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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at Nieuwmeester Dome at 14:01.

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

QUESTIONS TO THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Question 7:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, let me begin by thanking hon Nkabane for raising this critical question, which touches directly on the sustainability and profitability of small-scale farmers in rural and undeveloped provinces.

Hon Nkabane, through the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme, CASP, and Ilima/Letsema initiatives, subsidised fertiliser, seed and production inputs are being provided to smallholder farmers. This is complemented by infrastructure

support such as fencing, irrigation systems, boreholes and mechanisation, ensuring that farmers can sustain productivity even under rising input costs.

In partnership with the Land and Agricultural Development Bank, Land Bank, and other development finance institutions, blended finance instruments are also being expanded to cushion farmers against market volatility and to strengthen their access to affordable credit.

The Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Perishable Products Export Control Board, PPECB, continues to assist emerging and smallholder farmers with support towards meeting the food safety and health requirements required by retail markets. Support is sourced from statutory levies authorized by the Minister of Agriculture, with a commitment that at least 20% of these levies is dedicated to fostering transformation. This initiative aims to integrate more smallholder farmers into various agricultural value chains.

Government is also accelerating the localisation of fertiliser production and promoting climate-smart farming methods to reduce dependency on imported inputs. Extension and advisory services

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play a key role here, transferring knowledge on sustainable soil management, water-efficient irrigation and low-input farming practices.

In addition, the Smallholder Empowerment Programme, SHEP, implemented in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, is guiding farmers towards market-led production, helping them meet food safety and health requirements for retail markets and integrating them into agricultural value chains.

Furthermore, through strategic platforms such as NAMPO, in collaboration with AgriSA, are being deliberately utilised not only as exhibition spaces but as instruments of transformation. This approach ensures that small-scale farmers are not only supported through subsidies, but are actively empowered to compete, grow and participate meaningfully in the agricultural economy.

In conclusion, hon Speaker, our efforts are focusing on protecting and enhancing the sustainability and profitability of small-scale farmers by providing access to markets, finance, resources and technology. This is because ...

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Setswana:

... re itsi sentle gore balemi ba bapotlana ke motheo wa tshireletso ya dijo mo lefatsheng la rona.

English:

As government we remain steadfast in our commitment to protecting their viability and resilience, recognising that small-scale farmers are indeed the foundation of food security in our nation. I thank you, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

Dr N P NKABANE: Deputy President, thank you so much for providing us with that comprehensive response in this question. In your response you did mention that there is a need to build internal resilience which is critical for economic growth and also to strengthen our economic sovereignty as a state.

Investments in biofuels can reduce some of the input pressure facing agriculture, reduce South Africa's exposure to global fuel price shock and create new domestic demand for agricultural products.

In this regard, Deputy President, to what extent is the government supporting investments in alternative energy

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solutions such as biofuel production for rural small-scale farmers to reduce their dependency on expensive fuel costs?

That's the question, hon Deputy President.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Nkabane, yes, indeed, we realised that when there's an increase in fuel prices it does hit hard on small-scale farmers as well. I agree with you that the reduction on fuel levy of R3 that the Minister of Finance introduced went some way to cushion them.

But as I said in my main answer that we are looking at other methods of ensuring that they are sustainable, including what I've said, the support that we give, including fencing, making sure that they've got supply of fertilizers, seeds in an affordable manner.

There are a lot of funds that are spent by the Department of Agriculture, in particular, to support small-scale farmers.

So, it's a combination of a number of initiatives that are being made available by the government to ensure that they can survive because - as I said earlier - food security is very important

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for the nation and therefore, our farmers need support, in particular the small-scale farmers. We will continue to support them through many of these initiatives that I've indicated in my reply earlier.

Thank you very much, hon member, for that question. Thank you, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

Mr C F B SMIT: Hon Deputy President, we are very excited about the initiative by Minister John Steenhuisen on moving to biofuel to alleviate.

Deputy President, considering the implication of high fuel prices for food prices, the cost of living and our challenges with food insecurity, malnutrition and hunger as a country, further noting that the current R3 per litre fuel levy relief on petrol, which has provided temporary mitigation to rising fuel prices is due to end on 2 June this year.

While we recognise that any utilisation of the Compensation Fund may require amendments to the Compensation Fund Act, which I am sure you would support ... [Time expired.] ... given the magnitude of our imminent national crisis: Has government

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considered using the report of R21,7 billion surplus compensation to reduce the impact of rising fuel prices?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon member, as I said earlier, targeted support is going to continue. It's important that we don't abandon our farmers. I did indicate comprehensive agricultural support that we are providing, but there are other initiatives that we have put in place to ensure that we don't support and stop and support and stop, it must be a continuous support.

Access to blended finance is critical for farmers, including small-scale farmers, to be able to continue their production.

So, yes, the issue of fuel levy, the Minister of Finance will continue to look at that. As you're saying, it will come to an end, but we'll look at other mechanisms of support should that not be continued.

So, we will not abandon the farmers. Thank you very much, and thank you, hon Speaker.

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Mr J A MNGXITAMA: Deputy President, there are 2,5 million small-scale farmers which are basically black. Now, it is good to hear that the fuel subsidy will continue. Can you give guarantees that it will be made permanent?

Now, the second point is there's huge input cost to farmers on fertilizers. Would you commit the government to set up factories for organic fertilizer production?

Then, I have a special message from small-scale farmers from Gauteng. They had marched in January to the Union Buildings and they submitted a memorandum there. Six months later, they have not received any responses. They've asked me that you give a commitment that you will meet with them and give them a proper response to their memorandum. I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon member, I'm not sure where the memorandum is. You said it was submitted in Gauteng. I assume you mean the province. But if it's submitted to national government, we will look at it.

I don't have a problem meeting with them, because one of the responsibilities that the President has given me is to deal with

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issues of land reform, including agriculture. So, we will follow up and check where that memorandum is.

But as I said earlier that we are going to continue to support small-scale farmers. In fact, the Land Bank has committed R10 billion rand in this regard to continue this support. So, the support will not stop. It will come, as you say, in various forms.

I said earlier that we will subsidise issues of seeds, fencing, and a whole lot of costs that they incur in order to be productive.

So, we will look at that memo. Hon Mngxitama, I have not seen it, but I'm prepared to meet with them. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Deputy President, skyrocketing costs of fertilizer and fuel is radically affecting the agricultural sector as a whole. The only sector that is showing growth in South Africa. Not because of government, but despite it.

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Your colleague, hon Gwede Mantashe, said this week that he will be visiting the Straits of Hormuz to see why it is having such an impact on fuel and fertilizer availability and affordability.

Apart from this astoundingly simplistic response, which will not address the concerns, which are actually compounded by the fact that fuel and fertilizer are bulk products that are transported by rail and road in rural areas where the roads have disintegrated, and notwithstanding your response about CASP and Ilima/Letsema, blended finance scheme: What are you going to do to cushion the catastrophic impact this is having on the cost of production and productivity of our agricultural sector in South Africa?

Because if we don't do something about it, we're going to lose even more jobs than the 345 000 jobs we lost in the first quarter ... [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Trollip, yes, we need to sustain support in this sector. I'm not sure about the visit of Minister Mantashe to the Straits of Hormuz, but we all know that the blockade of the Straits of Hormuz obviously had a very big impact on prices, including in our shores.

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So, we do hope that the war will come to an end soon. There's been a lot of extensions on ceasefires, but it will take time before we can see prices going down.

So, it's important that we need to continue to look at our own local interventions on how we support our own farmers in a way that can keep them sustainable.

Obviously, the fuel levy has been one of the mechanisms. That reduction helped them a lot, but all the other interventions I mentioned are very critical to continue to keep in place as negotiations are continuing to ensure that the war does not continue, because it does have a big impact, not only on farmers, but on prices generally, and not only in South Africa, but in the world broadly.

