

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 1

WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

The Council met at 10:00.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: [No recording.] ... and proceed with the declaration of vote. Where there is no call for a division, a Vote shall be carried and we shall proceed to the next Vote. Where a party wishes to object to a Vote, that objection shall not ... and there will be no need for a division. A delegate wishing to call for a division must draw the attention of the Chair to that fact. In terms of Rule 80(3) a call for a division must be supported by at least four delegates.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 2

In accordance with Rule 81, when a division has been called, delegates who are outside the virtual platform and outside the Chamber will be given in respect of the first Vote three minutes to join the House and 15 seconds in respect of the Votes thereafter. No delegate shall be allowed to access the House whilst voting is in progress.

Once the question is put, delegates on the virtual platform who wish to cast their votes must do so by using the raise of hand button. Delegates in the Chamber should raise their hands. Delegates must keep their hands raised until voting closes. Procedural staff shall tally the votes. The host of the virtual platform shall lower all hands on the virtual platform after every vote.

In the event of a division and for the purposes of accurate minutes of the House, delegates in the Chamber are requested to state their full names when voting during the division. This will only be applicable for the first division.

If a delegate is disconnected from the virtual platform whilst voting takes place, the vote of the delegate shall be ascertained and the records amended accordingly.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 3

Hon delegates, we will now proceed to the First Order which is the Consideration of Votes ... Yes, hon Badenhorst?

Mr F J BADENHORST: Sorry, hon Chair, I don't want to belabour the proceedings this morning. I know we have a long day. It's just an inquiry on Rule 78 in terms of Rules of Individual Debate. I know that there was a Three-Line Whip sent out with a package with all the information for the meeting today. I quote from that Three-Line Whip: "No apologies or any form of leave will be considered or approved. All delegates of the NCOP are expected to attend physically in the sitting of the NCOP Chamber." So, I'm just asking if the Three-Line Whip says all the delegates voting have to be here physically as per the Three-Line Whip sent out by the Chief Whip's office, will we still be voting online as well? If so, then what is the purpose of Three-Line Whips going forward? Thank you, Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Badenhorst, the rules do make provision for virtual attendance of sittings, especially where there are special delegates concerned because of other engagements they might have prior to the sitting. I don't know what your arrangements in terms of the Three-Line Whip are. Yes, it is a Three-Line Whip sitting in a sense that everyone

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 4

who is supposed to be here should be here, including those special delegates who will be attending the sitting virtually.

I must bring the following to the attention of the House. We know that hon Radebe has not been well but that does not preclude him from attending this meeting through the virtual platform, and as such I want to presume that there is a possibility that he may be in attendance through the virtual platform. It's not only him. We know of hon Molokomme who has lost her mom. The likelihood is that she may have connected via the virtual platform as well.

Accordingly, this is regarded as a Three-Line Whip sitting which will then accordingly be conducted through a physical as well as a virtual platform. Thank you very much.

We will then proceed to the First Order, which is the Consideration of Votes and Schedules Appropriation Bill. I now put Vote No 1 – The Presidency. I have been informed that the following parties would like to make declarations of vote in terms of Rule 78. I am accordingly affording them three minutes per declaration of vote. I now call upon hon Badenhorst to make a declaration.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 5

APPROPRIATION BILL

(Consideration of Votes and Schedule)

Vote No 1 – The Presidency – put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr F J BADENHORST: Hon Chair, in uniting parties from across the political spectrum, the seventh administration shows eagerness in moving our country in the right direction. The Sixth Parliament ended with an economy worse than it had inherited. Our global relations are strained and the effects of state captures continue to bear.

After years of pain, our nation has the opportunity to start anew. Having studied Operation Vulindlela and its structural reform plans to unlock economic growth and also being familiar with the DA's 2024 election manifesto, there is sufficient ground for consensus; the consensus required for concrete plans to create jobs, build better infrastructure, deliver safer streets, improve public health and professionalise our Public Service.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 6

These plans must be promptly developed into legislation and tabled before our Parliament. Their content and implementation must be monitored closely. A concern the DA has raised repeatedly is the lack of a dedicated parliamentary committee to oversee the Presidency; a concern also echoed by Chief Justice Zondo in the inquiry into state capture. We continue to lack effective oversight over the Presidency, which obstructs Parliament's oversight mechanisms. We stand in support of a united South Africa, a multiparty Cabinet and a productive Parliament.

While we seek to deliver for South Africans with sufficient consensus, we must disagree if need be. Our focus at the start of this Parliament must be to hit the ground running, using our Constitution and updated policy framework as cornerstones in our deliberations.

Hon President, it is long time that we roll our sleeves up. The myriad of issues plaguing South Africans are pressing and they require our urgent attention. With an inclusive, accountable executive and a robust, vigilant Parliament we can deliver on the mandate entrusted to us. At the end of this Parliament, Mr President, I hope your hand is sore and your pen runs dry of ink from signing good legislation that

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 7

delivers for all South Africans. The people deserve no less.
The DA supports this budget. Thank you.

Ms M MAKESINI: Chairperson, the EFF rejects the budget of the Presidency. The EFF has on various platforms declared that Mr Ramaphosa has failed to lead South Africa effectively. Today, we therefore reject the budget on the Presidency, which has the responsibility of dwindling the economy and leading the country into a state of collapse.

Under the current administration, South Africa has continued to grapple with an alarming crime rate, despite the numerous promises and initiatives. South Africa also remains one of the countries with the highest incidents of gender-based violence GBV, the scourge also persists, but seemingly it has worsened under the current Presidency.

Everyday life in South Africa is becoming very difficult and there is no hope. The administration's response has been an inadequate, fulfilling to protect vulnerable women and children. The glaring example is that the tragic case involving the lady from Phala Phala Farm, who was subjected to violence and subsequently dragged from Namibia. Such incidents

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 8

are a highlight of the government's inability to safeguard the rights and the lives of its citizens.

The state of our national intelligence is in disarray, with numerous reports indicating the compromised operation and inefficiencies. It has severely undermined the country's security and has exposed South Africa to internal and external threats. The failure of our intelligence services is a direct result of poor oversight and a lack of effective leadership from the Presidency.

Mr Ramaphosa has failed to present credible and dependable solutions to the many crises faced by South Africans. Given this critical issue, the EFF cannot in good conscience support the proposed budget of the Presidency. The current administration has demonstrated no capability to address this urgent problem, and we can't continue to fund such ineffective leadership could deceive of our people. I don't think anyone will be happy about that.

We call upon our fellow members of this House to join us to reject this budget Bill and to demand the accountability and the tangible action from the Presidency, the safety and the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 9

security of the well-being of our citizens must be prioritised above all of us. We reject this vote. Thank you very much.

Ms S M MOKOENA: Chair, we as MK reject this vote. The gap between rich and poor continues to widen, and economic inequalities persist as a significant barrier to national unity and progress. Corruption remains an issue, despite the assertions about rooting it out, we still see headlines about tender irregularities and shady deals.

There is currently no select committee on the Presidency on its own. To us, it seems like a well-orchestrated strategy for the Presidency to avoid accountability, particularly when it comes to state-owned enterprises. The great marriage that is now called the Government of National Unity, GNU is clearly in the honeymoon phase because some parties that were clearly very vocal previously are now quite silent about some issues that were of concern.

Well, the silence speaks louder than words and us as MK on the stewardship of our president Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, together with our ... [Inaudible.] ... Dr Mandlakayise John Hlophe, we will continue to be the voice above all voices, we will champion the oversight role that needs to be done on this

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 10

marriage of national unity on behalf of the people of South Africa. Thank you.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Chairperson, the ANC rises to support Vote 1 which is Presidency for four reasons. The first one is the fact that the Presidency is responsible for the coordination of policies and implementation, and therefore given the support that the Presidency provides not only to the Presidency itself as a central office but also in terms of the responsibilities as the head of state, but more than that also to the Deputy Presidency.

It is important to accept the fact that the support is informed by the Presidency's support in terms of the execution of the constitutional responsibilities and implementing the electoral mandate. As we wrap up the Medium Term Strategic Framework, it is important that we also voice our clarion call to the seventh administration to continue implementing programmes that has the interests of our people at its centre.

But more than that, the Presidency continues to lead the economic reforms and interventions in our energy and network industries. Thirdly, the Presidency leads the investment strategy in terms of ensuring that we increase investment in

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 11

productive sectors of the economy and place the industrial strategy at an anchor of our economic development.

It's also important to express our support because the Presidency continues to lead in societal leadership role by creating social compacts with different social players. Lastly, we support this vote because the vote supports the initiatives and we are confident that through the ANC led Government of National Unity, we will continue to build on our democratic gains.

As the majority of the parties in Parliament accept the leadership role of the ANC, we will continue to lead. More than that, there is convergence in terms of the leadership role of the ANC in terms of the implementation of the National Development Plan.

So, that in itself says there is convergence around the Freedom Charter programme, which is at the centre for Constitution, which is at the centre of the Government of National Unity. Thank you, Chair. I submit. The ANC supports Vote 1.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 12

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

Vote No 2 - Parliament -put.

Declarations of vote(s).

Ms M MAKESINI: The EEF family rejects the budget of Parliament. Our commitment as parliamentarians is to represent our people's interests, not our own. The role of Parliament is to hold the government accountable and exercise oversight over the executive members. We therefore once again reject the budget of Parliament which failed to fulfil its constitutional mandate of representing the interests of our people.

We reject this budget as all spheres of South African society are on the brink of collapse, with the economy, public healthcare, the public school system and the railway network barely holding on. Parliament established various commissions to challenge us as parliamentarians, especially when we failed to conduct proper oversight to the executive, including the state-owned enterprise.

Our duty is therefore to create laws in accordance with the Constitution, yet under the leadership of the GNU, this has

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 13

not been fully realised. We urgently need to see the construction of the burnt building and ensure that all outstanding Bills are finalised.

We strongly advocate for the relocation of Parliament to Tshwane to save costs. Having both legislation and administration branches in one place is practical and effective.

Furthermore, without filling any vacancies, we will never achieve our mandate as this administration. Let us prioritise our duties and fulfil our constitutional obligation to save our nation effectively. The EFF rejects this budget again.

Ms S M MOKOENA: Chairperson, the lack of accountability and the slow pace of judicial processes undermine public trust in the government institutions. We need more than just task, force and commissions. We need anti-corruption bodies that are truly independent and have necessary resources to carry out the mandate.

IsiZulu:

Abantu bakithi ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 14

English:

... deserve a government that not only acknowledges challenges but also delivers concrete and effective solutions. The state of our public service is equally concerning. Education, healthcare, the cornerstones of any driving societies are in disarray.

Our schools are underfunded, understaffed, ill-equipped to provide quality educations. The healthcare system is overwhelmed with inadequate facilities and shortage of medical professions. All of these things and above call for us to reject this budget. Thank you, Chair.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP (Mr K M Mmoiemang): Hon Chairperson, allow me to rise on behalf of the ANC in declaration of support for the budget, Vote 2 of Parliament. This budget vote is an outcome of serious policy review that constantly seeks to reposition our Parliament, as a truly responsive, activist, people's Parliament for a better quality of life for all.

The reaffirmation of our commitment to improve oversight and scrutiny of legislation and deepen participatory democracy, as

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 15

is a testimony of this transformative Parliament, which we support as the ANC.

Madam Chairperson, as the hon members may be aware, our consideration, adoption of this budget vote today coincides with the evolving global context of escalating geopolitical tensions across all the continents of serious implications to world peace and stability.

Supporting this budget vote is support of the ongoing qualitative role of the South African Parliament in seeking peaceful coexistence between the nations, states and for the resolution of internal conflicts that continue to plague different parts of the world, especially in Africa.

Hon Chairperson, hypocrisy is when you do not support the institution that allows you to be able to do your work as a Member of Parliament. Hypocrisy is when you do not support a vote that enables you to be able to ensure that those that voted for you, you are able to be accountable to them.

Hypocrisy of its worst kind is when you reject a vote that enables you to be able to give you institutional support. The ANC supports Vote 2, Chairperson. Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 16

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

Vote No 3 - Cooperative Governance -put.

Declarations of Vote

Dr I SCHEURKOGEL: Hon Chair, we, as a DA, understand that the budget Vote 3 for the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs is an inherited one, and we acknowledge that it will have an effect on the Minister's commitment to intervene in local governments that are failing South Africans sitting daily without basic services enshrined in the section 152 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

And this will not be achieved through the District Development Model, which was aimed to coordinate and integrate service delivery. There 103 million spent on to institutionalise the model has resulted in further deterioration of service delivery.

This commitment will be strengthened through the proposed procedures to ensure that senior managements are appointed to serve in local government, are competent and capable

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 17

individuals, not merely connected cadres, which has historically led to the deterioration of local government.

This includes to prevent political interference by politicians like to award contracts to providers where the services of the state institutions or whose directors were in the service of other state institutions, which is a contravention of section 112(1) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, MFMA, and Supply chain management, SCM, regulation 44 as per the 2021-2022 Auditor-General, AG, report of Matsimaholo of the EFF Member of Mayoral Committee, MMC, which is an abuse of this supply management required by the management regulation 38-1.

We want to implore the Minister to continue the work of the department that has started to work on legislation and stakeholders to address the advent of municipal coalition governments. That will cause political instability in councils, especially in 2026. The work of the department needs to be consolidated with the gazetted Private Members Bill of now Minister of Basic Education Siviwe Gwarube to ensure stability and a smooth transfer of power in 2026.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 18

Lastly, the Minister must ensure that the motion passed on 01 October 2023 by the NCOP is to implement it that the Free State provincial government intervened and in terms of section 139(5) of the Constitution, by taking over the finances of Matjhabeng Local Municipality and other similar delinquent municipalities through a competent and qualified individual who can oversee the financial turnaround of the municipality in the interests of its residents. The DA supports this budget.

Mr K CEZA: Chairperson, the EFF vehemently rejects the proposed budget for the Department of Cooperative Governance. Chairperson, there is a lot of work that must be done in local government to ensure that the country does not wake up to 257 dysfunctional municipalities and municipalities that are under financial distress.

Further reductions in the budget of this department does not inspire hope. Aging infrastructure is a strain on the rural municipalities whose development still reflects the state of rurality of development of these municipalities, because they are not like metros with economic activities and revenue generation to speak of. Most of these rural municipalities

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 19

rely on government aids such as grants, and often spend money on salary bills and have bloated organograms.

There is no amount of justification that can be found to support the budget reductions of a sector that needs better funding than it is currently. We must be clear that the EFF will approve a budget that has a bias towards the poor and the working class of the country, who are always at the end of using poor services.

Sixty-six dysfunctional municipalities, suffer from lack of capacity, lack of political stability, lack of institutional memory, as municipal official resign in one municipality and found in another.

Chairperson, this budget has not demonstrated how the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalised residents of rural areas will change. There are still municipal financial statements that show increasing indicators of collapse in finances. Municipalities have collapsed and have not shown any recovery plans to rise again. Therefore, the EFF rejects this this budget. Thank you very much.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 20

Mr E NZIMANDE: Chairperson, hon members, we submit that we should be moving away from ... just considering this process, as just a compliant process. We must do away with any form of malicious compliance. We would be irresponsible if we were to support this budget in particular, if there's a clear admission that, when you look at the plans that are to be financed. Such plans are not going to make any positive impact to the vulnerable people, the poor and the African child.

We shall be continuously perpetuating the disparities that you find at the service delivery points, between those that were formerly privileged and those that were previously disadvantaged.

We believe because this has to do with basic services and it's something that touches our people on a ground level. We should not listen and just get excited by being supported by those that were previously advantaged. Because they are misleading him, they are not helping you as there is confidence, as the party that has a majority. I am now taking about ...

IsiZulu:

... ngabakwagogo ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 21

English:

... not that you are a leader, but you have a majority. You must be talking the language that will be understood by our people on the ground. On that basis, as we have said. The plans do not have any direct positive impact to our people; therefore, we cannot support this budget.

The second part, which is evident from what has been tabled, is that it's admissible and no one has denied it. That the reduction of budget is going to compromise serious projects that will benefit the citizenry, and in all forms.

But unfortunately, we are sitting with your government of national unity, GNU, that you want to use numbers and forget about the people that voted them. We just want to suggest and submit Chair, that we should not accept this budget and as we reject it as MK. Thank you.

Mr T M KAUNDA: Hon Chair, as the ANC, we declare our support for this Budget Vote because we know that under the capable leadership of President Matamela Ramaphosa, we are going to make this government work and work better for our people. And this government, as we are focusing on building the state capacity to deliver, we are going to be responsive to the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 22

needs and aspirations of our residents and citizens of our country.

Hon Chair, as the ANC, we holistically support the budget for Co-operative Governance because co-operative government is a fundamental principle in South Africa's approach to governance, emphasizing collaboration, transparency, and inclusiveness across all levels of government. This strategy, which aims to promote a more efficient and democratic form of government, is mandated by the Constitution, and goes beyond simple policy preference. Through its effects on fostering inclusivity and unity, effective resource management, better service delivery, more accountability and transparency, and tackling difficult issues, co-operative government play a significant role in South Africa.

This budget indicates a drive to accelerate the work done by the District Development Model, which is a service delivery model. To address and reduce issues of challenges that are experienced on service delivery, especially on the local sphere of government. Many of the challenges impacting our communities are locally based. The provision of basic services such as water and sanitation, human settlement, recreation facilities, and public infrastructure are competence of

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 23

municipalities. Therefore, improving the quality of life for our communities requires the local government to work. We welcome the initiative and commend the Minister for reviewing the funding model of local government, because if you want to make local government work, they need to be adequately funded in terms of responding to the challenges that they are tackling at local level, which will significantly support municipalities especially in rural and urban areas. The increase of the equitable share for local government is a step in the right direction towards increasing the capacity of local government to execute its mandate.

Hon Chair, another critical matter that is impacting our communities is due to climate change and other natural disasters. Floods have devastated several provinces such as KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, and other areas impacted by fires. We welcome the increased focus on disaster responses and call for increased readiness to mitigate the effects of natural disasters. Looking at the grants that are dispatched to municipalities, we are going to assist and enable them to build their capacity so that there be less over reliance on consultants. We fully support this budget, hon Chair.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 24

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

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

Declarations of vote:

Ms M SIWISA: Chairperson, let me first thank the people of Northern Cape for attending the rally of the EFF that happened over the weekend. Chairperson, as the EFF, we reject the budget for Government Communication and Information System, GCIS. We reject the budget of a department which carries the mandate of providing our people with information that is timely, accurate, and accessible, yet citizens in rural areas are still left lagging behind when it comes to access to information. Government Communication Information System should play a role in ensuring that our people are kept abreast with all that is happening. The system and its implementation are long overdue. The fight against gender-based violence is a loss fight due to lack of resources from the police services. When perpetrators are apprehended and released on bail, they get lost in the community and no means of doing follow up of their whereabouts is done. If the GCIS will only be workable in big cities, small cities will be

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 25

burdened with criminals who see them as a place to hide as they are not classified as hotspots.

Infrastructure needs to be equally distributed to ensure that our people are afforded the same opportunity and service delivery. It should not only be in hotspots. Smaller cities or rural areas are neglected by authorities and the same mistake should not be made. Schools are becoming unsafe, and the GCIS could be utilized for preventative measures.

Furthermore, it should be seen as a getaway for schools that have no access to the internet and get the first experience of utilizing it. The GCIS has not done enough in terms of its outreach programmes to interact with the communities and make them aware of opportunities, especially in rural communities. More effort should be put into recruiting people with adequate skills instead of these cadre deployments, which have become a prominent feature. As the EFF, we reject the Vote. Thank you.

Ms S L SITHOLE: Hon Chairperson, and greetings hon members. The seventh former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan once said:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 26

Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.

The government of South Africa has acknowledged that it has a constitutionally entrenched responsibility to ensure that citizens have access to government information that is relevant, timely, and easily accessible, to better their lives and keep abreast of what is happening in and around the country. As such, we welcome that over the next three years, the Government Communication Information Systems, which is commonly known as the GCIS, has set its goal on focusing more in ensuring effective and co-ordinated communication between government departments by providing support to all government departments through conceptualizing campaigns, developing communication strategy and content, and facilitating the dissemination of information, and stakeholders' engagement. Equally, GCIS has made an undertaking to focus more on supporting the District Development Model, which aims to improve coherence amongst all spheres of government, including the 44 districts and eight metros across the country, to enhance service delivery. While we are disappointed about the continued cuts to the bottom line of the department, we welcome that an estimated 12,7% ... a R53,4 million of the budget in the intergovernmental co-ordination and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 27

stakeholders' management program over the medium term will be used for programmes and activation aimed at encouraging citizen participation. The department will initiate outreach programmes such as localized community dialogues, the local community radio talk shows, and campaign activation in taxi ranks, shopping centres, and community trains. A targeted 26th engagement session at a national level is planned with senior journalists and two engagements with the government head of communication, as well as a forum meeting such as government Community Communicators Forum to support the stability and growth of community media. We welcome most of the Media Development and Diversity Agency's budget over the period ahead will be directed at the grant funding for 66 communities, broadcast, and project, and 18 communities and small commercial media print and digital projects. Furthermore, training in areas such as governance and social media to 120 community media projects will be facilitated. These initiatives have been allocated R14 million over the medium-term. The ANC supports this Budget Vote and Appropriation Bill. Thank you.

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

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 28

Vote No 5 - Home Affairs - put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr M BILLY: Hon Chair, we must get our civic services back on track. We must be able to provide South Africans with birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates, identity documents and passport on time. We must immediately eliminate the challenges that exist in the Department of Home Affairs, which amongst other things, are the network connectivity issues, offline issues, long queues giving rise to criminals demanding bribes from those queues, insufficient and inadequate office accommodation capacity constraints, fraud and corruption. This appropriation budget is meant to enhance the counter corruption and security services. We must support it to get the department back on track.

In our previous engagement on this budget, we agreed that one of the weaknesses and the risks for the department is the inadequate human resource capacity and capability in critical specialist management and frontline officers. According to the department's annual report of 2022-23, the total approved functional organizational structure and post establishment for the department provides for 18 456 posts, of which 7 398 are filled. This translates to a department capacitated at 42,37%.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 29

To increase the capacity of this crucial department and get back on track, we must support this appropriation budget.

Furthermore, with this budget, we must get our immigration services back on track. We note the new Minister hon Schriber's strong commitment to getting the border management authority back on track, which will help immigration control. We must protect our borders, strengthen the department's law enforcement operations, which includes inspections on spaza shops, supermarkets, restaurants and big businesses who are not complying. We are glad that the Minister has started doing some work on this. We must support him. This is why it's important that the department, through this budget, must enhance and make easy the process of allowing those who want to get into our country legally transfer skills and create jobs easy.

Although the Government of National Unity has inherited this budget from the previous six administration, it is in the best interest of national security of our country for all of us to support and approve this budget. If any party does not support this budget, the EFF and the MK, it only means one thing, that they want South Africans to stay in long queues in dysfunctional Home Affairs offices. They want kids born not to

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 30

get birth certificates because not all hospitals have got Department of Home Affairs offices and personnel. They want our borders to remain unprotected and free for all illegal immigrants. They want to cripple these application processes for legal immigrants coming into our country with skills to create jobs. The DA is on the side of South Africans, and we support this budget.

Ms N P MCINGA: Chairperson, the EFF reject the proposed Budget Vote for the Department of Home Affairs. The Department of Home Affairs is fundamental to the functioning of our society, managing vital records, citizenship and immigration services. However, the department continues to face significant challenges that have been adequately addressed.

Firstly, the dysfunction and delays in issuing vital documents such as birth certificates, identity documents and passports are unacceptable. South Africans are often forced to endure long waiting queues, waiting times affecting their ability to access essential services and opportunities. These delays are illustrative of a system that is failing to our people.

Secondly, the management of immigration remains a disagreeable issue. While it is crucial to maintain secure borders, we must

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 31

ensure that our immigration policies are human and just. The current system is often damaged by corruption and mismanagement, leading to undue hardships for those seeking refuge or legal residence in our country.

Additionally, we must address the issue of xenophobia. Xenophobic violence and discrimination have no place in our society. The department has not done enough to implement educational programmes to foster understanding and tolerance, nor has it taken firm action against those who provoke or participate in xenophobic attacks. Finally, the department must prioritise the modernization of its systems. Digitalization and better training for staff are essential steps that have been ignored.

We need a Home Affairs department that is efficient, fair and accessible to all South Africans, which this budget fails to deliver. Therefore, the EFF reject this budget and calls for immediate and comprehensive reforms to address these critical issues. I thank you.

Mr S A ZULU: Hon Chairperson, we as the MK party hereby reject the budget on the reasons hereunder: One, reduce the budget incapacitated department to introduce advanced technological

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 32

solutions to enhance the border surveillance. Two, plans do not provide the cogent and concise strategies to eliminate the corruption and updating immigration infrastructure.

Accordingly, Chairperson, we therefore reject this budget. I thank you.

IsiXhosa:

Mnu M M PETER: Ndiyabulisa Sihlalo weNdlu. NguMandla Peter lo omele iqela leUDM. Ndibulisa namalungu ahloniphekileyo ale Ndlu, molweni. Sihlalo, iUDM iyaluxhasa olo hlahlo lwabiwo-mali kwaye siluxhasa phantsi kwezi nkalo ndiza kuzikhankanya apha ngezantsi. Nazi ke ezi nkalo iUDM ixhasa ngazo olu hlahlo lwabiwo-mali, sithi:

Noxa nje siluxhasa olu hlahlo lwabiwo-mali, sixhasa sinenkxalabo yorhwaphilizo olume ngeenyawo. Ubume belizwe buxhomekeke kwesi siseko siliSebe leMicimbi yezeKhaya. Abemi bezizwe ngezizwe bangena ngondlelamnyama kuse bengabemi beli lizwe ngenxa karhulumente ovale iindlebe, amehlo noqine ingqondo. Isikhalo simile kubemi boMzantsi Afrika sithi: Niphi na ilizwe lisimka amehlo niwavulile nje? Kwakunjalo nakwi NP iqine ingqondo yangena emhlabeni kwavela iANC le iqine ingqondo nanamhlanje.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 33

Ngoko ke ithi iUDM, singenile kuni ANC senza iGNU. Zamani ke ukuba sibe ngurhulumente olungisa ilizwe singajonganga bume belizwe labanye abantu abafuna ukusiphatha elizweni lethu. Enkosi.

Adv M NONKONYANA: Chairperson and hon members, I rise on behalf of the ANC, the people's movement, to stand before this august House in support of Budget Vote 5 for the Department of Home Affairs. The department, as many in this House correctly stated, plays a critical role in the lives of all the people of South Africa.

It's through this department that our births, our marriages and travelling documents such as visas and death certificates when we leave this earth are issued. The issuing of these identity documents enables people of South Africa and our guests to assess the necessary services due to them. The provisions of services and benefits such as social grants are enabled by the documents we receive from this department.

We believe this budget allocation will enable the Department of Home Affairs to continue to roll out its services to all the people of this country across various parts of our beloved country, including rural areas. The acquisition of more mobile

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 34

trucks will ensure that the people of Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape and Vuwani in Limpopo will receive Home Affairs services near their place of residence.

As representative of the people in this Parliament deployed by the ANC, we will play an oversight role to ensure that the department implement its targets for its financial year as outlined in its annual performance plan, as well as the implementation of the recommendations of the Lubisi report that include, among other things, the need to address the challenges with regard to visa application backlog, as evident by the arrest recently of the alleged foreign people that infiltrated our Mpumalanga province.

We are encouraged that the Department of Home Affairs has developed and is in the process of implementing an anti-corruption strategy. We believe the anti-corruption strategy will go a long way in uprooting corruption from Home Affairs as part of building an ethical and developmental state. So the ANC unequivocally, Chairperson and hon members, support the Budget Vote 5 of the Department of Home Affairs. I thank you, Chair.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 35

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

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

Declarations of vote

Ms N P MCINGA: I am Nolubabalo Mcinga from the EFF. Hon Chairperson, the EFF rejects the budget of the International Relations and Co-operation. This department plays a pivotal role in shaping South Africa's foreign policy and strengthening our global standing, yet it has consistently failed to meet its mandate.

