who legally controls Parliament's unspent year-end operational funds.

While the DA supports expanding the capacity of the Parliamentary Budget Office, we are equally committed to tightening supply chain management and internal controls. In our view, this dual approach will track value for money and target audit investigations, effectively bridging the gap

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 135

between policy intent and procurement fraud. Furthermore, it will allow committees to spot structural variances, identify sudden spikes in goods and services spending or flag massive shifts in capital expenditure budgets, thereby exposing systemic procurement risks and loopholes before public funds are lost.

Finally, Parliament must urgently address infrastructure project delays by implementing tighter fiscal controls on massive capital expenditure. This in particular is critical for the restoration of the Parliament precinct, where strict adherence to a contract timeline is required to prevent severe budget overruns. Due to historical oversight gaps, the projected cost of the rebuilt balloon, from its original R2,1 billion baseline to an eye-watering R4,4 billion to R4,6 billion, pushing the full handover back to late 2026 and early 2027.

Enforcing rigid contract tracking is essential to protect public money from further delays. After all, if Parliament cannot fix the cracks to its own budget, it can never successfully guard the arches of the nation. I thank you.

IsiXhosa:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 136

Ndiyabulela ngexesha enindiphe lona.

Afrikaans:

Ek dank u.

Mr C M DUGMORE: Chair, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, all hon members, especially those that are part of the Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament, and the co-chair, the hon Lekganyane, the ANC's 2024 election manifesto actually spelt out very clearly our commitment to build a People's Parliament. As the ANC, we committed to improving the capacity of Parliament and legislatures to fulfil their legislative, their oversight, as well as their accountability responsibilities.

If one looks at the work done by Parliament, led by the executive authority and the Speaker, in particular, since the election of our Speaker and Deputy Speaker in 2024, the record shows that indeed we are implementing the manifesto of the ANC in terms of building a People's Parliament. Our committees are conducting robust oversight without fear or favour. This House is a host to critical debate, engagement, and the showcasing of the achievements and the challenges of the executive that makes up the Government of National Unity.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 137

It is a pity, Chair, that some hon members conduct oversight using populism and fiction and not seeking the truth through facts. When cheap politicking takes the place of robust and informed oversight, actual accountability is undermined. When this happens, our presiding officers often unfairly bear the brunt. Disrespect and abuse do not win arguments. It actually contributes to electoral decline, as we have seen with the EFF. In every by-election, they are declining. I think something of that has got to do with the fact that, for instance, the hon Maotwe comes here today, insults an official of this Parliament, and then leaves.

IsiXhosa:

Akekho ngoku.

English:

She is only a recent member of this committee, but she comes here, spreads lies without facts, undermines an individual, and then she leaves this House.

IsiXhosa:

Hayi sukaa asiyithandi loo nto. Hayi.

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 138

Now, we are here today to debate the budget of Parliament.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majosi): Hon Dugmore, can you please take a seat? Hon Mente-Nkuna, what is the point of order?

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: Chair, first, you must teach this hon member, who is not so honourable, that "lies" is not parliamentary. We have a word that we use for "lies". He must withdraw that. Secondly, the treasurer-general has a role to play in an organisation. She is here, and she is running what she has to do for the organisation.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majosi): Thank you very much, hon Mente-Nkuna. That last part, I think, is a point of debate. Hon Dugmore, can we please address members in a parliamentary manner and please withdraw that the hon Maotwe was lying.

Mr C M DUGMORE: Yes. No, she was misleading the House, not lying, and I am sure wherever she is now, she is continuing to mislead whoever she is speaking to. [Interjections.]

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: You see, he is not withdrawing. He is not withdrawing!

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 139

Mr C M DUGMORE: Now, we are here today to debate the budget of Parliament and the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Financial Management of Parliament.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Mente-Nkuna!

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: We can debate this. He is not withdrawing. He must withdraw.

Mr C M DUGMORE: I think what is very interesting, members, is that we should pay tribute to the Speaker. In particular, we had an unprecedented situation last year.

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: House Chair, he has not withdrawn.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Mente-Nkuna, I have not recognised you, and I heard ...

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: Yes, I have been having my hand up. You are not looking at me.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): No, you opened your microphone and spoke without your hand up, and we know the proceedings. I did hear the hon Dugmore saying: I withdraw. He

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 140

did say that he withdraws. He did say that he withdraws.

[Interjections.] Hon Dugmore.

Mr C M DUGMORE: No, I will repeat: I withdraw, and wherever she is now, she is misinforming people, so much so that the EFF is losing support all the time because people do not like misinformation.

Now, our Speaker had to deal with an unprecedented situation where the executive could not actually table, let us be honest, could not table a Budget. However, this Constitution of ours, through the judiciary and the role of Parliament, was resilient enough to manage the fact that, even though more than 200 people voted in favour of that division of revenue – remember, even though the DA was making populist announcements about that, the majority of this House decided to support the division of revenue. It went to court. This Constitution, this Republic, and this Parliament are resilient. That is why we are saying that we do not need fair-weather constitutionalists.

We need consistent commitment to this Constitution. So, when the MKP undermines the Constitution every day, we see them. When the EFF respects one judgment and not another judgment,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 141

we see them. When the DA ignores the fact that our Constitution calls for redress in favour of the majority of people who suffered under apartheid, you can see the DA is fair-weather constitutionalists. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Emfuleni!