But we will continue to support our own small-scale farmers. Thank you very much and thank you, hon Speaker.

Dr N P NKABANE: Deputy President, thank you so much for responding to our questions. The last question on my side is to establish: If are there any mechanisms that you have put in place as government to ensure that those comprehensive

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interventions or support programmes to our small-scale farmers reaches out to our communal farmers in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, as well as Limpopo?

IsiXhosa:

Sifuna ukuqinisekisa ukuba nabo bayaxhamla kwezi nkqubo ninazo ningurhulumente. Enkosi kakhulu.

English:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon member, our priority, obviously, is the rural areas, where you find a lot of small-scale farmers. So, when I talk about this response, we're really targeting them, in particular in the rural areas.

So, most of these plans that were put in place, whether it's CASP or the targeted finance, are meant to benefit in the main, abalimi [farmers] in the rural areas, the small-scale farmers. And there are a number of them who are already benefiting. Almost 58 000 small-scale farmers are benefiting, but we probably have not reached all of them.

And therefore, we will intensify our interventions. When we go to provinces, particularly through our District Development

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Model, DDM, interventions. One of the things we do is to take with us Ministers of Land Reform and Rural Development, Minister of Agriculture, and so on, and we engage with these farmers in rural areas and ensure that they can access these schemes.

We have made sure that the Land Bank, in particular, is made accessible to support small-scale farmers as well.

IsiXhosa:

Ndiyabulela.

English:

Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Hone members, before I move to the second question, something I should have done in the beginning, is to recognise the new Chief Whip of the Second Largest Party, hon Breytenbach. [Applause.] You are most welcome. I hope you'll be able to work together as a team with all the other Chief Whips. And don't rely on Nodada to give you wrong tricks. Thank you very much.

We now move to the second question to the Deputy President, which is Question 8.

Question 8:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you very much, Speaker. I would like to thank hon Peters for the question, which really highlights two critical dimensions of accountability and delivery in the health sector under the district development model. Since assuming the responsibility of co-ordinating the DDM, we have implemented several programmes to improve alignment of budgets and investments in health care.

Amongst others, this includes the following increased investment in primary health care facilities, including clinics in communities and community health centres, particularly in underserved areas. Secondly, strengthening partnerships with the private sector to expand health care access where capacity constraints exist.

Furthermore, the Presidency in collaboration with the National Department of Health are implementing what we call ideal clinic realisation and maintenance Integrated Clinical Service Management, ICRM.

We are doing this in all primary health care facilities across provinces. We do it as well in district municipalities and local

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municipalities. An ideal primary health care facility or community health care is defined as a clinic with good infrastructure, adequate staff, adequate medicine and supplies, good administrative processes, and also sufficient adequate bulk supplies, including water.

Funding for ICRM is secured by the National Department of Health from the fiscals and cascaded to provincial departments to support primary health care facilities to achieve these required standards. Speaker, as hon members would be aware, one of my delegated responsibilities is that of leading the country's response on HIV and TB under the banner of South African National AIDS Council, SANAC. As part of our work in SANAC, we conduct what we call policy in action.

Policy in action activities in communities build up programmes towards World AIDS Day and World TB Day every year. This culminate in our district accountability sessions led by the sector of people living with HIV, where government accounts to community members on the provision of health care services and gaps are then identified. Regarding consequence management, government has reinforced accountability through the following performance agreements for senior health officials linked to

service delivery outcomes, second, the application of disciplinary measures in cases of non-performance or negligence, and third, we strengthen oversight by providing by ensuring that provincial departments and the national departments are monitoring these systems.

Lastly, we acknowledge that challenges remain, particularly regarding the 24-hour services in many of our communities, and these are being addressed currently through phased infrastructure upgrades and human resource development. Thank you, Speaker.

Ms S PETERS: Thank you, Speaker. Deputy President, given the persistent shortages of 24-hour health care facilities in many municipalities, what specific timelines and measurable targets has the department set under the District Development Model, DDM, to expand access to round-the-clock health care services?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you very much, hon member, for the follow-up. To ensure we achieve these objectives, we visit these areas with the Minister of Health. We meet with the premiers and MECs in those provinces, identify the most vulnerable areas, and target them to roll out these

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programmes. We know that many people are concerned that clinics close early – by six o'clock they are already closed – and when they face challenges in the evenings, they have nowhere to go.

Together with Minister Motsoaledi, we have already visited several areas where this programme is being implemented successfully. I can say without hesitation that substantial resources have been allocated to support it, with more than R5 billion spent by the department to accelerate the rollout. The programme is underway; we will continue to monitor progress to ensure it reaches all communities as quickly as possible. Thank you very much, Speaker.

Ms M M SENNE: Thank you, Speaker. Deputy President, given your role in troubleshooting service delivery hotspots, may you please share with the House on where the DDM has successfully integrated provincial health budgets with local infrastructure to transition a previously eight-hour facility into a 20hour service, as well as how consequence management for senior health officials on long-term paid suspension has been fast-tracked to ensure that this fiscal drain does not impair health service?

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you, Speaker. Hon Senne, I have already indicated that the Department of Health is putting a lot of resources in that regard, more than R5 billion for primary health care facilities throughout the country. This is happening in a number of provinces. We do not have information now that we can give you as to which provinces in particular have been very successful, but we have been in a number of provinces where this programme is being rolled out in the Eastern Cape, in the Free State. We are planning with the Minister to visit the Western Cape and Gauteng. The most successful area of focus is the health sector.

In the health sector, we are performing well in integrating functions across national, provincial, and local government, as the DDM is fundamentally about integration to ensure people receive these services. With primary health care centres, we are currently doing well, but we need to do much more to reach many communities. Thank you very much.

Ms A M VAN ZYL: Thank you, Speaker. Deputy President, the DDM was meant to fix co-ordination failures and improve service delivery through the one plan and more centralised approach, yet municipalities are still collapsing and provincial interventions

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are failing. Under the umbrella of basic service delivery, and after six years of the DDM, can you name one municipality where residents can clearly say, my water works, my electricity is stable, and my municipality functions better?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you very much, Speaker. Hon member, the challenges in municipalities are not the challenges of DDM. The DDM approach is an intervention to assist these municipalities where there are challenges, and it is successful in many of the areas I have visited. Is there a problem?

The SPEAKER: Order! Are you not hearing at the back? You cannot hear? I think they are just filibustering. You can continue, Deputy President.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Okay. I was wondering what the problem was. No, hon member, the DDM is not failing. We know that some parties were not committed to it at the outset, but I am pleased that we now work together, because integrating services is essential. That is the purpose of the DDM: for national government to support the local sphere. When we go

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there, we bring in the province, and we attend to the challenges.

The challenges faced by municipalities will not be solved solely through DDM intervention. We need to demonstrate that within the municipalities themselves, all parties must appoint competent councillors, capable city managers, and other officials. We cannot rely exclusively on DDM. The DDM is an intervention designed to assist, and it is succeeding. Thank you very much, Speaker.

Mr S N SWART: Thank you, Speaker. Deputy President, I really appreciate your reference to the selection of counsellors who are capable, able, and I would like to add, God-fearing, trustworthy, and who hate dishonest gain, according to Exodus 18, verse 21.