Firstly, our diplomatic missions have not been effective in promoting South Africa's interests abroad. This includes attracting foreign investment and boosting trade. Our diplomats are inadequately trained and ill equipped which hampers their ability to represent our nation's interests effectively on a global stage.

Secondly, the department has not prioritised Africa. South Africa should lead efforts to foster regional integration, peace and stability across the continent. Instead, our foreign

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 36

policy lacks direction and coherence, failing to benefit not just our nation but the entire African continent.

Furthermore, our engagements with international organisations must be strategic and purposeful. We should leverage our membership in entities such as the United Nations, BRICS and the African Union to advocate for reforms that benefit developing countries and promote global justice and equity. This budget does not reflect such strategic engagements.

Human rights must remain at the core of our foreign policy, however, this department has not consistently supported global human rights initiatives nor has it ensured that our actions reflect our commitment to upholding human dignity and freedom.

Finally, transparency and accountability within the department are crucial. The management of resources, including the maintenance of embassies and consulates is common with incompetence and corruption. This budget fails to address these issues adequately. The EFF rejects this budget and calls for a radical overhaul of the department to ensure it serves the interests of South Africa and the African continent effectively. Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 37

Ms J S MANANISO: Chairperson, the ANC supports the Budget Vote for the International Relations and Co-operation, a key element of South Africa ... [Interjections.] [Inaudible.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Makamu. Hon Makamu, please, respect the House ... [Interjections.] Who? Is it Makome? Okay, Hon Makome, please, can you be orderly? Sorry for the interruption, hon Mananiso, you can proceed.

Ms J S MANANISO: The ANC supports the Budget Vote for the Department of International Relations and Co-operation, a key element of South African foreign policy and global engagement strategy. This budget is vital for advancing the nation's international objectives, firmly grounded in human rights, constitutionalism and global co-operation.

Our foreign policy reflects our national values emphasising human rights, dignity and equality. Guided by the principle of Ubuntu, our international engagements aim to foster mutual respect and solidarity, ensuring that South Africans' voice remains principled and strong on the global stage.

We are dedicated to leveraging our diplomatic relationships to create economic opportunities for our citizens, fostering

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 38

trade agreements, facilitating business delegations and ensuring that our embassies and consulates serve as hubs of economic activities.

This strategic focus on international partnerships and investment is essential for uplifting local industries and creating sustainable jobs. South Africa's contribution to regional peace initiatives has been instrumental in fostering stability and security across Africa. We are noting our peacekeeping missions as well, particularly in conflict zones like the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, that have earned us a reputation as a reliable partner in peace.

The 2024 budget includes allocations to support these vital initiatives, reinforcing our commitment to peace building efforts. Our stance on international justice and human rights is unwavering. We support the Palestinians. People shall struggle for self-determination and advocate for a two-state solution. South Africa's leadership in the UN Human Rights Council will continue to focus on anti-racism and supporting marginalised regions promoting policies that uphold dignity, equality and justice for all.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 39

The budget for International Relations and Co-operation is crucial for driving economic diplomacy and fostering peace and engaging multilaterally for a sustainable and just global order. The ANC supports this Budget Vote as it aligns with our commitment to a prosperous and equitable state for all South Africans. I thank you.

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

Vote No 7 - National School of Government- put

Declarations of vote

Ms M MAKESINI: Chairperson, the EFF rejects the budget allocation of the National School of Government. We believe that the current allocation fails to deliver the intended benefits and represent the misuse of public funds. The National School of Government programme does not effectively assist our councillors and public representatives, failing to address the practical needs and challenges.

The funds allocated to the National School of Government are not yielding the real benefits, representing the misuse of renewable public's resources. The education, training and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 40

development initiatives currently offered do not produce tangible results for public servants and falling short to improve their performance of service delivery.

The National School of Government's focus is on participatory and people-centred methodology and overly theoretical and does not translate into practical benefits for public servants. We sought to reject the budget of the department which has failed our people after 30 years of democracy. People are still faced with racial and spatial inequalities in workplaces in our country. In the public sector, most key positions are still male dominated with women under represented.

The EFF stands firm and demanding more practical, impactful and accountability use for public funds to ensure the betterment of our public servants' system. I therefore reject this budget, Chair. Thank you.

Mr B S MABEBO: Hon Chairperson and hon members, this budget identifies and covers the key priorities for the National School of Government. Ever since its establishment in October 2013, the National School of Government has been an integral part of our governance. As the ANC, we are of a view that this

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 41

budget will further advance the success of the National School of Government.

The National School of Government has developed and delivered a wide range of training programmes that cater to the diverse needs of public servants. These programmes cover critical areas such as leadership development ethics and integrity, public finance management and human resource management.

The National School of Government has also successfully launched several leadership development initiatives aimed at cultivating a new generation of public sector leaders. Programmes such as executive development programme and the advanced management development programme have equipped senior public servants with skills needed to drive innovation and lead effectively in a complex governance environment.

By enhancing the skills and capabilities of individuals and public servants, the National School of Government also strengthens the overall capacity of public institutions. Strong institutions are critical for maintaining stability enforcing laws and regulations and providing essential services to the public.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 42

The National School of Government is essential for building a competent, ethical and efficient public service in South Africa, which is a critical priority of the Government of National Unity. Through its comprehensive training and development programmes, the National School of Government support the government's efforts to improve service delivery, implement policies effectively, and achieve National Development Goals.

As the ANC we strongly back this budget, understanding and appreciating its crucial role for the upcoming period. I thank you, Chair.

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

Vote No 8 - National Treasury - put

Declarations of vote.

Mr P J Swart: Hon Chair and hon members. as a member of the Finance and Appropriations Select Committee, and on behalf of the DA, I rise to declare our support for the 2024-25 budget. our approval of this budget reflects our absolute commitment to the people of South Africa and our shared responsibility in

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 43

the Government of National Unity, GNU. However, hon Chair, Mr President, while we stand in favour of approving this budget, we do so with significant reservations, particularly concerning the high cost of government debt. The cost of borrowing has become a pressing concern, and it diverts essential resources away from critical areas such as education, healthcare, infrastructure and social services. The increasing debt burden threatens to undermine our fiscal stability and limit our capacity to invest in our nation's future. Mr President, we must acknowledge the urgency of addressing this issue. As a government, we cannot continue to rely on unsustainable borrowing practices. It is imperative that we implement a comprehensive strategy to reduce our debt to Gross Domestic Product, GDP, ratio, manage our expenditures prudently and foster a more robust revenue base.

This includes reviewing our fiscal policies, cutting unnecessary spending on prioritising projects and drive economic growth and job creation. Furthermore, we must ensure that every rand borrowed is used effectively and transparently with a clear focus on delivering tangible benefits to all South Africans. We call for stringent oversight and accountability measures to prevent wasteful expenditure and corruption, ensuring that public funds are used for their

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 44

betterment of our nation. In conclusion, while we support this budget, we urge our colleagues in government to address these concerns with the seriousness it deserves. the future of South Africa's economy depends on our ability to manage our finances responsibly and to prioritise the wellbeing of our citizens over short-term gains. So, the DA supports this Budget Vote 8, in order to take South Africa forward. I thank you.

Ms M SIWISA: Chairperson, the EFF rejects the budget for the National Treasury. We reject the budget of a department responsible for managing South Africa's national government finances and to ensure transparency, accountability and financial control in the management of public finances, yet, it has done very little to combat corruption. Chairperson, South Africa is currently at a 15-year high debt at a 75% of the Gross Domestic Product, GDP. Our people are living below the poverty line with 32% workable population being unemployed, leaving from hand to mouth with no reserves in place, which clearly states that the country is also living under the poverty line.

The country continuously relies on loans to survive, and it's impossible for the country to have any economic growth without jobs being created. The increase in taxes will also not

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 45

resolve the financial status of the country, as many rely on grants to survive. Also, the Minister of Finance has failed to implement any believable plans that would allow the country to move away from borrowing money. We reject the budget of a department which has not introduced any believable policies to reduce poverty and vulnerability among the country's most marginalised.

The Minister has also failed to implement mechanisms that will ensure job creation, and not just *Expanded Public Works Programme*, EPWP. Our people need jobs that will allow them to buy decent houses, since this government fails to provide for decent houses with flushing toilets, and jobs that will allow residents to contribute towards the economic growth of the country. We reject this vote.

Mr J S MAJOLA: Madam Chair and hon members, when it comes to the financial matters, we regard the National Treasury as an engine. Madam Chair, as the member who represent finance on this Council, we have received a. number of reports. All reports indicate that we are in financial crisis. Madam Chair, we reject this budget based on the following factors. The poor revenue collection is crippling our effort to address the challenges that are facing us in this country, which will also

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 46

contribute to the fact that we will not be able to respond to the National Development Plan, NDP, goal, which are six years. from now, the 2030 NDP target, in particular, which is the very important one, the three, unemployment, poverty and inequality. Madam Chair, having mentioned the three NDP goals, unemployment, right now as we speak, it's sitting at 32% and it's growing every day. The second reason for us rejecting this vote as my other colleagues has indicated, is the high level of debt. Madam Chair, I will be precise on this. The level of debt milks 32,9% of our GDP currently, and is projected to grow to 25 years, if radical actions are not taken. The third reason why we don't support this vote is the issue of bailing out the *state-owned enterprises*, SOEs, Madam Chair, that in fact amend to self-generate the revenue. However, it's a vis-à-vis, Madam Chair, every financial year, which I believe it will be a case also in this year, we will be called to bail out our SOEs like Eskom, you name it. Madam Chair, the critical part ... [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: I'm afraid, hon Majola, your time is up.

Mr J S MAJOLA: Towards my closure, Madam Chair, we reject as the MK Party ... [Interjections.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 47

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Your time is up.

Mr J S MAJOLA: We reject the Budget Vote.

Ms S NDHLOVU: Hon House Chair and hon members, the ANC support the Budget Vote. Hon House Chair, the ANC's adoption for this vote is essential as it will determine the socioeconomic impact of the R34,9 billion appropriated to the National Treasury. Its task is to provide more broadly for accelerating the implementation of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, ERRP, provide for in for an increased infrastructure investment, provide for improved energy security and through municipal conditional grant expand investment in infrastructure to improve community access to basic services. Hon Chair, the vote demonstrates a commitment to implementing a credible fiscal framework that meets government revenue requirements while promoting a fair tax system. This will involve balancing declining tax revenue with increasing government expenditure priority.

Allocation to the tax policy as a programme amounts to R97,8 million over the period ahead, reflecting our commitment to a responsive and equitable tax system. The budget further continues to enhance the ability of cities and metros to make

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 48

sustainable contributions to economic development and generate tax revenue by implementing the catalytic infrastructure and development support programme and facilitating conditional grant through the implementation of township economy development strategic plan, in fact, the targeted metros, that is Cape Town, Ekurhuleni, eThekweni, Nelson Mandela and Tshwane. The city support programme will continue to provide support for specialised, integrated and participatory economic development planning. This is expected to result in 35 catalytic projects over the medium-term in any strategically targeted areas within metro cities, intermediate cities and rural towns. Similarly, through the Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant, NDPG, the department will aim to implement urban network plans through 20 infrastructure development projects in those targeted metros.

The Municipal Finance Improvement Programme, MFIP, will continue supporting the financial management reform agenda to address financial management problem in local government, hon House Chair. The National Treasury is a strategic player in driving the inclusive growth that our economy requires to drive our transformational agenda and ensure sound management of finances and economic efficiency. The Budget Vote strikes a necessary balance between the need to stabilise our public

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 49

finance and stimulate aggregated demand through social spending, by protecting vulnerable groups and preserving essential public services including the critically the criticality of aggressive infrastructure investment. We are confident that the structural reform as led by the departments and the Presidents will catapult the South African economy into a new growth path that will structurally transform our economy in the interest of all South Africans. I thank you, hon Chair.

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

Vote No 9 - Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation - put

Declarations of vote:

Ms M MAKESINI: Thanks, Chairperson. The EFF rejects the budget for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. We reject the budget of the department which effectively has municipalities collapse and is unable to collect revenue effectively, with all three spheres of government failing to meet the constitutional obligation.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 50

We reject the budget of the department which has no deliverable plans in place for the monitoring of service delivery. Instead, they continue to experience service delivery failure, especially in municipalities, like Msluti-a-Phofung, in Qwaqwa, in particular, concerning water supply.

The department also frequently ignores the findings of the Auditor-General when they are presented, and they are also ignored by municipalities. With systematic problem experiences in municipalities, such as Mafube Local Municipality, where workers are deprived to get their retirement packages despite the deductions made in their salaries. The amount of the daylight robbery that is happening in Mafube Local Municipality. They can't take their retirement. If they die, they don't get anything, but the third part has been paid.

The EFF rejects the budget. We have, on several platforms, said that we must close this department as there is no need for the Minister of Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation. Therefore, Chairperson, there is no need for the Deputy Minister as there is no significant role that the two Deputy Minister are playing in this department. We, therefore, reject this Budget Vote. Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 51

Mr T M KAUNDA: Thank you, hon Chair. Under your capable leadership, we are going to play our effective and oversight role over this department. Therefore, the ANC supports this Budget Vote. The country has a uniting vision that calls for unity of purpose for all citizens to have this shared vision. The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency plays an important role in ensuring that the nation as a national long-term and medium-term plan.

As we begin the seventh administration, the Government of National Unity will be developing a medium-term development plan which will have the key programs for the implementation of the three priorities of the ANC-led Government of National Unity. The medium-term development plan will need to include measurable outcome targets, and the department will be responsible for ensuring that all organs of states include these objectives and targets in their specific strategic plans and annual performance plans.

This vote supports the National Planning Commission, which is responsible for long-term planning, and we believe that the NPC plays a key role in the monitoring and evaluation of the national long-term vision of our country. The department and the NPC need to strengthen their co-ordination to enhance the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 52

capacities to improve policy implementation as a result of monitoring and evaluation.

Another key function of the department is the budget prioritisation process, together with National Treasury. We believe this process should be enhanced to ensure a nexus between policy planning and budgeting. The budget further supports the department's focus on the District Development Model, where we have seen champions from national and provincial governments working together with the champions at local sphere of government.

We are in a period of artificial intelligence. Where we observe robotic and many machines that are being introduced through IT. [Time expired.] So, we therefore support this budget.

Vote agreed to.

Vote No 10 - Public Enterprises - put

Declarations of Vote:

Ms M KENNEDY: Thank you, hon Chair. The EFF rejects this Budget Vote on Public Enterprises. Chairperson, we have. in

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 53

the past 11 years. seen the dramatic collapse of the state-owned entities under this department, resulting in the loss of hundreds of jobs and declining economy. The situation became even worse under Minister Pravin Gordon, who was hell bent and obsessed with appointment of cronies in the boards rather than fixing state-owned entities.

State-owned entities like Eskom, SA Airways, Denel and Transnet are expected to be self-sustainable, to grow the economy and create jobs for our people. However, in South Africa, under the Department Public Enterprises, SOEs depend on government bailout year in and year out, bringing too much pressure on fiscus. Many of them are engulfed by corruption, poor management, poor leadership and governance, as well as unqualified and incompetent board members.

South Africa has no common urgency for an understanding of SOEs, and that there were no commonly agreed strategic sectors and priorities. In addition to the absence of consolidated national repository for all SOEs, the government's ownership policy and oversight systems were inadequate. The quality of the board and executives' recruitment was inadequate. There was no clarity on the role of the executive authority, the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 54

board of directors and the chief executive to the governance and operational management of SOES.

Many SOEs currently require a massive injection of capital, and finance policies require close re-examination. Funding models for social and economic development mandates of SOE's were blurred and confusing, leading in some instance to undercapitalisation. Under the leadership of this department, our country, state-owned entities have gone down the drain and are instead used for cadre deployment and jobs for palls. Chairperson the EFF rejects this vote. [Inaudible.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you very much, hon Member. May I make a plea, hon members, especially to those that are attending through virtual platform: When you are requested to speak, switch on your video so that we can see you. That is in accordance with the Rule, as I have indicated earlier on when we started with this session. We need to adhere to Rule 22(23)(21) and also Rule 103. I now move on to hon Breedt of the FF-Plus.

Afrikaans:

Ms T BREEDT: Voorsitter, toe die VF Plus besluit het om deel te neem aan die RNE was ons oor een ding duidelik - ons sal

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 55

nie gemuilband word oor probleme nie en ons sal ons reg voorbehou om daar waar dit genoodsaak word, teen te stem. Die begroting van die gewese Department van Openbare Ondernemings is een so 'n geval.

Openbare Ondernemings was 'n mislukking van 'n departement. Dit het geen waarde tot die ondernemings onder hom gehad nie. Dit het slegs 'n bodemlose put geword waarin geld gedompel is en nooit weer gesien is nie. Daar kan niks vir die miljarde rande wat spandeer is, gewys word nie.

English:

Although, this is a legacy budget, that is perhaps the biggest issue. There is a new government, new priorities and new departments. This budget vote is simply a box ticking exercise, but looking at the budget, it does not address issues and does not speak to priorities that were said to be priorities by the previous administration, such as the unbundling of these enterprises.

The FF-Plus welcomes the fact that the GNU have decided to get rid of this department, this will hopefully have the desired effect on these enterprises.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 56

Afrikaans:

Wat egter steeds kommerwekkend is, is die geweldige hap van die begroting wat hierdie departement en sy ondernemings ontvang. Dit gaan beslis in die aanwasbegroting na gekyk moet word. Die VF Plus kan nie hierdie begroting ondersteun nie. Dankie.

Mr M G MODISE: Chairperson, the ANC welcomes, appreciates and support budget adjustments, including the reprioritisation of Budget Vote 10, as it will fit with the government's goal of improving the performance of SOEs as drivers of economic growth, mobilisers of development and mechanism for achieving a better. For example, there is a noticeable increase in budget allocation in Program 2, at an average annual rate of 5%.

This increase is, which is reprioritised from consulting and travel across the DPE program, seeks to accelerate the government's goal of reforming SOEs through enhancing the work of the Presidential SOE Council. This increase also provides support to the DPE to improve its monitoring capacity and capabilities, aimed at ensuring that SOE comply with the funding conditions set by the National Treasury to avoid a waste of resources.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 57

More crucially, this increase an attempt by government to direct resources through the DPME, towards expediting the implementation of the recommendation from the Zondo Commission. There is a noticeable increase in budget allocation in Program 1, at an average annual rate of 4,8%, with the compensation of employees being responsible for the lion's share of the allocated budget.

It is important to note that most of the targets of the DPME, for the 2024-2025 financial year, are mainly reports and are very complex. These reports require specialised skills and the desired full complement of the staff. Henceforth, the increase in the budget allocation in this program is an attempt by the government to fill these critical vacancies in the DPME without any reservations.

Further, the reforms and restructuring plans implemented across SOEs stand a better chance of success and of being effective it if the administrative capacity of the DPE is complemented with skilled personnel. Of course, Madam Chair, there is no additional allocation as the FF=Plus want us to believe, to the SOEs, in the 2024-2025 financially.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 58

However, the underlying implication of this is not that the government has ignored the role that the public investment can and should play in correcting the long deficiencies in the SOE, especially in the long-term development. Rather, the emphasis is put on the stabilisation of the fiscal policy, which must not be downplayed as an important role in the public investment of all kinds in the SOE. It is against this background that we support the budget. Thank you.

Vote is agreed to (with Economic Freedom Fighters, Freedom Front-Plus and MK Party dissenting).

Vote No 11 - Public Service and Administration - put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr K CEZA: Chairperson, the Economic Freedom Fighters rejects the Budget Vote 11 - Public Service and Administration. We reject the budget of a department whose aim is to promote ethical and public service and to prevent and combat corruption, yet it is notorious for doing the exact opposite.

There is no toll-free hotline that we have seen that is available to the public to report and protect whistleblowers, starting here in the Western Cape. Too many whistleblowers

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 59

tell us that they are not protected from doing so here in the Western Cape. Instead, the newspapers are mobilised against them to peddle a particular narrative to protect the Western Cape government. And that is propaganda peddled to silence our people and accept their condition as a godsend.

This is strange propaganda, to say the least. It is a bias and an obstacle that must be confronted, because it deprives our people of the revolutionary content of speaking out against grievances. We oppose the budget of this department because it will not solve some of the glaring and stagnant issues concerning the manner in which residents of ward 11 under the capable leadership of councillor Mafia Surprise Fane in Nkomazi due to bias in the manner in which the services of this municipality are delivered.

The same can be said about a 58-year-old official who was recently employed in the Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality who works as a traffic officer and occupies a manager's position. The department must ensure that corruption is punished, and fraudulent activities are nipped in the butt.

Chairperson, the EFF firmly believes that government departments and local government must eliminate the use of

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 60

consultants by developing internal capacity and cease employing consultants who charge exorbitant fees for strategic advice. Consequently, the department's budget does not instil confidence in its ability to address the uncertainties surrounding inequalities in the effective allocation of resources to communities, especially considering the historical disparities in budget distribution, particularly concerning rural municipalities. Many communities continue to suffer due to the ineffective use of allocated resources stemming from a lack of capacity. The EFF rejects this Budget Vote. Thank you.

Mr E NZIMANDE: Hon Chair, hon members, join us in rejecting this budget on the following grounds.

IsiZulu:

... akuhlangane imihlathi eyazanayo.

English:

This budget, as we have also seen in recent years, will definitely perpetuate the widening of the wage gap that we have seen, the apartheid wage gap. And for that reason, we will definitely not support the budget. Secondly, this is the approach that the department has taken in recent years and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 61

will continue to take, and probably will continue to take in the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF, period, that people who have a neo-liberal agenda will still argue and influence that we need a lean and mean public service in the face of high unemployment.

There are no strategies in the plans to show the collaborative work between the two departments, the Department of Public Service and Administration, DPSA, and Public Service Commission, PSC, to implement findings, in particular on irregular appointments. The classical example of those irregular appointments, they highly affect our people on a service point. Like in the three big hospitals in Gauteng: the Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital, Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital and Steve Biko Academic Hospital.

Three of those senior managers do not have the necessary qualities, and they deal with the lives of our people. The only conclusive view we have is that they are being used as economic ambassadors to pursue corruption. Because we have seen that in one month alone, more than R100 million were spent on big projects and benefited the companies that are also involved in the death of Babita Deokoran from Tembisa.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 62

So, this issue is of fundamental importance and shows that there is no will, to fight corruption.

As the overseer of the working conditions of public servants, the budget has no regard for the real challenges, it is the one that informs the needs, not the other way around. Public servants have been denied a pay rise in recent years and as it is now, I guess. Thank you.

Mr B S MABEBO: Hon Chair, greetings to you, as the ANC, we are of the view that the budget will further advance the developments of public service and administration. This budget will assist public service and administration in pursuit of its own vision and mission of a professional, productive and responsive public service and administration. And the establishment of norms and standards to ensure that the state machinery functions optimally, and that such norms and standards are adhered to.

Public service and administration, as the department responsible for running the civil service and organising it, has a responsibility to take charge of things such as public administration, integrity, government information technology, IT, service and labour relations for government personnel. The

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 63

implementation of professionalisation framework in the public service will improve the capability of the state, as the framework is underpinned by meritocracy and creating an environment.

The increase in access to cell phones and the Internet creates e-government opportunities which can create opportunities to enhance service provision. We welcome this priority in the budget and believe that through increasing innovation in the public service, we can accelerate the resolution of challenges impacting our society.

Another key matter for the public service is insurance compliance with legislation and strengthening discipline management system. We must ensure consequence management in public service and that we are developing our approach to public service. Public administrators are responsible for turning policies into actionable programmes and services that benefit the community. This includes everything from healthcare and education to infrastructure and environmental protection.

In times of crisis, such as natural disasters or pandemics, public administrator's co-ordinate responses and ensure that

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 64

resources are efficiently allocated to those in need. As we continue to build and develop a developmental state, the ANC would like to reiterate that it supports the Budget Vote for Public Administration and Services. Thank you.

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

Vote No 12 - Public Service Commission - put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr K CEZA: Chairperson, the EFF rejects the Budget Vote of the Public Service Commission. The mandate of this department is to empower, investigate, monitor and evaluate the organisation and the administration of the public services. However, this department is not fulfilling its core mandate. And in some instances, the role of the Public Service Commission has been undermined.

The Auditor-General's findings on the construction of Loretlweng Primary School in Ganyesa, Northwest indicated irregularities and wasteful expenditure. This construction, which started in December 2016, was scheduled for completion in January 2020. In September 2020, after R12,69 million was

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 65

spent of public works in Northwest terminated the contract due to poor workmanship. No replacement was made, and the project was stopped due to ongoing legal proceedings between the contractor and the department.

Chairperson, there is also the Department of Health in Mpumalanga which has an unfinished R1,4 billion project in Middelberg Hospital. The construction started in 2017 and again set to be completed in 2020 and has not been completed to date. There is no accountability as to why has it taken over seven years to finish this hospital while people do not have access to quality healthcare.

When the EFF visited the unfinished hospital, we were confronted with reports indicating that the ends are far off and 58% of the work has been completed, there are constant uncertainties and shifting of goalposts at the expense of the end users. This is clear evidence that there is neither value for money nor adherence to public value.

Chairperson, we therefore reject the budget of a department which has failed to ensure accountability cycles are protected in terms of planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement in all government structures by ensuring

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 66

devolution of the Public Service Commission in sub national governments with focus on local government services.

Therefore, the EFF's seven non-negotiable cardinal pillar demands and open and accountable corrupt free government and society without the fear of victimisation by the state agencies. We are yet to see those values in this department. Therefore, we reject this Budget Vote. Thank you very much.

Ms S NXUMALO: Hon Chair, my greetings to you, I stand before you to state that we support the Budget Vote for the Public Service Commission. Ever since its creation and development, the Public Service Commission is an independent institution that has a responsibility to promote a high standard of professionalism, ethics and accountability within the public sector. Its mandates, role and function are critical in supporting our democracy and it's ensuring that the public service operate efficiently, fairly and at the best interest of the public.

As the ANC we are of the view that the budget will further help the Public Service Commission. This budget is aligned to support the. institution to ensure that the public service adhere to ethical standard and its conduct align with the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 67

values and principle of public administration. It is also aligned with the promotion of efficient, economical and effective use of resources.

The budget will assist the Public Service Commission to ensure that public servants are held accountable for their actions and that their actions are transparent and accountable to the public. As a liberation movement, the ANC still believes in the transformation of society and believes that the Public Service Commission has a key role to play in promoting ethical behaviour, strengthening accountability, improving service delivery and supporting transformation.

To further strengthen the commission, it will be critical for the Seventh Parliament to process the Public Service Commission's Bill, which will enhance the role and scope of the commission, as it will include local government. Which is a critical sphere requiring this focus. Despite the commission still requiring more resources, we believe that this is adequate capacity system and partnership to execute its constitutional mandate. The Public Service Commission is a vital institution in a constitutional democracy. Its effort contributes to building the public service that is capable, responsive and committed to serving the people of South

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 68

Africa. As the ANC, we are supporting this budget. Thank you very much.

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

Vote No 13 - Public Works and Infrastructure - put

Declarations of vote:

Mr F J BADENHORST: Hon Chair, this budget, like many other budgets debated today, is suffering the consequences of 30 years of corruption, mismanagement, cadre deployment and state capture. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure indicated that to accommodate the Cabinet-approved reductions of R5 billion over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period, its own expenditure will decrease from R8,4 billion in 2023-24 to R7,6 billion in 2024-25. The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure has indicated that the time has come to put South Africans first by investing more in growing the economy and creating jobs, by being prudent to the public purse and cutting down on perks. Minister Macpherson has already indicated that it is now time to turn South Africa into a construction site, to declare war on construction mafias, to halt the procurement of new houses and offices and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 69

refurbishment of houses and offices for members of the new Cabinet and Parliament, and start spending more on infrastructure supporting our communities.