Mr C M DUGMORE: That is what they are. What I want to say is that we can be proud, Chair, of our executive authority, that not only has Parliament achieved a clean audit for 2024-2025 when you came in, but, in fact, for the last 10 years, this institution has produced a clean audit. That is something that we should admire and respect. To do that, we must obviously thank our executive authority, the Secretary to Parliament, and all of the officials, including those at the Table.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Dugmore, can you please take a seat? Hon Dunjwa, what are you rising on?

Ms M L DUNJWA: Correction, hon House Chair: It is the hon Dunjwa. Hon Chair, I have been threatened by a member of the EFF that, after this meeting, he is going to box me. Please. [Laughter.] [Interjections.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 142

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Dunjwa, where did that take place? We have been listening to a member here.

Ms M L DUNJWA: No, through you, hon House Chair: When the debate was on about the hon Maotwe, she was in fact pointing fingers at me.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Dunjwa, alright. Thank you very much. Hon members, can we please not threaten one another when we have a plenary?

An HON MEMBER: Violence! Violence!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): We know how we should treat one another as hon members. Continue, hon Dugmore.

Mr C M DUGMORE: So, we thank all of those who are involved.

I think it is important that we also salute the Chief Whip, Mdumiseni Ntuli, and all the Chief Whips of the different political parties who have worked with Public Works to look at the issue of accommodation for political staff. There has been major progress made, and I also want to salute the hon Masina. I am not sure if he is still in the House, but he is chairing

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 143

the ad hoc committee that has made major progress in regard to the Parliamentary Villages Management Board Act. I want to ask here today, Madam Speaker, through the Chair, that, when you actually look at the situation that we are dealing with in regard to the parliamentary villages, transport, and so on, I believe that the time has arrived, Speaker, where Parliament, as a distinct arm of government alongside the executive and the judiciary, must take responsibility for all aspects of its management and its governance, for instance, maintenance, transport, and the parliamentary villages. I have no doubt that this would lead to a more effective running of the institution.

These comments are not an attack on Public Works or an attack on the Public Works staff, but my appeal is about the need for Parliament to take responsibility through a time-bound process to consider what the implications are of certain functions being transferred from Public Works directly to Parliament.

IsiXhosa:

Ndiyakucela, Somlomo ...

English:

... can we consider this?

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 144

It is important just to respond a little bit to some of the things that people have said, and I want to link to what the hon Frolick indicated. You know, members, R624 million in this budget goes to constituency offices and the political staff, and Parliament asked all the political parties to submit a list of their constituency offices. The hon Clarke came here, and she talked about accountability, but do you know that the DA did not submit the name of one constituency office? That is where we need a forensic audit. What are they doing with this money if they are not opening constituency offices?

[Applause.] The hon Clarke herself does not even have a constituency office. [Interjections.] Then the MKP, the MKP ... [Interjections.] ... has never submitted the name of one constituency office and, even though the EFF has 39 members, they have only submitted the names of six parliamentary offices. That is where a forensic audit is needed.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majazi): Hon Dugmore, take your seat. Hon Msezane?

IsiZulu:

Mnu M P MSEZANE: Angibonge Sihlalo ngaphambili, lo baba uluthathaphi lo lwazi?

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 145

English:

An HON MEMBER: It is public information. What a shame!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): That is not a point of order, hon Msezane.

IsiZulu:

Mnu M P MSEZANE: Cha, umbuzo. Uqamba amanga. Uqamba amanga lo baba.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Msezane, withdraw that.

An HON MEMBER: You are embarrassing us.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): You know that you can't say ...

IsiZulu:

...uqamba amanga.

English:

An HON MEMBER: Shame, MKP, shame!

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 146

Mr M P MSEZANE: He is misleading.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Withdraw first.

IsiZulu:

Mnu M P MSEZANE: Akaqambi amanga.

English:

He is misleading.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you very much.

Withdraw. Say, "I withdraw."

An HON MEMBER: Shame, MKP, shame!

IsiZulu:

Mnu M P MSEZANE: Ngiyahoxisa ukuthi uqamba.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you very much.

Mr M P MSEZANE: We are being misled.

IsiZulu:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 147

Uqamba amanga ngengqondo engaqondi.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you. Hon Skosana, what is your point of order?

Mr D M SKOSANA: Chair, it is a point of clarity. Hon Dugmore, you must come to my constituency office. [Interjections.] Don't mislead people here. Don't grandstand here.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Skosana, that is not a point of order. Hon Skosana!

Mr D M SKOSANA: You must come to my own constituency office!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Skosana! Hon Skosana! Hon Skosana, that is not a point of order. That is a point of debate. When a member is at the podium debating, even if a matter touches you, if it is not a matter that is unparliamentary, there is no need for you to raise your hand when you do not have anything to raise that is unparliamentary. That is a point of debate, and you can take it outside with him, please. We need to proceed with the business of the day. Hon Mente-Nkuna.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 148

An HON MEMBER: Shame, MKP, shame!

