WEDNESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2026

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PROCEEDINGS OF VIRTUAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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The House met at 15:00.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, before we proceed, I would like to remind you that the virtual plenary is deemed to be in the precinct of Parliament and constitutes a meeting of the National Assembly. In addition to the Rules of virtual sittings, the Rules of the National Assembly, including the rules of debate, apply. Members enjoy the same powers and privileges that apply in a sitting of the National Assembly. Members should equally note that anything said on the virtual platform is deemed to have been said to the House and may be ruled upon. All members who have logged in shall be considered to be present and are requested to mute their microphones and

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only unmute when recognised to speak. This is because the microphones are very sensitive and will pick up noise which might disturb the attention of other members.

When recognised to speak, please unmute your microphone and, where connectivity permits, connect your video. Members may make use of the icons on the bar at the bottom of their screens, which have an option that allows a member to put up his or her hand to raise points of order. The Secretariat will assist in alerting the Chairperson to members requesting to speak. Lastly, when using the virtual system, members are urged to refrain or desist from unnecessary points of order or interjections.

Hon members, I would also like to announce that questions that were transferred from written to oral reply and placed on the Question Paper have since been removed from the Question Paper upon receipt of the replies in terms of Rule 146(2). Consequently, there will be no additional 30 minutes to today's Question session. The only item on today's Order Paper is questions addressed to the Ministers in cluster 3 - Governance. Parties have given an indication on which questions their members wish to pose as supplementary

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questions. Adequate notice was given to parties for this purpose.

The members who will pose supplementary questions will be recognised by the Presiding Officer. In allocating opportunities for supplementary questions, the principle of fairness, among others, has been applied. When all the supplementary questions have been answered by the executive, we will proceed to the next question on the Question Paper. Now the first question today has been asked by the Honourable Bergman to the Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. The question is whether she has disclosed gifts given by foreign governments timeously. If not, why not? If so, what are the relevant details? I have been informed that the Deputy Minister will be answering questions on behalf of the Minister. The hon Deputy Minister.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

CLUSTER 3

GOVERNANCE

Question 668:

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon Deputy Speaker, the reply to the question by Mr Bergman is

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yes, the Minister has indeed disclosed all gifts received from foreign governments timeously and in accordance with the applicable disclosure prescripts. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Deputy Minister. The first supplementary question will be asked by the hon Bergman. [Interjections.] Hon Hattingh, please mute your microphone.

Mr D BERGMAN: Speaker, on a point of order: We have a problem here, in the sense that these questions are directly aimed at the Minister. It is not a departmental question; it's a question for the Minister. Can I request that this question be held over till the Minister is able to answer this herself, please?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will indeed be possible because I think it is going to be very difficult for the Deputy Minister to give meaningful replies to the follow-up question specifically. So, I have also discussed this with the Secretary to the National Assembly. And this will be the best course that we follow, and this question will then stand over. Thank you very much. That then also goes for all the other supplementary questions that have been allocated to the

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different parties. Hon members, we then proceed to the next question.

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: Hon Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: Thank you very much. I think that we are doing now to the House settings every time that we get here, and then parties just withdraw what was on the Order Paper. It is wrong, Deputy Speaker. There are ways and platforms where we are discussing these matters. And every time that we are having a House sitting, this unprofessionalism needs to be exposed to the public each time. We know if questions are being stood over from the Ministers, those things are being discussed in the Chief Whips' Forum. Why do parties forever, and it's known by the ANC and the DA that are doing this, why do they bring it up or wait until three o'clock, two o'clock to bring these matters to the House sitting, and not handling it properly at the forums that Parliament is giving to us so that we can negotiate and talk to each other? This is utterly disrespectful. It is utter unprofessionalism. We can't continue like this. It needs to be nipped in the bud. It can't continue, Deputy Speaker, please.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Ntlangwini. Yes, note is being taken of that. I do believe that the hon Bergman did

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this because he didn't withdraw the question. He has asked that it be postponed to a later situation or Question Time, as the Minister isn't here and the question is of quite a personal nature. So that was the reason why this question does not disappear; it is not withdrawn, it will be dealt with later. Hon Litchfield-Tshabalala.

Dr K LITCHFIELD-TSHABALALA: Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: I am just trying to find out why the Minister is not here? Because we have got scheduled time in the parliamentary programme upon which we pose questions to the Minister. The Minister is not here, and now we are standing questions over. And I suppose the person who asked the question is not making an issue out of it. This is part of the Government of National Unity, GNU, government. Why is the Minister not here? It is a virtual platform, meaning she could log on wherever the Minister is to answer this question. It is unacceptable. This is serious disrespect to the parliamentary programme itself, but to the Members of Parliament who are supposed to be holding her accountable. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, indeed, hon Litchfield-Tshabalala, that is a concern I also have. I have not been informed of the reason, but I do undertake that we do find out the reason why

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the hon Minister is not present. As you correctly state, this is a virtual platform, but I will get back to the House with the reason for the Minister's absence.

Hon members, we will then proceed with those points dealt with. The next question that we will now be dealing with is Question 687 and has been asked by the hon Zuma to the Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. The question is whether, given that the National Spatial Development Framework, NSDF, is intended to guide planning across all spheres of government, her department has established any binding compliance and/or accountability mechanism to ensure that provincial and municipal spatial plans align with the NSDF. If not, why not? If so, what are the relevant details? The hon Deputy Minister.

Question 687:
The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and thanks for the question, hon Zuma. The National Spatial Development Framework, NSDF, is a key planning instrument to support spatial transformation and land use management across government. In terms of Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 16 of 2023, the Minister of Land Reform and

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Rural Development is responsible for the implementation and co-ordination of the NSDF across government. The Act does establish several compliance mechanisms that require the Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development to exercise powers within a clear legal and governance framework. The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation supports implementation on NSDF by outlining relevant interventions in the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP, 2024-2029.

The MTDP includes two interventions to support specialisation within Strategic Priority 3. The lead institution for co-ordinating implementation of these interventions is the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development. The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation monitors progress of the MTDP through the biannual reports and provides progress updates to Cabinet based on the feedback and recommendations from Cabinet and the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation advises departments on corrective action where required. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Ms B E S ZUMA: Deputy Speaker, am I audible?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you are.

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Ms B E S ZUMA: Okay. If the Minister confirms a compliance mechanism exists, can he in this case name a single instance where a provincial or municipal spatial plan was found to be noncompliant with the NSDF? Was the plan sent back? Was funding withheld? Or were there any consequences? Or does this alignment in practise mean nothing more than a box ticked on submission? I submit, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. We do provide ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Deputy Minister, if you could perhaps just for a moment pause. Hon Litchfield-Tshabalala, you have raised your hand. Is it a point of order?

Dr K LITCHFIELD-TSHABALALA: No. I’m sorry. It was a mistake.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Deputy Minister, please proceed.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The department does provide biannual report to Cabinet where we outline progress on the implementation of National Spatial Development Framework and

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where we identified uneven capacity across government department and the slow implementation of the National Data System. Therefore, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation engages with the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development to support improved co-ordination in the implementation.

Over and above is to engage in platforms through various co-ordination platforms to deal with the department to frontline monitoring of these programmes and identify areas of intervention. There have been several interactions engagement with various municipalities. Therefore, we have also signed a memorandum of understanding to improve co-ordination and integrated planning, especially in relation to aligning the NDSF and MTDP. Therefore, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation is also rolling a geospatial information system to support this process, to support integrated planning, monitoring and evaluation. Thank you.