To this effect, the Minister has already indicated that he is busy setting up an advisory committee in his office to guide his Ministry on infrastructure projects. We support the passing of this budget, not because it is a good budget, but because it is needed to carry us to a point where our Minister and his team can properly influence aspects of the budget for the benefit of all South Africans. I thank you.

Ms M MAKESINI: Chairperson ...

IsiXhosa:

... siyi EFF asivumelani nolu hlahlo lwabiwo-mali. Sibona ukuba olu hlahlo lwabiwo-mali alunacebo licacileyo elinokusa eli sebe phambili. Izizathu zethu zezi zilandelayo.

English:

The current budget lacks a clear comprehensive plan that could genuinely benefit our community. Infrastructure is the backbone of economic growth and is pivotal for development of skills that can create millions of jobs. To achieve this goal,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 70

we need a well-defined strategy that ensures the effective management and utilisation of assets.

We therefore reject the budget of the department, which is custodian of all properties in South Africa, but it finds itself wanting and not being able to provide our people with the basic infrastructure for schools, hospital, clinics and exposing them in the pit toilet. Thus far, until this revised budget is presented that addresses these critical issues with a clear action plan, we cannot in good conscience support this budget. Thank you, Chair.

Mr E NZIMANDE: Chair, I will be quick and very short. Like we have indicated earlier when we dealt with the speech, we cannot support the using of money on a budget that is not going to make an impact on the lives of our people. Therefore, the plans do not really have clear and correct performance indicators and outputs that will take us to the desirable outcomes.

The second part, the reduction of a budget for refurbishment and maintenance against the ageing infrastructure, in particular the one that deals with purification of water and other areas, is a cause of concern, which we believe it is

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 71

carefully calculated to finally reach to a point of commodifying water, as one of the members here prefers that we should have a graduated way of commodifying water through public-private partnerships and we reject it. The third part is that - like we have argued and we are still arguing, and we don't believe that, as the budget has been cut, like we said, on capital expenditure or capital assets, it will do any good for all spheres of government. We believe on those just fundamental points, we should be rejecting this budget, and we do. Thank you.

Ms T I LEGWASE: Hon Chairperson. The ANC supports the Appropriation Bill Budget Vote No 13 of Public Works and Infrastructure. The department has a major role to play in the construction industry and the built environment. Through the Property Trading Management Entity, the department is the custodian of government immovable property, and it must add value to the property portfolio through maintenance and development. The progress must occur in the maintenance of property and the cost of leases needs to be reduced. It is expected that there will be substantive progress in completing the property register.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 72

Since the formation of Infrastructure SA, the department has an important role to play in facilitating infrastructure development as part of the implementation of economic reconstruction and recovery plan. Critical to infrastructure development is the Welisizwe building programme, which benefits rural communities by enabling access to social services, jobs, and markets. This is also part of providing infrastructure for rural areas to enable the development of the agricultural sector through land reform to develop small and medium black farmers.

This will increase food security and produce poverty, inequality, and unemployment, as well as historic economic exclusion. The department has also been releasing land for special development and agricultural development. It is imperative that land that is released as part of land reform is utilised to redress the injustice of the apartheid past and not be utilised to create expensive housing.

The development of small harbours with the completion of the refurbishing of 13 harbours in the Western Cape is crucial to the inclusive economic development of coastal communities. It is expected that the feasibility studies of Port St Johns and Port Alfred will be completed in the financial year for the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 73

further development of small harbours to enable economic development. The Expanded Public Works Programme remains a major source of employment and skilling the people who would otherwise not find employment. The programme will need to ensure job creation in all provinces. The skilling component of developing artisans needs to be expanded, leading to small business development or formal employment. There must be work to be done, and progress needs to be made and be felt by communities in all provinces. Qualitative and impactful spending is what is required.

Sepedi:

Ke a leboga, Modulasetulo.

Vote agreed to.

Vote No 14 – Statistics South Africa – put

Declarations of vote:

Mr F J BADENHORST: Hon Chair, historically, the DA has usually supported the budget proposals for Statistics SA, StatsSA, even when opposing most others. We did this for the important and specific reason that we, as a party, subscribe to the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 74

principles of evidence-based planning and evidence-based decision making.

StatsSA provides the data that constitutes the evidence that informs many decisions of government including the important and catalytic infrastructure planning as well as the equitable share distribution; or so it should.

As we move to support this budget vote today, we must raise a concern that too many doubts have been voiced as to the accuracy of the recent census results. StatsSA has itself confirm that there is substantial undercount.

Substantial reduction in reported population in, for example, Johannesburg, does not match the lived experience on the ground and it's certainly not borne out by satellite imagery.

In fact, the assertion on the percentage of population living in formal dwellings has dangerous implications for both the planning of infrastructure as well as the funding needed to support the members of our communities who are in the greatest need of government services and support.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 75

A look at other similar anomalies shows that the rapid increase in the number of formal dwellings supported by StatsSA in the municipal area of, for example, Mfuleni, could not possibly be correct. There is no possible way that the town planning imperatives could have been met at the reported rate.

StatsSA performs a key function in our country. They must be appropriately funded in a way that enables them to do their work well. But if they spend their full budget and do not produce data that can be relied on, then that budget cannot be justified.

We trust that the ... [Inaudible.] ... working hard to restore their credibility and that they will put the resources made available to them to best use, ensuring accurate and timely data that guides the planning of all three spheres of government.

The DA will support this budget. Thank you.

Ms M SIWISA: Chairperson, let me first greet the President, Commander-In-Chief, Julius Malema, commissars, leadership across the province and the supporters of the EFF.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 76

StatsSA is an important body in South Africa as it gives clear indication of the population of the country.

Through StatsSA allocation of funds will be done to ensure service delivery.

Through StatsSA it becomes easy to identify how many schools, clinics, hospitals, houses are needed to ensure that the rights of people are not violated.

The body gives statistics regarding employment, unemployment, gives clarity pertaining access to water and electricity, access to education, whether formal or informal.

StatsSA exists as a credible source of data that should and must inform policy formulations and implementation. But over the years the StatsSA budgets have consistently been cut. That has compromised the quality, scale and scope of work that StatsSA can do.

Despite its important role and capability to give reliable information, not enough support is given. Disruption of the National Statistics Officers by external environment is of a great concern that needs to be looked into.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 77

StatsSA, through its conduct and survey, notice that the country is faced with triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

As the EFF we appreciate the work that is done by the people at StatsSA and their dedication. The work of StatsSA is able to accurately state where money is needed and the most and how it can be utilized.

The drafting of the Statistics Act Amendment Bill should not be used as an opportunity for corruption and tenders been given to cadres after it has been approved.

We as the EFF reject this report. Thank you.

Ms S NXUMALO: Chair, on behalf of the ANC I stand to support the budget for Statistics SA. The budget stand as a beacon of strategy and foresight and it encapsulates the vision and mission of Statistics SA, which are improving the lives through data ecosystem and transforming the production coordination and the use of statistic through optimization, partnership and innovation.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 78

Statistics SA, as the national statistic service of South Africa, has an aim to provide timely, accurate and official statistics for the promotion of economic growth and development.

South Africa is one of the countries that are not shy to collect data on demographics and economic and release the information to the public for scrutiny.

Our determination to honest data capturing and releasing of results is dependent on the profound work that is being done by Statistics SA.

This budget will allow Statistics SA to continue to perform comprehensive, demographic, economic and social census and survey analysing of the collected data.

The publishing of four reports that provide insight into various aspects in the South African society and economy, the investment in infrastructure and technology to ensure accurate and efficient data collection and processing.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 79

Statistics SA will continue to train and develop its staff's skills and maintain high standards of statistical analysis and reporting.

Statistics are critical for planning and measuring various development indicators.

StatsSA enables the government to make data an evidence-based decision. Statistics SA's data from time to time is used to ensure equitable distribution of government services, the allocation of government funds amongst various regions for education, health services and other sectors. Other uses of the data also ... [Inaudible.] ... of electoral district of national and local level in the measurement of the impact of industrial development.

The ANC firmly supports the budget after realizing and acknowledging its vital contribution to the advancement of the national democratic revolution through a developmental state.

Therefore, as the ANC we are supporting the budget. Thank you very much, Chair.

Vote Agreed to.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 80

Vote No 15 - Traditional Affairs - put

Declarations of vote:

Mr K CEZA: Chairperson, the EFF rejects vote 15 on Traditional Affairs. The Department of Traditional Affairs' main aim is to coordinate traditional affairs activities across government through development of appropriate policies, norms and standards.

Yet, there are underlying circumstances which underscores the lack of attention on outstanding traditional communities' issues.

Firstly, the reality is that in terms of public education and community engagement, we have submitted in this House before that the budget will not be able to cater for many of its programmes and sub-programmes such as implementation of the Customary Initiation Act, particularly as it relates to awareness of rural areas where initiation processes are mostly practiced. It is not clear how these programmes and objectives are reflective of the poor circumstances that continue to plague traditional surgeons in areas such as Libode and Port St Johns in the Eastern Cape.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 81

Secondly, there is no visible participation of traditional authorities in municipalities' local economic development in which there can be economic activities for the benefit of the otherwise unemployed and inactive traditional communities. Instead, what you see in this space are disputes over who will or not secure tenders.

Thirdly, there are issues of political interference yet to be resolved into the mismanagement which demands urgent attention and reform in the area of traditional authorities in this country.

There is chronic lack of disputes and claims resolution in traditional communities such as Emangweni, in Estcourt KwaZulu-Natal, where violence ensued, while people fled from their homes to take cover in nearby forest.

The same can be said about the non-recognition of Amahlubi nation in the Eastern Cape and Amabhaca, and the issue of King Sigcawu Ahlangene ...

IsiXhosa:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 82

... wamaXhosa ongenayo nendlu le yokuhlala eyinkokheli.
Masiyithete nje phandle siyibhentsise into yokuba amakhosi
kufuneka athathwe ...

English:

... serious in this country because Amakhosi are at the same
status as the President. So, the benefits cannot be
subservient. The benefits of Amakhosi because ...

IsiXhosa:

... ngabantu abazalelweyo ...

English:

... they don't come after five-year term and go, they are born
to be leaders and as custodians of the land and custodians of
the culture they must be taken seriously in this country. You
can't give an excuse that Inkosi must be [Time expired] ...
[Inaudible.] ... given money for 70% ... thank you very much,
Chairperson.

Mr E NZIMANDE: Hon Chair ...

IsiZulu:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 83

... ngiyabonga kakhulu nokuthi nje ngizolandelwa inkosi yami ezokhuluma emuva kwami. Izobe ingiphoxile nje ukuthi bese ingalandeli lokhu engizokusho ngomlomo. Inkosi yami ngizokwendlalela yona ukuthi nanoma kuthiwa kuyafiwa kube yimi ofa kuqala. Ngeke nje ihambisane nabantu esisathi sifuna umzimba kaBhambatha abawufihla nanamhlanje esingazi ukuthi washona kuphi.

English:

We as the MK Party reject the budget for the following reasons:

The budget and the plans perpetuate the subordination of traditional leaders to government's spheres, co-operative government, as contained in the mission statement of the department, contrary, definitely to what we aspire to achieve.

The traditional leaders must be accorded the judicial powers as owners of the land, not to perpetuate a situation where they are reduced to be ...

IsiZulu:

... abafana nje ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 84

English:

... with caps in hand.

The budget that is allocated undermines the rightful role the traditional leaders play in making final determination on policies preserving on our culture, beliefs, tradition, values and African ethical behaviour.

We shall only support a budget that is going to elevate our traditional leaders above this constitutional arrangement that makes Parliaments and municipalities to be above our kings, queens and other traditional leaders.

We shall support a budget that is showing a desire to ... with plans that are aimed at replacing the applicable legal framework with the ones that elevate our kings, queens and traditional leaders.

IsiZulu:

Ngalokho nje, Sihlalo, ngibonga kakhulu. Ngiyazi inkosi yami izongivumela.

English:

Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 85

Adv M NONKONYANA: Hon Chairperson and hon members, the Department of Traditional Affairs in South Africa is a pivotal institution dedicated to the recognition, support and development of traditional and Khoi-San leadership and their communities.

Established to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of the nation's diverse ethnic groups, Traditional Affairs plays an essential role in fostering the needed social cohesion, promoting development and integrating traditional governance with traditional institution, in line with Chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

The ANC, therefore, supports the budget for the Department of Traditional Affairs.

Traditional leadership has long been a centrepiece of African societies, pre-dating colonial rule and the establishment of modern states.

In South Africa traditional leaders have historically played significant roles in governance, social organization and cultural preservation.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 86

The colonial and apartheid eras, however, sought to undermine and control traditional leadership, stripping it of its autonomy and distorting its functions to serve the interest of the state.

With the advent of democracy in 1994, there was a renewed focus on restoration and recognition of the role of traditional leadership within the democratic South Africa. Cause led by the mighty ANC.

The budget will continue to enshrine the role of Traditional Affairs both in our democracy and our communities.

This budget will also help Traditional Affairs with its mandates of recognizing and supporting traditional leadership, promoting of cultural heritage and integrating traditional institution with democratic governance.

Traditional Affairs has been instrumental in developing and implementing policies that recognize and support traditional leadership.

Traditional Affairs has also initiated initiatives such as cultural festivals, heritage preservation projects and support

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 87

of indigenous knowledge systems. And this indicates that Traditional Affairs has played a crucial role in promoting and preserving South Africa's cultural heritage.

The ANC further believe that the traditional leadership has a critical role in spatial planning and increasing access to land, particularly in communal land, economic development role played by traditional leaders in South Africa ...

IsiXhosa:

USIHLALO WENCOP: Camagu! Camagu! Camagu! Enkosi. Siyabulela.

English:

Adv M NONKONYANA: Chairperson, I hear men say bayethe, and women ululating. Thank you, Chairperson. [Laughter.]

Vote agreed to.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon members, the proceedings are now suspended until 13:00. Thank you.

Business suspended at 12:17

The COUNCIL RESUMED AT 13:00.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 88

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Good afternoon, hon members. I hope you had a good launch and let us get on with the rest of the day's work.

Vote No 16 - Basic Education - put.

Declarations of vote:

Ms J M ADRIAANSE: Hon Deputy Chairperson, today we would like to speak on the critical importance of our Basic Education Budget Vote. This budget is not merely a financial player. It is a cornerstone of our nation's future. By investing in quality basic education we empower our youth, reduce inequality and foster economic growth for generations to come.

Our focus must be on enhancing infrastructure. No more pit toilets, ensuring the safety of both teachers and learners as violence at school hinders performance. Providing comprehensive teacher training and learner support to guarantee a world class education for every child of this country.

We must breach the gap between urban and rural schools ensuring equitable resources for all. As far as early

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 89

childhood development, skilfully trained teachers must be deployed for this critical phase of learning.

Accountability and transparency in spending are paramount to maximise the impact of every rand allocated. Let us commit to this budget, not just as a fiscal responsibility but as a profound investment in our nation's prosperity. Together, we can build a brighter educated future for all South Africans. The DA supports this budget. I thank you.

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGOSE: Hon Deputy Chairperson, we acknowledge and notes that the department is struggling and having a challenge under the government of national unity, GNU, to device solutions to save the collapsing Department of Basic Education.

So, today we are going to present to you some of the many solutions that we brought to this House on how to rescue the collapsed Department of Basic Education.

The department must train an additional 40 000 Early Childhood Development, ECD, practitioners with nothing less than 50% of them being women and young people. They must permanently employ all these ECD practitioners and have them operate on a

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 90

fulltime basis. We say this because we propose that early childhood development must be made compulsory from the age of three. Children must be familiar with the environment of learning. There must be medical interventions in place, like occupational therapy that is accessible from an early age, so that there is optimal impact and timeous intervention where the need be.

The department must achieve universal coverage of technology with speed and intentionality. It must ensure that no school in rural, townships and informal settlements are left behind in this regard. We have gone tired to see immediate interventions in basic education elite schools are concerned but snail pace with those in townships, rural areas and informal settlements and where the poor reside.

The department must compile a registry of decaying infrastructure of schools across the country in all provinces and revitalise our schools with speed. This department promised Durban Deep Primary in Roodepoort that a new school will be built by 2023; it still has not happened. Our children t this school do not have ablution facilities. They study with one hand holding a book and the other holding a broken chair they are sitting on.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 91

This contents with the assertiveness during learning and thus works against their optimal performance in class and essentially is a barrier to their right to education.

Deputy Chairperson, as from tomorrow, 32 000 young people in Gauteng will be without jobs. These are the same people that President Cyril Ramaphosa spoke about, claiming to have created jobs for thousands and thousand teacher assistants. These are the same people that the Premier Panyaza Lesufi paraded in front of cameras, claiming to have created jobs for them. Two weeks later, after all those media crusades, these young people will be unemployed as from tomorrow.

We demand that the Department of Basic Education must renew their contracts with immediate effect and permanently absorb them!

We will no longer allow you to mislead the nation while you destroy young people with fake jobs that are unsustainable.

Lastly, establish specialised autism schools that are fully equipped with tailored educational resources and trained staff to provide inclusive educational support and material to children on the spectrum. Autistic children deserve quality

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 92

education, and they deserve support and you have not been able to provide this, more especially in poor and district communities! We reject this Budget Vote because it does not respond to the needs of our people and the primary challenges of this department! [Time expired.]

Ms Z N NGCOBO: Hon Deputy Chairperson, we as the MK party strongly object to the proposed budget for basic education. Today we want to outline the concerns starting with the most critical issue. Inadequate funding for teacher training and development. This is the foundation of quality education. It is essential that it must be addressed first.

With regard to teacher training and development, the budget's failure to prioritise teacher training will lead to a decline in educational standard. We must invest in our teachers to ensure they are equipped to provide the possible education.

To reclaim our dignity as a people we as the MK party establish in the indigenous languages as mandatory official languages taught in schools from Grade R to Grade 12 to be used also in higher education, legal proceedings and all official state communications.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 93

We will also eliminate all the remains of colonialism and apartheid from cultural and political lives. We therefore reject this budget. Thank you.

Ms T BREEDT: Hon Deputy Chairperson, as I said in the policy debate, this is a critical department that shapes not only the minds but the future of our children. This department has the responsibility to ensure that our children are prepared to enter the labour force or will be able to further their studies to become specialised contributors of our economy.

The Minister and the Deputy Minister; having a very short amount of time seem to come to grips with what needs to be prioritised. This is welcomed.

Afrikaans:

Wat egter steeds 'n bron van kommer is, en ek moet beklemtoon, nie die besluit om die begroting te steun makliker maak nie, is dit Bela. Die VF Plus is steeds bekommerd oor wat die Bela Wet vir ons skole inhou. Ons wil graag 'n beroep op die Minister doen om toe te sien dat daar afgesien word van Bela. Die enkele wysigings wat hierdie huis in die vorige administrasie aan die wetsontwerp gebring het, was nie genoeg om ons te oortuig dat hierdie wet nie net nóg 'n gejaag na

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 94

gesentraliseerde magsbeheptheid is nie. Ja, daar is enkele artikels, soos dat betogings by skole verbied word, wat goed is, maar in die algemeen is die wet problematies.

Die VF Plus is wel opgewonde oor beide die Minister en die Adjunkminister se prioriteitsverskuiwing na moedertaal onderrig. Dit is statisties bewys, en ek het gedurende die debat die navorsing aangehaal. Kinders presteer nie net beter nie, maar dit hou verskeie voordele vir hul integrasie in die samelewing in en ook uiteindelik bevorder dit die behoud van gedeelde erfenis.

Dit is onaanvaarbaar dat leerders in 2024 net in Afrikaans en Engels kan skoolgaan. Ons het dan 12 amptelike tale!

Alhoewel daar bronne tot kommer is, is ons bereid om 'n kans te waag op die nuwe Minister en vir die redes hierbo genoem, sal ons die begroting steun. Ek dank u.

English:

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Thank you hon member. Could I ask the hon Mpungose to please switch off the microphone.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 95

Hon Mpungose, please switch off your microphone. Thank you.

Mr M FENI: Hon Deputy Chairperson, the ANC recognising that quality and accessible education is essential for challenging socioeconomic disparities and central towards the realisation of a united, nonracial, nonsexist and prosperous society. We recognise that Budget Vote No 16: Basic Education is not merely a financial commitment to education. However, it is also an investment in our people and the collective future we share.

We are not going to be complacent. The ANC is committed to building on the democratic gains over the past 30 years and seeks to intensify the efforts to transform the education landscape to cater the various educational needs of our people.

To enable them to be empowered and active citizens who can positively contribute to the socioeconomic development of our nation aligned with the prioritise of the ANC.

This budget is concerned with improving infrastructure which all of us agree that there is a need of intervention at that level which will see an expansion in the establishment of more

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 96

schools. The building of more libraries and the prioritisation of learners, health and safety through adequate sanitation facilities.

Furthermore, it is concerned through improving educational outcomes through continued investment in school nutrition programmes which feed millions of learners everyday and consequently play a pivotal role in addressing the hunger and malnutrition crises.

We are encouraged by the commitments to the expansion and development of Early Childhood Development, ECD, centres, improving of illiteracy rate and training and placing of educators.

Despite the misrepresentations of the Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill in public discourse by populist, we remain resolved to its provisions which seek to improve school governance and prioritise the creation of an equitable learning environment for all learners, particularly those from poor and disadvantaged backgrounds aligned with the developmental aspirations of our country as reflected in the Constitution, the Children's Act and the National Development Plan.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 97

The ANC envisages that the Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill will be instrumental in encouraging collaboration amongst stakeholders to build an inclusive educational landscape and the sustainable eco system which therefore means Deputy Chairperson is fully supporting and behind this particular Budget Vote. Thank you, Deputy Chairperson.

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

Vote No 17 -Higher Education and Training - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGOSE: Chairperson, these are our prepositions in how the department of Higher Education and Training should operate for maximal impact. As the EFF, we are committed to only providing solutions in this Parliament so there is no excuse on why these have not been done for the benefit of our people.

The department must introduce free, decolonized education for all and advance issues of sovereignty, indigenous knowledge economic freedom in our education system and they must increase utilization of information and communication

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 98

technology and zero-rate all educational apps and content on all gadgets by passing laws to support this position.

The department must expand vocational training and education. What is currently on offer is unable to absorb over 200 000 of matriculants exits on an annual basis.

The department has not responded to these crises of our people exiting the Basic Education system and being left to wander in the streets with no education and no jobs.

The department must cancel all student debts. It must reintegrate back into the system all the students who have been financially excluded.

The department must reintegrate all university dropout back into the system and be sure that they complete their qualifications.

The department must introduce an annual scholarship including postgraduates' scholarships that will take 10 000 students annually to go and study at the best universities in the world. It must take back hijacked buildings and dilapidated government structures and make accommodation sites for

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 99

students in all of them. There must be a much more vigorous attempt at resolving the accommodation crisis of students than what you currently have to offer as the department, and you are hiding behind budget cuts is no longer feasible.

You must insource all staff in all institutions of higher learning and there is ample evidence in the universities they have conceded to the intervention of the EFF Students Command that called for insourcing of cleaners and security guards that insourcing is a viable financial intervention. The University of Pretoria will testify to this.

The EFF provides sound direction when we are said insourcing is preservation of dignity of workers and a viable financial management modus operandi.

They have not done so because it threatens the tenderpreneurship train of self-enrichment amongst the political connected gives you kickbacks to acquiring tender to provide what the state should ordinarily provide for our people with ease.

You must reopen all those nursing colleges and open those teaching colleges that you have closed, hon ANC government.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 100

You must institute that all institutions of higher learning teach 50% of all their courses in a South African language besides English. You must make it a requirement that all institutions of higher learning should offer degrees and courses in coding, computer hardware development, artificial intelligence, robotics, the internet and biotechnology.

You must establish satellite campuses that will focus on mining, mineral beneficiation, agriculture and agro-processing and renewable energy.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Hon member, your time has expired.

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGOSE: We reject the budget because you don't know that you don't have the solution. I had to show you that the issues of higher education can be resolved if you apply yourself political will.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): I would like to request, hon member, to please observe the time limits.

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGOSE: ... [Inaudible.] ... Chairperson.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 101

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Okay, switch off your microphone. Thank you.

Ms Z N NGCOBO: Hon Chair, we as the MK Party hereby reject the proposed budget for Higher Education and Training despite the critically importance of this sector in higher education affordability. Finally, we would like to address the elephant in the room, the rising cost of higher education. We must make tertiary education more accessible and affordable for all, not just a privilege few.

To claim our dignity as a people, we as MK, we will include a mandatory subjects include our education curriculum for passing on African history, values, ethics and morals with special attention to gender relations. We reject this budget.

Ms T BREEDT: Deputy Chairperson, unfortunately the same arguments cannot be used for the budget of Higher Education as for Basic Education. This is in no way a reflection on the new Minister, but rather on the legacy that currently torments this department. What is this legacy monster I am talking about. It is the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, Nsfas of cause.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 102

Afrikaans:

NSFAS is, soos hy tans bestuur word, 'n totale mislukking. Dit is geen wonder dit is weer, vir die tweede keer in minder as vyf jaar, onder administrasie nie. Dit help egter nie die departement se saak aan nie, en is die hoofrede waarom ons nie die begroting kan steun nie.

Die ideaal van Nsfas is edel, uitvoering is egter waar die probleem intree. Belastingbetalers se geld word verkwansel, sonder om studente werklik te ondersteun. Studente word keer op keer in die steek gelaat. As dit die een ding is nie, is dit die volgende.

English:

In an article by Nobuhle Nkabane:

Nsfas – the good, the bad and the ugly the following was said: “Opportunism and greed have permeated Nsfas at both administrative and governance levels. The sacred responsibility to act in the best interest of the many has been superseded by the narrow and selfish interests of the few. “The appointment of direct payment service providers – the so-called fintech companies – was neither necessary nor desirable. By virtue of the number of beneficiaries involved

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 103

and the profile of families directly affected by Nsfas funding, when something goes wrong with payments to students, institutions of higher learning or auxiliary support service providers such as transportation and accommodation, the impact is merely not negligible.

It is a very good article you should all have a read.

Afrikaans:

Die kruks is dat sonder daadwerklike verandering, gaan hierdie 'n bodenlose put raak, waar diensverskaffers ryker gaan word en die eindverbruiker – die student – gaan ly. My opregte beroep aan die nuwe Minister en haar span, is om die bul by die horings te pak en Nsfas reg te ruk. Dankie.

Mr M F MOKWELE: Hon Deputy Chairperson, upfront, the ANC support the Budget Vote 17. A primary focus of the ANC in this administration is the realignment of curriculum responsive and Pickle Elementary, PICKLE EL. The department has provided assurance to the committee regarding its intention to engage in collaborative effort with industry insuring alignment of Tvet Curriculum with contemporary industry and sectoral requirement. This collaborative effort encompasses the abating of programmes to encompass the needs of emerging sectors and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 104

the guarantee of relevance of imparted skills to the current job market.

The commitment and investment evident in the Tvet sector exemplified by the allocation of funds to integrate alternative forms of education into South African education system. The expansion of training and technical artisan skills, the promotion of technical and vocational education and training as the primary area choice.

The advocacy for teaching as a profession and the reinforcement of oversight and collaboration with the private education demonstrate exceptional potential. This potential warrant further investment as it heals substantial positive advances in Tvet sector, and skills hope for more promising future.

We expect confidence in the turnaround strategy put forth by the Minister with regard to Nsfas. The appointment of administrator task with enhancing communication and ensuring transparent reporting from the entity signifies a positive step in the right direction. The department acknowledges the necessity of amendment of Nsfas Act particularly in strengthening governance by addressing the remuneration and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 105

evaluation of board members marks a significant advancement. This highlights the government's dedication to facilitate the completion of studies for individual facing financial expulsion due to societal factors.