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: House Chair, I think the Speaker must take note that there is a serious violation in the House. If this Parliament releases constituency money with no names and constituency offices, it is a dereliction of duty from the Speaker and the Secretary to Parliament. They cannot release money like that. That is a violation of financial rules.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you, hon Mente-Nkuna, and you know the right procedure to follow in order for you to raise that. Hon Dugmore.

Mr C M DUGMORE: The point that the hon Frolick made is that members of the public want to know how to contact their members in their constituencies. The fact is that the DA has not submitted one name.

An HON MEMBER: Shame, DA, shame!

Mr C M DUGMORE: MKP, whether you have an office or not, you have not submitted a name, but maybe the problem is that the MKP Chief Whip was arrested this morning. [Interjections.] Maybe that is the problem.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 149

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Ungenaphi wena?

English:

Mr C M DUGMORE: The MKP Chief Whip was arrested this morning.
So, the point that I want to make ...

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Ungenaphi?

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Dugmore. Hon Dugmore.
Hon members, please, if you are not recognised, do not open
your microphone. [Interjections.] No, I saw you. Please do not
open your microphone. Continue, hon Dugmore. [Interjections.]
Hon Dugmore, please continue.

An HON MEMBER: Go, Dugmore, go!

Mr C M DUGMORE: Thank you, Chair. Chair, I also believe that
this Chief Whip of the MKP, who was arrested this morning, has
also been nominated to serve on the impeachment committee –
the same one. Now, so let us not, let us not ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 150

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Dugmore, please take a seat. Hon Msezane.

IsiZulu:

Mnu M P MSEZANE: Cha, angibonge Sihlalo.

English:

No, I wanted to check if the member is willing to take a question on his role ... [Interjections.] ... on the role he played.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Do not ask the question. You will ask when he says he agrees.

IsiZulu:

Mnu M P MSEZANE: Ukuze kutshontshwe umhlaba wobabomkhulu.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Msezane, no! Hon Dugmore, are you willing to take a question?

Mr C M DUGMORE: No, no, not now.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 151

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you.

Mr C M DUGMORE: So, I think we also have a very important committee that we are underutilising, and that is the Executive Undertakings and Petitions Committee. For instance, if you take the DA, they went and sold municipal land to foreigners, 50 pieces of municipal land, and it is not surprising why the communities now are going to bring a petition. I know that the hon Kohler-Barnard, who chairs this committee, will accept a petition where the communities say: How can you sell municipal land to foreigners? That is what the DA in the City of Cape Town has done. [Interjections.] So, that is the kind of issue, which we can deal with, that must come to the petitions committee.

I want to conclude by saying our democracy is resilient, our Parliament is well led, we respect the judgments of the courts, we respect the authority of Parliament, and thank you, Speaker, for saying that you will begin a discussion with the other spheres of government about how far their powers go and how far our powers go. I think that is important. Thank you so much. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 152

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majosi): Hon member of the MK Party, you do that once again. I have cautioned you for the first time; this is the second time you do that again.

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon House Chairperson, I would like to thank all members who participated in the debate. Their reflections, as well as their suggestions on how all of us here can improve Parliament's functionality. I want to thank, hon Mulder, and I think if we listen to what he said in the beginning, that Vote 2 should not be a contentious debate because it is about us. It is about the work that we do.

And I just want to take a minute. When members sit here and say Parliament, it's like we're speaking about some entity that is out there, not us as public representatives. If you talk about the work of the committees, it's you who participate in those committees. If you talk about things that are not done correctly, particularly with respect to the Rules and how they are strengthened to ensure oversight on executive action, it's us. You serve in the Rules Committee. If we are concerned about how funds are utilised in support of the work of Parliament, it's not done; you have the Joint Standing Committee on Financial Management of Parliament where parties

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 153

are represented. So how are we doing the work that we need to do? Hon members have stood here, correctly so, to say, from your perspective, there is a decline in interest in what we do. People are a bit unsure whether the political players, meaning us, respond in the manner that their concerns and their interests are attended to.

I also want to talk about our conduct. Because when we start to say people are no longer respecting this institution, it's about how we conduct ourselves in this House. How sometimes we belittle very important national issues that even if we may be differing, we should do so with humility and humanness. We are a mirror in which citizens look at themselves. If we insult one another here, if we belittle one another here, if we don't see each other as human, why should we start to worry when the citizens mimic us? And I think this challenge is on us. It doesn't mean ideologically we must agree. It doesn't mean on certain positions we must agree. But we must disagree with respect. [Applause.]

We mustn't show it only when one of us has passed on, and we stand here and make tributes and start to say we are human. Why should we be human when one of us is gone? Why can't we be human every day? You know, in my language, ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 154

IsiZulu:

... IsiZulu sithi, Alikho isoka elingenasici.

English:

All of us here do make mistakes. All of us here, there are times when we need to correct one another.

IsiZulu:

Kodwa IsiZulu siphinde sithi, ungabombheca umuntu ngobende inyama engayidlanga.