Ms S I NKOSI: Yes, Deputy Speaker. Thank you so much. I just wanted to say, can the Ministers answer the questions directly because this is a direct question they were requesting, and I'm saying specific details and he just went on a goose chase. They were requesting for specific details where there was an

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example of such and they're not responding to the questions that are being asked. It makes it difficult for us, Madam Speaker, because we ask these questions requesting for proper responses and what we're getting is just what they've got pre-packaged and that's not fair. Thanks, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Nkosi, you will note that there are five questions of which your member who asked the question initially will have the opportunity to again ask the Deputy Minister. That is why we have instituted those questions. The second follow-up will be asked by the hon Aphiri.

Ms M J APHIRI: Thanks very much, Deputy Speaker. To the Deputy Minister, the Constitutional Court of South Africa ruled on the long-running Tafelberg property case, finding that the Western Cape government and the City of Cape Town have a binding constitutional duty to provide well-located affordable housing to address spatial apartheid. What measures will the Ministry and the department take to ensure public-owned land and strategic economic areas is ring-fenced for inclusive spatial development through the provision of social housing for the marginalised and for the middle strata? I submit, Deputy Speaker.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and the followed-up by hon Aphiri. The Constitutional Court ruled that the sale of Tafelberg property was unlawful and found that both the Western Cape government and the City of Cape Town had failed to meet their constitutional obligations. Therefore, the City of Cape Town has noted the judgement and committed to future affordable housing. Also, we note that cities are primarily responsible for land use management within their jurisdiction.

The Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act also provides itself as an important tool in advancing objectives highlighted in the case. The Act is administered by the Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development. Our Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation will thus engage the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development to support intergovernmental alignment of spatial objectives. Thank you.

Mr D BERGMAN: Thank you very much. Just in terms of points of order again, we are allowed to ask, we didn't check at the beginning why the Minister, if she did give an apology and why she gave an apology. Just after the questions, if we can just get that apology, please. In terms of the question, Minister, we have asked countless questions around the department and

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how it intends to motivate or sanction departments that are way off target in the National Development Plan, NDP, or municipalities and service providers when it comes to basic and necessary service delivery.

The problem is that these departments run with no legal mandate and we're chasing legislation that most parties are against. Now, when the priority should be about legislating this important function so that we can finally give our people the services that they deserve and punish those that are obfuscating service delivery, why are we prioritising the State-Owned Enterprises Bill when the enactment of stronger oversight measures on government plans should be the priority? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I think our hon Bergman is correct to observe that there are other instances where targets are not achieved and our department from time to time provides such reports. Therefore, we certainly also are in the process of a policy, a legislative review that will affirm certain tasks of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. We believe with that and what we are currently able to do, because what we can do is to provide reports and

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demonstrate areas where departments must intervene. That co-ordinating role, our department will continue to perform and ensure that various committees are in a position, and departments make decisions on those issues. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Mr A K NGOBESE: Deputy Speaker, good day. It's Alco Ngobese. I'll take the question on behalf of Inkosi Buthelezi, if you may allow me, please.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please proceed.

Mr A K NGOBESE: Thank you, Madam. Hon Minister, what practical support and skills and staff and usable spatial information has the department given to the ruler and underresourced municipalities, especially category B3 and B4 to help them understand and apply the NSDF targets in their five-year integrated development plans and land use schemes? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you very much, hon member. I believe that there are several areas that we are working on. For instance, there is support to the spheres of government on the issues managed by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Land

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Reform and Rural Development, where 37 sites were monitored, where beneficiaries have expressed dissatisfaction with services overall. We are working closely with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development.

Also, we are dealing with water infrastructure issues, but also, most importantly, is to ensure that we respond to the issues that the President has highlighted, to ensure that there's requisite skills consistent in terms of improving services in the local sphere of government. I believe that the current review of the White Paper in local government and the 90-day transformation that they put forward will, in a big way, demonstrate that capacity is a major focus, where there is more movement from policy review into more of the implementation based on the capacity that will be sourced in terms of skills required in those areas of work. Thank you.

Ms B E S ZUMA: Okay, thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. It's so unfortunate that we take our time to prepare the questions, but they're not answered in a way that is pleasing to the public of South Africa. It's very unfortunate. My last supplementary question would be, does the Minister accept that without a binding mechanism, the NSDF is effectively an

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aspirational document? Housing, infrastructure and land use decisions are made daily at municipal level. Is her department not simply monitoring spatial chaos after the fact rather than preventing it? I submit, Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: The National Spatial Development Framework is not just an aspirational document across spheres of government, as the honourable member's central question posed. It is important to appreciate that it is informing how we respond as a state through a co-ordinated mechanism. However, also, it is finding its expression in the MTDP in a much more prominent way to ensure that co-ordination of these interventions is done and is measured.

We are approaching a mid-term review where prominently we will put a case on what is revealing and what are the areas that we will be implementing to strengthen the implementation of this NSDF framework. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Deputy Minister. Hon members, before we proceed to the next question, I have been informed by the Table that, indeed, the Minister did submit an apology to the Speaker. If I look at it, it says that the

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reason is that the Minister is unable to attend due to prior commitment on the same date. Now, honourable members, I do know and I will pre-emphasise that it is not a satisfactory reason for not being here.

It was correctly stated also by one of the members that the question session has been planned, and the programme is known in advance, so I will take this matter further. We now proceed to Question 697. It has been asked by the hon Direko to the Minister of ... [Interjections.] ... hon member, is there a point of order? I don't see a hand.

Dr K LITCHFIELD-TSHABALALA: Yes. Oh, sorry. That's me, Deputy Speaker. Yes, my hand is up now. Thank you. May we get an indication from you in terms of when you'll come back to us after you have taken this matter further? I just, from MKP, we don't want this matter to just disappear, you know. Give us a promise now. Then, because we are not even meeting physically, and then other things crop in and we forget, because this is behaviour that we cannot encourage from Ministers. Truly, they owe us their appearance in Parliament. It is not a favour. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, indeed, hon Lichfield-Tshabalala, this is something that I will have to take up via the Speaker with the Leader of Government Business. Therefore, it will be a bit difficult for me to now give a timeframe, but I do undertake to do it as speedily as possible, so that we don't have this kind of situation in the future. Hon Maimane, are you now raising on the ruling that I have just made, or is it an additional matter?

Dr M A MAIMANE: No, Speaker, I want to support your ruling, but I want to reaffirm that we have had such engagements before, and it is a continued practise. Whilst I accept that you will give us feedback as to what the nature, at which point will Parliament exercise sanctions against such behaviour? Because it's not the first time it's happened, and the same process is undertaken. Therefore, rather than us going around in a merry-go-round circle, can we at least establish what sanctions take place, so that we can achieve a sense upon which Ministers appear? It simply can't be that we carry on repeating the same activity, hoping for different outcomes. I submit, Deputy Speaker. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I have noted your concern proposal, and I will consider it. We proceed with a question.

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It is a question asked by the hon Direko to the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. The question is, with reference to the report of the Public Protector, named systemic investigation into alleged failure by the City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality to provide basic municipal services in Langa Flats and Khayelitsha Township, which made damning findings against the City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality, what steps has his department taken to engage the City in order to get the specified issues addressed. The hon Minister!