Through expanding higher education, we create equal opportunity for the youth and tackle the high rate of youth who are not in the employment education or training.

Education is one weapon to address the high unemployment rate by equipping our youth with the skills to participate in the economy. That's why as the ANC, we are still saying that we are supporting this budget. Thank you.

Sepedi:

Ke a leboga.

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

Vote No 18 - Health- put.

Declarations of vote:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 106

Ms N S DU PLESSIS: Hon Deputy Chair, on 18 January 2022, my father passed away in Swartland District Hospital, yes, it is a public hospital. My father might have benefit from the previous government, however he resisted it, which ultimately cost him a head of department position in 1972 at Stellenbosch University. His life shifted after a Damascus moment in 1987, and he dedicated the rest of his life to the service of others amassing very little worldly wealth or possessions. When he was diagnosed with waldenström, a rare nonhodgkin lymphoma that only 3% to 4% cases per million people per year, a friend of mine immediately said, thankfully he lives in the Western Cape. My friend is an accountant, and not a politician. Her statement gave me a pause.

Surely, the quality of public health care needs to be the same in all provinces, whether you need TB treatment in Mthatha General Hospital or in George at the Harry Comay Hospital. A public health care practitioner in Mahikeng should be able to get your full medical history with consent on an e-health platform if you have moved from Thohoyandou. Basically, regardless of the characteristics of birth or your socioeconomic standing, you should get excellent universal access to health care based on needs, and not where you are staying.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 107

For this to happen, the system needs to be attended to. An honest and accurate investigation into the state of primary healthcare centres, PHCs, has to be done. And a realistic evaluation almost like the triage system, needs to be implemented and closely monitored. The PHCs that are triage as red should receive immediate, innovative and urgent interventions.

In addition, an honest and accurate assessment on employee wellness needs to be done. It is not money that motivates our health care workers to leave public health care, but it is the desire to work in a system that gives excellent health care, not a broken system where women have to give birth in passages because of a lack of space.

I suggest recovering the monies from the scandals like the Tembisa corruption ring that caused Babita Deokaran her life. These monies could go a long way and would be a good start so that the people of South Africa are not taxed for the crimes of those who were meant to lead and represent them.

Also notice that I have not mentioned the National Health Insurance, NHI, the Gauteng High Court ruling regarding the certificates of needs in the National Health Act could have a

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 108

major implication on the implementation of this. Should the Constitutional Court confirm the High Court judgment. We do support the budget in order to get things done, however, we will hold the executive to account as is our ... [Time expired.]

Ms L H ARRIES: Deputy Chairperson, the EFF rejects the Budget Vote on Health. Just last week the High Court in Pretoria declared section 36 of the National Health Act to be unconstitutional. The court overturned the health legislation that dictates where doctors and private health care professionals may practice. While only 270 out of 800 unemployed doctors were appointed, and the country grapples with unemployed doctors. This budget does not make any provision to appoint any new doctors. The gross misallocation of public funds for private health care amount to R70 billion while private health care is pathetic. Our people give birth on the floor and sleep on the floors of hospitals. Our people must stand to long queues from 04:00am in the morning, and clinics are not open seven days a week, 24 hours a day and our people die while waiting for health services.

This budget is misaligned as the rich will benefit from the R70 billion in this budget. We therefore reject this budget of

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 109

the department which is known only for its widespread inefficiencies and staff shortages. There is a different in skills sets between rural and urban areas and poor patient management. Health care should be spread equally throughout the country. Most health facilities have acting CEOs and all other post management positions. This budget does not make provision of the filling of vacancies. An elderly broke her elbow and wait for six months now because she was told that there is no bed for her. Livingstone Hospital in the Eastern Cape sits with critical shortages of needles, nappies nebuliser masks, adult oxygen masks, etc.

Chairperson, these public health care facilities are overburden and overcrowded creating poor attitude of staff at hospitals. Therefore, we reject this budget.

Ms Z N NGCOBO: Hon Chair, we as the MK Party hereby rejects the proposed budget for health. The MK Party outlines the concerns starting with the most critical issue. There's an inadequate funding for public health programmes. This is the foundation of a health society and is essential that we address it first.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 110

In the public health programmes the budget's failure to prioritise public health will lead to a rise in preventable diseases and health care costs. We must invest in programmes that promote health education, diseases prevention and early intervention.

On the health policy, we will implement the National Health Insurance, NHI, scheme as an instrument to redistribute resources in the health care system away from the expensive private health care system. We will establish a state pharmaceutical company to break the power of private capitalist monopoly over the South African health system. We will also upgrade and expand health infrastructure rapidly bringing health facilities up to a minimum standards and norms. We therefore reject this budget. Thank you.

Ms T BREEDT: Chairperson, I said this in the policy debates and during the opening of Parliament's debate. The NHI will not magically fix the deficiencies we are currently experiencing in our health sector, at our clinics and our hospitals. They will, in fact, only exacerbate them. But more than that, the NHI will fail these institutions and not do much for the rest if only to over burden them and lower their standards.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 111

Afrikaans:

Die NGV gaan nie ewe skielik toeganklikheid tot die fasiliteite van gesondheidsorg verbeter nie. Dit gaan ook nie die beskikbaarheid van gesondheidsorg verhoog nie. Dit is 'n mite wat geskep is, om die illusive te help skep dat die NGV 'n magies unicorn [eenhoring] is en 'n oplossing vir Suid-Afrika se gesondheidsprobleme is.

Die enigste manier wat universele gesondheidsorg gaan realiseer is as daar verandering in ons fasiliteite kom. Ons het nodig om ons bestaande hospitale en klinieke op te gradeer, bestuur van hulpbronne moet hoog op die agenda wees en die talle Suid-Afrikaanse medici wat werkloos is moet aangestel word.

English:

In a shocking article in March of this year, the then Minister of Health, now Deputy Minister of Health admitted that during the 2022-23 financial year, the provincial departments of health that are under-resourced underspent more than R3 billion with less than R1 billion being carried over.

Of course, our hospitals and clinics are in a state of disrepair. It is because we do not spend our money and we do

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 112

not do the necessary upgrades to ensure that people do not have to go to the swamps that we call state-owned hospitals.

Afrikaans:

As hierdie departement net by die basiese wil begin, sal daar nie 'n nood vir die NGV wees nie, 'n nood wat die NGV ook nooit gaan kan oplos nie.

Dit is vir die rede dat die VF Plus nie geld aan die departement kan oorweeg nie. Ons kan nie die begroting ondersteun nie. Dankie.

Mr M P SIBANDE: Chairperson, the occurrences of natural disasters have not only had devastating effects on many South Africans, but also on the health sector. Our health workers continue to play a central role in responding to such devastations, and we applaud their continued dedication to their profession and the preservation of life thus the budget is committed to supporting health workers through improved working conditions, training and recruitment initiatives.

Strengthening our health infrastructures also remains critical to our ability to robustly respond and withstand health threats such a COVID-19 pandemic.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 113

The new hospitals being built and ideal clinic programmes are part of the realisation and expanding and improving the infrastructure preparedness against the continuous health.

We endorse the department's commitment to strengthening primary health care as the first defence of our health system and critical component of early detection and prevention. Such interventions are envisaged to reduce the burden created by communicable and noncommunicable diseases which constitute the largest portion of the budget.

We have noted with great concern the false narratives circulating in public discourse regarding the High Court ruling on Wednesday 24 July 2024, which declares that section 36 to section 40, of the National Health Act, Act 61 of 2003, is unconstitutional. We reiterate that this judgment has nothing to do with the National Health Insurance. However, with all due respect to the court we remain committed to the appreciation that the certificate of need is a global practise which plays a critical role in regulating the quality and standard of health care.

Furthermore, we remain resolved to the successful implementation of the NHI, and the pursuit of equality in

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 114

health care. Through the NHI we are committed to creating a health care system that realises health as a fundamental human right where access is not conditional to one's race, geographic location or socioeconomic standing. The ANC support Budget Vote 18.

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

Vote No 19 - Social Development - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Ms L H ARRIES: Yes, thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson, the EFF rejects Budget Vote for Social Development. We reject.

Afrikaans:

Maak jou oortjies oop en maak jou mondjie toe. Luister.

English:

We reject the budget which has failed to provide the Social Security system that uplifts our people out of poverty. We also reject the budget of the department, which has since the 6th Parliament, battled with the shortage of social workers. The unemployment has increased, and the numbers of those Sassa

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 115

beneficiaries constantly increased, which includes 760 000 graduates, while NPO's did render a crucial service to our people, must close their doors due to budget, that is slashed by department and some not getting funding from the department. While up to 20 million South Africans being severely food insecure with millions of kids going to bed hungry each night.

Deputy Chair, we stood on various platforms and stated that the current 370 SRD grant needs to be replaced with the basic income grant that must be above the bread poverty line and based on qualifications of beneficiary starting from 1 500. This budget also does not cater for thousands of child-headed households where children live still in a household where the household income is below the bread poverty line. This is a cruel act which ultimately deprived young people of basic needs and necessary opportunities for the wellbeing and development. This budget also does not speak to the 3 500 babies that are abandoned every year and the failure to provide baby savers in places where mothers can voluntarily surrender their babies. Therefore, we reject this budget.

Ms Z N NGCOBO: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson, we as the MK party hereby reject the budget for Science and Innovation.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 116

Today, MK party outlines the concerns, starting with the most critical issue.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON (Mr P Govender): Sorry, hon member, we are on Vote 19 - Social Development.

AN HON MEMBER: Wrong bus! Wrong bus! Wrong bus!

Ms Z N NGCOBO: Oh! As uMkhonto Wesizwe party, we reject this budget.

Ms D W FIENIES: Thank you, Chairperson, the department revealed that the theme for the budget work is: *Reigniting the role of the family*. The role of the family is instrumental in reviving the moral fiber of our society and encouraging a sense of collective responsibility. The theme draws us back to our roots of Ubuntu, where ...

IsiZulu:

... umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu ...

English:

... which is loosely translated to a person, is a person through other persons. Through robust collaboration with

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 117

various stakeholders, such as the communities, the private sector and civil society, we can continue to make headway towards creating a sustainable future for all by supporting the vulnerable. Working with the relevant government departments, we can challenge social ills such as crime and the new trend of protection fees which undermines our rule of law and people's effort to create decent lives for themselves.

The work of the department plays an instrumental role in strengthening a democracy and realising the commitments of the ANC towards running society of the systematic and structural barriers placed on our people. The barriers hinder their access to resources and opportunities to be active citizens, who can realise their full potential. We remain committed to providing comprehensive social services which address alcohol and substance abuse, the plight of gender-based violence and femicide, as well as making provisions to alleviate hunger and unemployment.

The budget will also help realise the ANC's commitment to support vulnerable groups such as children, older persons and people living with disabilities, through social grants, which act as a lifeline and challenge poverty and inequality.

Furthermore, the ANC is committed to expanding the support it

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 118

created through the social relief of distress grant by introducing the basic income grant. Thus, the budget is a representation of the continued policy commitments of the ANC and therefore we, as the African National Congress, support this budget. I thank you.

Declarations of votes made on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters, uMkhonto weSizwe and African National Congress.

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

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

Declarations of votes made on behalf of the Democratic Alliance, Economic Freedom Fighters, uMkhonto weSizwe, Freedom Front Plus and African National Congress.

Declarations of vote(s):

Ms J M ADRIAANSE: Hon Deputy Chair, we support the proposed budget. However, we urge the inclusion of free sanitary pads or at the very least the addition of this essential product to the zero listed or zero-rated items list to ensure dignity and health. If condoms can be distributed for free where choices

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 119

involved, why not provide sanitary pads for a monthly period which is not a choice? We must intensify efforts against gender-based violence and the monstrous acts of corrective rape. Strengthening support systems and preventative measures is imperative. We need more value for our money. Together we can build a safer more inclusive society. The Democratic Alliance does support this budget.

Ms S M MOKOENA: Deputy Chair, our President, Jacob Zuma, is very passionate about the equal rights for all and the protection of women and youth and persons with disabilities. We are a country grappling with an epidemic of violence against women and against our children. Therefore, picture a department that's supposed to tackle this head-on, yet seems to think that the solution is a bunch of hollow promises and underfunded shelters. Next, we can talk about youth unemployment. Over half of our young people are still jobless and unemployed, and what do they get from this department is a smattering of short-term initiatives and piece meal programmes. It's like trying to fix a leaking roof with the duct tape.

Despite all the noble sounding laws and policies accessibility in South Africa is still more of a suggestion than a reality.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 120

Public buildings, transportation systems, workplace, none of them have received the memo that persons with disabilities are people too. This exclusion not only tramples on their rights, but also robs our society on their available contributions. Our department is also notorious for its lack of transparency and accountability funds meant for critical programmes have a habit of mysteriously disappearing or being squandered on who knows what. It's almost as though there's a revolving door between the department and the black hole where public money goes when and vanishes.

In conclusion, the Department of Women Youth and Persons with Disability is a case study of how not to fulfil a mandate. We therefore as uMkhonto weSizwe will not be supporting this as we will be doing our voters an injustice. Thank you.

Ms L H ARRIES: Deputy Chair, the EFF rejects budget on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. We reject the department which does not respond to the many challenges faced by women and persons living with disabilities in the country. We reject this budget of a department which is responsible for our people still struggling just to access public buildings and holding cells at police stations. You must go and visit public departments and notice that there are not many employees which

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 121

are people living with disabilities employed into state institutions. Disability desks jobs are scarce in the rural outskirts of towns and are given only to selected few.

There's no opportunity for people living with disabilities in the rural outskirts. Public transportation still remains a nightmare for people with disabilities. As our current system does not accommodate the needs of these people, and this department has not done much to assist our people in wheelchairs, access public buildings or transport for that matter, while children with special needs still being deprived from their constitutional right to education and then needs is not being catered for in this budget and the land is still in the hands of the minority and less than 1% of land is owned by this people living with disability.

The EFF rejects the budget of the department that has failed the women of this country and has failed young people and those who are living with disabilities. We therefore ...

Afrikaans:

Ons verwerp hierdie begroting. Baie dankie.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 122

Ms D W FIENIES: Deputy Chair, to address the injustice of the past and create equal opportunities for all South Africans to prosper in our land, the democratic government has prioritised empowering the marginalised as a priority focus of our government programmes and mobilise the private sector behind this vision. Patriarchy will not be eradicated without society wide efforts to deal with it in our social, economic and political life. The youth will continue to be the greatest casualties of unemployment, substance abuse and marginalisation from the economy if we don't ensure all social partners have an obligation to ensure youth as beneficiaries of development is a central component of strategies.

Persons living with disabilities continue to face various challenges despite these challenges impacting on our society, our government has expanded basic education and higher education and training for the youth to equip them with the skills to participate actively in the economy. People with disabilities have also been provided with supporting facilities and equipment through policies of mainstreaming marginalised group, we can state the alleviation of the co-ordination of such programmes in the Presidency as enhanced government empowerment programmes.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 123

The development of the National Strategy Plan on gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, is one of the major highlights of the strength of the co-ordination at the Presidency level.

Laws have been amended to improve GBVF interventions and increase resource allocation has been achieved. The Budget Vote supports the critical mandate and as the ANC we'll continue to call on all social partners to focus on addressing the structural and systematic factors, which perpetuate the marginalisation of women, youth and persons with disabilities. We support this Vote to continue with its work, which includes supporting the National Youth development Agency, NYDA, which creates business funding opportunities for the youth and other training initiatives in the Presidency. I thank you.

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

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

Declarations of vote:

Afrikaans:

Mnr V GERICKE: Voorsitter, die EFF sal nie hierdie begroting ondersteun nie. Gevolglik verwerp ons die begroting. Deel van

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 124

die mandaat van die Burgerlike Sekretariaat is om gemeenskapsbetrokkenheid te verbeter en hulle faal natuurlik en misluk in daardie rol om gemeenskapsbetrokkenheid te verbeter. Ons kan oral gaan waar ons betrokke is en na die Burgerlike Sekretariaat se kantore soek en ons sien dit eintlik nêrens nie. Ons weet nie waar hulle betrokke is nie.

Weet u dat die begroting van hierdie departement R123 miljoen is en die ongelukkige gedeelte is dat 78,9% van hierdie begroting aan die salarisse van mense wat daar werk gaan. Dit beteken dat 20% van hierdie begroting gaan aan logistiek en aan resources [hulpbronne] ensovoorts om dan hierdie departement in staat te stel om met gemeenskappe interaksies te het. Nou, dit is 'n skokkende stand van sake en daarom kan die EFF nie hierdie begroting ondersteun nie.

As u verder gaan sal u kyk na die 2023-24 tot 2026-27 begroting ... maak hierdie departement voorsiening om slegs 17 mense verder aan te stel. Dit is bitter min in vergelyking met ons bevolkingsgroei. Dit beteken dat hulle eintlik agteruitgaan en hulle dryf verder weg van die gemeenskap af.

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 125

This department is also responsible to assist the police in policy formulation and in interaction with communities. If this department is not interacting with communities and stakeholders it will effectively mean that policies may be disconnected from the plight of communities that suffer crime. This is a problem ...

Afrikaans:

... want as u nie met gemeenskappe interaksies het nie sal u nie weet hoe om die beleid te formuleer nie.

English:

So, as the EFF we say much more needs to be done to involve the community and to develop an inclusive approach. In this instance the department fails miserably. They need to reprioritise their roles and responsibilities.

The community is the most important stakeholder and the Civilian Secretariat is absent to hear their voices. Just a reminder. There is a Constitutional Court judgement stating that community participation cannot merely be a ticking of the boxes but it's got to be a proper, comprehensive engagement with communities.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 126

Afrikaans:

Dit is wat dit beteken, Inkosi. Ons moet interaksies met die gemeenskappe het om te weet en ook om ons beleide te formuleer anders is ons beleide maar net akademies en tegnies, en kan dit niks doen nie. Daar is geen practicality [praktiese] ... daarin om die gemeenskap positief te beïnvloed nie.

Voorsitter, op hierdie noot moet ek u teleurstel en sê dat ons as die EFF nie hierdie begroting ondersteun nie omdat dit in gebroke is ... [Tyd verstreke.]

IsiXhosa:

Enkosi. Ndiyabulela.

IsiZulu:

Ngiyabonga.

English:

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Please take your seat, hon member. Your time has expired.

Mr V GERICKE: Yes, the EFF speaks Afrikaans, Chairperson. We speak Afrikaans. You must call the ... [Inaudible.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 127

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): You are out of order, hon member. I now call upon the hon E P Noe from the ANC.

Mr P NOE: Deputy Chair, we will not be drowned by the rejection and if he wants things to happen he must appropriate money for things to happen. That's why I stand here before this House on behalf of the ANC to support Budget Vote No 21 of the Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service.

The Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service, CSPS, remains consistent in terms of the development and review of constitutionally compliant legislation that contributes to the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, including the assessment and review of prescripts that, although well intended, inadvertently hamper Police Service delivery.

As outlined in its annual performance plan, the CSPS has developed the National Policing Policy that envisions a South Africa that enjoins a Police Service that elicits respect and that is committed to ensuring the safety of all people in South Africa by way of the police effectively executing its constitutional mandate.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 128

As part of moving forward, the CSPS indicated that in the 2024-25 financial year the strategic and policy direction of the department will continue to focus on the promotion of the police's professionalism, trust and improving the effectiveness of the Police Service.

As per our constitutional role as Members of Parliament, we will, through our oversight role, ensure that the CSPS implements its priorities in this financial year. So, the ANC supports Budget Vote No 21 of the Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service. Thank you very much.

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

Vote No 22 - Correctional Services - put.

Mr N GOTSELL: Hon Chair, overcrowding remains the most pressing challenge confronting the department. One of the principal contributors to this is the ever-growing number of remand detainees. In a democratic society, the legitimacy of the criminal justice system hinges on public confidence.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 129

The Department of Correctional Services is integral to the criminal justice system and public confidence in the department's ability to fulfil its constitutional mandate is parallel. Overcrowding and the persistent dysfunctionality within the Department of Justice, which inundates the correctional system with remand detainees, can no longer be tolerated.

The Incarceration programme, which commands the largest budget allocation for 2024-25, has seen an increase of R1 billion compared to the previous fiscal year. This increase comes at the expense of critical programmes such as rehabilitation and social reintegration, whose budgets have been reduced.

It is clear that this reallocation is driven by increased remand detainee members. This misallocation is not a reflection of the department's deficiencies, but rather a symptom of this functionality within the courts and the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA.

The DA has proposed in the past, and we do so here again, that interdepartmental solutions must be explored. We need to engage the Department of Justice, the courts and the NPA to

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 130

consider extending court hours to reduce the high remand detainee numbers.

It is noteworthy that targets for the inspection of correctional facilities and public private partnerships have been removed for the current financial year. It's also particularly interesting that the G4S public-private partnership facility in Mangaung has yet to be taken over by the Department of Correctional Services, contrary to the former Minister's indications. A core responsibility of the department should never have been contracted out. I hope the Thabo Bester debacle served as a lesson well learned.

The target for the implementation of the controversial integrated inmate management system has been set at 26% for the 2024-25 financial year. Systems like these should be the property of the department as it is with the new Department of Correctional Services developed electronic monitoring technology. Licensing agreements with outside entities exposes the Department of Correctional Services to unnecessary risk.

The DA insists that the Gazette in Cyber Space, GICS's Bill is long overdue, and it should be expedited without further delay. It appears that some of the work done by the department

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 131

in the previous administration has reaped some benefits. The astonishing rate at the Sun City detention facility just last week, to name one. For the department to continue the good work, the DA supports the budget.

Mr V GERICKE: Chairperson, I think it's important to state that we've got to listen to understand that the EFF has got a role and responsibility in this Parliament and also in the community and therefore we articulate on behalf of the community. We are not just here to drown the voices, we have something to say, Sir. Now, put that in your pipe and smoke it.

Chairperson, the EFF rejects the proposed budget on Correctional Services. This department is failing miserably in its constitutional mandate to inter alia, rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders successfully into communities. It is a known fact that even if offenders are first time offenders, the statistics show that those offenders are likely to return to the correctional centres again as repeat offenders.

This is a very serious indictment against the departments as it speaks about the failure of the Department of Correctional Service to introduce effective programmes to rehabilitate

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 132

offenders. Again, the 70% budget for compensation of employees is way too high a wage account. It creates the impression that this department is an employment agency. It is vividly clear that the department is incapable and not equipped to meet its mandate.

For this reason, the EFF proposes that overpopulation should be avoided at all costs. South Africa's prisons are also understaffed, badly designed and structurally crumbling. We therefore reject the budget of a department which fails to provide inmates with conditions which select human dignity.

The EFF also proposes a rapid transformation of the correction system and compel offenders to undergo education and skills development so that they may understand accountability and citizens' responsibility towards communities.

The system must prioritise corrective programmes rather than punitive action. It is incumbent on the Department of Correctional Services to submit proper budgets in order to achieve their constitutional mandate, Chairperson. Therefore, the EFF rejects this budget. Thank you, Sir.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 133

Mr S A ZULU: Once again, thank you very much for the opportunity, given hon the Deputy Chairperson and hon members. The MK party herein rejects this budget on the following grounds. The plans do not provide realistic strategies aimed at reducing relapse or reoffending.

The budget is inadequate for introduction or provision of new technological interventions aimed at eliminating possibilities of making centres breeding grounds for criminal activities. There is no cogent plan to fight the crime and corruption in the centres.

Hon Deputy Chairperson ...

IsiZulu:

Ngendlela izakhamuzi zaseNingizimu Afrika ezayilaxaza ngayo i-ANC ekade iyiqembu elibusayo, nathi futhi lesi sabelomali sisichitha kanjalo. Siyasichitha, Sihlalo.

English:

Ms O D MEDUPE: Chairperson, let me be clear from the onset that the ANC supports this budget. The core business of the Department of Correctional Services is rehabilitation. Through self-sufficient sustainable model, the department contributes

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 134

towards social relief efforts. The Department of Correctional Services workshops have been capacitated with the latest technology to enable them to produce inmate uniform, staff uniform and shoes in large quantities.

Offenders are capacitated to produce their own food on the farms and bakeries, saving to the fiscus. The ANC remains an advocate for self-sufficiency and skills development. Through skills development, meaningful contribution into economy is possible.

The rehabilitation of offenders and equipping them with necessary skills after incarceration will contribute to safe South Africa and reduce re-offense. Offenders' rehabilitation and reintegration are vital components of comprehensive and holistic crime fighting strategy.

It was reported that the matric pass rate of inmates at correctional facilities reached 93,2% with a total of 137 out of 147 full-time candidates passing the 2023 national senior certificates examinations. Part-time candidates achieved a pass rate of 84%. This is commendable, Chair.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 135

Offenders are taught many things such as building, painting, farming, plumbing and empowered with various other skills, while we also allow them to study further and even obtain postgraduate qualifications. This is to assist offenders to fend for themselves after they have served time in correctional centres and released back into society.

The Department of Correctional Services offenders into communities work together to better them through the skills acquired in correctional centres, thereby contributing positively to society. Crime is a scourge that continues to ravage society.

Fighting is not just the responsibility of government, but that of the entire society. Collaboration between government, private sectors, academia, civil societies, non-governmental organisations, NGOs, and faith-based organisations all need to come on board. We have a role to play. Together we can do more. The ANC support this budget.

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

Vote No 23- Defense - put.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 136

Declarations of vote:

Mr N GOTSELL: Deputy Chair, in the past five years, South Africa has seen a renewed reliance on its defense force. The SA National Defense Force, SANDF, was called in by President Ramaphosa, *inter alia*, to enforce the COVID-19 lockdown, support the police on other domestic security related tasks when the July 2021 unrest happened, assisted him to inspect flood damage in KwaZulu-Natal shortly after these unrest and to back up efforts when load shedding persisted amid allegations of theft and sabotage at Eskom coal power stations. These were all unfunded mandates, the Minister recently told Parliament about the increasing expectations on the defense force, but the budget doesn't support these expectations. The 1998 Defense Force Review determined that salaries should comprise 40% of the total budget. Of the current R58,1 million budget, 66% goes to paying salaries, leaving very little for training operations, improvement of facilities and the modernisation of military capabilities. The risk factor is a bloated SANDF and the resistance to modernize, modernisation of capabilities but also, of troops.

About R441 million has been allocated for the repair and maintenance of naval defense systems and enhanced patrols in our waters. That is nearly the equivalent of the money Panyaza

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 137

Lesufi spent on ridiculous tenders to fumigate some Gauteng public schools while he was the MEC for Education. Warfare has changed and left South Africa's force wanting. The SANDF deployment in the *Democratic Republic of the Congo*, DRC, is certainly not a *Southern African Development Community*, SADC, peacekeeping mission, with the South Africans paying the ultimate price, like when two soldiers recently killed in the DRC. Neighbouring countries like Angola and Zambia do not participate in the SADC mission, although both share borders with the DRC. The Department of Defense faces a mandate to deploy 2 900 SANDF members in the DRC at a projected cost of R2,4 billion, and the Mozambique deployment at a projected cost of R850 million during this financial year.

Only R2,6 billion has been allocated over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF, for peace support operations. Last week, the Treasury's allocation R2,1 billion for Operation Thiba and R750 million for Operation Vikela in Mozambique, being collectively R400 million less than the projected cost, will certainly ease the financial pressure on the SANDF. However, the escalation of the DRC conflict will certainly demand more funding. One way of prioritising the money that is currently available is to save SANDF soldiers deployed to the DRC to come home immediately. The DA supports

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 138

the budget in order for the Department of Defense to focus on a fresh defense review to guide the SANDF towards the lean, potent and agile defense force, which is what South Africa currently needs.