But I would like to just thank you, Deputy President, for referring to increase in staff, medicine, access to water. One of the challenges is in consequence management, where officials are facing disciplinary actions but are suspended on full pay for months and even years. What, Deputy President, can be done to expedite disciplinary hearings against those officials that

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are facing disciplinary actions? Otherwise, service delivery fails where those officials are not on duty and are staying at home having full salaries.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you, Speaker. Yes, hon member, we need to fix municipalities. We are doing exactly that. And one of the areas that we are focussing on is exactly what you are referring to, consequence management. I was recently with Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa, Deputy Minister Burns-Ncamashe, and also Minister Mzwanele Nyhontso and others in the Ditsobotla. And the reason we are there was to look at progress of the interventions we are making. Because we realise that if you do not have the right people to do the work, you will not succeed.

I was pleased that even my own party had replaced unsuitable individuals with capable ones, and other parties have done the same. I met representatives from several parties, including EFF councillors who welcomed my visit. When parties appoint the right people – capable councillors and effective mayors – and, as you said, God-fearing leaders, I would add leaders who respect the law and the rules, act ethically, and hold city

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managers and municipal officials accountable. That is the approach we are rolling out.

I was just citing Ditsobotla as an example. We are going to do it everywhere in all the municipalities to ensure that we fix local government. Thank you very much.

Ms S M PETERS. Deputy President, regarding access to health care for communities, how does he plan to address the delayed response time by government-operated emergency medical services, particularly ambulances, that in many instances only arrive the following day, thereby placing the lives of patients at serious risk? In Heidedal, a patient passed away after waiting for nine hours for an ambulance to arrive.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you, Speaker, and thank you to the member for the final follow-up question. Service delivery is critical, and the President has tasked me with ensuring that people receive services on time. The problem of ambulances arriving late is one of the issues we are addressing through our DDM interventions. We have received complaints from some areas, but during a recent visit to one province, Minister Motsoaledi and I received a positive report

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that the clinic was operating very well. They are 24hours. And we went into the communities. They told us that the ambulances do come on time.

One of the challenges they raised with us is not having enough of these vehicles. You know, local government do not always complain about resources. So, we need to support them. But even if they do not have enough, they have two or three, they must make sure that those that they have do arrive on time when people are sick and they want to be helped. Obviously, some people stay a little bit far off of cities, as we know, informal settlements and so on, but I will not accept that they must arrive the next day. It has to be on that particular day. It might take a bit of time because of distances. But we are dealing with it, hon Peters. And thanks for your question. Thank you Speaker.

Question 9:

The SPEAKER: I am sorry, Deputy President, if you can just take a seat. There is a point of order. What is the point of order, hon member?

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Mr M P MOTUBATSE: Speaker, is the Deputy President serious with the last answer that he has given, in the face of our people? Is that a serious answer that can be given to our people regarding the health matters that are currently going on?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member, I hear your question, but the Deputy President has answered. I think in his answer he did indicate that strides have been made but there are some challenges. He also did indicate that it may not be enough to say in other areas ambulances arrive and in other instances they even arrive the next day. So, I do think he answered your question, but you may follow up on another question in the next cycle when the Deputy President comes back to the session.

Deputy President?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, indeed, it is not acceptable for ambulances to arrive the next day. I did say that. We are attending to this matter. They may arrive late because of distances and complications, but not the next day ...

[Interjections.]

IsiZulu:

Hhawu! Awekho? Azobakhona. [Ubuwelewele.]

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The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Let's not have a dialogue. I think the Deputy President did hear the concerns being raised. Can we allow him to answer Question 9.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Speaker, let me thank hon Nodada for raising this important question that confronts all members of the House, including members of the executive. Let me start by saying that government's position is clear.

Transparency and accountability are non-negotiable. Members of the executive are required, in terms of the Executive Members' Ethics Code, to disclose all gifts above the prescribed threshold, including those received from foreign governments. Failure to declare such gifts would constitute a breach of the code. In this regard, the code states that:

A member must not accept any reward, benefit or gift from any person or body that is intended or is an attempt to corruptly influence that member in the exercise of his or her duties or responsibilities as a public representative.

Similarly, as Members of Parliament, we are obligated, in terms of the Code of Ethical Conduct and Disclosure of Members'

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Interests, to disclose our private interests to prevent any conflict between personal gain and public duty.

In conclusion, in my capacity as Leader of Government Business, I continue to emphasise strict compliance with ethical codes and will support any processes necessary to ensure enforcement, including referral to the relevant ethics authorities where warranted. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Mr B B NODADA: Speaker, to the Deputy president, in the DA's fight against crime and corruption, the President fired former Minister of Social Development for receiving luxury gifts amongst other things because no one is above the law, no matter how high your office is. This is why the DA joined the Government of national Unity, GNU, to begin with – to fight crime and corruption across government, because it steals from the poor in this country. While we welcome the firing of a corrupt ANC minister, it is not merely enough. The receipt of personal luxury gifts must be banned. Given the fact that your wife was gifted a colossal diamond by Louis Leibenberg, who is on trial for fraud, racketeering, and money laundering, your ties to corruption tenderpreneur Edwin Sodi, and the multi-billion-rand lotto license, is that why you are opposed to

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luxury gifts being banned? And how do you hold people accountable when you've been found very guilty of the very same ethics code that you speak about? Thank you so much. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, let me repeat that all of us as members of the House are responsible and we must all live by the code. Institutions, not only Parliament, the executive, the Cabinet and even the private sector, have rules to ensure proper conduct. However, where people have faulted and mistakes have been made, then the rules must kick in.

You were firstly referring to member Tolashe. As a Minister, member Tolashe did appear before the Ethics Committee, if I recall, did appear before the Integrity Commission of the ANC, and did appear before the President. So, accountability did kick in. We must, in fact, commend the President for having taken steps when he realised that the explanation is not satisfactory. He took steps, which is important.

In some instances, Parliament itself takes steps where they think there must be corrective measures. Some of the issues that the member is raising are not really relevant. I have never

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received a gift from the lotto. I don't know what he's talking about. Let's not mix things. We are saying if a member received a gift ... The issue of the diamond was long dealt with by this House. I don't know why the member keeps bringing it. Maybe he was not here. We dealt with that matter. I went to the Ethical Committee, and I did respond. The Ethical Committee dealt with the matter, because as a leader myself, I must lead by example.

When this House says, Deputy President, we think you are wrong, I must accept. There's nobody above the law and it must start here. When the leader says, yes, I accept where you say I'm wrong, and I will take responsibility and accountability. It must go for all of us as members and as Ministers. Where we are wrong, we must accept and accept corrective measures. We are doing so, and that's why these committees have been set up.

[Applause.]

Nobody is above the law, not the President, not the Deputy President, not Ministers, and not Members of Parliament. All of us abide by the law. That's why when the issue was raised that surely Parliament is dealing with, his first response was, yes, let's allow Parliament to deal with these issues. I will abide

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by the processes that Parliament is going to undertake. What else do we want? What else do we want? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Deputy President, there was a point of order. If you can take your seat. Hon Michalakis, what is your point of order?

Mr G MICHALAKIS: Hon Speaker, I see the hon Deputy President is sweating a bit. Can I offer him a handkerchief before he continues with his question?

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. He will accept it if he wants to ... [Interjections.]

Mr G MICHALAKIS: I only blew my nose with it once ...
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon member. I have noted your offer. I am sure the Deputy President will decide how to deal with the offer made. Deputy President, we can move to the next supplementary question ...

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Don't worry, hon member, I have my own. [Laughter.]

Ms A N KUMBACA: Hon Speaker, to the Deputy President, following the concerns raised regarding the declaration of gifts received by members of the executive and mindful of the constitutional obligation on public representatives to uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct, does government intend to strengthen and standardise the current disclosure framework to ensure that any gifts or benefits received from foreign governments, state entities, or diplomatic counterparts are declared transparently and consistently in a manner that protects the integrity of public office and reinforces public confidence in the executive? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, yes, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is currently looking at the review of the ethical code and other processes. In fact, on 3 March this year, they asked interested parties to make a contribution in this process to please do so. So, they made a call for interested parties to make their own submissions because they want to see if there are any gaps on our ethical code, and if there are, they could be closed.