Question 697:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I have noted your concerned proposal, and I will definitely consider it. We proceed with a new question. It is a question asked by the hon Direko to the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. The question is with reference to the report of the Public Protector named Systemic Investigation into Alleged Failure by the City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality to Provide Basic Municipal Services in Langa Flats and Khayelitsha Township, which made damning findings against the City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality. What steps has this department taken to engage the City of Cape Town in order to get the specified issues addressed? The hon Minister. [Interjections.]

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Hon Mbele, please mute your microphone. Could I also ask the Whips of the different parties to please again remind your members not to unmute? It is extremely disturbing whilst being busy on a virtual platform. Please proceed, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Chairperson, the department has noted the findings and remedial actions contained in the Public Protector’s report in relation to Langa Flats and Khayelitsha Township. The issues raised in the report are serious and concern services that directly impact the dignity, health and quality of life of the residents in the areas indicated.

The implementation of the remedial action directed at the City of Cape Town remains the primary responsibility of the municipality itself. However, the Cogta is engaging the City of Cape Town through the established intergovernmental relations mechanism, including DDM structures, to facilitate a co-ordinated response and to monitor progress in addressing the concerns identified by the Public Protector.

We also recognise that some of the issues identified in the report extend beyond the mandate of a single institution and require co-ordinated action which involves the City of Cape

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Town, the Western Cape Provincial Government and other relevant national departments, particularly in areas relating to human settlement and basic services. The Cogta will therefore continue to facilitate co-operation across the three spheres of government to support the implementation of corrective measures.

Hon Chair, this matter underscores the importance of integrated planning and service delivery. Through the DDM model, we are driving a whole-of-government approach to ensure that municipalities, provinces and national departments work together more effectively to resolve service delivery challenges and improve the living conditions of communities. We will continue, therefore, to monitor developments and support all efforts to ensure that the Public Protector’s recommendations are addressed fully and timeously. Thank you, hon Chair.

Mr Z L MKHIZE: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and thanks to the Minister for the response. What the Public Protector’s Report has demonstrated is something that we can all see: The marginalisation of poor, particularly black communities in Cape Town.

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Our question, Minister, is: What plans and measures are in place to ensure that municipalities achieve special justice and equity in order to avoid perpetual marginalisation of poor communities in favour of rich suburbs, as the report demonstrated in the City of Cape Town? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, hon Chair, and thank you to hon Mkhize. Inequality, especially, remains one of the most enduring legacies of apartheid and the government is committed to ensuring that municipal planning, investment and service delivery actively contribute to reversing these historical patterns.

The primary instruments guiding this work are the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, the Integrated Urban Development Framework, and the ongoing Review of the White Paper on Local Government. Together, these instruments promote the principle of spatial justice by requiring municipalities to direct development infrastructure investment and public services towards areas that have historically been neglected or disadvantaged.

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The Cogta is currently strengthening the implementation of the integrated urban development framework and assessing municipal spatial development frameworks across the country to determine whether municipal planning decisions are advancing inclusion, access to opportunities and adequate development. Where shortcomings are identified, municipalities are provided with recommendations and support to better align their plans, budgets and investment priorities within the principle of spatial justice and transformation.

Our objective, hon Chair, is not simply to improve municipal planning instruments, but to fundamentally change the geography of opportunity in South Africa. Municipal plans, budgets and infrastructure investment must become instruments of transformation that actively reverse historical patterns of exclusion and bring people closer to jobs, services, public transport and economic opportunities.

As government, we remain committed to building municipalities. Where a person lives no longer determines the quality of the services that they receive or the opportunities available to them, but where every community shares equitably in the benefits of development, growth and democratic governance. Thank you, hon Chair.

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Just to remind the hon members of the times: The Minister has four minutes for the first question and then two minutes per supplementary question; while members have one minute, except for the poser of the original question or the original poser, who then has two minutes. So, the next question will be asked by the hon James. Hon James!

Dr T K S LETLAPE: Chair, this is hon Letlape. I will take the question on behalf of hon James.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please proceed.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: The question to the Minister is that the report is specific about failure to provide basic municipal services in specific locations - Langa Flats and Kalisha Township. So, the issue of spatial planning doesn’t come into play directly.

What would be the process of consequence management for failure to deliver on this, which is a specific function of local government, not multiple spheres, so that the City of Cape Town should be held accountable for those people not

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getting basic human services, which is tantamount to a crime against humanity?

We can’t come up into this intergovernmental thing because it means those specific, close to the people, can’t be held accountable. How do you achieve that, Minister?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, hon Chair. The point, as I said in the beginning: It remains the responsibility of a local government to deliver the services as recommended by the report of the Public Protector. However, amongst the recommendations, there are things which require intergovernmental co-operation because some of those things belong to other spheres of government.

As Cogta, that is why we come in to play our role of intergovernmental co-operation, to ensure that the other spheres that are implicated in that report, whether directly or indirectly, their attention is drawn in order to come on board so that the recommendations get full implementation. The Cogta does not hold the equipment to introduce consequence management to a municipality, except to come in, give support

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where it is necessary, and ensure that the recommendations are followed accordingly. Thank you, Chair.

Dr M A MAIMANE: Thank you, Minister. Departing from your previous response, I think this confirms the duality of South Africa: That there are multiple South Africans. That is why, as Build One South Africa, we set out to say where you live cannot determine the quality of services that you receive. Now, Minister, this is a Public Protector finding. You have a portfolio committee that sits here.

I want to understand: Will the Minister commit to Parliament to table implementation plans that hold the City of Cape Town accountable, so that it complies with what the Public Protector’s remedial action is? It is common cause that if you don’t agree with the remedial action, you either challenge it in court or you implement it. Will the Minister monitor and table to Parliament an implementation plan? Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, hon Chair. Indeed, I fully agree with hon Maimane that it doesn’t matter where a person really lives; we all deserve equal services irrespective of where one

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lives. In terms of tabling the report, we will have no problem to definitely doing so, and we will ensure that we follow up in terms of monitoring that the City of Cape Town does follow the recommendations by the Public Protector.

Where the City of Cape Town needs our support, we are available. We are not going to do only the monitoring, but to ensure support and facilitate where they say they are being frustrated by a department at a national level. However, tabling the report, we will definitely do that. We don’t have a challenge as the Cogta.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The fourth supplementary question will be asked by the hon Ismail-Moosa. Hon Ismail-Moosa! If the hon member is not available, we then move on to the last supplementary question that will be asked by the hon Mkhize.

Mr Z L MKHIZE: Minister, you would agree that referral of service delivery complaints to the Public Protector signifies a very high level of frustration from the public. Yet our people have elected councillors in the City of Cape Town and public representatives in the Western Cape and national Parliament.

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Would the Minister monitor the implementation of the remedial action imposed on the City of Cape Town by the Public Protector and report progress in or lack thereof to this Parliament every six months, to ensure that the poor and mainly black communities in Cape Town are not marginalised, but are prioritised? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Thank you once again, hon Chair. Definitely, hon Mkhize, I do make that commitment of a six-monthly report to Parliament on progress made on the recommendations by the Public Protector to the City of Cape Town. However, we will also ensure, as I have said before, that we give the necessary support required by the City of Cape Town to ensure that they carry out the recommendations by the Public Protector and report accordingly to the House on a six-monthly basis. This is to ensure that all people of South Africa receive equal treatment and services irrespective of where they live. Thank you, hon Chair.

Question 681:

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon Deputy Speaker, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation’s interventions are anchored in the Medium-Term

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Development Plan approved by Cabinet in 2025, as we all know. Local governance and service delivery fall directly under Strategic Priority 3 of the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP, building a capable, ethical and developmental state.