Mr V GERICKE: Deputy Chairperson, the EFF is vividly clear in its articulation, strategies and policies. The EFF will not criticise a budget, identify all the problems in the budget and then afterwards still support. This is hypocritic and is tantamount to witchcraft in this House. What is happening at the moment in this House, is witchcraft. Chairperson, as the EFF, we reject this Vote 23 on Defense, and as the EFF, we are grossly concerned about our soldiers dying beyond the borders of South Africa. We are sure that these deaths can be attributed to a lack of proper training and development of soldiers to keep up with international technological standards and the text of terrorists and their strategies. We therefore call on authorities to deploy soldiers according to their levels of training and expertise in order to prevent unnecessary deaths.

The proposed 2 900 soldiers to be deployed to the DRC, is a very high number and raise questions about our own domestic safety, if so many soldiers are deployed out of the country

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 139

and our own border control. The crime levels in South Africa have escalated exponentially and requires a much higher budget to the Department of Defense, to the assist the police to fight crime in strategic areas. The proposed budget of R3,9 billion over three years is not enough to render effective security services in this regard. As the EFF we propose the increase of the Defense budget, so that effective programmes in the Department of Defense can be rolled out.

The EFF's proposed modernisation for the SANDF to ensure that it remains agile and responsive to the contemporary security challenges, and our soldiers are needed to play a much bigger role in border control to prevent the entry of illegal foreigners, the system which was created by the ANC, and by nobody else, but the ANC alone, and assist the border control police to make sure that foreigners are documented when entering South Africa. They should not only concentrate to control African immigrants alone, but immigrants from Europe and Asia as well. Therefore, their services are needed to all border control points, to ensure that immigrants are registered and fingerprinted The EFF rejects this Budget Vote. Thank you, Chairperson.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 140

Mr S A ZULU: Deputy Chair, the Government of National Unity, GNU, hon, you are subjected to this for the next five years. We are not here on your invitation, we are elected to be here. So, we are going to represent our masses here. The plans are noncommittal on reviewing the integration process that led to the establishment of the SANDF that is further undermining the former liberation military veterans. The reduction of budget shall limit the capacity of the military to increase investment in new military equipment.

The reduction of refurbishment and maintenance budget shall limit the ability of the military to provide necessary security for our borders and the country. Noncommittal strategies from the plans to recapitalise Denel and the Armaments Corporation of SA SOC Limited, Amcor, and drives the state-to-state military co-operation, which brings countries together, further cement our position to reject this budget. Thank you very much.

Mr P A PHALA: Deputy Chairperson and hon members of the NCOP, as we commemorate 30 years of democracy, we find ourselves at the pivotal moment in our nation's history. The Budget Vote debate on the Department of Defense, reflect not just a financial commitment, but a reaffirmation of our core values

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 141

of peace, security and collaboration. Over the past three decades, South Africa has considerably demonstrated its dedication to global peace and regional stability through active participation in African Union and United Nations, UN, peacekeeping missions. Our armed forces, under the banner of the SA National Defense Force, SANDF, have played a crucial role in stabilising conflict zones and supporting conflict reconstruction efforts across the continent.

The proposed budget allocates resources strategically to uphold our severity, enhance our defense capabilities and continue our contribution to international peacekeeping efforts. It supports the vital initiatives such as the deployment of SANDF members in peace support operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, and Mozambique, aimed at fostering stability in the region amidst challenging security landscape. Furthermore, the budget underscores our commitment to modernising our defense infrastructure, enhancing our humanitarian efforts and addressing emerging security threats effectively.

In conclusion, the ANC stands in full support of this budget. It not only secures our national interest, but also reinforces our pledge to global peace and regional stability. Let us

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 142

unite in endorsing this budget as a testament to our unwavering commitment to a secure, peaceful and prosperous future of all South Africans. I thank you.

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

Vote No 24 - Independent Police Investigative Directorate-Put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr O J MOKAE: Hon Chair, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, IPID, is primarily responsible to investigate serious crimes committed by members of the SA Police, SAPS, and the Municipal Police Service. This is done to ensure our law enforcement officers discharge their responsibilities in line with the Constitution of the Republic. This in turn is aimed at enhancing police professionalism.

A major challenge to the directorate is the finalisation of cases which is further compounded with the current case management system that is outdated and requires costly updates and the payment of licensing fees. They plan over the medium term to develop a new system. Additionally, the directorate is appointing quality assurers and contract workers as part of

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 143

its backlog strategy to reduce its increasing backlog in the finalisation of cases.

At the start of the 2024/25 financial year, the IPID had a total of 17 988 active cases and 28 345 post decision ready cases. Hon Chairperson and members, when cases take too long to finalise, justice and closure is denied to the complainants.

The main appropriation for the directorate is R370 million, which is a slight nominal increase of 1,7%. The Democratic Alliance supports the consideration of Budget Vote 24 and will continue to play a robust oversight and monitor the proper expenditure of these funds. Thank you.

Mr V GERICKE: Hon Chairperson, the Economic Freedom Fighters rejects the proposed budget for the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, IPID. The statistics show that cases of police brutality, rape, torture, and assault have increased in recent years. The IPID is an important department for overseeing the police and protecting the rights of the public.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 144

The EFF is strongly committed to ensuring that this department is truly independent and not tied to or dependent on the South African Police Service because, at present, this department is reporting to the police service department. So, there can be no independence and the IPID cannot be subordinate to the same department in which it investigates. This represents a conflict of interest and results in dangerous offenders not being prosecuted and being covered up within the police. The EFF is well aware of how inaccessible this department is. The public have great difficulty in following up their cases or complaints.

This department is also understaffed and under budgeted. The EFF is serious about the independence of IPID in order to prevent corruption and manipulation of the criminal justice system when it comes to investigating the police. Oversight is a cornerstone of our democracy.

For this reason, the EFF submits that IPID be declared a Chapter 9 Institution and be part of the organisations that support democracy. It will strengthen democracy and allow the public to submit complaints without fear, intimidation, or victimisation. The EFF opposes this Budget Vote. Thank you very much.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 145

Ms O D MEDUPE: Hon Chair, the ANC supports the Budget Vote 24 of Independent Police Investigative Directorate, IPID. The mandate of IPID among other things includes the investigation of any alleged misconduct or offence committed by members of the police service. Thus, ensuring that the police execute their mandate within the parameters of law.

The IPID outlines in its annual performance plan that the policy priorities in this financial year will also focus on the establishment of policy and research unit that will analyse the trends to guide its policy intervention and informed decision making.

In addition, IPID will also establish an access and awareness legal strategy which intends to establish and strengthen relationship with rural communities as well as to create awareness on the IPID and legislative mandate. Furthermore, the IPID will over the next three years prioritise addressing the case backlog and investigating cases related to alleged police brutality, rape, torture, and assault. This will contribute to the reduction in reported cases of gender-based violence, femicide and special emphasis will be placed on case that involves women, children and people living with disabilities. The ANC supports this budget. Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 146

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

Vote No 25 - Justice and Constitutional Development - put

Declarations of Vote:

Ms N P MCINGA: Deputy Chairperson, the EFF rejects a budget of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. This department is the cornerstone of our democracy, tasked with upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice for all citizens. Yet, it has consistently failed to deliver on its mandate.

Firstly, access to justice remains a significant challenge, particularly for marginalised communities. Many South Africans cannot afford legal representation, and public legal services are often overstretched and underfunded. This budget does not allocate sufficient funds to increase legal aid and ensure that all citizens can access justice.

Secondly, the backlog of cases in our court is alarming. Delays in the judicial process undermine the rule of law and denies citizens timely justice. This budget does not provide

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 147

for necessary measures to streamline court processes or the adoption of digital technologies to improve and reduce delays.

Furthermore, the independence of judiciary must be protected at all costs. Recent political interference and corruption within the justice system have eroded public trust. This budget does not strengthen mechanism that safeguard judicial independence or hold those who undermine it accountable.

Our correctional facilities are another area of concern. Overcrowding, poor conditions and inadequate rehabilitation programmes fail to prepare inmates for reintegration into society. This budget does not address the need to improve prison conditions or expand rehabilitation and education programmes to reduce backsliding.

Lastly, public awareness and education about constitutional rights are essential. Many citizens are unaware of their rights and how to exercise them. This budget does not increase efforts to educate the public, ensuring that everyone understands their rights and their avenues available to protect them. In conclusion, the EFF reject this budget and demands comprehensive reforms to ensure a fair, efficient and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 148

independent justice system that services all South Africans. I thank you.

Mr S A ZULU: Chairperson, non-committal and absence of the strategies to advance amendments of the Constitution or replace it with African law and free the country from the bondage of colonial regulatory framework inspired us to reject this budget. Lack or absence of initiatives and strategies from the plans to profess for referendum on the scrapping of the Constitution and replace it with a parliamentary system having or having not a codified Constitution, inspired us to reject this budget. The lack and absence of strategies to establish a lower and upper house Constitution by indigenous kings, queens and other traditional leaders, inspired us to reject this budget. Accordingly, we reject this budget. Thank you very much.

Adv M NONKONYANA: House Chair and hon members, I rise on behalf of the ANC to express our unqualified support for the Budget Vote of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. Let us make it crystal clear, because that step by our forebears in establishing this glorious movement - the ANC - more than 100 years ago and following the principles underlying the national democratic revolution and the cadres

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 149

of the movement, we are going to jealously guard that course. No one will be allowed to derail us. No one will be allowed to stop us.

Secondly, I noticed that the ultra-left - the EFF and MK - in all the budgets, they want to stop the ANC to deliver a better life to all the people of this country, and our people will be the judge. You don't want them to get water? You don't want them to get any service in this country? You want their government to collapse? They will be the judge. Again, I see ultra-right in the form of another Government of National Unity, GNU, of the reactionaries, that is the FFPlus in four votes, allying themselves with the ultra-lefts. I see the ultra-lefts and ultra-rights merging, thinking and hoping that they are going to stop us. Let me tell you, forward ever, backward never.

The Department of Justice has pronounced that they have embarked on modernization and digitalization of justice services as its priority outcome, which relies heavily on ICT in its 2021-25 strategic plan. The ANC support this Budget Vote. Thank you very much, Chair. [Time expired.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 150

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

Vote No 26 - Military Veterans - put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr V GERICKE: Hon House Chairperson, we are set and adamant not to distort our history but to tell the truth to the people and not mislead them.

I hope this is the message to Inkosi - to the hon Nkosi.

House Chairperson, the EFF rejects the budget for military veterans. We reject the budget of a department which has failed to support and recognise military veterans for their contribution to bring about the realisation of a peaceful democratic South Africa.

This department is a very poor performing department and a disgrace to the soldiers and freedom fighters who fought for the liberation of our country.

Our research shows that only 256 soldiers out of almost 14 000 soldiers are registered for the veterans' benefits, Inkosi.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 151

The EFF disputes strongly the amount of nine and halve thousand quoted by the department who qualify for benefits. It is widely reported how military veterans are struggling without housing opportunities, medical benefits, pension and access to education opportunities. Many of these veterans and former freedom fighters are currently living in informal settlements, under bridges and in backyards.

The Department of Defence and Military Veterans do not have a proper technological system, storage facilities for data of veterans and they suffer a lack of professional administrative capabilities. It is because the position was given to cronies, and they did not know what to do when they got into the department.

This department has collapsed, and the EFF demands a radical overhaul of this department to give justification to the dignity and the rights of these veterans to access their benefits.

The department has no facilities for veterans in rural areas. Often these people do not have taxi fair to go to their offices. These veterans in many instances do not have money to cover even basic needs. This is totally unacceptable!

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 152

The EFF says that especially those veterans who fought on the side of the freedom fighters, to liberate our country should be prioritised and their dignity and integrity should be restored by compensating them for their very critical role in liberating South Africa, from white apartheid South Africa!

Afrikaans:

Ons kyk nie na ons mense nie.

English:

You have to pay, and the ANC must stop stealing the money and they must look after the military veterans. Those people paid with their lives to liberate our country, shot on the borders and they were standing there to liberate South Africa. We must look after our military veterans, as our people!

Mr S A ZULU: Hon House Chairperson, there is no cogent plan and commitment to review the current military veterans' pension to ensure that it covers their daily expenses and that of their dependents. Plans and budget is noncommittal to deal effectively with the plight of military veterans including the effects of the integration process that led to the establishment of the SA National Defence Force, SANDF. We reject this budget.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 153

Mr P A PHALA: Hon House Chairperson and hon members of the National Council of Provinces, NCOP, once again we are here today, gathered in this esteemed House, to honour those who have served the nation with dedication and bravery. Military veterans have played a crucial role in securing the freedom we enjoy today. It is Parliament's duty to ensure that they are supported and recognised for their sacrifices.

Over the past five-years, the Sixth Administration has made significant strides in enhancing the lives of military veterans. One of the most notable achievements has been the successful roll-out of the Military Veterans Pension. This programme has provided a crucial safety net for those who have given so much for the country.

The pension has not only offered financial stability but has also recognised the invaluable contributions of the veterans ensuring they can live with dignity and respect. Recognising the contribution of military veterans to South Africa's democracy promote social cohesion and national unity and fosters a sense of shared history and purpose. This recognition is not only a moral obligation but a step towards rectifying historical injustices.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 154

Over the medium-term, access to key benefits such as pension, housing, pension and education for military veterans and their dependents will be prioritised. This comprehensive approach supports the wellbeing of military veterans and contributes to the broader development of society.

Looking ahead to the Seventh Administration, the priorities would build upon these achievements and addresses new challenges. Support for military veterans will be strengthened and ensuring there are not only remembered, but actively supported in all areas of life.

Enhancing the Military Veterans Pension, improving the departmental efficiency and addressing housing insecurities remain critical priorities. To chieve these goals, support for the proposed budget is sought which will enable to maintain its commitments and invest in the future of the veterans. This budget will support the expansion of the Military Veterans Pension, the enhancement of education and health services and the continuation of housing initiatives.

As the ANC we support this budget. Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 155

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

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

Declarations of vote:

Ms N P MCINGA: Chairperson, the EFF rejects the budget of the Office of the Chief Justice. This office holds a critical role in maintaining the integrity and the independence of our judiciary, yet it has consistently failed to meet its mandate.

Firstly, the backlog of cases remains a significant issue. Delays in the judicial process not only hinder justice, but also erode public confidence in the legal system. This budget does not invest adequately in increasing the capacity of our courts including the appointment of more judges and the use of digital technology to case management.

Judicial independence is supreme. Any form of political interference or corruption within the judiciary undermines the rule of law and democracy. This budget does not ensure robust mechanisms are in place to protect the judiciary influence to hold accountable those who attempt to compromise its independence.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 156

Training and development of judicial officers is crucial. Continuous professional development ensures that our judges and magistrates are well equipped to handle complex legal issues and deliver justice. This budget does not allocate sufficient funds for comprehensive training programmes that enhance their skills and knowledge.

Access to justice remains a challenge to many South Africans particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. We must work towards making the judiciary more accessible including improving legal aid services and ensuring that court procedures are user-friendly and not extremely expensive. This budget fails to address these needs.

Finally, the Office of the Chief Justice must promote transparency and accountability. Regular public reporting on the performance of the courts can enhance public trust and ensure that the system remains accountable to the people itself. This budget does not reflect a commitment to such transparency.

In conclusion, the EFF rejects this budget and calls for radical meaningful reforms to ensure that the judiciary is fair, efficient and independent. I thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 157

Mr P NOE: House Chairperson, I think we need to take note that it's no longer rejection, but it is neglect. We must help them because they are neglecting their responsibilities. From Vote 21 up to Vote 28, and the next votes we will still hear neglect, neglect. From Vote 21 to Vote 28 we are dealing with security, and they are neglecting their responsibility, and this is a shame.

Therefore, the ANC rises in support of the Budget Vote of the Office of the Chief Justice. It's an apex court in our land and therefore we cannot afford to falter. A vote in favour of this Budget Vote demonstrates our commitment to the rule of law, to the separation of powers, to the administration of justice and building strong state institutions.

The Office of the Chief Justice was established as a measure of promoting and reaffirming the principle of juridical independence as guaranteed by section 165 of the Constitution. The Office of the Chief Justice has been allocated an amount of R239,76 billion for the 2024-25 financial year. The department has indicated that over the next three years the Office of the Chief Justice will focus on strengthening access to justice and the services of the superior courts and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 158

continue to provide access to judicial education and training, hence I said it is neglect.

Expenditure on compensation of employees accounts for an estimated 78,9%, which is an amount of R6 billion of the department's budget over the medium-term. The Office of the Chief Justice is a labour intensive department.

Given the economic climate and the budget reductions amounting to R446,6 million over the period ahead, the department has indicated that it plans to implement cost containment measure by, for example, reducing travel and filling of critical posts. I'm sure they are listening.

The Office of the Chief Justice obtained a clean audit outcome, which is an improvement from the previous financial year. Then the Office of the Chief Justice received an unqualified audit opinion with findings on compliance with legislation. That had been a regression of the Office of the Chief Justice had achieved a clean audit opinion since 2017-2018 financial year. Therefore, this improvement is commendable.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 159

Lastly, since the dawn of democracy the country has seen a rollout of courts throughout the country. To date, all nine provinces have at least one high court. [Time expired.] The ANC therefore supports the Budget Vote.

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

Vote No 28 - police - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr O J MOKAE: House Chairperson, during the budget and annual performance plan for this financial year, as the Select Committee on Security and Justice, we unanimously raised concerns regarding the strengthening and functioning of the community policing boards across the country. During the policy debate, my colleague raised the issue of spending in the vehicle protection versus spending for the operational and safety needs of the ordinary men on the streets.

We cannot overemphasise the second pandemic we are facing, which is gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF.

Perpetrators have unleashed a brutal war on the most vulnerable people in our society being women, children and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 160

members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and others, LGBTQI+ community.

The SA Police Service, SAPS should lead the fight as well as deal head-on with those terrorising our communities and for their heinous crimes. Hon House Chair with the total budget of over R113 billion, this department should get its priorities right to ensure the safety and security of all South Africans. Therefore, we as the DA hereby support the consideration of Budget Vote 28. I thank you.

Mr V GERICKE: Deputy Chairperson, the EFF rejects the budget for police. Communities are suffering the worst period of crime in our constitutional democracy. Our country is plagued with car hijackings, human trafficking, murder, violent crimes, gender-based violence, child abuse, etc.

The police suffer immense capacity shortage and financial assistance to deal with fighting crime. Part of the problem is a shortage in personnel and absence of manpower and logistics in crime hotspots and gangster infested areas. We have for years noted that South Africa has become a haven for criminals with disturbingly high levels of gender-based violence, a

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 161

murder rate which is spiralling out of control, and the rise of public assassinations across all spheres of society.

The EFF is demanding a specialised unit that can fight gangsterism in densely populated areas. Employ 100 000 police officers before the end of 2026 and incorporate the reservist force into the police force. The EFF calls on authorities to professionalise the police force services and increase the budget to procure specialised technological equipment to fight crime. Every citizen in this country has the right to safety, security and dignity.

The time has come to restore law and order in South Africa. More should be done to expand on logistics and increase police vehicles to intensify patrols in crime infested areas across South Africa Chairperson. The EFF demands police visibility on major national roads and crime hotspots to secure the safety of citizens and businesses.

Critical partnerships with community safety departments and community-based organisations, as well as community policing forums, CPFs should be part of the annual performance plan of the police.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 162

Afrikaans:

Ons sê ook dat meer geld aan die gemeenskapspolisiëringsforums, GPFs, spandeer moet word en dat die *verpolitisering* van GPFs gestop moet word omdat politieke partye die GPF as 'n politieke voertuig misbruik om veral verkiesingstye vir hulle te werk en mense te bring om vir partye te stem. Daarom verwerp die EFF hierdie begroting en ons sal dit nie so aanvaar nie. Kameraad Inkosi, ons moet law and order [wet en orde] in Suid-Afrika herstel. Ons moet die dinge regmaak. Ons vra dat ons nuwe voorsitter en ons nuwe Minister aandag skenk aan die aangeleenthede wat ons ook na hierdie Huis toe bring.

Voorsitter, u moet so 'n bietjie geduldig wees. Ek het nog tyd. Ons vra dat ons die polisie moet opskerp. Daar moet groter opleiding aan die polisie gegee word sodat hulle met die gespesialiseerde kriminele wat in ons areas rondloop kan hanteer. Dit moet in ons gemeenskappe gestop word. Die rooftogte, die ... [Onhoorbaar.] ... daardie geld gegee aan die DA. Dit moet ook gestop word. Baie dankie.

Die HUISVOORSITTER (Mnr D R Ryder): Baie dankie, agb Gericke

...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 163

English:

... and thank you for the offer of promotion to Deputy Chairperson, but it is gratefully declined.

Mr S A ZULU: Last but not least, from the hon Zulu, not from the Government of National Unity, GNU, yeah. We as the MK party herein reject this budget on the following grounds. The reduced budget makes it impossible to procure more vehicles and maintain the current fleet. The introduction of new technologies shall be compromised.

Plans not providing strategies to free the country from drug dealers. Therefore, we reject this budget.

IsiZulu:

Asisenazo izinto eziningi esingazisho, ...

English:

... House Chairperson. Until we meet again.

Afrikaans:

Mnr M M PETER: Goeie middag, agb Huisvoorsitter.

IsiXhosa:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 164

Ndithi nam mandikhe ndithethe ulwimi lwesiBhulu, molweni malungu ahloniphekileyo. I-UDM iyaluxhasa olu hahlo lwabiwo-mali ngethemba lokuba kuza kongezeleka amapolisa kwaye kubekho luxinzelelo kulwaphulo-mthetho oluqatseleyo kumaphondo onke. Kubulawa nabemi urhulumente ejongile kungekho nkqubo ikhawulezileyo ngokufa nokukhuseleka kwabemi belizwe.

Abantu babulawa ngabophuli-mthetho ngokungenalusini. Umhla nezolo sityibilika egazini, urhulumente uvulile. Amapolisa awanawo amandla okulwa ubundlobongela. Umthetho usezandleni zabophuli-mthetho. Phambili ...

English:

... Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi ...

IsiXhosa:

... ngomsebenzi wakho omhle apho KwaZulu-Natal. Isicelo seUDM sithi, makukhuselwe abemi ngokuthi kuvulwe ...

English:

... a special task force ...

IsiXhosa:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 165

... ezakujongana ngqo nokubulawa kwabantu kuba amajoni ahleli ejongwe iimfazwe kodwa itorho lokuphila alifumana kwakubo abantu bangabakhuseliyo. Sesikhalela kuni bawo uMandela, sikhalela kuni bawo uSisulu sisithi, ngoobani aba bemi ezinyaweni zenu ngamagama enu. Ilizwe liphantsi kobhubhane. Buyani booMadiba, buyani boo-O R Tambo siphelile isizwe. Qinani nina nisemagunyeni nikhumbule ukuba noHerode waqina kodwa lwavela usana eqine enjalo.

Njengoko bephela abantu besizwe sethu urhulumente ingumntu omnyama, sibukele bonwabile abasemagunyeni siyaphela isizwe bona bame ngoMgaqo-siseko othe cwaka. Ngoko ke sithi siyiUDM, buyani bookhokho ilize litshabalele. Sele bemkile abangama-71. Ingaba sifuna kumle abali-100 ngoku? Enkosi.

Ms J S MANANISO: Chairperson, let me start by indicating that we are not confused by those who are still in a forming, norming and storming stages who are rejecting this budget. As the ANC, we support this Budget Vote 28 of the Department of Police. We are of a firm belief that the government is committed to reducing the levels of violent crime, fraud and corruption in our country, both in private and public sector.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 166

Amongst the crimes that the whole of government is committed to address and the Department of Police will prioritise and indicated in the current budget is the gender-based violence and femicide, which will be addressed through resourcing of the SA Police Service, SAPS Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit. This will ensure that the police intensify their fight against GBVF, thus ensuring the safety of women, youth, persons with disabilities and as well our elders.

In addition, the Department of Police will also ensure that capacitation of the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation is prioritised. Cyber multidisciplinary units, as well as the capitation capacitation of crime, intelligence and skills development as well, will be prioritised.

Chairperson, we are also noting that the department will focus on capacitation of Public Order Policing Unit to ensure public order and the adherence to law by the public in the protest actions, among others.

Hon Chairperson, we have noted as well that it is common cause that police alone cannot win the fight against crime. As the society, through society structures, civil society,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 167

traditional leaders as well as faith-based organisations, we must work together and make sure that we fight this crime in our communities.

The fight against crime also requires that victims of crime should be supported and that witnesses or whistleblowers are also protected and encouraged to report crime and corruption. Hon Chair, we support this budget, noting that crime is a societal issue, so it needs societal responsibility, I thank you.

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

Vote No 29 - AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT - PUT

Declarations of Vote:

Ms H S BOSHOFF: Hon House Chair, agriculture is not only the cornerstone of our economy, but also the heart of our nation's identity. South Africa's agricultural sectors are vibrant tapestry of diverse climates, cultures and communities, each contributing uniquely to the rich agricultural heritage of our land. Agriculture in South Africa is both a legacy and a

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 168

promise. It represents the enduring strength of our farmers who work tirelessly from the lush vineyards of the Western Cape to the vast maize fields of the Free State. These dedicated individuals and communities cultivate the soil not just to feed the nation but to ensure our place in the global agricultural market. Excuse me.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members please, it is a rule of this House that you do not cross in front of a speaker when they are addressing the Chair. Please, it is considered the ill-mannered. Please continue, hon Boshoff.

Ms H S BOSHOFF: Thank you very much, House Chair. The challenges faced by our agricultural sector are immense. Climate change, water scarcity, the economic pressures continually test their resilience. Yet we see innovation and determination at every turn, with our farmers embracing sustainable practices, striving for greater efficiency to safeguard our natural resources and ensure food security for future generations.

Afrikaans:

Ons moet die belangrike rol van landbou erken in die opheffing van plattelandse gemeenskappe en die bevordering van

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 169

ekonomiese groei, veral kleinboere wat die ruggraat van ons plattelandse ekonomie is, en ons voortdurende ondersteuning benodig.

English:

We welcome the statement by the newly elected Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, hon Steenhuisen, that he will use his position to engage with all role-players and to be on the side of sectors to open more gates of opportunities for our farmers, farm workers and sectoral partners.

Another aspect that is welcomed is that whilst assisting larger commercial operations to expand and flourish, his department will strive to empower new entrant farmers to become self-sustainable and productive, and therefore compiling a database of farmers. Understanding the type of support, they seek is on top of his and his department's agenda.

In closing, let us renew our commitment to supporting South Africa's agricultural sector let us champion the cause of our farmers, safeguard our natural resources and work together to build a sustainable and prosperous future. By doing so, hon

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 170

House Chair, we honour our past, secure our present and plant the seeds for a thriving tomorrow. The DA supports this budget. Thank you, House Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, I need to draw your attention to Rule 46, which covers movement in the Chamber and says that a delegate may not pass between the officer presiding and a delegate addressing the Chair. I urge you all again, members, please associate yourself with the rules and familiarize yourself with the rules. Thank you very much. We move on now to the EFF, the hon M Kennedy.

Ms M KENNEDY: Hon House Chairperson, the EFF rejects the Budget Vote No 29 on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. We reject the budget of the department which continues to fail the majority of black South Africans who are landless and poor. We reject this budget as this department's small scale emerging black farmers are still struggling without any support from the government and because of this lack of support, majority of them end up closing shop.

We reject this budget as white farmers still have historic advantage over black emerging farmers and they continue to get more support. While farmers also continue to get support in

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 171

the form of farming implements and loans from Land Bank, whereas the black counterparts continue to suffer. With the appointment of this new Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development there will never be redress in this department under his leadership, if anything, or the little gains already achieved will be reversed.

More than 30 years in the new democratic dispensation, land is still in the hands of white people. There is no political will by the government to turn things around for the betterment of the lives of our people. Furthermore, there is more focus on urban areas than the development of rural areas for the development of local economics. Hence the influx of people from rural areas to big cities like Johannesburg in search of better opportunities. This department is out of touch with the reality of the land and agricultural challenges faced by this country. The EFF rejects this vote. Thank you.