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We know that the code may not be perfect, and so I think we should welcome that process to ensure that the code is reviewed, gaps are closed and ensure that everything that has to do with the code of ethical conduct and disclosure of members' interest in Parliament is re-looked at to ensure that there are no gaps so that we can work in a proper manner. So yes, hon member, it is happening. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Dr M J HLOPHE: Hon Speaker, to the Deputy President, can you provide us with a list of all of declared gifts of all Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers, the value of those gifts, and whether or not such gifts were received in personal or private capacity? If not, why not? [Applause.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, to hon Dr Hlophe, as far as I remember, there is a register and it's open to the public, so you can actually go and see it. It is available ... [Interjections.] ... Yeah, it is. It's actually available to the public. So, what you need to do is just to go to the Cabinet secretary and say, I would like to have a look. You will see. I don't have to. I think even in Parliament, it is available and it's open to the public. If not, we can check, but

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as far as I know, those registers are open for scrutiny. Thank you, hon Speaker.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Hon Speaker, to the Deputy President, if I were to theme your line of response today, I would theme it "Nobody is above the law," because that has been consistent in your responses this morning. So, perhaps let us start with you. Let's start with the proverbial man in the mirror, the man in the podium today. Section 96 of the Constitution says Cabinet members may not expose themselves to any risk of a conflict between their official responsibilities and their private interests. This Sunday, it was reported that individuals linked to you allegedly have business ties to the company that was awarded the R180 billion lotto license. There appears to be an increasingly interconnected network between politically connected individuals, lottery interests, and business entities that are connected to you. Now, I want to ask, Mr Deputy President, did you or anyone connected to your office have any involvement, influence, or interest in this tender process? If so, would you support a full investigation into the tender process in line with nobody being above the rule of law and in line with section 96 of the Constitution?

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, to the hon member, I guess you were in the House the past few months.

Minister Parks Tau, who is responsible for that work, delayed the appointment of the lotto in order to investigate. So, you don't need another investigation. That investigation, if I'm correct, is probably about to be concluded. It's almost a year. If you recall, the people were supposed to be appointed this license last year June, and we are almost in June in the new year. So, for a previous year, there was an investigation.

However, let me say this for the record. There are many people I know in this country. Some of them have been my friends for more than 20, 30 years. When I went in to politics, they went into business. So, you are saying to me, please don't see them anymore, and don't associate with them because they are in business. Nobody is saying, you are giving them business. You are saying, no, don't associate with them because they are in business now. Some of them were in jail and in the struggle with me. They are in business today and I'm in politics. They remain my friends and they will remain my friends. I'm not going to walk away from my friend because he's in business, but what I will not do is to go to a department of government and say, give my friend a business. That I will not do because I've never done

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that. However, I will not walk away from my friends because they are in business or they are in a church or they are in politics. We remain friends and let them succeed in business, not because of me, on their own. Those people you are talking about and News24 wrote about are credible business people. News24 did not say for once, they are doing irregular business or anything illegal. They just said, oh, they are friends of the Deputy President. So what? They are doing their own business and they remain my friends. I will not do anything that is against the rules and interfere with procurement for the benefit of my friends. That, I will not do. If you say I should not do that, I agree with you. That, I will not do. However, let us not say to people, abandon your friends because they are now successful business people. That is never done. Thank you, hon Speaker.

[Applause.]

Mr B B NODADA: Speaker, to the Deputy President, nobody says abandon your friends, but it is actually problematic when you have friends that are accused of fraud, racketeering and money laundering. You must find it very fishy. Here are the facts: The person that won the multibillion-rand tender for the lotto contract accompanied you to the state of the nation address. Don't you find it fishy for them to get that multibillion-rand

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tender, yet they accompanied you to the state of the nation address? Deputy President, you have been accused of living in R70 million mansions that your salary can't even afford. Now, based on the above, do you think the President should also take action against you ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! I will take your point of order. You can finish your question. There is a point of order.

Mr B B NODADA: Based on the above, do you think the President should take action against you because you can't have a Deputy President, who is second in command, open to crime and corruption with no ethics? Thank you so much.

The SPEAKER: Deputy President, if you can just take a seat. There is a point of order. Hon Dugmore?

Mr C M DUGMORE: Speaker, I want to raise a point of order in terms of Rule 85 with regard to reflection on members. As the hon Nodada would know, that Rule says that no member may impute improper motives to any other member. It's clear, even arising from the Deputy President's response to the previous question where he explained the issue of friendship, that hon Nodada

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continues in the way that he's asking questions to impute improper motives, and he, like all of us, are aware that you can bring a substantive motion. No one wants to undermine the accountability and the Deputy President's need to answer questions, but I honestly want you to rule on whether hon Nodada is not imputing improper motives and is thus in contravention of Rule 85. Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I have noted your point of order, and I've looked at Rule 85. You are correct to say, no member may impute improper motives to any other member or cast personal reflection upon a member's integrity or dignity or verbally abuse a member in any other way. The second a part of the rule says:

A member who wishes to bring any improper or unethical conduct on the part of another member to the attention of the House may do so only by way of a separate substantive motion comprising a clearly formulated and proper substantial charge that in the opinion of the Speaker prima facie warrants consideration by the House.

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I want to say, hon Nodada, the way in which you posed the question, while you may have said, "don't you find it difficult", somewhere towards your last question when you were asking about whether the President shouldn't act, it can be assumed that you are already casting aspersion, and I think for that, it is important to withdraw that part. Thank you very much.

Mr B B NODADA: Speaker, I withdraw that part, but I would like the Deputy president to answer the question, please.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, let me answer the question. Many of the people I invited to the state of the nation address are friends that I've known for more than 20, 30 years. Some of them before they became business people, before they became wealthy, if they are. I don't recall any of them doing any regular business or being criminals. If they are criminals, they have been criminalised by hon Nodada. You are saying, Mr Tembe is a criminal because he won a tender. I don't know him to be a criminal, but if you think so, you can go to any nearest police station and open a case. [Interjections.]

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If you know anybody around the Deputy President, including my children, that they are criminals, go to a nearest police station and open a case. Don't have a problem when black people become wealthy, because that's what I sense. When black people become wealthy, "Oh yeah, they must have stolen somewhere, they must have gotten a tender somewhere irregularly." It's even shameful if it's said by a black man like yourself. I think we should respect the fact that black people are allowed to do business like anybody else. Let's not, every time black people do business, "Oh, what have they stolen?" My friends have not stolen anything, and I'll continue to invite them to Parliament. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

Question 10:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, let me thank hon Boshoff for raising this important question, which President Cyril Ramaphosa refers to as the original sin - the original sin of colonialism and apartheid. The arrival of Europeans in this country in 1652, was the beginning of a protracted process which took away land from the indigenous African people, making them pariahs in the land of their birth.

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Hon Boshoff, government does not intend adopting 1652 as a cutoff date for land reform and restitution. But the current legal framework is working and is guided by the following sections, section 25(7) of the Constitution, which provide for restitution claims for dispossessions after 19 June 1913, and the Restitution of Land Rights Act of 1994, which operationalises the constitutional provision.

In my view, these provisions are adequate in dealing with the issue of land reform in South Africa. Any change to this framework would require lengthy constitutional and legislative processes, which will further be complicated by developments that have taken place in our country over three centuries.

However, government remains committed to a just, equitable and legally sound reform programme that addresses historical dispossessions while ensuring economic stability and food security. Working with the Ministers, Minister Nyhontso, Minister Steenhuisen and Minister Hlabisa and Deputy Ministers, Deputy Minister Ncamashe and Deputy Minister Masemola, we are fast-tracking processes to enable land to be transferred to the rightful owners and providing them support for those who are ready to till the land.