Following the recommendations of the National Planning Commission, NPC advisory note, sector and lead departments are actioning the following specific interventions to resolve the wastewater processing crisis. Refurbishment and capacity expansion: Sector departments and water entities must urgently invest in the refurbishment and expansion of water treatment works, wastewater processing plants and bulk water infrastructure.

The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, DPME tracks this progress directly, by specifically monitoring the number of bulk water infrastructure projects completed and those under construction.

Decentralised sanitation deployment to relieve the pressure on conventional sewer systems are operating 50% over capacity: Interventions include the development and deployment of appropriate decentralised sanitation technologies such as septic tanks, specifically targeted at informal settlements

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and rural areas where conventional infrastructure is not feasible.

Automated monitoring and predictive maintenance: To move away from a reactive breakdown culture, there is an aggressive push to adopt municipal technologies including automated monitoring system for water and sanitation infrastructure, enabling predictive maintenance and optimised resource allocation. Additionally, municipalities are required to implement comprehensive asset management plans, detailing lifecycle costs and protected maintenance schedules.

To ensure these technical interventions are successfully managed, the following enforcement measures are actioned. Statutory enforcement and criminal prosecution: The Department of Water and Sanitation has opened 96 criminal cases against 53 water services authorities for strict noncompliance with sewer pollution directives. These enforcement actions include charging municipal managers in their personal capacities to enforce accountability for environmental contamination.

Establishment of special purpose vehicles: The National Water Crisis Committee converts failed municipal water units into ring-fenced special purpose vehicles such as Vaal Corporation

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Water Utility. To support this shift to a utility model, the DPME tracks the number of metros having established ring-fenced professionally managed utilities for water and electricity services.

Also, the grant conversion for direct intervention: The National Water Crisis Committee, Watercom facilities facilitates the convention of municipal grants from schedule 5B, direct municipal management, to schedule 6B, indirect management. This is an important development. This grant conversion enables water boards and district municipalities to act directly as implementing agents in municipalities where technical capacity has collapsed.

Lastly, Green Drop and Blue Drop oversight: The DPME strengthens executive oversight of water service providers by tracking the exact number of water systems, classifying critical conditions according to the Blue and Green Drop reports. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

IsiXhosa:

Mnu C MATIWANE: Mandizibulisele kuwe Sekela Somlomo nakwiNdlu ngokubanzi. Ndivumele ukuba ndithi, ngqanga neentsiba zayo. IsiNgesi esi simnandi, ndiyabona ukuba lulwimi lokukhohlisa.

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English:

Noting that the failure to maintain wastewater treatment plants leads to the infringement of rights contained in the Bill of Rights, such as section 24 of the Constitution, which puts positive obligation on the state to prevent the pollution and ecological degradation of the environment.

Can the Deputy Minister assure this House that the crisis currently facing the majority of municipalities, as indicated by a report by the SA Human Rights Commission regarding the pollution of water sources by wastewater treatment plants is being effectively monitored in order to uphold section 24 by the state, given that section 151(2) of the Constitution, which creates a legal lacuna, which has led to many reports of the national executive and this Parliament being frustrated by municipal councils? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon Matiwane, you will agree that part of what the advisory note and the important question you raised. The advisory note enjoins us to follow the commitment made by the National Development Plan, NDP. It also shows red flags on service delivery. Correctly, that there has been instances of failure to provide this much-needed services, but also Cabinet resolve

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on this matter quite prominently that we have to deal with these issues without fail. I think that commitment is by the governance, even cluster, when it responds to those issues.

Importantly is that this diagnostic overview provided by the advisory note talks about governance overall, that there should be systems that are strengthened and having capacity to deliver, to look into the financial sustainability of the programmes under implementation in these municipalities. We have highlighted several interventions, but most importantly, to attend to the issue of infrastructure renewal. Infrastructure renewal and spatial transformation is key. We certainly will give a dedicated focus on these issues without fail. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Ms A N KUMBACA: Hon Deputy Minister, funding of infrastructure development is a critical aspect impacting the level of infrastructure maintenance, refurbishment and increasing infrastructure capacity to respond to increasing populations and migration patterns. What is Cabinet’s approach to address service delivery gaps identified in the advisory note? Thank you.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Cabinet has adopted a comprehensive multi-layered approach to address severe service delivery gaps identified by the National Planning Commission, particularly concerning water infrastructure. At the highest level, cabinet has established a Water Crisis Committee chaired by the President to consolidate and co-ordinate all interventions.

There's been several meetings extended even to municipalities to look into forms of actions that need to take place across levels, so, culminating into a water action plan. The water action plan focuses on short, medium and long-term solutions. I think that plan is there and articulated by the relevant Ministry of Water and at various government levels.

This political commitment is backed by significant financial resources, including R2,6 trillion in 2026 Budget, which allocates about R27,7 billion over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. The Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP provides that discipline in terms of implementation and addressing this infrastructure. Performance-linked reforms in metro trading entities is key and further that we look into the three years specifically for water and sanitation infrastructure to support expansion, maintenance and reliability ...

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Minister, your time has expired.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you Deputy Speaker.

Mr M MANYI: Deputy Minister, beyond general reference to the NPC advisory note, are there specific time-bound strategic interventions that have been approved or initiated, including funding allocations, responsible departments or municipalities and target completion dates to bring the 150% overcapacity wastewater treatment plants back within designed limits? Are you able to share those specifics right now? If you can't, can you commit to a written response in seven days? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon Manyi, earlier on, I just mentioned the plan for the crisis committee that is spelled out in the short, medium and long-term interventions. And also, I want to say that the MTDP articulates what should be the targets in the mid-term. Soon, we will be reviewing these targets.

This is what we interface with various departments. I think those can be further elaborated just to amplify with regard to

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the response, maybe in a much more written way, to elaborate those targets as encapsulated in the MTDP. It will help because it's a five-year programme. So, there is a very disciplined implementation of the plan. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Mr W M THRING: Deputy Minister, the NPC is finding that wastewater treatment plants are operating at volumes, 50% above their intended capacities is deeply concerning. This is not merely an infrastructure problem. It directly affects public health, the environment, municipal functionality, and the quality of life of our communities. It also raises questions about whether government's planning and budgeting processes are adequately anticipating population growth, urbanisation, and deteriorating infrastructure.

Can the Deputy Minister, speak to the fact whether the NPC's recommendations speak to the aspects of population growth, urbanisation, and deteriorating infrastructure? What monitoring mechanisms and measurable targets has your department put in place to ensure that the NPC's recommendations will be implemented? Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon Thring, I just want to confirm, just under the infrastructure nodes and financing, the National Planning Commission, NPC is quite elaborate in terms of population and the challenge of expanding and also maintenance of infrastructure. So, it does address that issue. But also, I think the issue that we highlighted of the grant conventions for direct intervention, speaks to the level that 50% constitutes the level almost of a crisis or situation that we need to respond to with urgency.

In those multiple strategies where we talk about grant convention for direct intervention, it's important to ensure that those municipalities that are categorised as municipalities requiring intervention, we should be able to make meaningful change in those areas. I will certainly confirm that it is quite important. But the advisory note does speak to population growth and the challenge if the situation is left as is without major interventions that will cost the people of South Africa. Thank you.