Ms S M MOKOENA: Hon House Chairperson, let me say...

Afrikaans:

... goeie middag.

IsiZulu:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 172

Ngitshengisa nje ukuthi nami ngiyakwazi ukukhuluma izilimi zonke sase-South Africa

English:

... all the languages of South Africa.

IsiZulu:

Ngifuna ukukhuluma ne-ANC iyodwa.

English:

You have had 30 years, 30 years.

IsiZulu:

Nifunani manje? Sininikile ama-30 wonyaka sanicathulisa saninika isikhathi...

English:

... over and over again to redress the issues we have in this department...

IsiZulu:

... kodwa anikaze. Enikwenzile niqhubekile navele nadayisa ngawo futhi uMnyango. Nanika bona labantu abangeke bawulungise. Manike nizifune ngaphakathi uma nihleli emakhaya

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 173

ngamunye ngamunye nizibuke bese nizibuze ukuthi: Siyaphi uma kunje.

Kuyoze kube nini abantu abamnyama bekhohliswa, kuthiwa kuzobuyiswa izindawo zabo zokuhlala. Kuyoze kube nini? Kuyoze kube nini ninikezwa ithuba njalo kodwa ningenzi lutho. Ezinye izinhlangana niyazi ukuthi azinandaba nezidingo[priorities.] zabantu abamnyama. Kungani? Senikhohliwe ukuthi ningobani, nizalwa ngobani futhi niphuma emlandweni onjani kule Ningizimu Afrika esikuyona. Okudabukisa kakhulu ukuthi umhlaba omningi usaphethwe yibona abantu abamhlophe futhi asinayo inkinga nabantu abamhlophe...

English:

... as such. We want redress to correct the historical injustices of this country.

IsiZulu:

Namanje kule GNU yenu kuyakhombisa kamhlophe ukuthi ayikho into ezoshintsha. Ibuhlungu le nto eniyenzayo ngoba kukho konke lokhu enikwenzayo okusalayo umuntu omnyama ngeke athuthuke. Ngakho ke thina njengoMkhonto Wesizwe...

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 174

... we refuse to be part and parcel of this vote that further seeks to give our people false hope ...

IsiZulu:

... amanga. Sifisa nje uuhintsha sisazohlala sibe khona la ninethezeke nikhululeke asiyindawo. NjengoMkhonto Wesizwe yithina esizophatha ngokuzayo. Ngiyabonga....

IsiXhosa:

Mnu. M M PETER: Sihlalo weNdlu namalungu ahloniphekileyo, mandibulise kwakhona. IUDM iya kuhlala iluxhasa uhlahlo-lwabiwo mali isenzela ukuba aba sebexhamle baqhubeke baxhamle singongezi inani kubantu abangayixhasiyo nto leyo eya kwenza ukuba kungaxhamli naba bebexhamla. IUDM ngalo mazwi ithi nasentlango ide yana imvula. Abantu basajonge enkalweni bezibuza ukuba uya kuza nini na uNxele. Amasimi ezilalini allele, abantu balambile, akukho ziseko kwanezicwangciso zolimo ukuze abantu baziphilele. Iinkosi zibotshwe izandla, ziphucwe Amandla abantu bazo bayalamba. Amafama antsundu awanasabelo kulo rhulumente okhokelwa ngabantu abantsundu. Silibele kuthetha isiNgesi, siNgesi eso esingagxothi ikati eziko koko sidlisela ngokuba sifundile.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 175

Amafama antsundu awanayo imveliso yawo ethengiswa kwezi venkile zinkulu zabelungu ezifana nooSpar nooCheckers. Imveliso ethengiswa kwezi venkile, yesuka kuAgriSA. Uphi owethu uAgriSA? Sizigwagwisa ngokuthetha isiNgesi kuphela. Sicela ukuba kubuyiselwe isidima kwiinkosi ngokuthi kwenzelwe abantu izicwangciso zolimo ukuze abantu bakuthi balime babenento yokutya. Enkosi, Sihlalo weNdlu.

English:

Mr M G MODISE: Hon House Chair, the last speaker really spoke to my heart. The ANC of the murdered Martin Thembekile Chris Hani, Ashley Kriel, the murdered Fort Calata, Mathew Goniwe, the ANC of the murdered Sicelo Mhlawuli, Sparrow Mkhonto and Kalushi Solomon Mahlangu. The ANC of the tormented and tortured Mama Nomzamo Winfred Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Theresa Ramashamola of the Sharpeville Six, Elizabeth Litanda, Adelaide Tambo and Lillian Ngoyi supports Budget Vote 29 on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development as part of the Appropriation Bill B5 of 2024.

We believe that it addresses the provincial interests in line with the National Development Plan, NDP Vision 2030.

Agricultural industry has the potential to create much needed jobs and ensures that we have enough food security. We believe

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 176

that land reform must continue to ensure access to land, to promote game farming and cattle production. The management of natural resources and the health of plants and animals are required for proper transformation. We acknowledge the importance of farmer's rights hon members and we agree that there is so much work that still needs to be done, and the department, in our view, is up to the task and therefore we support the budget vote. I thank you.

Agreed to.

Vote No 30 - Communications and Digital Technologies - PUT

Declarations of Vote:

Ms M KENNEDY: Hon Chairperson, the EFF rejects the Budget Vote on Communications and Digital Technologies. We reject the budget of a department that is mandated to play a key role in fostering economic and social participation of our people through digital transformation, yet, it has on several occasions been found wanting during key moments when solid communication was required from the government. The country is left wondering as to what exactly the government is doing to deal with challenges faced by our people.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 177

The State Information Technology Agency, Sita, is always a very big player in the South African economy, but the question we are asking is that, with government spending and the Sita model, why are there so few black millionaires. There is something fundamentally wrong in this department because their programmes do not translate into concrete and tangible results on the ground to benefit our people. These services can include, but are not limited to, the issuing of motor vehicle discs and license renewals, payment of municipal accounts, and the collection of social welfare grants. The SA Post Office, Sapo, has collapsed under the watchful eye of the ANC government. The EFF has always acknowledged the vital role that the Sapo plays in providing essential postal and financial services to communities nationwide. Despite its significance, the Sapo has faced severe challenges due to neglect and financial mismanagement, resulting in mounting debt and a decline in service quality. Expanding access to affordable financial services, particularly amongst marginalized communities, the EFF aims to contribute to economic empowerment and inclusivity. This vision aligns with the EFF's broader manifesto - highlighting their dedication to strengthening state entities. Therefore, we reject this budget. Thank you, hon Chair.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 178

Ms S M MOKOENA: The department that should be spearheading South Africa into a digital age is doing the worst. Let us talk about digital infrastructure. In a world where the internet is essentially the oxygen of millions of people around the world, in South Africa, we still we remain gasping for air and for connectivity. They promised us nationwide connectivity and what did we get? A patchy unreliable network that is more offline than online. And then there is the SA Broadcasting Corporation, SABC. Remember when it used to be the pride of our nation, now it is more like a soap opera gone horribly wrong. Mismanagement, financial fiasco, and political meddling has turned it into a circus and instead of a beacon of reliable information and diverse voices, the department has been asleep at the wheel and the result is a broadcaster that is a national embarrassment.

Next up, telecommunications, our data costs are going through the roof and everyone in this room can agree to that. While other countries are zipping around with 5G and affordable broadband, we are stuck in the digital equivalent of rush hour traffic. The department's failure to create a competitive market has left us with outdated infrastructure, like sky-high prices ... and it is like they are just here to play around. They have also left our personal information and our national

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 179

security hanging by the thread, and that is putting it lightly. From a dismal digital infrastructure and crippled public broadcaster to outrageous data costs, everything is laughable. We cannot, as MK party continue and say we are supporting this budget. So, we therefore reject it. Thank you.

Mr S P MABILO: Chairperson, the ANC welcomes the appropriation for Budget Vote 30 on Communication and Digital Technologies. We support its focus on the co-ordination and roll out of broadband internet in under serviced areas through the SA Connect project and the department's objective to transform the sector and ensure inclusion through legislation and regulatory interventions. We welcome that an amount of R2,4 billion has been allocated for implementing the SA Connect project over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF, with once-off allocation of an amount of R1,9 billion and R2,2674 million over the MTEF. This will ensure that 970 government facilities continue to be provided with connectivity over the MTEF period through phase one of the SA Connect project and an amount of 5,1 million households are connected through phase two of the project. Through phase one of the SA Connect project, the Department of Communications, working with traditional leaders, have managed to facilitate connectivity to a total of 937 traditional authority offices,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 180

with a broadband connectivity of a minimum speed of 10Mbps and 500GB data per month. Through this initiative, communities in our rural areas have been able to access broadband connectivity to serve the internet in search of various opportunities, such as jobs, schools, businesses, and support ventures, amongst many others.

Hon Chair, we are also pleased that Sita has launched smart schools in rural parts of KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Eastern Cape, North West, and Northern Cape. These schools have been provided with 40 computers, desks, interactive ports, and charging stations. Educators are trained in various 4IR-related skills to transfer to their learners. The main focus of this programme is to upskill and equip learners with 4IR competencies that are essential to the digital economy as envisaged. These are significant strides that take our country and our people forward.

Hon Chair, as I conclude, further advancements need to be made. The second round of spectrum auctioning must be realized. We must reach the completion of the migration from analog to digital as well and ensure that all these drastic reductions in data take place. The ANC supports this budget. Thank you very much, Chair.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 181

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

Vote No 31 – Employment and Labour – put.

Declarations of vote:

Ms M KENNEDY: Hon Chair, the EFF rejects the proposed budget for the Department of Employment and Labour. This department is responsible for a decade-long trend of rising unemployment, which has continued unabated without any viable solutions to speak of. The EFF rejects this Budget Vote for the following reasons.

Firstly, despite the existence of this department, unemployment, especially among the youth, continues to be on the rise. In fact, South Africa's unemployment rate has remained the highest in the world.

There is a direct link between unemployment and social ills like drugs and crime perpetuated by young people, and their employment is the remedy for social ills and the eradication of poverty, especially among black people.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 182

Employers are not complying with their unemployment insurance contributions and are therefore contributing to the deepening poverty amongst black people. The challenges continue unabated as employers get away with this murder.

There also seems to be a stubborn gap in terms of labour absorption and labour participation affecting 25 to 44-year-olds. Public employment policies and employment strategies ought to narrow the gap. Therefore, we reject this Vote.

Ms S M MOKOENA: Hon Chair, I'll be as short as the delivery of this department has been over the years. South Africa's unemployment rate is a national crisis ...

IsiZulu:

... baningi kakhulu abantu abangawutholi umsebenzi abaqhubekayo futhi ukungawutholi umsebenzi kulo Hulumeni esikuwona.

English:

Yet, the department's response has been nothing short of apathetic. Instead of implementing robust job creation strategies and skills development programmes, we get half-hearted initiatives that barely scratch the surface. Workers'

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 183

rights are routinely trampled upon with countless reports of unfair dismissals, wage theft and unsafe working conditions. The department continues to do nothing at all.

The department is also supposed to be a guardian of these rights but it has become more of a distant, neglectful overseer, allowing abusers to go unchecked and unpunished. We, as the MK party, continue to reject this Budget Vote until further notice.

Afrikaans:

Mnr H J VAN DEN BERG: Agb Voorsitter, hierdie begroting van die Departement van Arbeid verteenwoordig nog prioriteite van die vorige administrasie wat onprakties is en wat nie tot hoër indiensneming sal lei nie.

English:

Not being able to lessen the risk of employment leads to an unwillingness of the employer to give potential employees a chance. Very rarely are interns into the labour market a perfect fit for the employer and employee relationship. Freeing up basic employment regulations and enabling a business to end an employment contract that is not beneficial to both parties will lessen the risk of employment and will

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 184

motivate employers to give other people a chance too. We have excellent labour legislation that will be sufficient to protect employees' rights if treated unfairly, so why are we overregulating?

Afrikaans:

Wetgewing wat nie die werkgewer beskerm nie maak die deur oop vir onwenslike situasies soos die aanstel van buitelanders.

English:

Race quotas and affirmative action are not inclusive to all and should be done away with. It has been 30 years now.

Afrikaans:

Die VF Plus kan nie diskriminerende arbeidswetgewing ondersteun nie.

English:

Ms S L SITHOLE: Hon Chairperson, as the ANC we are resolute and support Budget Vote No 31. In light of the critical socioeconomic challenges faced by South Africa, the ANC stands in firm support of Employment and Labour Budget Vote No 31 for the financial year 2024-25.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 185

We do so because we recognise the imperative to move with greater urgency and decisiveness to address the scarcity of investment, which has led to a sluggish economic growth rate and escalating unemployment.

As the ANC, we want to express our appreciation to the Department of Employment and Labour for its strategic initiative that is geared towards preserving and stimulating job creation, enforcing labour laws and expanding the wage subsidy scheme for people with disabilities to promote inclusivity and equity in the workplace. We are encouraged by the efforts to enhance the enforcement of labour laws, which will create a fair and compliant labour environment, despite the budget cut faced by the National Economic Development and Labour Council. We trust that the council will continue to play a pivotal role in fostering productive engagements between social partners.

As the ANC, we acknowledge the commitment that the government has made through the Unemployment Insurance Fund to provide timely unemployment insurance and improve the employability of vulnerable individuals through its labour activation programme.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 186

The deployment of mobile busses for outreach initiatives is a commendable approach to extend services to remote and densely populated areas, which align with our vision of an inclusive and equitable society.

As the ANC, we support the annual review of the National Minimum Wage and the development of a monitoring mechanism to assess its impact on the economy and incoming ... [Inaudible.] We believe that these initiatives are crucial in ensuring that the minimum wage serves as an effective tool for poverty alleviation and income inequality reduction.

We are committed to fostering strong public-private sector partnerships as a means of revitalising our economic development goals and implementing the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. The challenges of poverty, inequality, unemployment and historic economic exclusion must be reversed and this department has a critical role to play in that regard. As the ANC, we support Vote No 31.

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

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

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 187

Declarations of vote:

Ms M KENNEDY: The EFF reject this Budget Vote for the many capacity constraints and unfunded vacant posts which are inherent in this department. This department is also permanently characterised by cash flow problems within the marine living resource fund, the fisheries brand, the poaching and illegal unreported and unregulated fishing and off fishing rights and small scale.

Furthermore, there are persistent challenges in the management of state plantations, interventions and timeframes to address challenges and transformation of the forestry industry. The department is not making any convincing effort on the revitalisation of nurseries and refurbishment of Category B and C Plantations which hampers creation of employment opportunities. In addition, the department is facing other critical challenges including highly temporary unplanted areas due to limited resources and land invasions by communities. These communities are beset with hunger for land and protracted land claims, timber theft, limited regularity, enforcement capacity and ailing workforce.

We also reject the budget of a department which currently has underdeveloped fisheries in South Africa. Communities staying

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 188

in and around forests and other natural resources are not benefiting from the resources. What has your department done about this? Nothing. As such, the EFF rejects this Vote. Thank you, hon Chairperson.

Ms S M MOKOENA: Chairperson, this department is a prime example of how our bloated Cabinet of the Government of National Unity, GNU, is more about paddling political egos than actually addressing our environmental issues. Firstly, our forest are vanishing faster than anything else and no one really has accountability to tell us what is going on. Then, there is also our oceans which have been treated like a free for all buffet, overfishing and pollution are wreaking havoc on the marine life. What does the department do? A whole lot of nothing. Policies are either laughably weak or not enforced at all.

In conclusion, our Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment is a glaring example of how our overstuffed Cabinet is failing us. We need to trim the fat, enforce regulations and put the planet before political patronage. The MK party objects to this budget. Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 189

Ms M B NDLANGISA-NODADA: I stand on declaration in support of Budget Vote No 41 of the Department of Water and Sanitation. On behalf of the ANC we firmly endorse the Water and Sanitation Appropriation Bill that Minister Majodina Tabled in this august House. The ANC is committed to realising the right to access safe clean drinking water and the provision of dignified infrastructure services enshrined in our progressive Constitution Bill of Rights.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Nodada, are you on the right declaration? We are still on fisheries. I do not know if you got the right one.

Ms M B NDLANGISA-NODADA: Sorry, sorry.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: No, we pardon you.

Ms M B NDLANGISA-NODADA: Correction on that, hon Chairperson, I am on declaration of Vote 32: Forestry, Fisheries and Environment. In light of the profound challenge posed by climate change to South Africa's economic stability as underscored by the 55th National Conference of the ANC, we hereby declare our unwavering support for the government's initiatives to address this pressing issue.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 190

The relentless onslaught of drought and floods has devastated communities and infrastructure necessitating urgent action to build resilience and mitigate the impacts of climate change. We commend the allocation of R1,8 billion for climate change initiatives over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period which is aimed at supporting legislation, resilience, adaptation and implementation of the recently signed Climate Change Bill.

This investment is critical for transitioning South Africa towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy. Despite the laudable commitment to climate change, we acknowledge the significant budget cuts particularly to the Expanded Public Works Programme which threaten the department's ability to create jobs while mitigating severe climate change impact. The planned reduction in the department's budget at an average annual rate of 0,7% could severely impact on the equality and external environmental protection and infrastructure projects.

We express concern that these cuts may compromise the effectiveness of initiatives aimed at achieving desired environmental socioeconomic outcomes. Nevertheless, that does not mean that we must not support the department because with the little that they will get, they will be able to do

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 191

something. In the face of these financial constraints, we support the department's mitigation strategies centered around prioritising key initiatives and optimising source allocation.

We encourage the department to continue prioritising its core mandate including mitigation and adapting to climate change, creating employment opportunities, protecting South Africa's conservation estate and promoting compliance with environmental legislation. We therefore call for exploration of partnership with the private sector, nonprofits and international agencies to secure additional funding for climate change and job creation initiatives. We remain resolute ... [Time expired.] ... The ANC supports the Appropriation Bill. Thank you very much.

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

Vote No 33 – Human Settlements – put

Declarations of Vote:

Dr I S SCHEURKOGEL: Chairperson, thank hon Nodada skipped to 42 because she wants to go home with us. We would like to reiterate that the Minister's embrace of Priority 1 of

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 192

building a capable, ethical and development state to ensure the Department of Human Settlement is depoliticised when the provision of housing or issuing of title deeds are considered and not in accordance of political affiliation, like what's happening in Matjhabeng Local Municipality, especially Ward 35, Reahola Housing Complex, Extension 2, Riebeeckstad Golf Course and Difateng.

Housing is dignity. The Department of Human Settlement needs to ensure that grants allocated to local governments are spent to alleviate the housing needs of South Africans, unlike the infamous Matjhabeng, that in the 2020-21 financial year return R67 million, which was meant for housing. Furthermore, we want to change South Africa to be turned into construction site to create real jobs and give people dignity. The Department of Human Settlement must ensure that construction mafias, but even more, for lack of better word, those local thugs that want to stop development and progress and only interested in enriching themselves are stopped.

While rapid land release would make more service sites available, ensuring access to well-located land will remain a challenge. However, one that can be confronted more robustly if it exists a political will to release well-located state-

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 193

owned land, as well as by removing many obstacles as possible for the market to deliver more housing stock, especially at lower income segments. The roll-out of title deeds is, therefore, central to transferring homes into usable assets and to ensuring owners have secure property rights. It's about title deeds, hon Chairperson. People want title deeds.

The department has been too slow in giving people true economic freedom by issuing them with title deeds to their homes. This is what the Government of National Unity, GNU, must do, make home ownership relevant for people for security of tenure, but also that means wealth creation and integrational wealth transfer. Another threat to property rights is the practice of land invasion. It places not only property owners, but unlawful occupiers at risk, often encouraged by political parties, organisations, and sometimes property owners themselves to serve their own interests and not the people without housing.

I want to make note of my disappointment that after lunch I thought that the EFF, or the Everything for Free Party, might have changed their rejection of the budget because they ate from the same budget that they rejected, but I guess the train that they got on is the gravy train that's operated by the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 194

MKP, taking them further away from their voters. I thank you.

[Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Order, hon members! Hon Ceza, order please. Hon Ceza, this is for the last time. Please respect the other speakers.

IsiZulu:

Nk M MAKESINI: Nizoba-strong!

English:

The EFF rejects the budget of the Department of Human Settlement. We reject this budget as it fails to guarantee the delivery of adequate housing for our people in Matjhabeng, in Ward 35, rendering it ineffective and merely a superficial gesture. Our elderly citizens and individuals with disabilities remain without appropriate houses, highlighting the budget's inadequacy in addressing their needs.

South Africa is currently facing a shortage of decent and affordable housing, and our cities continue to reflect apartheid planning. 2,5 million families need to have housing. The current budget does not offer any viable solution to this

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 195

growing crisis, instead, it continues to build housing of poor workmanship.

IsiZulu:

Izindlu zenu ziyawa ...

English:

... because the National Home Builders Registration Council, NHBRC, doesn't do the inspections. You wait for the houses to collapse before you come to the site. Our people are more vulnerable, especially on the rainy season. The EFF, therefore, cannot support the budget that does not address the fundamental housing needs of our people. We demand comprehensive and action-packed housing strategy that guarantees the dignity and security for all citizens, and it is with this that the EFF will always reject your budget, and ...

IsiZulu:

... ngeke siqambe amanga sifane nondunankulu waseMpumalanga Koloni eyathi abantu masiphendule izingcingo zabo

And as you saw in the premiere of Eastern Cape, the EFF does sibancamise ngoba sifuna amavoti, kuyothi uma beqeda

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 196

ukuwathola singabe sisaziphendula izingcingo zabo. Siyohlala sinje. Asiwona amaxoki.

English:

We, therefore, reject this budget.

IsiZulu:

Mnu E NZIMANDE: Ngiyabonga, Sihlalo ohloniphekile, kunale nto esuke yakhulunywa umhlonishwa oqeda ukukhuluma la wathinta amadlozi asithinta sonke kodwa wabe eselibala yinto encane nje ukuthi lo Hulumeni usuvele waklomelisa umngani womuntu owabulala u-Chris Hani wamenza uNgqongqoshe.

English:

The other aspect that I want to deal with is that ...

IsiZulu:

... kunalesi sifo esibizwa ukuthi i-Korsakoff, kuthiwa isifo lesi kubanezikhala la engqondweni uyabo, kanye naleli phuzu eliphathelene nokuhlolwa kokuhluzeka kwengqondo.

English:

The rationality test is when you're reasoning and your conclusion ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 197

IsiZulu:

... lungekho uxhumano.

English:

There's no nexus. Now, we hear people supporting us, punching holes on this budget, on these budgets, but still come to a conclusion, a very skewed ...

IsiZulu:

... ukucabanga kwakhona kanye nesiphetho sakhona ...

English:

... is not rationally connected, and the of viewers are judges at home.

IsiZulu:

Okubalulekile, ngigikime ngize la, okubalulekile lesi sabelomali siyasichitha ngezizathu ezinje, uyabona abantu bakithi abahleli laphaya emahostela namanje basahleli ezindaweni ezigxaza amanzi, akukho zakhiwo ezanele. Abahleli emikhukhwini ngokunjalo bazofana no-Grootboom owashona elinde indlu yomxhaso i-RDP, futhi lama-RDP enziwayo ama-RDP awehlisa isithunzi sabantu amabi ukudlula lokho okwashiwo u-Comrade Winnie Mandela wathi ngathi amabhokisi omentshisi. Akukho

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 198

okuyimfihlo, abantwana nabazali balala nje ubupepenene babuka izinto eziningi, noma kungathiwa bayaxabana abazali.

English:

It kills our value as Africans. So, ...

IsiZulu:

... Sihlalo, ngeke ngigijime ngisho okuningi kakhulu, impela lesi sabelomali sifuna ukusibuyisela emuva. Sifuna kube nabaningi o-Grootboom abazoshona belinde izindlu zomxhaso. Ngiyabonga.

Mr T M KAUNDA: Hon Chair, the problem with us as South Africans is that we become hard to ourselves unnecessarily so because I've been fortunate to travel to more than 20 countries, and when you sit in these international bodies, you are informed and told that South Africa has done wonders because there are very few countries in the world, including developed countries, which build houses for free for its citizens. Very few. That's a fact.

So, we come here to complain. We have built more than 4,7 million houses. Which other countries have done that? Security of tenure, which also makes sure that we translate

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 199

the ownership because the ownership of property, which has got the economic value in it. Once you own this house, you can sell this house, you can go to the bank, you can make it your security, you can do everything. That is what the government of the ANC has delivered.

We are responsive because this budget is responding to the clarion call made by the people of South Africa in our Freedom Charter, where they said we must provide houses, security and comfort for our citizens, especially the working class and the poor, the vulnerable groups in our society. This is exactly what this budget is intending to do.

About hostels, there are community residential units which are being built by this government. We are moving people from those which were built during the apartheid system, those hostels where you live alone. We are saying bring your family members, we give you three bedrooms, we give you two bedrooms. It's done by this government. So, it's part of service delivery that we are talking about.

In this financial year, the department has made commitments to continue to eradicate mud houses in rural areas, and most of the people residing in these mud houses are the elderly people

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 200

with disabilities and children whose parents are away from home to work in distant places. As the ANC, we declare our full support for this Budget Vote. Let's continue to do the good work. Thank you.

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

Vote No 34 - Mineral Resources and Energy - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Ms M KENNEDY: Hon Chair, we reject the budget of a Minister which has failed to rebuild an effective and efficient department to ensure energy security in the country. The mining sector is experiencing a lack of investment and has been facing a number of sector-specific issues related to regulation, geopolitical risk, and legal limits on natural resource use. Small-scale miners are not being assisted to contribute to the much-needed development.

There has been limited, inefficient, and ineffective exploration and production activity, resulting in minimal discovery and production. Market-related challenges caused by climate change, technology, price volatility, which resulted

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 201

in unsustainable financial and operating conditions are not mitigated. We reject this budget as this Minister lacks the proper foresight and vision to turn the country for the benefit of the people. We also reject the budget of a department which allows for illegal mining to reach crisis points which poses a serious threat to national security.

Illegal mining was associated with dialect and ownerless mines, now it has an impact on operational and licenced mines. Ageing infrastructure in the mining sector needs to be reworked to maximise potential for the provision of electricity to more of our people. Therefore, we reject this Bill. Thank you, hon Chair.

Ms S M MOKOENA: Chair, mineral resources and energy used to be the cornerstone of our economy. It now languishes due to poor oversight and ineffective policies. We are still back at the dark ages where a black man cannot manage or even own a mine.

IsiZulu:

... kuya ngokuthi ungubani uzalwa ngobani ukuze ukwazi ...

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 202

The department has failed to create a conducive environment for investment with uncertainty and red tape, deterring both local and international investors. Our mineral resources are being squandered as a result we missed opportunities and economic growth and job creation. This is one department where you can actually increase job opportunities, but we have failed to do so - or should I say the Sixth Parliament has failed to do so - that's ANC 30 years later until today. So, with that, we further reject this Budget Vote. Thank you.

Ms M DHLAMINI: Good afternoon, hon Chair and good afternoon to the House. As the ANC, we wholeheartedly support Budget Vote No 34 of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. The ANC further welcomes, appreciate and support the adjustments, including reprioritisation and budget reduction to address cost pressures within the department. We note that at the level of generality, all the departments or most of the departments experienced budget cuts or reduction in this current financial year 2024-25. That impacts negatively on the procurement of goods and services, as well as transfers to the public entities. However, we are delighted as the ANC to note and observe that in this Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, all entities under this department have improved their financial management and controls. These entities, under the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 203

said department have passed the ratio of liquidity tests and are able to cover all their short-term obligations from their available resources.

This suggests that this department is continuing to serve our people to the best of their ability. Hence, the ANC, we want to ensure that this department will be supported throughout its tenure of existence. Let us also remind the MK party's hon Mokoena that the 30 years that you are mentioning of the failure of the ANC in the different administrations, ubaba [father] was part of it - we are together with ubaba. Thank you very much, Chair.