English:

You mustn't say a person has done something when you know that they have not. I was fortunate that I sent a message to hon Maotwe, who made certain interventions here and left. And as a point of correction, it's important to say this in this House. She made reference to decisions that the executive authority has taken in the appointment of the Secretary to Parliament. And in terms of date and time, I think she's wrong. The Secretary to Parliament was appointed in 2022 by the Sixth Administration. The 9th Brics Parliament was in 2023, in the Sixth Administration. But I think these two issues raise an important matter that this Parliament must deal with: one, about our recruitment procedure for the accounting officer of

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 155

Parliament. What is it that we might not have done or done, which when we sit back in this Seventh Administration, we think it shouldn't happen this way? Ours is to correct. Not to grandstand and make political points on a very serious matter. But also, we mustn't impugn somebody's integrity. Colleagues, these are professionals who decided to come and work in this Parliament to support our work. And I do think that where they need to be corrected, we need to do so in a proper way.

But I don't think we need to embellish their professionalism. I don't think it augurs well for us. It may be Xolile George today, it may be your son or your daughter tomorrow. Because they too will at times work for the institutions of government. If there are wrong things that were done by the then administration in terms of executive authority and Members of Parliament because they participated in the interview process, let's correct it. If there are things that we might not have done correctly in how, when we are hosts as South Africa, we need to correct that but not make it a cheap political point. Again, it points to our own conduct.

There are certain proposals that have been made by members on what we need to do. In the Joint Standing Committee on Financial Management of Parliament, hon Des van Rooyen made a

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 156

proposal that I think this house must accept. That we must have a budget forum so that we can involve Members of Parliament in reflecting on how the spending of Parliament should be allocated to support the work that we do. And that will help us so that when we make our assessment of what areas we need to spend on, we do so with your participation.

I sometimes worry when we say we do not support this budget. I understand it may be politicking, but the budget of Parliament includes party political funding that enables us to do our work as parties. It includes constituency work that we must do as parties. It includes resources of your own individual portfolio committees as members. I don't want to talk about salary because that's part of it, but the reality is if you reject the budget, how are you going to function and ensure that the needs of the electorate that we are supposed to address are indeed addressed?

So, there are moments in which we must differ, but there are moments in which we need to say what is in the interest of the electorate that we serve. I also want to appreciate the proposal from members that say we must look at the funding model for Parliament. A lot of work has been done, and I must say, because it is important for me to say this in front of

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 157

this House, there is no hostility from National Treasury nor the Minister himself. He appreciates that this matter needs to be corrected, so that Parliament can be funded in a manner that helps Parliament to conduct its work. I only want to say to hon members, it's important for us to appreciate that in our robustness overseeing the executive, it's also important about how we ourselves do that work. Members were saying, hon Dugmore, I know he was a bit fierce, "where do you get information about constituency offices?" We get it from your political staff because we do so, wanting to know who the political parties are that have constituency offices and where they are to see how we can best support you.

But we do understand that some political parties, in terms of their choice, may decide not to have individual constituencies everywhere and anywhere, but they would find a model in which they can work utilising those resources to serve constituencies. As you know, that other parties have got fewer numbers, so their footprint across the country may not be the same. We understand that. There are issues that have also been raised by, hon Kwankwa, and I think they are important. In ensuring that we do the work that the court has instructed us to do in respect of the Impeachment Committee, it's important that we also look at the sequencing and see how best we do

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 158

that work in a manner that does not again put us in trouble. I know one of the hon members last week was making a comment publicly that the Speaker has not done what the court has done. I won't mention them by name because I respect all of you, hon members. So sometimes, ...

IsiZulu:

... noma nibuye nigange, siyanilalela.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Speaker!

The SPEAKER: Yes, hon member.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Just cautioning that, look at the time.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): No, you can finish off. You still have a few seconds.

The SPEAKER: Just to say to members, after the judgment of the Constitutional Court, the Speaker has complied fully. We

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 159

outlined the processes that had to be done. We referred the report to this House through your ATC. We referred the report to the President. We also referred the report to the Subrules Committee of this Parliament because of the amendments that the Rules Committee must do. We went to the Chief Whips' Forum and informed the members of the determination of that committee and followed up with written communication for members to give us their names, which they've done. And we've announced that on Monday the first meeting of that committee will sit. So, what is it that we say the Speaker has been partial, has not acted in the interest of this House? I do not think it's true. I do hope that as we reflect on this budget and indicate what must be done, we will be able to do so and maintain the decorum such that citizens can respect and take us seriously. I thank you. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONAL
SERVICES ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO ZONDERWATER TRAINING COLLEGE
AND ZONDERWATER CORRECTIONAL CENTRE**

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 160

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONAL
SERVICES ON FOLLOW – UP OVERSIGHT VISIT TO POLLSMOOR
CORRECTIONAL CENTRE**

Ms K A RAMOLOBENG: Hon Speaker, House Chairperson, hon members, allow me to present both reports of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services on its oversight visit to Zonderwater Training College and Zonderwater Correctional Centre and as well as our follow-up visit to Pollsmoor Correctional Centre.

On 11 November 2025, the committee did a visit to Zonderwater Training College and the Zonderwater Medium A Correctional Centre. The focus of the visit was on infrastructure, rehabilitation, social reintegration, treatment of offenders, and general conditions of both the centre and the college.