IsiXhosa:

Mnu C MATIWANE: Sekela Somlomo, mandiphinde ndibulele kuwe. Ukucikoza oku yingxaki esijongene nayo kule Ndlu sibe isizwe

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sona siqhubeka sisifa, abantu nezilwanyana besela amanzi anelindle. Izicwangciso azithethi nto kungekho ntshukumo ezantsi. Iimpendulo esizinikwa nguSekela Mphathiswa apha azisiniki themba lokuba ikhona inguqu ezakwenziwa ngurhulumente ukulwa nokungcoliswa kokusingqongileyo zezi ...

English:

... waste treatment plants.

IsiXhosa:

Ilishwa leli lokuba abona bantu baye bachaphazeleke kakhulu ngabantu abahlala ezilalini nabo bahlala ezilokishini. Aba ngabona bantu basifaka apha kule Palamente ngeevoti zabo, sifike singabahoyi. Ndiza kuma apho Sekela Somlomo. Enkosi.

USEKELA MPHATHISWA WOCWANGCISO, UKUHLOLA NOVAVANYO: Bawo uMatiwane, siyivile le ntetho yakho kakuhle.

English:

I think the issue that you are raising is important. We need to respond to the concerns and frustrations of the people of South Africa through ensuring that we respond to the basic services. The issues that we articulated Mr Matiwane from this important question, especially of the advisory note are quite

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clear. They are quite very much in a very clear manner isolating, that even government went through under the leadership of the President, through the Extended Presidential Co-ordinating Council, PCC, gave dedicated focus on water and also what is going to shape our work moving forward is implementation of the observations made by the advisory note.

Some of the issues, to a large extent are already contained in the MTDP, but it is going to be important to elevate it to ensure that departments do respond. In our biannual report to Cabinet, we do spell out in greater detail. I think the problem is that we may not have interfaced with the relevant portfolio committee, to share the report that has been discussed at the level of Cabinet and intervention measures that are approved at that level.

I believe with time, I think we'll have that interface and ensure that these issues are quite shared, not under time constraints but much more elaborately in the discussions of the relevant portfolio committee. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Question 654:

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: I do request to switch off my camera for maybe better reception.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): You may proceed, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Thank you, hon Van der Merwe for the question. Yes, the National Youth Development Agency has made measurable contribution towards reducing youth unemployment. Given that youth unemployment is a macroeconomic issue, there is a need for co-ordination of fiscal, monetary and industrial policy levers to address youth unemployment. In line with its mandate, the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA, designs and implements programmes that integrate young people into the economy.

For instance, one of the findings of a study that was commissioned by the NYDA itself titled: "Impact Measurement of NYDA Grant Programme" showed that youth-owned enterprises that were supported through the grant programme over the last four financial years created an average of 2,3 jobs. Also, it added into the tax revenue between 30 cents to 67 cents, which was generated for the National Revenue Fund for every R1 spent through the NYDA's grant programme.

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Furthermore, the following youth economic intervention that are being implemented by the NYDA serve as evidence of their contribution to youth unemployment reduction. For instance, job preparedness training, which prepares young people to be job ready and equip them with soft life skills; job placement programmes, which links young people with job opportunities; grant programmes, which funds youth-owned enterprises; business development support, which supports young entrepreneurs, non-financial services such as business management training, mentorship ... [Interjections.] ... accredited technical skills, training for young artisans; national youth ... [Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): ... hon Minister, hon Minister, my apologies. Hon Cloete, switch off your microphone. You are now disrupting the hon Minister in her reply. You may proceed, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Thank you very much, Chair. The national youth service programmes to secure paid service opportunities for the youth. In quarter one of 2026-27 financial year, 770 jobs have been created and sustained through supporting entrepreneurs. Four thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven youths have been

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supported with nonfinancial business development interventions, and 101 young persons with disabilities were supported with financial interventions. Thank you very much, Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I want to remind you that you must ensure that your microphones remain switched off until you are recognised. It is a disturbance in the session.

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Thank you very much, hon Frolic, and thank you very much to you, hon Minister. Hon Minister, the National Youth Development Agency should be a beacon of hope and opportunity for the millions of young South Africans that have lost hope that they will ever be able to achieve their hopes and dreams.

Of late, the NYDA unfortunately has been plagued by concerns around governance, leadership matters, also internal squabbles, legal disputes, as well as reports of excessive spend on travel on one-day events, which calls into question their ability in future to meet their mandate.

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Now, with regard to your oversight and monitoring responsibilities, what have you found to be the current challenges at the NYDA? And, do these include political interference and how will you go about ensuring that we restore public trust in the entity? I thank you.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Thank you, hon Van der Merwe for the follow-up question. What we have found first is that the squabbles that hon Van der Merwe is referring to are at a board level. We have tried to ensure that we insulate the staff of NYDA that is responsible for the implementation of the mandate of NYDA.

We did visit the NYDA. We met with unions, we met with staff of NYDA and we could, on our own, in assessing what was happening and what is happening there, realise that as a matter of fact, for now, whatever divisions that are there, they are just at the level of the board.

However, even at that level of the board, we then, of course, met with the board and we have tried to bring people who will assist the board so that they know their mandate and the very fact that they are there to bring the beacon of hope that the

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hon member is referring. So, indeed, that reported a lack of cohesion and unity at the board level.

Post, for instance, our appearance at the portfolio committee meeting and Scopa, we conducted institutions such as the Public Service Commission, and we went together with the chairperson of the Public Service Commission to the board of NYDA. We did present to them some of the issues related to governance, to fiduciary duties, etc. Also, we have conducted the National School of Government and the Institute of Directors in South Africa, for which the NYDA now has signed a memorandum of understanding, MOU, so that they intervene in order to guide the board.

So, one thing I can assure every South African is that, the people that are implementing the mandate of the NYDA, which is the staff of the NYDA, which is the chief executive officer, CEO, of the NYDA, they are working together. They are not affected by the divisions of the board, but even with the board, we're hoping that with the interventions that we are making, they will come together and realise that theirs is not to be fighting, but theirs is to ensure that the young people of South Africa benefit from the NYDA. We are hoping for the best. Thank you very much, Chair.

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Ms T A KHANYILE: Hon Minister, given the disproportionately high levels of youth unemployment in rural areas, have you assessed whether the National Youth Development Agency has made a measurable contribution to reducing youth unemployment in rural communities, particularly in terms of sustainable employment and entrepreneurship opportunities?

If not, why not? If so, what evidence can you provide, including the number of young people in rural areas who have benefited from the NYDA programmes and the number of people who have secured sustainable employment or established viable businesses as a result of such interventions? Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon member. Hon members, you are reminded that the supplementary question is just one question and not a number of subquestions.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Thank you very much, hon Khanyile for the question. When the board was appointed in August last year, among the priorities that they set for themselves was that their focus will be, in the main, the rural areas, townships and, of course, other areas.

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They also developed a national rural strategy for NYDA, which was approved by the board. So, yes, indeed, the approach of this board is to ensure that they reach out to young people in rural areas who otherwise are far from some of the offices that the NYDA has. On the numbers of people that have been empowered by the NYDA in rural areas, etc, as the statistics, I would request that I probably get that information and provide it to the hon member.

The statistics is available in the annual report of the NYDA for 2025-26. But also, we can collect that information and provide it to the member. But otherwise, it is the strategy that this board is implementing. It is the commitment that they made when they were appointed and they are keeping to it.

They go as far as whatever areas in South Africa and in townships, as well to ensure that the services of NYDA are accessed. Thank you.

Ms C T NONTENJA: Hon Minister, according to Statistics SA, youth unemployment rate stands at 47,4% for the second quarter of 2026. This means 5 million young people are without jobs.