The vote is agreed to. The objections of EFF and the MK party are noted

Agreed to.

Vote No 35 - Science and Innovation - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGUSE: Chairperson, these are resolutions that the EFF is proposing to the Department of Science and Innovation. The Department of Science and Innovation must make

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 204

sure that science, technology and innovation are used to produce knowledge, information, skills and the talents needed to support, facilitate and fuel the development and growth of strategic sectors and industries in the economy and in our society. These are central to the overall independence and sovereignty of our country.

It must increase research grants, scholarships and fellowships to encourage individuals and institutions to pursue innovative projects, by offering R1 million per annum for master's students and R2 million annum for PhD students. It is an unfortunate reality that there are master's graduates who earn less than R5 000 in this country.

Young people, who have displayed their mental competence struggle for decent salaries, while Ministers with far less or no qualifications at all acquire decent salaries under the GNU coalition. The GNU coalition has successfully discouraged the youth of this country to pursue education, because the meritocracy you present in turn, as government, is that educated youth are unemployed and paid peanuts and uneducated Ministers are paid millions because of the colour of their skin. That is what the government of President Ramaphosa and Helen Zille has communicated to the youth of South Africa who

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 205

sleep in libraries, go hungry for months, waiting for Nsfas allowances, while they pursue education.

The GNU government of President Ramaphosa is hypocritical for speaking education on the left and rewarding illiteracy on the right. Perhaps this is why you have not delivered free education. It is because you want to blame us. You want to blame young people in this country for being unemployed. You want to say that we are unemployed, because we are unskilled. We are unemployed, because we are uneducated. Unfortunately for you, we are educated.

Put a minimum of 1 000 students in exchange programmes with AI advanced universities, build astronomical observatory centres to encourage young people to study astronomy, build and upgrade computer science laboratories and provide all necessary equipment to every school. This will result in jobs being created. And ensure that of those jobs, nothing less than 50% is given to women and the youth in this country.

Include robotics and coding in the curricula at all schools at all levels. Support and protect the industries of agriculture, animal husbandry, health and pharmaceuticals, energy, water and sanitation, environment, transport, aerospace and drones,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 206

biotechnology, mining, information and communications technology, industrialisation, manufacturing, robotics, AI and big data, defense and cyber security. By doing this, you will create multitudes of sustainable jobs and encourage young people to be creative and innovative.

Start taking responsibility for ... [Time expired.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Your time is up. Hon Chirwa, can you please be seated? Behave like a young one.

Ms Z N NGCOBO: Chairperson, we as the uMkhonto weSizwe Party hereby reject the budget for Science and Innovation. Today, the uMkhonto weSizwe Party outlines the concerns, starting with the most critical issues.

There's inadequate funding for research and development. This is the engine of innovation, and it is essential that we address it first. In research and development, the budget's failure to prioritise research and development will lead to stagnation in scientific progress and innovation. We must invest in basic and applied research to drive breakthroughs and discoveries.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 207

In the science, engineering, technology and mathematics, Stem, education and workforce development, next we would like to address the shortage in skilled Stem, professionals. We must fund initiatives that support education, training and workforce development to ensure we have a pipeline of talent to drive innovation.

The proposed budget for science and innovation is woefully inadequate. We must prioritise research and development, Stem education, digital infrastructure, climate change, research and science communication. Anything less is a disservice to our future and our prosperity. As the uMkhonto weSizwe Party, we therefore reject this budget. Thank you.

Mr M FENI: Hon Chairperson, our former President, Thabo Mbeki, warned us of not allowing ourselves to be misled by any ...

IsiZulu:

... imigodoyi ...

English:

... people who speak something that they are not meant to do.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 208

The ANC, in this instance, supports this budget on the following basis: This budget supports postgraduate students, master's students, PhD students, numerous research projects, contributing to skills development. This is what this budget targets or is being meant for.

Secondly, we are not going to allow...

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon member, can you take your seat. Hon Nzimande.

Mr E NZIMANDE: Is it parliamentary for people to insult ...

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Is it parliamentary to address the presiding officer seated? Can you please ...

Mr E NZIMANDE: ... to insult people and say ...

IsiZulu:

... imigodoyi, uyazi imigodoyi ukuthi yizinja. U-Mbeki ngiyamzwela ngoba vele akazi lutho ngesintu, umuntu owakhulela laphe akhulela khona. Lo ... [Akuzwakali.] ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 209

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: He is not saying ... I did not hear him saying that ...

IsiZulu:

... siyimigodoyi ...

English:

He said ... He made an inference to what was said by Mr Thabo Mbeki. However, hon Nzimande, we will look at that matter and report back to the House in the next sitting.

Mnu E Nzimande: uthe, "imigodoyi"

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: I have already ruled, hon Nzimande.

IsiZulu:

Mnu E NZIMANDE: Asivikelwe, Sihlalo, bengasithuki. Uyasithuka phela.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: We will, however, look at it and then revert to the House in the next sitting. Thank you.

Mr M FENI: Hon Chairperson, ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 210

IsiZulu: 1

Uma zikulingana izicathulo, zigqoke.

English:

Secondly, I want to respond to the question of manipulation of the hon Premier of the Eastern Cape's statements that was called a liar in this House. No one felt offended because of the statement that was made. It was incorrect and we know that it was manipulation, instead of focusing on the budget that is in front.

The last part, our vision is for a government that fosters pervasive innovation across governmental, corporate, and societal domains, with a focus on enhancing public services, providing goods and services to underserved communities.

We are confident that, with your active engagement, our sector can exemplify a more vigorous pursuit of a knowledge-based economy and the optimal exploitation of competitive advantages within the continent. We wish to highlight the significance of the sector's 10-year plan, which focus on addressing three paramount societal challenges - climate change and environmental sustainability, future-proof education and skills, and the future of society. This plan serves as one of

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 211

the foundational pillars for the ANC's endorsement of this budget.

The department's ongoing focus on provisions that align with the needs of our nation is commendable, and we are reassured by its commitment to collaborative efforts. Furthermore, there are six science, technology, and innovation priorities aimed at ... [Time expired.] Thank you, Chairperson. We support the budget.

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

Vote No 36 - Small Business Development - put

Declaration(s) of vote:

Ms M KENNEDY: Hon Chairperson, we are not accepting this vote. Lack of access to funding remains a significant challenge for small business corporations in South Africa. According to a report by the Small Enterprise Development Agency, Seda, only 12% of small businesses in South Africa have access to formal funding channels.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 212

The lack of access to funding can hinder business growth, limit job creation and increase the risk of business failure. Secondly, competition from larger companies is another significant challenge faced by small business corporations in South Africa. Limited market reach is another challenge faced by small businesses corporation in South Africa. Currently, only 20% of small business has a national presence. Furthermore, high operating costs are a significant challenge for small business corporation in South Africa.

The small businesses are the backbone of any economic growth. If this country could actively push for more support on those who are doing small business, this could greatly reduce the unemployment rate in this country. There is also no need for this department. We must close the department and take up small business, the business of industrial policy. So, we reject this budget. Thank you, hon Chair.

Ms S M MOKOENA: Chairperson, the Department of Small Business Development, firstly, it is supposed to support small businesses but the support they offer is basically a master class in bureaucracy. Apply for a grant or even for a loan and see just how much red tape you have to actually jump through in order for you to get a loan.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 213

It is almost like they are always trying to put a trap to see just how difficult they can make it for you to actually get to the end. Funds meant to support small businesses often vanish, then you can say kickback. It is like a magic trick but without the magic, of course. So, now, we as the MK party will not be supporting this budget. People deserve better and we can't wait to offer it to them very soon. Thank you.

Ms M DHLAMINI: Chair, I am not sure if my video is visible to the House.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: It is on, hon member. You can proceed.

Ms M DHLAMINI: As the ANC, we support Budget Vote 36 of the Department of Small Business Development. Based on the following, according to the projections made by the National Development Plan, South Africa's informal sector is expected to generate an additional 2 million jobs by 2030. This will go a long way toward helping the National Development Plan, NDP, achieve its long term objectives of lowering inequality, unemployment and poverty. Therefore, it becomes crucial for the government to make sure that small businesses are provided with both financial and nonfinancial support.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 214

Co-operatives' enterprises are the target of the department's co-operative development support programmes. The Small Business Development group portfolios such as the Department of Small Business Development, DSBD, Sefa and Seda will work to support 250 co-operatives with 40 financial support and 210 nonfinancial resources. Through this programme, we are also in support of fully implementing the national informal business strategy. This is to enable the support of local chambers, local business, associations municipalities and office of local economic development in delivering and facilitating access to programmes aimed at upliftment of businesses within the informal economy.

South Africa operates in a competitive inclusive global economy, therefore, needs funding to execute its mandate. We, therefore, support this budget. All other issues that were raised by the EFF and the MK party, the Minister had already highlighted them and committed to address them, even inviting us to oversight in her department to ensure that we get more information and address all the challenges. Thank you, Chair.

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

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 215

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

Declarations of vote:

Ms L H ARRIES: Chairperson, the EFF rejects Budget Vote No 37 on Sports, Arts and Culture. We reject the budget of a department which fails to develop sporting codes in our townships and rural schools. Many schools in the country still do not have any school sport codes for our children and this budget does not address indigenous sports by ensuring that indigenous sports are passed from one generation to the next generation.

Our communities in the townships and rural areas are still without art and culture centres and this budget presented today before us does not address or support and develop local artists nor does it seek to do more in assisting African writers, particularly women. It completely ignores the arts in this country, so much so that many of our legendary artists are dying and getting buried poor. This department has completely ignored the arts in this country with many of our laws being biased against artists. Therefore, we reject this budget.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 216

Ms Z N NGCOBO: Chairperson, the MK party strongly objects to the proposed budget for sports, arts and culture. The MK party outlined the concerns, starting with the most critical issue, which is inadequate funding for grassroots sports programmes. This is where champions are made and essentially, we address it first. Firstly, in grassroots sports programmes, the budget's failure to prioritise grassroots sports will lead to a decline in youth participation and a lack of talent development.

We must invest in local sports initiatives for fostering a culture of physical activity and excellence. Secondly, in arts education and access, next, I would like to address the importance of arts education and access. We must fund initiatives that promote arts, literacy, creativity and inclusivity to ensure a vibrant cultural landscape. Thirdly, regarding cultural heritage preservation, our cultural heritage is under threat, and we must prioritise its preservation. We must allocate funds for museums, galleries and cultural institutions to safeguard our history and identity.

In conclusion, the proposed budget for Sports, Arts and Culture is awfully inadequate. We must prioritise grassroots

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 217

sports, arts education, cultural heritage preservation, community engagement and allied sports development. Anything less is a disservice to our communities and our nation's potential. To reclaim our dignity as a people, the MK party will ensure that national culture and arts affirm our African heritage. We will ensure as the MK party that the national culture and arts promotes the principle of social justice, discourage gross materialism and all forms of elitism. We also collaborate with faith-based and cultural groups. We therefore reject this budget. I thank you.

Mr M F MOKWELE: Chairperson, I want to just give a free lecture here. Sports, arts and culture bring people of different diversity groups together. Therefore, I am just surprised that since the beginning of our debate, there are hon members in this House that are consistently saying that they are rejecting the budget. As the ANC, we fully support the budget, citing the department's strong investment focus and an agenda aimed at our sports, arts and culture sector.

We commend the department's initiative to support 65 projects within the creative industry through an open call and to engage 340 artists in schools. The ANC has consistently championed the interests of our creative industry and artists.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 218

Moreover, the department has articulated its commitment to constructing theatre infrastructure in historically under-deserved provinces.

As the ANC, our enduring commitment lies in the preservation of our heritage legacy, ensuring its perpetual significance. The promotion of development is a central tenet of the ANC sports policy imperatives, playing a pivotal role in the conscientious inclusion of all marginalised groups in sports. We wish our team in the Olympics victory and welcome the gold medal by our swimmer, Tatjana Smith.

We are welcomed to see our Sports, Arts and Culture's initiative of continuously demonstrating empowerment and inclusion of women, youth, rural communities and persons with disabilities. This laudable role of sports in empowerment constitutes a significant step in residing inequality in sports and ensuring equality. Finally, that is why as the ANC, we are crystal clear in supporting Vote No 87 of Sports, Arts and Culture. Thank you.

Agreed to.

Vote No 38 - Tourism - put

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 219

Declarations of vote:

Ms N P MCINGA: Chairperson, the EFF, once again, rejects the budget for the Department of Tourism. While tourism plays a vital role in South Africa's economy, contributing significantly to job creation and economic growth, this department has consistently failed to manage the sector's full potential.

Firstly, the infrastructure that supports tourism is inadequate in rural and township economy. This includes transportation networks, energy supply and facilities at tourist attractions that are in areas of black African people. This budget does not invest sufficiently in these areas, which are essential for creating a more welcoming environment for tourists and boosting the sector's growth.

Secondly, the promotion of South Africa as a premier tourism destination requires strategic marketing efforts, especially in rural and townships. This budget does not reflect the well-coordinated marketing strategy, leveraging digital platforms and international partnerships to showcase our diverse cultural heritage, natural beauty and unique experiences.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 220

Community involvement is crucial for sustainable tourism development. This department has failed to ensure that local communities benefit directly from tourism activities. This budget does not promote community-based tourism initiatives, providing training and support for local entrepreneurs or ensure that tourism development projects are inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

Safety and security are supreme for attracting tourists. The department has not worked closely enough with law enforcement agencies to enhance the safety of tourists and address crime hotspots that deter visitors. This budget doesn't allocate adequate resources to ensure a safe environment for tourists.

Lastly, the focus on sustainable tourism practices is insufficient, this includes protecting our natural resources, promoting eco-friendly tourism and ensuring that tourism development does not harm the environment. This budget does not reflect the commitment of sustainable tourism.

In conclusion, the EFF rejects this budget and calls for comprehensive and inclusive approach to developing the tourism sector by addressing infrastructure, marketing, especially in Royal Kingdoms, as tourism attraction; community involvement,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 221

making the youth ambassadors as tour guides in their communities and we can unlock the full potential of tourism and drive economic growth. Thank you.

IsiXhosa:

Sihlalo, uNkosi Nonkonyane akayiyo ikumkani, ngumyeni wam ikumkani. Enkosi. [Kwahlekwa.]

USIHLALO WEBHUNGA LAMAPHONDO LESIZWE: Kulungile, ungahlala phantsi. Inzolo. Sinenkosi nekumkanikazi apha kule Ndlu, siphелеle. Inzolo iza kuxhomekeka kubo.

Mr S P MABILO: Chair, I rise on behalf of the ANC to support Budget Vote 38 on Tourism. Globally, tourism is recognised for its economic contribution. It remains one of the sectors that are able to provide diverse economic opportunities on a massive scale ... [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Sorry, hon Mabilo. Ja [Yes]. You see ...

IsiXhosa:

... iinkosi ziyazixhaphaza namhlanje.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 222

English:

Yes. My apology. Over to you, hon Mokoena!

Ms S M MOKOENA: Chair, how could you get tired of seeing this beautiful face? [Laughter.]

The Department of Tourism is supposed to be selling South Africa through the world. We all know just how lovely South Africa is because we all live in it. And the rest of the world actually wants to visit South Africa.

However, this department has done little or nothing to seize the moment and get people going. If you listen to the people overseas, all they know is a bit of Cape Town, is a bit of Johannesburg, they have no idea how beautiful our Mpumalanga province, how beautiful eThekweni is. We have the mayor of eThekweni here who can vouch for me. [Laughter.]

And as a result, the MK Party is not in the market for ticking boxes and pursuits or fulfilling some kind of mandate. We apply our minds, we consider the views of our supporters and for this ...

IsiZulu:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024
Page: 223

...

English:

Thank you.

Mr S P MABILO: Chair, I rise on behalf of the ANC to support Budget Vote 38 on Tourism. Globally, tourism is recognized for its economic contribution. It remains one of the sectors that is able to provide diverse economic opportunities on a massive scale.

Therefore, our government needs to start leveraging and embracing all facets of this sector. More impetus must be placed on areas such as eco-tourism, sports tourism, cultural tourism, among others, and more support must be targeted at tourism products, in villages, in townships, in small dorpiess [towns], so as to grow the local economies and reduce the impact of poverty.

We implore the department, working with the Ministry, to ensure that the entity called South African Tourism is stable and it is the best place position to carry out its core mandate.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 224

We look forward to seeing more investment in the country because our country is endowed with natural beauty and iconic landscapes, the mountains, the oceans and all natural phenomena.

Strategic sectors such as mining, manufacturing, agriculture, finance and wholesale retail and leisure can contribute towards tourism.

As such, the entity plans to support bids to host 93 international and regional business events over the period under review and participate in global strategic events to attract tourists to the country. The country is well known.

However, we must raise our concern that the sector has experienced budget cuts in three programmes: programme 2, programme 3 and programme 4.

However, we do appreciate and understand that we are operating in a constrained fiscal challenge.

It is our considered view that tourism can continue to create jobs.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 225

We know that there's a maximum of R7,5 billion allocated to the department for the medium-term and ensuring that it carries out its key mandate.

We encourage the department to continue to explore innovative and creative mechanisms to ensure that tourism is taken to a level where it is required.

Chairperson, once again, as the ANC we support this budget.
Thank you very much.

Agreed to.

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

Declarations of votes made on behalf of the Democratic Alliance, Economic Freedom Fighters, uMkhonto weSizwe, Freedom Front Plus and African National Congress.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr N H PIENAAR: Deputy Chairperson, while the Democratic Alliance moved for the approval of this budget, we however want to emphasise that the hon Minister needs to spend less time in Russia as they don't even fall in the top 40 of our

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 226

trade partners worldwide. In fact, they only account for 1,7% of South Africa's worldwide trade and the majority of that trade is in citrus, and that does not need government intervention. If the Minister wants to assist, he needs to organise a meeting with the farmers of Tzaneen and Citrusdal Valley of the Western Cape.

The previous administration has spent too much time and money on Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, Brics, already focus on trade partners that actually work. Like the European Union, EU, trade agreements and African Growth and Opportunity Act. Frequently, we hear complaints from the galleries regarding the so-called west. However, these markets account for more than 30% of our trade deals and that keep the lights on in South Africa and feed families. Please take note, Minister, that Russia straight worth does not even keep the lights on in Acacia.

Afrikaans:

Voordat ek met my gedeelte afsluit, in ondersteuning van hierdie begroting, hoop ek om van die tyd gebruik te maak om my agb lid van my select-komitee van Trade [Gekose Komitee oor Handel en Nywerheid], agb Van den Berg, aan te moedig, want ek sien, volgens hierdie, stem julle teen die begroting. Ek het

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 227

gehoop om jou deel te maak. So, in die gees van die GNU [RNE], en met agb Boshof as die voorsitter van hierdie komitee, moedig ek jou aan om asseblief te heroorweeg. Staan saam met die GNU [RNE]. Kom ons stem vir die begroting en ons maak seker dat ons die volgende vyf jaar bou. Dankie.

Ms M KENNEDY: Hon Deputy Chair, the EFF is not supporting this Budget Vote because government and big business industry players have a role to play in contributing to the creation of jobs and growth of the economy. Ordinary South Africans can make a serious mark if they were assisted in utilising their drive and skills to grow successful business. The government is not interested in seeing the emergence of more business operators, but also not interested in ensuring that they grow in leaps and bounds to greater heights.

We reject the budget of this department as it has failed to introduce strategies that will reduce high employment rate in our country, especially amongst the youth. Job creation can only be realised through the growth of small, medium and micro enterprises, SMMEs. The government is duty bound to pay particular attention to providing necessary support, both financial and nonfinancial, but under the leadership of this Minister, this is currently not happening.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 228

There also exist very few incentives aimed at marketing South African businesses and spending export opportunities not only to the continent, but to the rest of the world. Small business operators are not assisted to be able to see the bigger picture as they undertake their different ventures. Therefore, we reject this Vote, hon Deputy Chairperson. Thank you.

Ms S M MOKOENA: Deputy Chair, first and foremost, the department's trade policies are failing to keep pace with global economic change. While other nations advance with dynamic trade agreements and robust export trade strategies, our policies remain outdated, they remain insufficiently adaptive. The stagnation has left us with a competitive disadvantage on the national on the international stage, and despite promises of support and modernisation, local industries are bogged down by high product costs and obsolete infrastructure. These factors are stifling innovation and making it increasingly difficult for businesses to drive.

In conclusion, the Department of Trade and Industry is facing a significant crisis of effectiveness. Therefore, as uMkhonto weSizwe as the incoming government after this Government of National Unity, GNU, we reject this budget. Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 229

Mr H J VAN DEN BERG: Deputy Chair, the legacy budget still supports tenderpreneurship and also discrimination based on race. Black economic empowerment has run its course, or rather its curse, and the time has arrived for inclusive opportunities.

Afrikaans:

Hierdie begroting kan nie meer werk skep nie en kan nie ondersteun word nie. Mens kan nie werk skep met uitsluitende wetgewing gemik op die onderdrukking van minderhede nie.

Agb Pienaar, ons sal tog een of ander tyd moet leer dat 'n land slegs geseën kan word as elke burger vry is om sy deel by te dra.

Die VF Plus verwelkom die nuwe adminstrasie en vestig sy hoop op toekomstige geleenthede, wat wel daarin kan slaag om 'n verskil vir almal in ons land te maak, maar ons waardes bly vir ons belangrik.

Ms S L SITHOLE: Hon Deputy Chairperson, I just want to say something before I can go to my speech. Now, I want to say that an amnesia is a loss of memory, including faxed information and experience. Now, the MK party and the EFF

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 230

forget that when they mentioned the issue of failure of the ANC, the commander-in-chief, ubaba, was part and parcel of what we are going through today.

The ANC manifesto conceptualise a clear vision to advance our transformation agenda. It highlights the critical task of building our industries for an inclusive economy by implementing a crosscutting industrial strategy that drives growth and creates opportunities for youth and other unemployment persons. The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition is central to advancing our transformational objectives. This Budget Vote clearly outlines the strategic direction and decisive intervention that our economy will be taking to address the critical task of our transformation agenda, which include reindustrialising our economy, supporting black industrialists SMMEs and dealing with the structural constraints of concentration.

The Vote further ensures that industrial opportunity resulting from policy, regulatory or private sector decision are maximised to manufacturing net growth. To succeed, we must partner with the private sector to unlock deep pools of capital benefiting from their expertise and ensuring strong investment inflow into our economy. They are a need to ensure

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 231

open and transparent engagement with the private sector that builds trust and foster investment and growth.

Support for our industrial park is essential to enhance growth and investment in rural and underdeveloped provinces. It is our firm view as the African National Congress that industrial space must not only provide a work space for firms, but that they must also provide an opportunity to crowd in economic support and stimulate economic development. Like many other countries that South African government recognise which is expressed through this Vote the benefit of supporting the development of industrial spaces, and these spaces form part of the overall strategy to build manufacturing capacity in South Africa.

Many of our industrial parks are located in rural and underdeveloped provinces. More resources need to go to these areas to drive development and growth. Hon Deputy chairperson, our support for this Vote is premised on the understanding that our industrial policy ... we support the Vote 39 as the ANC. Thank you. [Time expired.]

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

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 232

Vote No 40 – Transport – Put

Declarations of Vote:

Ms M MAKESINI: Thank you, Chairperson, ...

Sesotho:

Ho thwe lehlanya, le bona mahlanya a mang.

IsiXhosa:

Ukuba uTata uSithole ebenokuya eMpuma Koloni besiza kumthumela emagezeni, eBhofolo. Kulapho ebeza kubona abantu abafana naye.

English:

The Economic Freedom Fighter reject the budget and we do so for several key reasons. The public transport accessible, the existence of a large outcry of the people who use public transport and ...

IsiXhosa:

... abona bantu bakhalaza kakhulu ngabantu abakhubazekileyo kuba inkqubo yethu yezothutho ayibancedisi abantu abakhubazekileyo.

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 233

The majority of our people also continue to be the victim of robberies because of the lack of reliable and safe transport in the country. On a railway network revival, we urgently need to revive the railway network to ease the load on our roads and reduce the congestion. Operation Valazonke ...
[Inaudible.] the pothole repair should be an ongoing responsibility of the department...

IsiXhosa:

... ingabiyinto eyenzeka kuphela xa kuza kuvotwa.

English:

Operation Valazonke should happen daily because...

IsiXhosa:

... kukho abantu abaqashwe lisebe ukudiba izigingqi ukunqanda iingozi ezenzekayo ezindleleni.

English:

Permit backlog and RAF issues also must be attended to because ...

IsiXhosa:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 234

... abantu akufanelanga ukuba balindiswe iminyaka emithathu bonzakele.

English:

Also, in Free State they must prioritise the backlog of the permit.

IsiXhosa:

Abantu baseMzantsi Afrika abafuna iimpepha zokurhweba ngeeteksi mabalungiselelwe kuba nabo banelungelo lokurhweba. Imibutho yoonoteksi mayingabavaleli abantu abatsha abafuna ukungena.

English:

Therefore, the claim should also be processed within three months. That's the only way that it can assist after all the applications have been processed and objected.

IsiXhosa:

Abantu mabanganikwa imali bengasebenzanga okanye kungenzekanga nto kubo. Ohloniphekileyo uPeter naye wakhe wafumana amaR20 000 engazange wafaka isicelo sokwenzakala ngemoto. Lurhwaphilizo olo lwenzekayo.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 235

English:

Therefore, as EFF we, reject this budget because really ...

IsiXhosa:

... uninzi lwabantu lufumana imali lungenzakalanga.

English:

We call up the ministry to give focus on the issue of the RAF.
Thank you very much.

IsiZulu:

Mnu E NZIMANDE: Ngiyabonga Sihlalo ohloniphekile, cha
siyasichitha ngezinyawo zombili le sabiwomali. Izizathu
zimbalwa futhi ziyabonakala ziyaziwa. Akayimisele lo hulumeni
futhi angakaze azimisele nangaphambili

English:

To transform radically the issue of airflights.

IsiZulu:

Uyabona kunentokazi laphaya abathi uSbongile Sambo wangapha
eBushbuckridge wancedwa uhulumeni kababa uNxamalala. Kwasuka
kwafakwa izibonkolo kwathiwa vuka sambe, akahambe manje abe
ngumuntu okufanele afakaze ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 236

English:

... against the late Comrade Dudu.

IsiZulu:

Uma engavumi bamcisha akakhuli kubhizinisi. Ukhona ezindizeni ngoba i-black excellence ayidingeki kulo hulumeni ophethwe omunye ubaba nabanye abantu khona la. Yingakho nanamhlanje ubaba uKhuzini okuthiwa hhayi cha ngoba umnyama ulungi noPHD wakho uzawukhokhelwa nje umfana one-School leaving Certificate ngoba nangu umhlophe.

Sisichitha ngalezi zizathu futhi akukho ukukhombisa ukuzimisela ukuqeda okanye ukuza ...

English:

... with strategies to prevent the disputes on taxi routes.

IsiZulu:

Le sabiwomali asikhombisi ukuzimisela ukuthi izingqalazizinda zikhuliswe ukuze nabantu abahlala emakhaya bakwazi ukuthi bathole indlela noma imizila yezitimela zokuhamba nokuthutha ezilula. Lo hulumeni akanaye unembezakubantu bakithi abamnyama okanye abampisholo. Siyasichitha asambisani naso. Le sabiwomali.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 237

Ms T I LEGWASE: Thank you very much, chairperson, the ANC supports the Appropriation Bill Budget Vote 40 of Transport, the transport sector is a key driver of the economy and a major creator of jobs with direct or indirect impact. The programmes of the department are geared to the development of the different modes of transport in the country. Crucial to the development of the different modes of transport is the infrastructure development to improve public transport in different provinces in terms of commuter rail and road. This is an integral part of implementing the economic reconstruction and recovery plan. This is aimed at improving the lives of the working class and poor. Public transport needs to be integrated and must be at the cheapest possible price to increase disposable income in the pockets of the working class and the poor.