Zonderwater Training College officially opened its doors in February 1983 and currently offers further education training certificate in correctional services, NQF level 4 to learners aspiring to be correctional officials. The Department of Correctional Services has two training colleges, one in Zonderwater and another in Kroonstad.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 161

Zonderwater Training College can accommodate 492 learners, and usually it accommodates learners coming from KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and North West provinces. The college has seven housing units referred as companies, and each can accommodate 72 learners except a company which accommodates 60 learners. The college has identified a number of challenges they are facing, including learners' mental health, loadshedding, and power outages, lack of adequate resources centre and adequate resource library, lack of fencing, lack of shelter and access gate, and also at the shooting range, and shortage of staff, especially in the training.

The committee has also did a local inspection at the Zonderwater Medium A facility, which is one of the two correctional centres under Zonderwater Management Area. Medium A is a maximum correctional facility with an approved bed space of 828 sentence offenders, but at the time of our visit, the centre had a total of 1 187 sentence offenders, which translated to overcrowding rate of 69,5%. The centre provides a number of skills development programmes to offenders, including short and long skills, TVET, FET college programmes, and a total of 437 offenders participating in such programmes.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 162

The centre has identified a number of challenges they are facing, including the closure of their abattoir due to noncompliance and abattoir regulations, cooler not functioning at the broiler, air conditioner in the hospital malfunctioning, and the contamination of irrigation water.

The committee was highly concerned that learners from Gauteng did not receive that stipend since September 2025 up until at the time of our visit. The committee requested the department to provide a detailed report on what happened, who was responsible, and consequence management to be applied.

The committee was also concerned about the acting positions, especially for area commissioner and head of a medium A Correctional Centre. We have requested the department to ensure that funded vacancies were prioritised and filled.

The committee was impressed with the different products that were produced from the workshops in the centre, including offender uniforms, signage, cutlery, kitchen trolleys, the committee has encouraged the management of the centre to ensure that more offenders benefited from such skills.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 163

On the follow-up visit to Pollsmoor facility. At the beginning of our term, the committee took a decision, a conscious decision to do things differently and to ensure that our oversight over the Department of Correctional Services is meaningful and impactful. This is why the follow up was conducted in the correctional facility but more importantly it was the issue of erroneous release of a remand detainee which translated to an escape, including an incident that nearly claimed the lives of two officials who were badly stabbed by three remand detainee offenders.

The committee welcome the appointment of the Area Commissioner of Pollsmoor Management Area, wished her well in her duties and hope that her appointment will bring stability in that management area and further encourage the department to prioritise the filling of funded vacancies in that management area.

I therefore present both report of Zonderwater and Pollsmoor Correctional Facility for consideration by the House. I thank you. [Applause.]

There was no debate.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 164

Mr G J Skosana moved: That the Reports be adopted.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr M M GASA: House Chairperson, on the other oversight visit to Zonderwater and Pollsmoor Correctional Centres, we visited Zonderwater and Pollsmoor. We saw with our own eyes what the department tries to hide. We declare without fear of favour that the Department of Correctional Services is not rehabilitating offenders. It is warehousing human beings in condition that shame our nation.

The Department of Correctional Services is in breach of its own constitutional mandate. Section 35 of the Constitution requires ... [Inaudible.] ... detention condition consistent with human dignity, overcrowding at 144%, leaking roofs, broken kitchens and exploitation of labourers are inconsistent with human dignity and as enshrined in the Minimum Wage Act. Minister must account.

More than 350 foreign nationals are locked in Zonderwater, convicted of murder, robbery and drug dealings. Their presence exposes an uncomfortable truth. South Africa's correctional system is collapsing, partly because the state has lost

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 165

control of its own borders. You cannot fix the prisons if you cannot secure the gates of the nation.

The department has abandoned its own officials. At Zonderwater, no perimeter fencing, no shelter at the access gate. At Pollsmoor, officials work without panic buttons or close circuit television, CCTV.

The department demands orders while denying tools. This is a betrayal. The department has normalised lying to Parliament. At Zonderwater College, the committee was falsely told tablets were in use only to find they were locked away. This is breach of parliamentary privilege, demands investigation.

As MK Party, we demand immediate action on safe infrastructure for officials, panic buttons and CCTV must be installed in all high-risk units within six months. [Applause.] Consequence for misleading Parliament; officials who lied about tablets must face disciplinary proceedings.

In conclusion, the department is failing inmates through warehousing, it is failing officials through dangerous conditions, it is failing public through wasted millions on

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 166

preventable litigations. It is failing Parliament through false information.

If the department refuses to act; we will pursue every mechanism to expose failures and compel reform. The people of South Africa deserve better. Inmates deserve better. Officials deserve better. This Parliament, on behalf of the people, must demand better.

South Africans deserve a correctional system that corrects behaviour, not one that merely manages overcrowded warehouse of human despair. Until this government confronts the structural failures exposed in this report, Correctional Services will remain a revolving door of crime rather than a pathway to rehabilitation. I so declare. [Applause.]

Mr M SHIKWAMBANA: House Chair, let me start by saying I will request that when Minister Gwende Mantashe come back to the House, hon Dogmore, must go and sit next to him because half of the time he is sleeping when we are sitting there, he may fall.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 167

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, please take your seat for a moment. I have a hand. Hon Skosana, why do you want to be recognised?