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Does the department have a functional mechanism to track young people from the NYDA programmes into the labour market and determine whether they are subsequently placed through the Department of Employment and Labour, Sector Education and Training Authorities, SETAs, or government employment initiatives? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Thank you very much hon member for the question. What we have is the SA Youth Mobi, that allows young people to register themselves and to some extent be linked to the would-be or potential employers. This has actually assisted in linking many young people to work. But indeed, the hon member is correct that a number of young people are unemployed.

We've looked at the statistics. The majority of young people that are unemployed. First, are those that do not have any Grade 12 or any post-grade 12 qualifications. And I think the ones that have a post-grade 12 qualifications, they are at 12 or whatever percent. That is still very high for people who sometimes have degrees, national certificates, etc. That is why we are working together with other departments that are responsible for youth employment; the Small Business Development Department, Trade and Industry Development

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Department and the Department of Labour and Employment. We're working together with them to say exactly how many numbers are they going to appoint.

Also, we are planning to invite big businesses represented by their chief executive officers, CEOs to a roundtable that will be taking place towards the end of this month so that they actually can pledge the number of young people that they are going to employ, but also the programmes and projects that are there for them to employ young people. So, we are targeting these chain markets, for instance, they will always have somebody who is at the top as the CEO, who is the group CEO of a particular chain market.

What we have actually encountered and found out about is that all of them are saying that they have programmes and projects for young people in other sectors that we are representing. We want to have a meeting with them, which will take place right now, which will also take us to the summit that will be called by the Department of Labour, with them already pledging to say, this is the amount of money and these are the numbers that we will employ. These are the young people that we would want, particularly those that are from traditional institutions. Thank you very much, Chair.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): The fourth supplementary question will be asked by the hon Mahlatsi. Hon Mahlatsi ... is the hon member on the platform? If not, we will then proceed to the last supplementary question that will be asked by the hon Van der Merwe.

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Thank you very much to the hon Minister for her responses. The hon Minister just touched on the matter of the accessibility of the NYDA services, in particular as it pertains to the rural areas and rural communities.

So, my question is: Does the hon Minister consider the expenditure of more than a million rand per month on rental for the NYDA's offices in Sunninghill to be consistent with the agency's mandate, especially while so many young people remain unemployed and struggle to access the NYDA's opportunities and services? Thank you, House Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): I've been informed that the hon Mahlatsi is on the platform. Let me just give him an opportunity if he is still willing to ask a question. So, ... there's no reply. We will then proceed to Question number 700.

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Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: House Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Yes.

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Will the Minister not answer?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): My apologies. I'm a bit distracted by the feedback that I'm getting from the National Assembly, NA, Table. My apologies for that. Hon Minister, you may reply.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Chairperson, we all joined the department in NYDA with this current board and found NYDA occupying the offices and paying the amount that they are paying. Also, equally having a contract that was supposed to run over X number of years.

The current board is looking for a better accommodation that is cheaper but also that is accessible. However, we also have looked on the rates that are being paid in the areas. Probably, if you look at that, it may not be that it is that high.

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However, it may as well be that they must move to another accommodation. The point of the matter is that there is a contract that might be binding for NYDA to continue until such time. Also, when they then exit from that contract, then they can actually consider another accommodation which probably will be more accessible to young people.

Nevertheless, other issues that I looked into are issues of safety and issues of security of the building itself but of the staff that is there. I think those are the issues that play when you make a choice and a decision. If you look at the department, the building that is occupied by the department, we are paying almost half the million rand for something that is worse, much worse than what the offices of NYDA are paying.

So, yes, indeed, it is an issue which we are looking into and the board is attending to the matter. Even the building that we are occupying, which is worse than anything you can think of in the world, we are paying a lot of money towards it. Thank you very much, Chair.

Question 700:

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: House Chair, thank you for the question by hon Kumbaca.

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Strategic Priority 2 of the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP, outlines measures to reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living. This includes measures to deal with food insecurity. To facilitate alignment between the MTDP and annual performance plans, the DPME undertakes an annual assessment of draft APPs in November and December.

The DPME issues circulars and guidelines to support this process. In the last financial year, the DPME issued Ministerial Circular 1 of 2025, which outlined that the department must align its draft APPs for the MTDP. Regarding food insecurity, the following interventions have been prioritised: cushioning the poor by expanding the social security of different grant systems; more focus to smallholder farm, fisheries, etc; micro, small, and medium enterprises, MSME, support to vulnerable groups, which the DPME monitors during the biannual monitoring reporting, and to which the DPME provides feedback on its alignment to the departmental APPs programmes during January and February assessment each year, before the department finalises and table the APPs.

Focused support for MSMEs addresses the impact of inflation and the cost of food production and availability associated with domestic and global economic challenges related to

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fertiliser costs. Fuel continues to affect food production and food security. The National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security has been put in place to address this across various sectors of the economy. Thank you.

Ms A N KUMBACA: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, thank you for the answer. I just wanted to check this. Inflation has impacted the cost of food, and the cost of fertilisers and fuel continues to pose a risk to the cost of food. In terms of the US-Iran conflict, what measures is government taking to alleviate cost pressures, bearing in mind these conflicts? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon Kumbaca, ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Deputy Minister, you are audible. Can you just start from the beginning, please?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Okay. Chairperson, government is responding to reduce the cost of living through a variety of mechanisms. Apart from having a comprehensive social wage that is supported by social grants,

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it also supports affordable social housing and basic services. One key area that has also been given attention is the affordability of electricity. This is a major discussion and debate in our country in many ways, led by the Minister of Electricity.

Cabinet recently approved the electricity pricing policy, which seeks to reduce the cost of energy in the medium term. This will support a more competitive energy market while the state maintains control over key infrastructure. In supporting vulnerable households through grants, government has extended the R370 social relief of distress grant until 2027 and has indicated that it will be redesigned to better link people to livelihoods, skills, development, work opportunities, and productive activity.

Active citizenry is at the heart of government’s policy development, to ensure that people also participate in building their own community assets through labour-intensive methodology that will transfer requisite skills to our people. I thank you.

Mr D BERGMAN: Deputy Minister, 28% of children under the age of five are developmentally stunted due to acute malnutrition.

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As they are literally starving, these children's future is in severe jeopardy. To end this horror, your department was tasked, in accordance with the National Food and Nutrition Security Plan, to oversee the establishment of a council for the co-ordination and implementation of programmes to stem food insecurity. Has this council begun its work? And if not, how are we meant to trust that you can effectively oversee government programmes when we cannot even implement your own work? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Chairperson, I think hon Bergman's follow-up question is quite an important area of work. Hon Bergman, we don't discard programmes based on a lack of progress, but we deal with the complex challenges we face. We respond to the issue with strength and co-ordination. And this is an important area of progress, and I think we will have to give a report on the work done.

It marks areas of improvement and areas of weakness while implementing this decision. As I highlighted, there is a range of intervention measures in this area, particularly in terms of agriculture. If I must say, you will recall that, we also said that in this area of strategic importance, we have to

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address these things dually, boost investment and drive growth in labour-intensive industries such as agriculture, mining, green manufacturing and tourism, and collaborate with industries to attend the very serious problems that we are faced with about the category of ages of children at that level that are experiencing this challenge.

So, I will say that it's a work in progress. It is not that there is total failure or collapse of this programme. Thank you.

IsiZulu:

Nkosazane B E S ZUMA: Ngiyathokoza sihlalo.