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We have found that in many areas where we go, people who have received the land complain that they don't have support in order to till the land. Where they want to farm they don't have tractors and so on. We are now providing what we call postsettlement support to enable people use the land profitably for development and ensure that it is productive.

Lastly, we accept that there have been delays in the implementation of this programme. I think we should accept that we are not where we should have been. This is due to, amongst others, disputes emanating sometimes from families and sometimes even from communities. Therefore, delays do happen in this programme, but we have decided that we should fast-track the process of land reform. I am working very well with the Ministers and Deputy Ministers that I have referred to, to ensure that people get the land as soon as we possibly can transfer the land to them to make it productive and make sure that they can acquire ownership of that land. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

Dr W J BOSHOFF: Thank you, hon Chair and hon Deputy President. I will return to the year 1652, in my last follow-up. What I want to know is that we are still busy with the first order of the

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land claims, and the whole bunch of the second order of the land claims still lie somewhere in the future. Does the Deputy President foresee a stage at which land reform and restitution is done and that farming can continue without the idea that there might be a new claim? In other words: Does the present legislation constitute a destination or is it just a milepost in a process which will go on and even beyond? I thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: I am not sure if I understood the question well. Could you please repeat it.

The SPEAKER: Hon Boshoff, could you please repeat your question.

Dr W J BOSHOFF: I will repeat it little bit shorter. I want to know: Is there ever going to be a time where land reform would be done or are we going to reach one milepost and then there be yet another and another?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you, hon Speaker. I think I understand hon Boshoff. Will there be time when we say land reform is done? It will be when all the land has been returned to their rightful owners. [Applause.] That is the only time. It is the only things that must happen in our lifetime. We

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are going to push it faster, hon Boshoff. We want that land to come back to the rightful owners as soon as possible. That's what we are going to do. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Mr S M MAECO: Thank you, hon Speaker. Deputy President, given that the land is a key means of production. Section 25 of the Constitution and the Restitution of Land Rights Act seek to address the results of the past racial dispossession. Does the government agree that limiting restitution to an arbitrary early date will undermine the goal of equitable land reform and the economic emancipation of the black majority? What steps is the government taking to ensure land reform benefits the majority who were dispossessed overseas not just a narrow historical window? Thank you?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you very much, hon Maeco. You're quite right. We must ensure as government that restitution benefits the majority of our people whose land was taken away. The provision that I spoke about actually deal with the challenges of the Land Act of 1913. What happened in 1913 is that the apartheid regime legislated and formalised discrimination and the stealing of land from the African people. So, we must deal with that. [Applause.]

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We must ensure that the Land Act of 1913 is dealt with properly to ensure that our people get the land. And we are not going to waiver, delay and so on. We are going straight into it and make sure that we deal with it so that the land must be returned.

IsiXhosa:

Umhlaba mawubuyiselwe kubanikazi babo.

English:

Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Mr N S MATIASE: Thank you so much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, let it be on record that the EFF rejects a revisionist, neoliberal and sell-out arrangement that seems to confine land dispossession to 1913 as if the conquest and violent destruction of African land ownership only began with the Native Land Act. Colonial dispossession, as we know better, the racial land accumulation predates the Union of South Africa, which is the foundation of our current problems of landlessness. Now, in the light of these realities, Deputy President: Do you accept that the market-based approach to land reform has failed, admitting that neoliberal policy limitations have imposed the challenges

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that we experienced to ensure that land is transferred to the rightful owners?

Lastly, what decisive policy intervention will be undertaken to fundamentally and radically reform land ownership and remove patterns of racial land concentration in land ownership as we have it currently? [Time expired.] Thanks, Deputy President.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Thank you, hon member for the follow-up. I have already indicated the difficulties for going back to 1652. I know there are many people who like that, and they have been whispering to me saying let's go back there. It has its own complications. But I am saying when the regime of the time legislated the stealing of land, that's where we focus. I think the 1913 Land Act is a piece of legislation that we are destroying to bring back land to its rightful owners.

Of course, everybody must access land. That's why we are helping those who want to access land. There are programmes that the government has set up. So, it is not market-driven per se. What government does... [Interjections.]

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Mr J A MNGXITAM: Thank you, Chair. Deputy President, you cannot insist that 1913 is the point of dispossession. We had already lost all our land by then, so if we go to 1913, we are not going to be able to address the land question. What are you so terrified about going to 1652 during the arrival of the settlers?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, that is not a point of order. You are now entering into a debate. Deputy President, please proceed.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Mngxitam, it is not a point of order, it is a point of debate. I have already said that we are talking about three centuries and this country has developed.

IsiZulu:

Asazi kuleli Phalamende elikhona manje bekuhlala bani. Njengoba sikhuluma, asazi...

English:

...We have developed so much that we had to start somewhere. We are starting where there was legislation that was enforced. It

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will take us to where we want to go to access land. We are going to work hard to ensure that people do receive the land as far as is possible - where they used to live as far as possible. If where they used to live is not available, they get compensated.

I was answering this question that it is not so much market driven. What government does is that it government purchase land for people in order to till it. And where it is impossible for them to get the land where they used to live, they get compensated, and where possible they get given another piece of land to be able to till. Where people don't want to till the land, they get compensated as well to receive funds which they can use in line with the value of that land. There are mechanisms that are happening ... [Interjections.]

Mr N S MATIASE: Deputy President, this House want confidence from you. But you can't be speaking in two tongues from both sides of your mouth. Please, tell us exactly: What policy trajectory on land reform and land transformation you are going to have under your Presidency?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Matiase, that's not a point of order. But the Deputy President ... [Interjections.] ... hon members

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could you please allow the Deputy President the opportunity.
Deputy President, would you like to reply to the hon Matiase as
he also posed a question? Deputy President, it is your choice.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you very much, hon
Deputy Speaker. Hon Matiase...

Isizulu:

... sizoyixoxa le yo. Asikhankasi la. Siphendula imibuzo...

English:

...don't worry about the future. There are complications on
issues of land reform. So, we need to be realistic when we deal
with them, and we can debate it. At the moment, we have legal
instruments and let us use them.

Perhaps the EFF might want to bring a debate about this matter
at some point. But I am saying, let us use the legal instruments
that we have now to fast-track. People are saying even with the
legal instruments you have...

IsiZulu:

... .. nihamba kancane

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English:

... and that's what we must address...

IsiZulu:

... makugijinwe ...

English:

...we must begin to move fast using the instruments we have...

IsiZulu:

... le enye sizoyikhuluma, hon Matiase.

Dr K LITCHFIELD-TSHABALALA: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I want to know if the Minister can take a question on this issue.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, we do not take questions on questions.

Mr M G MAHLAULE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I want to raise a point of order on two things. Firstly, it doesn't take a genius to understand that the Deputy President is answering questions. So, you cannot stand up and ask if say he is willing to take a question.

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Dr K LITCHFIELD-TSHABALALA: He is not answering questions.