Mr G J SKOSANA: Hon House Chair, I'm rising on Rule 82, the hon member has deliberately referred to hon Dugmore as Dogmore. Can you please rule on that? Can he please withdraw?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. To rule on that, I will really have to check the Hansard. I didn't hear it that way, but I'll look into the Hansard.

Mr M SHIKWAMBANA: Thank you, House Chair, for protecting me. We formed part of the parliamentary delegation to both the Pollsmoor and the Zonderwater visits. We cannot overstate how or horrendous the conditions of these correctional centres are. And that these conditions potentially amount to state-sanctioned gross violation of human rights of the detainees.

We moved from the term prisons to the correctional facilities. The intention was clear - to create an environment in which human beings who have committed crimes can be rehabilitated and returned to normal life in the society. The conditions at

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 168

Pollsmoor are such that there is very little chance of rehabilitation at that centre, and that in, it actually breathes the criminality and turns petty criminals into hard thugs.

From almost free movement and circulation of contraband, including of cell phones and drugs, to the kitchens without valid compliance certificates. From leaking roofs to dysfunctional CCTVs and panic buttons, to generalised and accepted abuse of inmates by other inmates.

Most tragic is that the very same conditions have been noted in our previous visit to the centre, and the very little progress is actually made on that regard.

At Zonderwater we were quite pleased with the potential that Zonderwater Training College has engineering for the transformation role that the correction centre can play.

Other than that, the underlying issues are essentially the same as Pollsmoor. There's poor management, understaffing, overpopulation, the unchecked flow of drugs and weapons, rampant gang activity, and a high level of violence.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 169

For years we have proposed that these centres be equipped with cell phone jamming technology to prevent inmates from communicating with the outside world and the coordination of the crime.

The department must urgently employ more warders and implement regular rotation to reduce corruption and compromise. Inmates should eat food they themselves grow and prepare. They should wear clothes they themselves sew. They should sleep on the beds they themselves make and use blankets produced in the prison's workshop. This is how we build skills and achieve genuine rehabilitation, not by locking people in cells for 23 hours a day. While we support the recommendation contained in this report for ... thank you very much. [Applause.]
[Time expired.]

Ms B E MACHI: Hon House Chairperson, these reports expose persistence failures in our correctional system that continue to undermine rehabilitation, safety, and accountability. At Zonderwater, severe overcrowding high vacancy rates and prolonged acting appointments, working effective management and human detention conditions.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 170

We are deeply concerned by the failure to distribute educational tablets received in 2024, allegations of misleading information provided to the committee and the non-payment of learners' stipends.

At Pollsmoor, the continued presence of contraband delays in destroying confiscated cell phones and deterioration infrastructure reflect weak consequence management and poor coordination with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

These failures compromise security, inmate welfare, and rehabilitation efforts. While we welcome skills development initiatives and the appointment of the Permanent Area Commissioner at Pollsmoor, commitments alone are insufficient. Clear timelines, accountability, and measurable implementations are urgently required.

The department must restore professionalism, strengthen oversight, and implement corrective measures without delay. The IFP supports the adoption of the report. I thank you.
[Applause.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 171

Mr E HENDRICKS: Hon Chairperson, hon members and patriotic South Africans, the PA notes the report of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services regarding the oversight visit to Zonderwater Training College, Zonderwater Correctional Centre as well as the follow-up visit to the Pollsmoor Correctional Centre. We declare that these reports highlight the persistent failure in our correctional system. At Zonderwater, facilities intended to rehabilitate offenders remain under-resourced and ineffective, undermining reintegration efforts. At Pollsmoor, overcrowding, poor sanitation and unsafe conditions continue despite repeat oversight visits and promises of reform.

Oversight must not be reduced to ritual reporting. It must lead to decisive action. The PA asserts that Parliament must ensure accountability for management failures, invest in rehabilitation programmes and urgently address the overcrowding problem. Correctional centres must not be warehouses of despair. They must be institutions of justice, rehabilitation and dignity.

On behalf of the PA, we declare that oversight without conscience is meaningless. Zonderwater and Pollsmoor cannot remain symbols of neglect and failure. Parliament must act and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 172

this report must drive real change. The PA supports the report. I thank you.

Mr P A VAN STADEN: Chairperson, no declaration.

Ms D E JAMES: Hon Chairperson, I rise to speak on the state of Pollsmoor Correctional Centre and, by extension, the crisis facing our correctional system in the Western Cape. During oversight, we were told that Pollsmoor has two body scanners, and they are both not working. Is it any wonder that large amounts of drugs and contraband continue to be confiscated. To date, the department cannot present a mini drug masterplan for Pollsmoor. They cannot tell us how you identify users. They cannot tell you how they support them. They cannot tell us how they stop the flow of drugs at the gate. This is not a prison. This is a warehouse for addiction and for chaos.

The same applies to gangs. Unable to screen effectively, unable to deal decisively with gang structures inside and unable to identify officials. Yes, the officials seem like they are wearing orange, and the inmates are wearing brown. Our prisons have become a local economy run by gangs.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 173

Let me be clear about the cost of this failure. When an official murders his partner using a state firearm, the consequence is a one-month salary withholding. That is not discipline. That is an insult to the victim and to every law-abiding official in the department.