English:

Can the Minister point to any measurable decrease in food security or cost of living pressure directly attributable to the APP requirements since its introduction? Or does she, in this case he, accept that including a target in a plan is not the same as improving a single household circumstance? I submit.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Chairperson, I will frankly request that specific examples be

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packaged that reflect areas of progress in working with the Department of Agriculture, to demonstrate the importance of this follow-up question of the hon member. I submit. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): So, you will get the necessary information. Hon Deputy Minister, is that what you are saying?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Yes, I will repackage that information, so that it is quite pertinent to the areas of intervention that mark the improvement. Thank you.

Mr M MANYI: By when, Minister?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, hon Manye, I have not recognised you. Hon Deputy Minister, we must ensure that the information also reaches the Secretary of the National Assembly for it to be published because it is not only for the benefit of the hon member who asked the follow-up question but for all members. Hon Manyi, I see your hand is up.

Mr M MANYI: Chair, I was just looking for a timeline. Otherwise, it becomes an open-ended thing, and you will never

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know what happened to it. Just a timeline. That is all. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Yes. The hon Deputy Minister will send the necessary information through to us by the end of this week. Thank you.

Mr S N SWART: Chair, Deputy Minister, the ACDP, a Christian party, is deeply concerned about high levels of poverty in the nation leading to widespread hunger and even acute malnutrition. An estimated 63,5% of households are food insecure. Yet, the country wastes more than 10 million tons of largely edible food every year. Half of that occurs at the processing stage, where uncertainty about what can be safely donated and fear of legal liability makes destruction the easier commercial choice. And the ACDP finds this disgraceful. Does the hon Deputy Minister not agree that there is an urgent need to legislate food waste reduction by creating a national food donation framework with tax incentives and liability protection to redirect edible surplus food from retailers to community kitchens? I thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Chairperson, first of all, I would like to agree with hon

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Swart that we need to mobilise society. We must ensure that the government, business, labour, and civil society, as well as some NGOs reach out to more targeted groups in our society, particularly children who are affected. We must continue with that mobilisation.

I think it is an important conversation that government must have, even before legislating. We need to ensure that we drive the change in the behaviour of our society. We must ensure that we are a very caring nation and, in many ways, respond with what we have as a nation.

So, part of what government is dealing with is not only advocating, in the local government sphere, the indigent policy to help the elderly, infirm, and the poor with basic services payments such as electricity and water, but we also know that the most important area is that government advocates for the introduction of a basket of high-protein basic food affordable to all through partnerships with the food industry and civil society.

So, it is important to look into the issue of circulating nutritious food in our communities, consider expanding the basket, and ensure that the most essential food items are

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affordable. I think that is the most important thing. So, the government should ensure that most affordable food baskets are VAT-exempt to deal with the challenge we are facing and protect the value of social grants for children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

The most important thing is to ensure that these social grants serve the purpose for which they are meant and not hijacked for any other purposes. So, this is an important issue in terms of driving the cost of living. So, we need to review the current administered prices to identify areas for reduction and ensure that several other cost factors that ultimately impact food are attended to. Thank you.

Ms A N KUMBACA: House Chairperson, hon Minister, where your department identifies that a department's plans are not sufficiently responding to the cost of living and even food insecurity, which is also one of the priorities of the Seventh Administration, how specifically does it ensure that departments revise, strengthen, or reprioritise their plans to address these identified gaps? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon Chair and hon Kumbaca, the most important thing that we

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focus our attention on is to really monitor that the industrial policy produces the desired results in our country. There is expansion of manufacturing. The expansion of the manufacturing industry will largely ensure that the number of people get employed and people participate in producing products that are much more necessary in the country. That is one area.

So, the focus on monitoring departments and ensuring mobilisation of investment, and that we can deal with those issues, is going to be the order of the day.

However, there are also several other initiatives. Over and above the biannual assessment reports that we give to Cabinet, as I said, the limitation is that we have not discussed it in the portfolio committee – the specific intervention areas and the gaps that are identified in the departments. That is an important point. It has to come to Parliament for us to look into those reports provided to Cabinet, so that it is not a cozy report where they only tap each other on the back. However, it must be important assessment reports that measure progress, that also look into the financial expenditure vis-à-vis the progress the country is making.

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So, we know that the ambitious call was made for GDP growth to move two digits instead of just our current growth. We are going to consistently look into that area of work and ensure that special economic zones become the order and the centre of our focus as the DPME, ensuring that multiple industrial activities take place in those areas that are identified. And I will note that historically, many of the areas that were classified as Bantustan or self-governing territories do have these massive social challenges of unemployment. [Time expired.] Thank you.

Question 703:

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Chair, since assuming office, I have engaged extensively on matters affecting Khoi and San communities and have consistently affirmed government’s commitment to addressing their historical exclusion and ensuring that Khoi and San communities are fully accommodated within South Africa’s constitutional and legislative framework.

The principal mechanism established for this purpose is the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, TKLA, 3 of 2019, which, for the first time, created a legislative pathway for the recognition of Khoi and San communities and leaders. The

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Act established a commission on Khoi and San matters to receive and investigate applications for recognition and to make recognition for decision-making.

The commission has undertaken significant work, including the receipt of applications, research, verification processes and public hearings. However, the recognition process has not yet been finalised and, as a result, no Khoi and San leaders have been formally recognised under the Act. Until such recognition has occurred, representation in the national and provincial Houses cannot be implemented as contemplated by the legislation.

Hon Chair, I must also point out that government is guided by the Constitution of the Republic, which recognises the equal dignity and status of all South Africans and does not create hierarchies among citizens ... [Interjections.].

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Nkosi, you are now disrupting proceedings in the National Assembly. Switch off your microphone.

My apologies there, hon Minister, you may proceed.

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The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: The department, therefore, administers the recognition process in accordance with the legislative framework adopted by Parliament, other than on the basis of categories not provided for in our law.

In addition, the hon member will be aware that the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act was declared invalid on procedural grounds relating to public participation. The department has since undertaken a review process, and the matter is currently back before Parliament. The government remains committed to ensuring that an appropriate and constitutional compliant legislative framework is finalised so that the Khoi and San community and leaders can be recognised accordingly.

Let me assure this House that there is no lack of commitment to recognising and including the Khoi and San communities. Our objective is to conclude this process fairly, lawfully and in a manner that will withstand constitutional scrutiny. Thank you, hon Chair.

Afrikaans:

Mr S H M VAN WYK: Chairperson [Voorsitter], laat ek baie clear [duidelik] wees. Die Khoi en San mense het nou nog nie hulle

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se recognition [erkenning] nie. Die United Nations [Verenigde Nasies] het vir Suid-Afrika gesê, erken die Khoi en San mense. Hulle het ’n man gestuur met die naam van Rodolfo Stavenhagen in 2004. Daardie man het gevind dat die descendants [afstammelinge] van die Khoi en San is die so-called coloured [sogenaamde kleurlinge] mense. Hy het hier ingekom en het dit gevind. Nou, hier is die ding. En miskien, ons kan nie didn’t like [het nie gehou van] wat ons kom met ’n nuwe lingo [jargon] in die Parliament nie, wat ons praat soos ons praat nie. Die Minister en sy Deputy Ministers [Adjunkministers] doen baie goeie werk.

English:
That one, we can agree on. We really support them. But here’s the thing, Chairperson ...