Mr M G MAHLAULE: Secondly, you have allowed for the third time that the Deputy President answer questions, but there are some people who don't agree with those answers, and you allow them to make a statement of what they would want to hear the Deputy President saying. That's my point of order. Do not allow spurious points of orders.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mahlaule and members, please give me an opportunity. I have ruled on the matter of a question in a question session that that is not in order. Secondly, I have allowed the person to speak, waiting for the point of order, and then I have ruled them out of order. Quite frankly, your point is superfluous. Deputy President, have you concluded with this question?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I think we are done for now with this one. I'm sure there will be further debates going forward about 1652. I am not closing it. I can see there are people who are very interested in that discussion. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

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IsiZulu:

Mnu Matiase, sizoyikhuluma.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Ndza khensa, Xandla xa Xipikara. Tatana Xandla xa Puresidente, a hi sunguleni hi pfumelelana leswaku hi Mugqivela vafana va ta vuya na yona eMbombela. Lexi ndzi lavaka ku xi tiva eka n'wina hi lexo landzelaka. Va ri maendlelo ya n'wina ya ku tlherisela misava eka vanhu ma teka nkrhi wo leha. Ku kumeka leswaku vanhu lava va nga tisa swikombelo swo kuma misava va hetelela va hundza emisaven va ha yimele leswaku misava ya vona yi tlheriseriwa eka vona. Xana mi endla yini tanihi mfumo leswaku misava yi tlhelerisiwa eka vanhu hi xihatla hikuva i khale vanhu va rindzile leswaku misava ya vona yi tlhelela emindyangwini ya vona? Ndza khensa swinene, Xandla xa Xipikara.

Vafana va ta vuya na yona hi Mugqivela.

English:

Up the Bucs!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

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Xitsonga:

Tatana Gana, ina, ha pfumela. Swi ta va tano. Swi fanerile leswaku misava yi vuyela evanhwini. Ina, ha swi twa. Hi ta endla leswaku hi hatlisa leswaku va kuma tiko ra vona va ha ri laha misaveni.

English:

What the hon Gana is saying is very important. We need to increase the pace. We need to fast-track. That's why every time we talk about land reform, we talk about fast-tracking...

Xitsonga:

... hikuva ha swi twisisisa leswaku i khale vanhu va rindzile. Hi ta fanela ku hatlisa leswaku va kuma misava ya vona. Hikwalaho, ndzi pfumelelana na n'wina.

Leswi hi swi endlaka sweswi hi tirha tanihi hi tindzawulo to hambanahambana...

English:

... and we are not leaving it to one Ministry. We are moving together because there is a challenge that sometimes land get transferred, but people do not have the tools to work the land

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because it is another Ministry that must do it. This co-ordination, particularly with our District Development Model, DDM, approach, has been very helpful for us to fast-track. I can see it happening. But we need to push even faster.

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, tatana. Ina, va ta vuya na yona.

English:

Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Dr W J BOSHOFF: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and Deputy President. The ownership of individual parcels of land is one thing that you dealt with. The other thing that you dealt with relates to 1652 as a certain historical symbolic date. I want to put it to you that that approach delegitimises the existence of Afrikaners as an indigenous nation as actually being a kind of an accident or even a crime of history. We cannot speak about land ownership if as a nation we are not recognised in South Africa. At present we are only recognised as individual citizens. I want to know from the Deputy President: Does he envisage formal recognition of the Afrikaner folk as an indigenous nation of South Africa?

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Deputy Speaker, well, I've heard that the Afrikaners also have a complain that they were dealt a blow by the English. At some point they fought the Anglo-Boer War, etc. Hon Boshoff, we don't have a problem working with the Afrikaners, but they must also accept that in some point in time in history they also became part of those who deprived the Africans of their land. So, we must start there ...

Setswana:

... le wena o ipege dibe tsa gago...

English:

... that you have joined them and pushed us away.

If you want to come back to us, come and confess your sins and say, hey, I was wrong and I want to be on this side. Then we can talk. Let us leave it there for now. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Question 11:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, let me take this opportunity to thank hon Ndamase for asking this crucial

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question about women's empowerment, especially on the issue of land in rural communities.

This year 2026 marks 70 years since 20 000 women from different spheres of life marched to the Union Buildings on the 9th of August 1956 to protest ... the introduction of women carrying passbooks and the oppression of women.

The year 2026 marks 30 years since the adoption of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, which clearly commits to the full empowerment and equal participation of women in the economic, political and social life.

The Ministers, Deputy Ministers and I are working with the National House of Traditional and Khoi and San Leaders ... with all other spheres of government to combat any form of discrimination against women, especially on matters of landownership and security of tenure.

As such, to improve women's landownership and tenure security, the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development is prioritising women beneficiaries in land reform programmes, strengthening legal protections for women under communal land

systems and expanding access to agricultural support, finance and extension services for women farmers.

The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs conducts awareness programmes on constitutional rights, gender equality and nondiscriminatory land allocation practices that are happening.

Partnerships have also been strengthened with the Commission for Gender Equality, CGE, and civil society to drive advocacy and training. In conclusion ...

Setswana:

... re tshwanetse go netefatsa gore bomme le bona ba bona lefatshe gore ba itirele mme ba kgone go sireletsa maphelo a bona le malapa.

English:

Women must be empowered and they must be able to till the land. They must also be able to own the land and be able to protect themselves and their families.

Setswana:

Re a itse gore mme o tshwara thipa ka fa bogaleng.

English:

By empowering women, we empower families and communities. By empowering families and communities, we empower the nation.

IsiZulu:

Wathint'abafazi, wathint'imbokodo. [Ubuwelewele.]

Sepedi:

Moh M B PHOLWANE: Re a leboga, Motlatšamopresidente. Ke nnete, basadi ba swara thipa ka bogaleng. [Thank you, Deputy President. Indeed, women hold the knife by the blade.]

English:

Access to land for women is a major area in empowering women to be self-sufficient and not to be beholden to abusive relationships. We must also note that 45,5% of children are raised by their mother alone. The stereotype of women being defined and understood as only a parent, a wife, a partner or a wife of a man is discriminatory.

Deputy President, what progress has the government made in providing access to land for human settlement, as social housing also benefits women?

Setswana:

MOTLATSAMOPORESIDENTE: Ke a leboga, motl. Polwane. Ke nnete gore mananeo a ke buang ka one a akaretsa le bonno jwa batho.

English:

We don't only empower women who want to be farmers in rural areas, but also women who want to access opportunities to have decent shelter. So ...

Setswana:

... ke dumelana le wena gore go tshwanetse gore bomme le bone ba kgone go bona matlo. E seke ya nna fela lefatshe la go lema.

English:

We know that in the past women were discriminated against in accessing housing, especially if you were not married. They would have problems in accessing subsidies.

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The Minister of Human Settlements has attended to that challenge and today women are able to benefit from our policies on human settlements.

There is also a new Bill that is being piloted, which is the Equitable Access to Land Bill, which I'm sure members will be dealing with, and which is going to allow more people to have access to land, including women as well as people with disabilities. So ...

Setswana:

... ke dumelana le wena gore ...

English:

... we must broaden access to land for women in various spheres – in agriculture, in land, in housing but also in other spheres of life.

Ms T A KHANYILE: Deputy President, given that section 9 of the Constitution guarantees equality and section 25(5) provides for measures to enable equitable access to land, and with reference to findings in the CGE's 2023-24 annual report regarding gender disparities in landownership, aligned with the DA's policies on

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equitable access, property rights and tenure security, will the government introduce stronger accountability mechanisms for traditional councils, relevant land allocation structures and the accelerated transfer of ownership rights to women in rural and communal areas? I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you, hon Khanyile. In fact, stronger measures have already been introduced and we continue to strengthen them.

Should you feel that they are not strong enough, you can come and see me, and make further suggestions. However, we are doing it already. In this regard, we've put in a lot of measures. I won't falter you if you think they are not strong enough. I will look at what you wish should still happen beyond what we are already doing, because we have put in these measures.

Perhaps what you should do ... look at this Equitable Access to Land Bill. Maybe you should make more inputs there – because it's already been processed – and say where you think there are gaps, and where we should strengthen. We'll be able to do so.

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However, the current government has introduced many programmes in support of women to ensure women's empowerment, and we continue to strengthen them.