Let me educate the House on why discipline has collapsed. Officials make more money smuggling drugs, selling younger inmates to older inmates for as little as R50, trafficking contraband and running illicit money lending schemes inside. When crime pays inside, discipline dies. We need a system that prioritises rehabilitation, restores discipline and protects communities from repeat offenders.

It would be a sad day, and this is to our Deputy Minister, Lindiwe, who had some words with me yesterday. I want to say to you, Deputy Minister, it would be a sad day in our democracy if Members of Parliament, MPs, are not to play oversight over the executive. Your words to me yesterday were, hon James, your work is in Parliament. Go there and leave the executive to do their work. No, it is not going to happen. Action SA is here. We are here to show up stronger every day and all day throughout the year. The people of the Western

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 174

Cape deserve the Department of Correctional Services, the safe facilities. [Time expired. I thank you.

Mr M P MOTUBATSE: Chair, I want to ask whether it's parliamentary for the hon Dugmore to call a caucus in Parliament. Look at what they are doing here.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): No, hon member, let us focus on the report. Hon members, before I recognised the next party, I have indeed, consulted the recording, the unrevised Hansard, so to speak. Hon Skosana, the surname of the hon Dugmore was indeed not pronounced Dugmore. It is also not quite clear to me that something else was really meant. Maybe the hon Dugmore can go and have a bit of coffee with that member. I also sometimes struggle with the pronunciation of some of the surnames. I'm not going to sustain that order for now.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Chairperson...

Sesotho:

... kgotso, Maafrica. Maafrica...

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 175

... unity!

Correctional Services is not an Orania project where African men are slaved and stigmatised. It is a constitutional instrument for rehabilitation, accountability and social transformation.

Section 35 subsection (2)(e) of the Constitution are fair that the detained person has a right to conditions of detention consistent with the human dignity including adequate accommodation, nutrition, medical care and access to reading material. Oversight by this committee therefore fulfil Parliament's constitutional obligation by ensuring that these rights are protected.

The findings relating to administrative lapse, delayed learner stipends, nonallocation of educational tablets and persistent acting appointments raise a serious concern. These weaknesses undermine both service delivery and integrity of correctional service training. Public resources allocated to Correctional Services must serve rehabilitation and institutional effectiveness not inefficiency or mismanagement.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 176

We therefore call for the Department of Correctional Services together with the National Treasury to strengthen financial oversight and consequences management in line with the Public Financial Management Act.

Our correctional services must reflect the spirit of the Correctional Services Act which emphasises rehabilitation and reintegration into society, a correctional service that equip individual with skills and discipline contribute to a safer community and a stronger nation. [Time expired.]

Xitsonga:

Khanimaba!

Ms N J BOLLMAN: House Chair, on behalf of the DA, I wish to share our reflections on the oversight visits to Zonderwater Training College, the Zonderwater Correctional Centre as well as the trip to Pollsmoor Correctional Centre.

While the professionalism of the Department of Correctional Services staff most of them is commendable along with their efforts to maintain their centres, our role as the committee is to look beneath the surface to ensure that the department is in fact fulfilling every part of its mandate. A key pillar

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 177

of a functional correctional system is leadership and staffing. Currently, we are seeing significant gaps that hinder progress at these facilities. With vacancy rates between 13% and 16% at both Zonderwater and Pollsmoor, there is immense pressure on the staff there. This is compounded by the continued reliance on acting positions across the department. The Department of Correctional Services will not achieve its goals unless it prioritises the permanent appointment of qualified, competent and ethical individuals especially in senior positions.

Furthermore, the department must prioritise a complete review of its staffing system to address the bloated administrative staff and senior management where necessary in favour of vital security personnel.

Regarding perimeter fencing and infrastructure, we must address the gap between approval and implementation. It is disheartening to see that while there is a critical need for a perimeter fencing at Zonderwater, and this was recognised and costed at R32 million, the project remains stalled despite the estimates being on record there is nothing scheduled and there is no envisioned date of erecting the perimeter fence.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 178

Similarly, Pollsmoor also has deficiencies in perimeter fencing that had already led to escapes in the recent past. To address the department's financial constraints there must be a focus on using offender labour where possible to maintain and upgrade security infrastructure in a more cost-effective way. The most concerning thing is that this is true across the country. This is a national crisis where more than a R1 billion is needed to fix all the perimeter fencing across South Africa. Facilities across the country have already costed and registered the need for this, but they sit in the same limbo as Zonderwater and Pollsmoor for the foreseeable future. It is imperative that the department's budget allocation reflects the essential nature of security infrastructure.

I have said it before and I will say it again, without fences we don't have correctional centres, we have correctional resorts maybe camps but these are not security infrastructure.

The most sensitive issue is the optimal use of the resources that we have and integrity in the allocation of those resources. As members have mentioned, we saw at the centre that there were tablets given in November 2024 and were not being used. Worse, we were lied to and told that they were in

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 179

use. Now, we've done our part to uncover the truth. The department needs to tell us: What action has been taken?

Finally, we need to prioritise our duty of care to the department's trainees. In November 2025, we found out that the Gauteng trainees had not been paid. This is a travesty. It's not just an administrative hurdle it is an impact on morale and the wellbeing of the future of this department. You cannot say you are operating under the Constitution and have no regard for people's dignity. We need to know that the department has comprehensively understood the cause of that nonpayment and properly addressed it so that it doesn't happen again. Thank you thank.