It is important that progress is made, transport infrastructure development will link people to market and to market each other than enabling the microeconomic development. The protection of the commuter rail infrastructure that is being development is critical to avoid duplication of investments. Increasing the reach of the BRT system, more municipalities are critical for more efficient and effective way of dealing with public transport system. It is important

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 238

that further progress is made with regards to the movement of goods and freight rail. This will reduce the maintenance costs on road and enable further development of the road network to rural areas in the provinces. Provinces need to develop the capacity and capability to execute road maintenance and development.

The Opposition is unable is unable to positively contribute to the development of the public sector and the transport sector as they remain stuck in issues which affected the sector in the past. They are not looking forward to contribute positively to the sector, which is a critical function of the economy. There is much work to be done and much to be achieved in the transport sector for the communities that have elected us, and this cannot be achieved without the support of the Budget Vote and the Appropriation Bill. The ANC support for the budget and the Appropriation Bill is based on transport infrastructure development, providing access through transport to social services and markets, as well as the job creation.

Setswana:

Ke a leboga Modulasetilo.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 239

Declarations of votes made on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters, uMkhonto weSizwe and African National Congress.

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

Vote No 41 - Water And Sanitation - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Dr I S SCHEURKOGEL: Thank you, Chair. I would like to take this opportunity, as is the last Budget Vote - everybody can remember - to greet you all the name of John Henry Steenhuisen, the leader of the DA and the current Minister of Agriculture. This is the last declaration on the individual Budget Votes, today. Yet, one of the most important in terms of the impact that government has, and can have, on the lives of people living in South Africa.

The Department of Water and Sanitation has been a crime scene since Minister Mokonyane used the War on Leaks project to fund the ANC elections. The work, under Minister Mchunu, has begun, but still water leak costs nonrevenue water to the excess of 50% in many places. Where fresh water is not running in the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 240

streets, it is sewage flowing down the streets into our drinking water resources.

In order for the War on Leaks programme to succeed, the department needs to engage on an extensive private public partnership program, because those that will take the heat head are our local business forums that want to grow their businesses, to contribute to the GNU's intent to create jobs.

As a water-scarce country, we cannot have a department which has been made aware that Vaal Central Water in the Free State will limit the water supply to 30% due to Matjhabeng Municipality not paying their bills. Section 139 intervention has been mentioned by this House, and the department's response is that it will deal with it next Monday - Mafube, Maluti-a-Phofung, Matjhabeng and Ngwathe, just to name a few.

Free State municipalities have water shedding daily or no water at all, which is an infringement of people's human rights. Let all the national interventions be of the true spirit of Batho Pele. The elections have passed. Let interventions truly help our people and not use state money to get votes. The DA supports the budget on this Bill - in my in the name of Mr John Henry Steenhuisen.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 241

Mr K CEZA: Thank you very much, Chair. The EFF rejects the Budget Vote for Water and Sanitation. This department has committed serious violations on the right to access to water and sanitation, with most violations taking place in the rural and informal communities. Every year billions of rands are allocated to this department. Yet, this does not translate to reality on the ground.

Chairperson, if you think we are telling lies, go and ask Inkosi Njokweni of the Idabi Village in Amazizi, in Ngqushwa Local Municipality under Amatole District Municipality in the Eastern Cape. Go and ask in Ntsika Yethu, in Nongqongqwana Village, where a community had to pay for their own means to access water. Go and ask these people that you have just dealt with, that are coming from Limpopo, who are outside here. They are stranded. They have hiked to come here in Parliament to raise their issues pertaining to Greater Letaba in Tzaneen project. They are stuck now and they can't go back home.

These issues, we have been pursuing with the department and with the Deputy Minister in the sixth administration. It is very sad that genuine issues raised by the people of this country can be deemed as lies by a Deputy Minister of a country. The same can be said about the plight of the people

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 242

of Carolina in Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality, who cannot drink water from their taps and opt to go to source drinkable water from underground wells.

IsiZulu:

... iziyalo, baya eziyalweni bayokha amanzi ...

English:

These are lived experiences that we have had to conduct oversight on during the 2024 National and Provincial Elections period. This is so because the EFF lives amongst the people, not in hotels. The budget reduction will not assist in dealing with water and sanitation infrastructure backlogs in the country.

Equally pressing is the manner in which rural areas have been grappling with water scarcity for years, and in some instances, decades. The Lepelle Nkumbi Local Municipality has, for example, been in the spotlight of a deplorable condition of water facilities which are affected by various sources including agrochemicals and industrial effluence. Other affected areas, include Capricorn District Municipality, the Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality, the Mopani District

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 243

Municipality, Vhembe District Municipality and Waterberg District Municipality.

Residents in the areas face inadequate service delivery and unreliable infrastructure, which exacerbates the water crisis. In Mpumalanga, rural areas such as Augustinus, Poolzie, KwaMaza, in Sycamore in Ward 2 and in Ward 5 in Emakhazeni, still need boreholes until today. [Time expired.] Therefore, we reject this budget. Thank you.

IsiZulu:

Mr E NZIMANDE: Sihlalo ohloniphekile, ngiya ngihlale ngizwa kuthiwa indoda inezingqwayi eziningi, ihlezi iphethwe ikhanda ngoba, hheyi, ave zihlupha, angizazi ukuthi ubani okufanele simkholwe manje ngoba uNgqongqoshe uthe asinayo inkinga yamanzi, akukho ukushoda kwamanzi, ingqwayi yakhe ithi kunokushoda kwamanzi, hhayi, kunenkinga la kulo mshado. Silapha la sikhona.

English:

The reduced budget is one amongst the reasons that makes us to oppose or reject the budget because if you look on the inadequate infrastructure that we have on water and sanitation, we shall not be able to address ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 244

IsiZulu:

... abantu baseNkandla, baseMahlabathini, baseMsinga Top, ngisho nalapho eMnambithi la ngibuya khona ukuthi izindlu zangasese eziyimgodi ziqedwe nya bakwazi futhi nokuthi babenamanzi agelezayo. Ngeke ziqedwe yilo Hulumeni ngoba, Sihlalo, kusobala ukuthi uyahlomula ngendaba yalamathangi o-Jojo laba ngoba lawa abawalethayo yilapho abadla khona.

Namanzi abawalethayo ngamaloli bawaletsha ngamaloli ukuze badle, bakhohle ukuthi lawo manzi abuye angcole agulise abantu bakithi. Ibhunu belikhuluma isiBhunu wathula wathi du, awuvale umlomo wakho wena. Okwesibili, kunale nto yokuthi kune- ...

English:

... ageing infrastructure and ...

IsiZulu:

... ngike ngasho ekuqaleni, ngiyakuphinda, kunezindawo laphaya uma ubuka ngase-Gauteng ezinceda uHulumeni kakhulu ukuthi sihlanze ...

English:

... wastewater ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 245

IsiZulu:

... ngokungabi nemali eyanele nokungabeki imali eyanele kuzophazamiseka bese mhlawumbe sithole le nkinga eshiwo ngapha ngemuva ukuthi siswele amanzi kanti besekuthiwa asikawasweli. Besicela ukuthi nina ... [Akuzwakali.] ... nihambe niyobatshela phela ukuthi mababuyele kuMginimafa bayofuna imali ngoba asizoyivuma lento. Sithi siyasichitha. Siyabonga.

IsiXhosa:

Mnu M M PETER: Mandibulise Sihlalo...

English:

... for the first time, ...

IsiXhosa:

... nakumalungu ale Ndlu, nawo mandiwabulise, xa lithi ndithenge. IUDM iyaluxhasa olu hlahlo-lwabiwo mali ngenxa yonqongophalo lwamanzi. Loo nto ayithethi ukuba lana amanzi akhoyo mawanganonophelwa kuba amanzi yimpilo. Sikwacela kananjalo ukuba ezi ndawo zilandelayo ndiza kuzikhankanya siziqwalasele: ukwanda kwabantu apha kwilizwe lethu ngenxa yokukhuthala kootata. Ndithi noko mabaqhwatyelwe izandla. [Kwahlekwa.] Loo nto ibangela ukuba amanzi emadamini anciphe kuba ayekhelwe elo nani labantu lalikho mandulo. Siyacela ke

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 246

singumbutho weUDM ukuba aqwalaselwe la madama, andiswe, kulungiswe neziseko zawo ukuze onele abantu ngokukhula kwabo ngexesha. Amadama angagutyulwayo abangela ukuba amanzi angacoceki. Iinkampani zabucala ziye zalukrozo ukuya kushishina ngokunikezela amanzi eluntwini ngenxa yokungongophala kwezakhono kweli candelo kwiinkokeli zabantu koomasipala beedolophu.

Ndifuna ukuphinda, ndibulele le Ndlu ekhokelwe yiANC ngokwenza umntana kaHolomisa uSekela Mphathiswa wamajoni. [Kwaqhwatywa.] Sakube asinambeko ukuba singaphuma apha singayincomanga loo nto. Sibulelela ngokungazenzisiyo kuni, sisithi niyayazi ukuba kushiyeke uKwankwa ngoku qha. Nakubona ke nina ukuba nakumabela phi na. Enkosi. [Kwahlekwa.]

IsiXhosa:

Nksk M B NDLANGISA-NODADA: Mandibulele kohlomphekileyo, uSihlalo weBhunga lamaPhondo leSizwe. Andisayi kuphinda ndibuyele kulaa ndawo besele ndithethe kuyo.

English:

I will just continue because I have already said something about this Budget Vote 41. Hon Chairperson, as a water-scarce country, we must ensure water security in our country through

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 247

implementing water infrastructure projects. Some, are already in design, planning and construction phases of implementation, such as the Steven Dlamini Dam, the Upper Umkhomazi Dam and the Polihali Dam, to mention but a few.

As the ANC, we are concerned that as a country we are losing close to 50% of clean drinking water due to water leaks and broken infrastructure. This is a matter that needs urgent attention from the department and local government. We fully support the department's commitment to provide much needed support to the local municipalities to address the water and sanitation challenges reported in the blue and green drop reports.

We support the focus on prioritising maintenance, and we should ensure allocated funds are spent on maintenance. As the ANC, we support the Budget Vote.

IsiXhosa:

Enkosi.

Vote is agreed to (with Economic Freedom Fighters and MK Party dissenting).

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 248

Schedule put.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL

(Consideration of Bill and of Report thereon)

Ms T I LEGWASE: Hon Chairperson of the NCOP, hon members, permanent and special delegates present today, fellow South Africans, good day. It is my privilege and honour to table before this this House a Report on Appropriation Bill [B 5-2024] on behalf of the Select Committee on Appropriations which was unanimously adopted.

You would remember, Chairperson, that this is one of the four Bills which were tabled by the Minister of Finance in the 6th Parliament, and the following three Bills were adopted. The Division of Revenue Bill, Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill for 2023-24 financial year and Gold and Foreign Exchange Contingency Reserve Account Bill also known as GFECRA. Since the Bill was tabled in Parliament by the Minister of Finance in February 2024 and it was referred to the committee for concurrence on 25 July 2024, the Bill outlined various clauses

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 249

that govern the utilization of appropriated funds for the current financial year and beyond for all national departments votes.

The committee received a briefing from the National Treasury on 16 July 2024 and further consulted with the Financial and Fiscal Commission at Parliamentary Budget Office respectively. The Money Bills and Related Matters Act read together with section 72 of the Constitution also mandates the committee to conduct public hearings and report to this House.

In compliance with this provision, advancements were published in print media in all official languages as well as Parliament website and social media platforms inviting the public and interested parties to comment. Written submissions were received from interested parties such as Equal Education Law Centre as well as Congress of SA Trade Unions known as Cosatu.

During the consultations and public hearings, the committee observed some key issues and made following recommendations for the executive to implement: The Minister of Finance should gazette an appropriation Bill [B5-2024] once it is signed into law and ensure that the National Treasury continues to assist other state organs to establish measures and mechanism to

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 250

prevent noncompliance, wasteful fruitless irregular expenditure across national departments to safeguard the approved locations as required by section 38(1)(C)(ii) of the Public Finance Management Act. This includes ensuring that value for money achieved in government failing which the necessary consequence management must be implemented.

In the next budget cycle while the structure of certain departments and their programmes will be re-evaluated, the National Treasury should consider finalizing in implementing the long-awaited zero-based budgeting initiative to improve South African public finance which the committee believes is long overdue.

The National Treasury should review the reduction in Vote 2: Parliament in the next adjustment process. Since the committee believes that any budget cut may hinder Parliament in fulfilling its oversight, public participation and lawmaking functions and further compromising the work of parliamentarians as public representatives.

The National Treasury should in the next budget adjustment process review the reduction in the key economic departments such as Vote 39, Vote 35, Vote 34, Vote 32 and Vote 38 if the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 251

much-needed infrastructure led economy recovery and infrastructure reforms are to be achieved.

The National Treasury should within 60 days after the adoption of this report by the House develop clear measures to ensure that the amounts set aside as the contingency reserved to deal with unforeseen and unavailable situations, including natural disasters and floods is used according to plan to protect the approved expenditure framework for service delivery.

The National Treasury should in the next Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement outline concrete measures taken to address the increasing debt service cost in the absence of further bailout for state-owned entities and the focus of borrowing from the local market yielding less interest. The committee is of the view that a more comprehensive approach to stabilize the current government debt is needed as a matter of urgency.

Given the widespread disasters and floods across some provinces, though the Department of Human Settlements and the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs should develop measures to ensure that funding for natural disasters is utilized accordingly and plans that are well

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 252

coordinated rapid respond to address such disasters
holistically in implementing immediately when they occur.

The Department of Basic Education should within 90 days of the adoption of the report by the House develop a proper plan with clear timeframes to expertise the proposed pilot programmes in Early Childhood Development, including a new nutrition model and Outcomes Based Contract to ensure that more resources are injected in the foundation phase to improve the quality of learning and teaching, to increase number of Grade 4 learners who are able to read for meaning, thereby, improving a quality of tertiary education output so that graduates can contribute towards economic development to fight inequality, poverty and unemployment

The Department of Basic Education should within 90 days of the adoption of this report by the House provide a report to the committee on a clear mechanism develop to ensure that all needy schools in both rural and urban areas are provided with equal attention, efforts and resources to address school dropouts, overcrowding and infrastructure maintenance.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 253

The department should ensure that the commission appointed by the new Minister of Basic Education to investigate school infrastructure and curriculum expedite its work.

The Department of Police together with the National Treasury should in 90 days of the adoption of the report by the House provide a report to the committee on planned develop to ensure that increase funds on Vote 28 of Police is earmarked for its core function, which is to combat crime, help keep people safe and that existing technology is leverage such as an electronic system for registering cases, record keeping and report writing to avoid inefficiencies, missing dockets and various other administrative challenges.

The Department of Agriculture together with its provincial counterparts should in 90 days of the adoption of the report by the House provide a report to the committee on a planned develop to improve the performance of both comprehensive Agriculture Programme Grant and Ilima/Letsema, Project Grant to capacitate and support small and emerging farmers, to address access to market to make sure that resources are earmarked for such farmers to enhance food security.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 254

The committee is of the view that putting more effort and resources towards agriculture and farming may assist to revive much needed inclusive economic growth.

As recommended by the committee of the 6th Parliament previously, the National Treasury and the Department of Social Development should accelerate the process of converting the Social Relief Stress Grant to more sustainable and impactful mechanism to provide relief for unemployed South Africans Whether it be used as startup capital towards self-sufficiency or to continues seeking employment.

Given the proliferation of state-owned entity bailouts which has taken resources away from service delivery programmes in recent years, the committee believes that the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation should expertise SOEs, e-reforms effort to strengthen SOEs governance structures vigorously assess their business models and rationalize some of their operations.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all members of the committee for their constructive engagement, the stakeholders, the media and the public as well as our dedicated committee support staff. With all these efforts with the role players, it was

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 255

not going to be possible, and we would not have been a success. The committee recommends to the House that the Bill be adopted for concurrence without amendments. Thank you very much, Chairperson.

Debate concluded.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr J H P BRITZ: Hon Chair, the DA supports several critical proposals in the 2024 budget: deficit reduction, debt containment, fiscal consolidation and structural reforms. The DA has long advocated for these proposals as part of the foundations to rescuing our country. However, the DA firmly believes that these measures must be accompanied by strong pivot towards economic growth, which we will push hard in the government of national unity, GNU.

The DA supports this budget, that this budget does not allocate any new funds for bailouts. It has long been the view of the DA that bailouts have caused a severe escalation and public debt, as well as caused cuts to critical public services and departmental budgets. South Africa is running out of fiscal space and bailouts to failing state-owned enterprises, SOEs, are not sustainable.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 256

The budget further acknowledges that the outdated to gross domestic product, GDP, ratio at 74,6% is far too high for a middle-income country, and that it must be brought in line with emerging market peers. The state spends 20% of its budget on debt repayments and this drains resources for service delivery. The budget further does not raise taxes for the financial year 2024-2025.

The DA has strongly advocated against tax increases and will continue to do so in the GNU. We further look forward to the upcoming review of administered prices such as the fuel price and the expansion of zero-rated value-added tax, VAT on essential food items, which will make life for all South Africans a little bit more affordable.

The DA further urges an acceleration of structural reforms to public monopolies to unlock growth, poorly performing ports, freight rail, energy availability and other critical enablers need reform and public sector participation is critical. South African needs growth to create jobs and increase tax revenue.

This is the last budget drawn up by an ANC majority. The DA anticipates that medium term budget policy statement as well as the upcoming adjustment budget will incorporate further

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 257

reforms towards a credible fiscal path and prioritizing growth, so more South Africans can get into work.

The DA opposed this Bill in the spirit of taking South Africa forward to a position where the GNU can prepare budget that is reflective of our unified vision of South Africa. That places its residence at the centre of our government's existence. I thank you, enkosi.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP (Mr K M Mmoiemang): Hon Chairperson...

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Yes, Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP (Mr K M Mmoiemang): ... Chair, hon Nxumalo was outside when you called for parties who were going to make declarations. So, I propose that you also note her hand. Thank you Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: You are noted hon Nxumalo. Just take your seat, I will indicate when it's your turn, yes. Hon Breedt, I now invite you.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 258

Ms T BREEDT: Chairperson, in an election year, it makes for a very unique situation, this Appropriation Bill and its budgetary process. An election has the potential to turn an appropriation on its head. As we've seen this year, an election year poses the opportunity for a new government and new priorities and new departments as we are seeing, this ultimately makes the budget, a legacy budget with old priorities and old departments.

It also makes it very hard to support an appropriation you know does not speak to what is happening on the ground. The process, therefore, nearly becomes a box ticking exercise to comply with legislation. I think this is something that needs to be addressed and looked at specifically in an election year. We cannot simply approve a budget for the sake of having a budget and then wait for an appropriation adjustment to affect the changes that we want to see.

That being said, I think we will only truly see the government of national unity, gnu's priorities come to light in the adjustment appropriation later this year. We need to give the Ministers a chance to settle into their departments, refocus their priorities and develop a clear five-year plan.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 259

Afrikaans:

Wat ons wel vir mekaar moet sê is dat ons skuld by die dag meer raak en ons gaan dit moet aanspreek. Die begrotingstekort is 'n probleem en ons gaan ook moet kyk hoe ons, as land, ons inkomste sal kan verhoog. Dit gaan belangrik wees om na die fiskale raamwerk te kyk, om sodoende ekonomiese groei te stimuleer. Daar gaan ook strukturele hervorming moet geskied.

Die kruks is dat die ekonomie gaan moet groei. Die VF Plus het 'n paar voorstelle daaroor: die Gelyke Indiëswet moet geskrap word en so ook arbeidswetgewing en -regulasies wat nie werkskepping aanmoedig nie; korrupsie op alle vlakke van die regering moet uitgeroei word; daar moet weggedoen word met sogenaamde redtape [rompslomp] wat entrepreneurs en ander sakeondernemings stuit; beleidsekerheid is nodig; privatiseer staatsbeheerde ondernemings en stop alle reddingsboei; gehalte onderwys en vaardigheidsontwikkeling is nodig; spesiale ekonomiese sones moet uitgebrei en gekonsolideer word; en staatsbesteding moet fokus op infrastruktuurontwikkeling en -instandhouding.

English:

But let me conclude with meticulous planning, dedicated and vigilant watchdogs, that's us. Capable and well-informed heads

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 260

of departments and constant consultation with various important role players, the proposed budget allocations will simply pay lip service to a desperate and fragile South African society who deserves so much better and more from its government. But with that being said, we support the appropriation. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you very much, hon Chirwa, please, let it be the last time to do what you did as you were walking in here. The rules preclude you to walk in between the speaker on the floor and the presiding officer you did just that. Thank you very much.

Ms M SIWISA: Chairperson, the EFF rejects this Appropriation Bill. Don't be surprised, Mr Badenhorst, we reject this budget as there was no meaningful engagement with the proposed budget by the National Treasury. This is a concerning to note as the Appropriation Bill, appropriates money from the National Revenue Fund at the 2,1 trillion to give to departments to spend.

This means that it is us as lawmakers who decide what and how the government spends taxpayers' money, not the National

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 261

Treasury and the Minister of Finance, they merely propose. So, we've got a right to reject whatever they are proposing.

We reject that ill as it does not do nothing further to empower the lives of our people. We reject this Bill as what was tabled before us in the Council was a budget cut of 600 million to Parliament budget. We also cannot in good conscience has agreed to a budget cut of 367 million to the Department of Home Affairs budget, when Home Affairs officers are not accessible because they are only in major urban centres and not in rural areas.

We also cannot agree to a budget cut of 1,1 billion to the Department of Public Works budget, when government departments are in dilapidated buildings and the construction industry is retrenching people every day.

And now the Minister and his Cabinet are gunning for the Property Management Trading Entity, PMTE, the same way that they gun for the Independent Development Trust, IDT, in the sixth Parliament. Nor can we agree to a budget cut of the office of Chief Justice budget, the agriculture and rural development budget, the employment and labour budget.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 262

Today we reject what is being proposed in this Appropriation Bill, and we want to make it clear that we are not objecting to our people getting services. We are opposed to a budget that is intended to reduce services like the people of Dannhauser in KwaZulu-Natal, KZN, still waiting for water. People of Alfred Duma in KZN waiting for houses. People of Utlwanang ward five in Pokwang, also waiting for houses and people of Victoria West in ward five.

I want to close the statement by saying to ANC cadres.

IsiXhosa:

... isala kutyelwa sibona ngolophu.

English:

That's why you got below 50% and then to the government of national unity, GNU cadres, to the GNU cadres.

Afrikaans:

Stille waters diepe grond. Onder draai die duiwel rond.

English:

Thank you very much.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 263

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: I now call upon hon Majola. Order hon members. Allow hon Majola to address the House. Order! Hon members, order! Hon Badenhorst order! Hon Majola over to you.

Mr J S MAJOLA: Madam Chair, the proposed Bill that is being tabled before us on its current state Madam Chair, it is very difficult for us to support. Well, we have noted some effort to address some critical issues that affect South Africa in these days, like an increase on a Police vote. Well, that's an indication that there is a little effort in terms of addressing the critical issue of crime in terms of drugs, in terms of murders, in terms of what they view.

But Madam Chair, critical issues that were raised by the Parliament stakeholders which we use as our mirrors, the Financial and Fiscal Commission, FFC, the Parliament Budget Office. They warn us, Madam Chair to say the critical part that is facing us, which is one, amongst other many reasons why we find a lot of reduction in most of our 41 votes. It's because that we can't inject the revenue.

Therefore, the call for radical economic growth Madam Chair, was raised. Looking at what is proposed before us, Madam

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 264

Chair, the votes that are economic growth orientated, Vote for 39, Trade and Industry, that's the key.

Madam Chair, I won't repeat what has been said during the vote debates, but it has been highlighted that the backbone of the South African economy, it's trade and industry, it's our mineral resource. All those votes, Madam Chair that are economic growth orientated, we saw a reduction of it.

Therefore, we can't support, we object the proposed Bill Five of 2024 on its current state Madam Chair. Thank you very much.

Ms S NXUMALO: Chair, as I am standing here in front of you, as the African National Congress, I can say that with this Appropriation Bill we have undergone all the processes that we are supposed to do. Those who have made submissions, we have been able to listen to them. What I can say is that for the next five years the ANC will ensure that they deliver according to this Vote. Therefore, we are passing this Vote to make sure that our people will get water and will get all the services that they are yearning for. Therefore, with these few words I want to say that we have undergone also the public participation, fortunately, I'm part of the Appropriation Committee. We have undergone all the processes.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 265

Therefore, with these words I will say that people of South Africa will be able to get water, they will be able to get bridges and they will be able to get all the projects that we have set. We will be able to make sure that in terms of appointment and in terms of employment, our people will get employment throughout this Vote. Without this Vote, it means that all those things that we have been saying, it will be null and void.

What I can say is that let us make sure that as the African National Congress, we support this Vote, and we make sure that it is our vehicle for the next five years. Our community will be able to get all the necessary projects, and all the necessary jobs that we have promised them as we were going to the election. Thank you very much, Chairperson. I support the Vote.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you, hon Nxumalo. Before we proceed to voting, we will allow 15 seconds to delegates who are outside the Chamber and those that have joined in through virtual platform to join the House.

Mr V GERICKE: Chairperson, can I ask just for the sake of clarity?

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 266

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Yes, honourable member. Okay.

Mr V GERICKE: Can I ask that respectfully, which rule are you applying for these 15 seconds?

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon member, this is in accordance with the order of proceedings today and therefore this is allowed, and it must be done as such.

Mr V GERICKE: I don't dispute this, I'm asking in terms of which rule are you acting, because when we go over in the process of voting, all the people should be in House.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon members, there has been engagement amongst the parties prior to this sitting of today, of which the proceedings were outlined as to how are they going to unfold today in this House. Therefore, what we are doing now it's in accordance with the agreement that the parties have agreed on and therefore please let's allow that to happen. I think we are now ready to vote if we can request the ushers to close the doors so that we can proceed with the business of the day.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 267

Hon members, order! We are now proceeding to the voting on the question, and the question is that the Bill be agreed to. Delegates who vote in favour should please raise their hands. Please keep your hands raised. Can I then request the ushers to count for us? I'm sure someone is monitoring those that are on virtual platform. Thank you.

Thank you, hon members. The count is now complete. We will accordingly lower the hands of those that are in virtual platform as well. I now call upon the delegates who are voting against to raise their hands and please keep your hands raised until we indicate otherwise. I hope, Secretary, you are also monitoring the virtual platform as well. Thank you very much, honourable delegates, you may lower your hands. I call upon those delegates who want to abstain from voting, please do raise your hands.

There is none in the House. Virtual platform is there any - none. The count is now complete. Voting is now closed.

Honourable delegates, the voting is as follows: those who voted in favour are 43. I repeat, 43. Those who voted against are 11. I repeat, 11. Those who abstained is zero. Therefore, honourable delegates, the Bill is agreed to in terms of section 75 of the Constitution. Thank you very much.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 268

Mr F J BADENHORST: Hon Chair, I just want to ask you, this is for future reference, I can't recall if we have agreed that the staff will do the counting and not the Whips. I can't recall it. Did we agree on that that the staff will do the counting of the votes and not the Whips of the parties?

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Well, according to the proceedings as informed the Table will then do the counting for the votes. Therefore, hence we requested them to conduct that as such. Even the results are coming from the Table. It is alright. No, thank you very much, hon members.

Hon delegates, this was the last sitting of the term, and I am pleased to indicate to the delegates that you have lived up to the expectation of your political parties and the South Africans that you are representing. Please do go home, take a rest, come back refreshed and let's not forget the mandate of holding executive accountable and making sure that we represent the plight and the aspiration of the people of South Africa. Having said that, hon members, the House is adjourned, until we meet again in the second term. Thank you very much.

Question put: That the Bill be agreed to.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024

Page: 269

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

The Council rose at 17:39.

UNREVISED HANSARD