Mr Z E MTHETHWA: Deputy President, let me give you a clue on where to get the land to give to our women. In the history of this country, we used to have Europeans only signage in public infrastructure, and the following nationals were there – the British colony, the Dutch East India Company, the French Huguenots in Wellington here in Cape Town, the German kaiser who established the Scramble for Africa and the Portuguese in 1498. So, I'm even extending 1652 to 1498 when Vasco da Gama came here.

I'm saying, take from these nationals and establish demographic parity according to racial classification in terms of population representation. Can you do that, since we have these nationals here in the country? [Applause.]

IsiZulu:

USEKELA MONGAMELI: Ngiyabonga, Sekela Somlomo, ngiyabonga, Baba uMthethwa, Nyambose. Hhayi, ngingajabula uma kuqala singayidingida le ...

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English:

... because I can see it's a very interesting topic where everybody wants to come from different angles. We have just dealt a bit with 1652.

IsiZulu:

Manje singalanda ngapha ku-1498.

English:

What about having a debate? Hon Deputy Speaker, maybe you need a seminar for parliamentarians to have a discussion on land. Yes ... [Interjections.] ... You have a plan b? Okay, so we will debate that. Yes, okay.

IsiZulu:

Kulungile, Nyambose, bathi sizokudingida lokhu kuMthethosivivinyo woMhlaba.

English:

We will debate and come with a solution. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Mr N M HADEBE: Hon Deputy President, in keeping with the prioritisation of women, given the President's declaration that gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, is a national crisis and that the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs is implementing training initiatives with traditional governance structures to address this crisis, how is the Presidency working with the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs to ensure that traditional leadership structures are effectively integrated into a unified national response to GBVF and women's land rights, rather than operating through fragmented or parallel initiatives?

Specifically, what formal co-ordination structures exist between the Presidency and the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs to ensure coherent implementation and accountability across these initiatives? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Hadebe, thank you for the follow-up ... Yes, I agree with you. In fact, we work very well with traditional leaders on this matter, particularly through the National House of Traditional and Khoi and San Leaders. We address these issues. I mentioned this earlier in my input that we, with the relevant Ministers and together with the National

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House of Traditional and Khoi and San Leaders, are dealing with the issue.

At the time I was mainly referring to issues of land, but generally the issue of gender equality and so on is part of our agenda when we engage with the National House of Traditional and Khoi and San Leaders, together with the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. So, we are looking into it and I think once we have traditional leaders on board, it makes things move smoothly because of the challenges that you might probably have in rural communities. So it is attended to.

Mrs M B PHOLWANE: Deputy President, one of the gaps identified by the CGE in its study is that there is a fragmented approach in the allocation of communal land in the three sampled provinces. Furthermore, there is no defined co-ordination or consolidation framework to guide the allocation of communal land.

My question is as follows. What measures can the government take to ensure that a consolidated framework that deals with communal allocation is established? Thank you.

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Setswana:

MOTLATSAMOPORRESIDENTE: Re a leboga, ...

English:

... hon Pholwane. We ourselves have noticed that challenge. We have already discussed it with the Minister of Human Settlements in order to look at how we can deal with that. What I find more useful is that when we work in a co-ordinated approach, we are able to deal with fragmentation. You're quite right. If you look at developments throughout the country ... different provinces, developments are skewed, are not moving in an equal way, even in the same provinces.

So, the issue of fragmentation has been discussed with the Minister to strengthen how they decide on developments, because it's not just allocating subsidies to provinces, but it's also deciding where developments are going to take place, who's going to benefit, and a co-ordinated approach helps.

One of the things I should say is that the co-ordinated approach that brings ... different Ministers is quite helpful, because in the past we have seen people being put in places where there are no services because the Department of Human Settlements has got

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subsidies, but the Department of ... Education is not there to build schools, the Department of Transport and roads is not there to deal with roads. So, we are closing that gap in order to ensure that our approach should be the whole of government. Government must move together, and by so doing we will do away with fragmentation. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Setswana:

Ke a leboga.

Question 12:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, let me thank the Chief Whip of the Opposition, the hon Mokoena-Zondi, for this important question about criminality in our criminal justice system.

Hon Mokoena-Zondi, the safety of our communities remains the priority of government. As such, we are continually investing in strengthening the criminal justice system to be able to fight crime and ensure safer communities. I am confident that you will agree that the work of the Madlanga Commission is already delivering desired results. This is because the immediate work of this commission, including, of course, recommendations from

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the Zondo Commission, has ensured that we strengthen crime intelligence capabilities; improve co-ordination between the SA Police Service, SAPS, Crime Intelligence, state security, and other agencies; establish joint operational structures within the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security cluster; expand intelligence-led operations in identified hotspots, including the Cape Flats; and also enhance information-sharing systems across all government agencies.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in addition to the deployment of the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, under Operation Prosper, the SAPS, in conjunction with national and provincial partners, is implementing a range of strategic adjustments to deal with gang-related and organised crime. This includes the refinement of stabilisation anti-gang strategies aligned to an organised crime threat approach; strengthening intelligence-led policing; improving co-ordination between detectives, Crime Intelligence, and prosecutors; and also enhancing intergovernmental co-operation through established platforms such as the Anti-Gang Priority Committee. The implementation of these measures, including operational co-ordination, is already under way. Medium-term reforms, including capacity-building and systems

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integration, will be implemented over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period.

In conclusion, government continues to monitor the impact of these interventions and will adjust its strategies where necessary to ensure safer communities. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Mr W M DOUGLAS: Deputy Speaker, to the hon Deputy President: I am from the Cape Flats, and, since the SANDF has been deployed there, approximately 170 people have been murdered despite Operation Prosper. Does this not confirm that the crisis is not merely operational but is rooted in a collapsed and compromised intelligence and criminal justice system, as exposed by the Madlanga Commission? Does government therefore accept that gangsterism on the Cape Flats is being fuelled not only by gangsterism and crime but also by wider issues such as state and ANC-DA complicity in criminal cartels on the Cape Flats and mass youth unemployment?

If so, Deputy President, given that the SANDF deployment has made little measurable difference, what consequence management will there be? What is being done to make sure that the people

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that are judging those people, the people that are participating, and the Minister of Police are properly investigated and that the Minister is held accountable for his role? He may be on holiday now, but we want to see action, Deputy Speaker.

Everybody that is helping these cartels needs to be held accountable. They are part of the problem. It is not only the gangsters; it is also the politicians and the law enforcement people who are implicated, and we need to see justice. We need to see action now, and the SANDF must do more to stop the crime. Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Speaker, I thank the hon Douglas. You come from the Cape Flats. Obviously, you have more information. One of the things I asked my advisers yesterday was that we need to get statistics on what is happening there. We know that the SANDF has been there through Operation Prosper, and, on face value from where we are, we think they are doing a great job. However, from listening to you, you are saying you are not happy with the progress there, and there is somebody screaming at the back, saying: Yes, we are not happy!

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So, what I am going to do is get statistics from them. How many people have been arrested? How many guns have we retrieved, etc? Unfortunately, I do not have them now. I could not get those statistics, but, as soon as I get them, I will send it to you. I will also check myself because I also want to have a sense that our intervention is working. It might require that we visit the area so that, like you, we can have firsthand information and not desktop reports. So, I might make time to go there. Maybe I will go with you to see what is happening on the Cape Flats.