Mr M S MOELA: House Chair, the portfolio committee conducted an oversight visit to Zonderwater Training College and Zonderwater Correctional Centre on 21 November 2025, focusing on infrastructure, rehabilitation, social integration, inmate treatment, and overall conditions. The committee also returned to Pollsmoor Correctional Centre to assess progress on recommendations and commitments made since its previous visit in 2022.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 180

Reflecting on these oversight reports, the ANC underscores its ongoing commitment to a correctional system that prioritises rehabilitation, accountability, and human dignity. Our White Paper on Correctional Services affirms that the system's purpose is not punishment, but public protection, social responsibility, and human development, to prevent recidivism and restore dignity to those who have violated the law.

These reports were tabled in May 2026 as our nation continues to confront the ongoing challenge of transforming the criminal justice system into one that truly reflects the constitutional values for which we fought so hard. The ANC remains steadfast in its belief that only principled leadership can advance the difficult task of building a correctional system where rehabilitation and human dignity prevail over mere punishment.

Despite notable achievements documented in both reports, several deeply troubling challenges persist across our prisons. At both Pollsmoor Correctional Centre and Zonderwater Correctional Centre it was distressing to witness the devastating impact of overcrowding on living conditions, security, and effective delivery on rehabilitation programmes.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 181

Pollsmoor Correctional Centre operates at a staggering 17,23% overcrowding rate with the remain facility of 234,0% and family centre of 248,57%. Zonderwater Medium A faces a 69,5% overcrowding rate. This crisis is exhibited by the significant detention of foreign nationals who have violated immigration laws 401 at Pollsmoor Correctional Centre and 352 at Zonderwater, placing unsustainable pressure on our system while underscoring the need for a co-ordinated regional immigration management.

At both facilities, we were particularly troubled by the persistent infiltration of contraband undermining security and compromising the authority of our officials. At Pollsmoor Correctional Centre, the confiscation of 2 444 cell phones and 6 891 drug tablets in a single year reveals the scale of this security breach. This trend has worsened since our previous visits, demanding agent-co-ordinated action.

The ANC therefore calls on the Department of Correctional Services to intensify joint security operations with the South African Police Service, Saps, to decisively stem the flow of contraband into our centres through co-ordinated rates and enhanced screening technology, including quality body scanners and high-risk facilities.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 182

The ANC therefore calls on the Department of Correctional Services, DCS, to intensify joint security operations with the South African Police Service, Saps, to decisively stem the flow of contraband into our centres through co-ordinated raids and enhanced screening technology, including quality body scanners and high-risk facilities. The ANC is seriously concerned by the critical vacancy rates affecting both institutions. Zonderwater Correctional Centre faces a 16,10% vacancy rate, while Zonderwater Medium A has a 12,66% vacancy rate.

Pollsmoor Correctional Centre struggles with 207 unfilled positions, representing a 14,12% vacancy rate. These vacancies place enormous pressure on existing personnel, compromise security management, and directly undermine service delivery. The ANC makes a clarion call to the DCS to expedite recruitment processes to protect our resolute correctional officials and ensure effective facility functionality.

At Zonderwater Training College, we were deeply disappointed to discover that learning tablets procured on 29 November 2024, remain unused and have not been distributed to learners. This ongoing delay undermines our efforts to modernise education and training within correctional facilities.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 183

Similarly troubling was the discovery that learners at this same facility had not received their stipends since September 2025. Such administrative failures betray our commitment to developing the next generation of correctional officials and demand immediate accountability and consequence management. Despite these shortcomings, we note with great appreciation the impressive advance in skills development and regulation programmes at both facilities.

At Zonderwater, offenders manufacture their own uniforms, signage, cutlery, and kitchen trolleys, at Pollsmoor workshops, produce quality furniture and steel cabinets, while agricultural projects yield over 72,917 kg of vegetables. These initiatives exemplify the progressive approach adopted by the ANC since the advent of democracy, that correctional facilities must contribute meaningfully to the rehabilitation and preparation for social reintegration.

We recommend that the department prioritise the accreditation of these skills programmes to ensure offenders receive recognised certificates, thereby significantly improving their employment prospects upon release. The ANC wishes to acknowledge the dedication and resilience of our correctional officials who, undeterred by difficult conditions, continue to

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 184

perform their duties with pride and professionalism. Their commitment is central to maintaining order and building a safer South Africa for all.

In presenting this report, we have identified areas requiring urgent attention. We remain confident that effective parliamentary oversight, improved interdepartmental co-ordination, adequate resourcing, and strengthened implementation of existing legislation and policies will enable us to realise a correctional system that upholds the values of dignity, justice, and co-operation. The ANC supports this report. Thank you very much.

Mr G J Skosana moved: That both reports be accepted.

Question pt.

Agreed to.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon members, the next item is a decision of question on a draft resolution in the name of the hon Lonzi, which will stand over in terms of Rule 99. The last item on the Order Paper is a decision of question on a

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

Page: 185

Draft Resolution in the name of the hon Zungula, which will also stand over in terms of Rule 99.

The House adjourned at 18:31.

UNREVISED HANSARD