We must commend the President for ensuring that he has reinforced SAPS to do its work. So, they have to do that work. If there is any evidence that they are not doing much, we will intervene. Thank you very much for that question. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Mr M M SOKOPO: Madam Deputy Speaker, to the hon Deputy

President: The President has directed that the law enforcement agencies should act on the recommendations of the interim report by the Madlanga Commission. What assessment can the Deputy President share with the House on the investigation into the prima facie evidence of wrongdoing by individuals allegedly implicated in the interim recommendations of the Madlanga

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Commission and by the law enforcement agencies, including the commission's recommendations on the task teams of SAPS? Thank you, Deputy President.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, to the hon Sokopo: You would recall that what was submitted to the President was an interim report by the Madlanga Commission. Because of that interim report, the President started taking action where it was necessary. I think we all should support that. Of course, we know that the commission is not yet done with its work. The President is awaiting the full report. Once he gets the full report, he will be able to then introduce measures that are very comprehensive in dealing with these issues of criminality. However, he decided that even with the interim report, he should start doing something. I agree with you that, because it is an interim report, it may not be seen as comprehensive, but he probably did not want to put the cart before the horse, so he is waiting for a full report.

Once that is with him, you will see a full, comprehensive intervention that will take place to uproot corrupt elements from our system and ensure that we change the system, reform it, and ensure that criminality can be something of the past in our

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criminal justice system. Thank you very much. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Ms L M SCHICKERLING: Hon Deputy Speaker and hon Deputy President, good afternoon. Hon Deputy President, recent media reporting indicates that gang-related violence on the Cape Flats has increased by as much as 50% since the SANDF deployment under Operation Prosper has begun. So, I do not know how you can say that Operation Prosper is prospering, sir. The Cape Flats has seen four mass shootings in less than a week – one week. Last week, the President said without any shame whatsoever that he would have no difficulty looking the mothers of children killed on the Cape Flats in the eye and assuring them that Operation Prosper is prospering.

Given these continued levels of violence and loss of life, would you, sir, as the Leader of Government Business, join the President in looking the affected families in the eye and telling them, as the President said, that Operation Prosper is doing everything it can to bring down the levels of gang violence? Alternatively, would you face facts and accept that the only solution left on the table is to fix the police and

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expand policing powers to local and provincial governments? I thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Speaker, I thank the hon Schickerling for the question. Hon Schickerling, my heart goes out to those mothers on the Cape Flats who are losing their loved ones, as you say. We will not wait to fix the police before we attend to their problems. That is why I was saying earlier, when I was answering the hon Douglas, that perhaps we do need to come to the Cape Flats and talk to those mothers who have real, firsthand experience of what is happening there. So, I will lead the delegation to the Cape Flats to meet with the mothers there and find out what is happening so that, if there is no progress, we must attend to it.

I know you have the statistics about how crime has increased. I was asking for statistics myself this morning. Probably, I was going to get statistics about how things have improved, but I think we will agree that the better thing is to talk to the people on the ground who have real experiences because they are not statistics. They are people, and we must deal with them as such and deal with the challenges they face.

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So, if there are weaknesses in the police, we do not wait to reform the Police Service. We simply bring in others and change those who are not doing the work with those who can do the work to ensure that we address the challenges the people are facing. So, we will keep you informed when we do such a visit, which should be soon, so that we can talk to people on the ground. Thank you very much for your question. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Deputy Speaker, to the Deputy President: Are you fine? Are you good?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am very well, my dear.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Oh, alright, "very well". Deputy President, the deployment of the army on the Cape Flats is an exercise in futility because it is not a crime intelligence-led operation. Soldiers are now loitering in the streets. We now know that SAPS and the Crime Intelligence component of SAPS have been infiltrated by criminal elements. This has been revealed by the Madlanga Commission. Do you then, Deputy President, acknowledge this, and what immediate actions will you take to ensure that SAPS is freed from the control of criminals in uniform who are

aiding and abetting gangs in the execution of crimes in the country?

Secondly, why are you, as the leadership of the country, quiet about this vigilante group that wakes up every morning and beats up Africans?

IsiZulu:

Uzofika uthini kulawa amanye amazwe aseAfrika, Sekela Mongameli? Ngoba ...

English:

We are very quiet as a country. We are very quiet as an executive. The Police Service is not doing anything. The Police Service is not arresting those people. What is your immediate task to ensure that Africans are not beat up by these vigilantes in this country? Thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, to the hon member:

Firstly, on the first issue, you were saying the deployment of Operation Prosper is an exercise in futility. I think I have already indicated that we are going to look into that by making

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sure that we go to the area and see what the SAPS is doing there in order to strengthen our intervention.

On the issue of the vigilante group, I addressed a meeting of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, NEPAD, this morning before I came here, and I did condemn that. Of course, even before I condemned that, I did say that the security forces have been asked to deal with criminality. Of course, there should be law enforcement to deal with people who come into our country illegally, but we are not going to allow mob violence against anybody. Our law enforcement agencies must use the law to deal with people who come into the country, and it must not be focused only on Africans. For anybody who comes into our country illegally, the security forces must enforce the law. We must ensure, and we must also talk to our people as well, that they not take the law into their own hands.

They must leave this thing to government, and there must be no mob violence against anybody. I did say this this morning, and we are going to make sure that we strengthen that approach so that we can deal with criminality but not come across as if South Africa is against other Africans. We will deal with this matter because you are quite right that we are beginning to be

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read wrongly, where other leaders in Africa are saying, you see, our people are being killed, and you are doing nothing.

So, we have asked Minister Cachalia to go on the ground and make sure that this thing is addressed. [Interjections.] Of course, he will work with other Ministers, not only him.

[Interjections.] Yes, he will work with other Ministers, but we ourselves, in our communities, must talk to our people and ensure that government will continue to prioritise South Africans, whether in jobs or other services.

We will deal with issues of criminals very decisively because we are a country that believes in laws. [Interjections.] We are an orderly country. We must never allow a mob psychology and the killing of people when there are laws that can deal with these challenges. Thank you very much for that question, hon Mkhaliphi. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Mr W M DOUGLAS: Deputy Speaker and hon Deputy President, my question is related to something personal to me. This morning, I got a call from my sister. It looks like my nephew has been murdered on the Cape Flats. He was stabbed a few days ago, and

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we are busy looking for his body. The reality is that our people are suffering this kind of thing every day.

We are talking about 30 years of doing nothing for our people on the Cape Flats. The army being sent there, the SANDF being sent there, is a last-ditch effort. However, the reality is: What is it going to take ... How are we going to get our youth off the streets? I am a Member of Parliament sitting here. I cannot save my own nephew. I cannot save my own nephew with everything that is in front of me. I cannot save my people.

So, my question is: When will we talk about the land? When will we talk about the minerals? When will we talk about the things that will take our people out of poverty? We are talking about dealing with the symptoms, which is the violence, but we are not dealing with the root cause of the poverty that keeps our people enslaved to gangsterism and drugs. It has been done to us by this government, and it has been done to us by the people they are partnering with. So, we want to know when this is going to stop. We do not want debates; we want answers. The MKP is going to stop it if nobody else will. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, to the hon Douglas: I am sure everybody in this House sympathises with the challenge that you are raising now of a family member who has been stabbed. You do not even know where he is.

As I said earlier, we are going to strengthen our interventions, but you are quite right that we should not focus only on addressing violence. We must ask what we are doing as a country to ensure economic development. As you say, we should use our own minerals to develop this country. In fact, it is almost like you were listening to me this morning when I was speaking at NEPAD. I said exactly that, that South Africa has minerals, but, in the past, we extracted and sold it.

What we must do is local beneficiation. We must ensure that we use our own minerals to produce finished goods and create jobs because you are quite right: Sometimes people are attracted to the wrong things because they are loitering. This country can create jobs. We have that ability, and I could not agree more with you that that is what we must do, but we will also attend to the challenge you raised also of criminality. We need to nip it in the bud and ensure that this country is safe for all its citizens. I thank you. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That concludes questions to the Deputy President. I thank the hon Deputy President. [Applause.]

The House adjourned at 16:12.