Afrikaans:
... want ek sien jou dingese is aan, jou video is aan, jy intimidate me [intimideer my]. Voorsitter, kan die Minister vir ons sê: Wat is die findings [bevindings] van die United Nations [Verenigde Nasies] oor Suid-Afrika, as dit kom by die erkenning van die Khoi en San? Wanneer gaan dit gebeur? Ons wil nie die mooi Engels hoor nie. Dit is hoekom praat ek soos ek praat want my mense luister ... [Time expired.] ... ja,

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maar Chair [Voorsitter], jy intimidate [intimideer] my ook met jou video hier.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): That is because your time has expired.

Mr S H M VAN WYK: Thank you, Chairperson. With deep respect, Chairperson ...

Afrikaans:

... jy intimideer my met jou gesig. Want jy weet moes om te se, jy is baie intimidating, Chair [intimiderend, Voorsitter]. Ons respek jou. Dankie.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): The idea is not to intimidate anyone hon member, but I usually switch on the video when the time is expired. I want to be fair in the implementation.

Afrikaans:

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Mr S H M VAN WYK: Maar Chair [Voorsitter], jou gesig alleen ... ek wil nie vir jou lieg nie. Baie dankie, Chair [Voorsitter]. [Interjections.]

English:

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Chair, respectfully, we do not have a device for translation via Zoom. I wonder if I can be given a translation because a lot was in Afrikaans.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): If I may, hon Minister, on the devices that members have, at least in Parliament, there is an interpretation right at the bottom of the screen. If you click on that, for those who have that facility, you can go into the translation. Essentially, what the hon member said is that out of respect for you and the work that you and your Deputy Ministers are doing, there is little progress in resolving this matter.

The question is: When will this matter pertaining to the recognition of the Koi and San leadership to equal status, when will we get to that point, that it is implemented?

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The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Chairperson, we are treating this matter as a matter of priority and that is why when there was a challenge in terms of the constitutional court decision, we went back to court and the court granted the extension to rectify the shortcomings in the TKLA. It is our intention that the full recognition of the Khoi and San communities and its leadership is done at the earliest.

Lastly, I'm waiting for the report from the commission with its recommendation. They have requested an extension of time because they have not yet concluded due to the volume of work that they are doing. However, as the Ministry, we treat it as a matter of priority. Thank you, hon Chair.

Mr P NDAMASE: Hon House Chair and hon Minister, given that the 1998 White Paper on Local Government is being reviewed, what provisions of the draft review cater for traditional and Khoi and San leadership, and how will such provisions ensure that traditional and Khoi and San leadership play a role in strengthening local government? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Chapter 7 of the Reviewed White Paper on Local

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Government is dedicated to traditional and Khoi and San leadership and recognises that traditional and Khoi and San leadership institutions remain important partners in governance, particularly in the rural communities where they play a significant role in social cohesion, dispute resolution, community mobilisation and development facilitation.

For this reason, the draft review proposes a more structured relationship between municipalities and recognises traditional and Khoi and San leadership institutions through a formal contract that promotes co-operation, consultation and joint planning. The intention is not to alter the constitutional powers and functions of municipalities, but to strengthen collaboration in areas where municipalities and traditional leaders share a common interest in improving community lives. Thank you, hon Chair.

Mr G TAAIBOSCH: Hon House Chair, all protocols observed. Hon Minister, in every province, there is a Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders. In the country, we have the National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders. What are the requirements to serve on these two bodies since the name says it all?

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It says House of Traditional and Koi and San Leaders, not just House of Traditional Leaders, but House of Traditional and Koi and San Leaders. However, countrywide and in the national House as well, there's not one Khoi and San leader representing the Khoi and San in these two bodies. Why are the Khoi and San leaders not being considered for serving on these bodies? I thank you. I submit, Chair.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: A prerequisite that we are working with to ensure that it includes the Khoi and San leadership at the local, provincial and national Houses is the TKLA. Once the TKLA meets the constitutional requirements, as it is before Parliament. Once this law is rectified, it will immediately open the gates for our Khoi and San leaders to participate at the local, provincial and national Houses. Thank you, hon Chair.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu. Holobye, laha ndzi lava ku lavisisa ...

English:

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... that in terms of the ... is there a unit within your department that's working towards this realisation and if that unit does exist, how many people are staffing that unit? How much has been spent towards the realisation of the recognition of the Khoi and San traditional leaders?

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa swinene, Mutshamaxitulu.

English:

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Chair, we do not not only have a unit dealing with the matter of the Khoi and San, but we also have a department called the Department of Traditional Affairs. It is dedicated to looking at the interests and affairs of traditional and Khoi and San leaders. It is staffed enough in dealing with this work and we have spent a considerable amount of money on the commission.

The first step on the Khoi and San communities and leaders is to get the recognition of the Khoi and San communities, as well as who leads us. This is the work that we are doing with the commission, which I said, immediately once the commission has finalised its work, it will submit recommendations to the

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Minister. If all the requirements are met, we will recognise the leaders accordingly, and they will start participating in the Houses. I can provide the details in terms of the amount of money that has been spent on the recognition of the Khoi and San communities and leaders. Thank you, hon Chair.

Mr S H M VAN WYK: Hon Minister, honestly, thank you very much for the work that you have done so far with the Seventh Parliament; you have done very well. Even though some other leaders may not agree with me, but really, you have done very well with your department. But here's the thing.

The term of office for the Commission on Khoi-San Matters is lapsing at the end of August. You know very well and I know that they were never supported, whether it comes to resources, budgets, historians, whatever, etc. Minister, can you please tell us, you have extended ... it was said in a meeting ... you have extended that term of office. On Sunday, in the *Sunday Times*, your department had a thing to say that new commissioners can apply as new commissioners for the term of office. The current commissioners of the last five years don't know if their term of office will be extended. Are you going to go with new commissioners or are you going to extend the

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term of office of the commissioners that were there until 2021? Please tell us that, Minister. Thank you.

Chairperson, you keep on intimidating with your face, honestly.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, you are now completely out of order.

Mr S H M VAN WYK: No, I'm not out of order. You are intimidating me.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Minister, you can reply to the question. In fact, I gave the member an additional minute to complete his question. Please proceed, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Van Wyk, thank you for the compliment that you gave to the work we are doing on behalf of the people of South Africa, and the Khoi and San community.

Firstly, the current commission could not finish its work on time and we extended the period. Now, they have not yet

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submitted even at the expiry of the extended time. They requested an extension. We came to the view that we cannot keep on extending, extending and extending with no results on the table.

We are going to appoint new commissioners. They are eligible to apply so that we can see if we can get more people who can come with vigour in order to complete this work. Extending, extending and extending might eventually not deliver the results we need at the earliest.

It can be a longer definition or explanation, but I can, privately or outside this platform, engage hon Van Wyk as to why we feel that we should rather reopen the application. We want this work to be finished speedily, rather than extending it indefinitely. Thank you very much, hon Chair.

Question 673:

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, hon Van Zyl. The implementation of disciplinary action, civil recovery processes and criminal proceedings in municipalities is primarily the responsibility of municipal councils, municipal administration and, where appropriate, law enforcement agencies. However, where

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allegations of corruption, fraud and maladministration or serious irregularities are brought to my attention, the Minister is empowered in terms of section 106 subsection 4 of the Municipal Systems Act to request the relevant MEC for local government to investigate and report on the matter.

In the previous financial year, I have referred five matters to provincial MECs for investigation. This relates to allegations of corruption in Moqhaka local municipality, Matjhabeng local municipality and Fezile Dabi district municipality in the Free State, procurement irregularities in Steve Tshwete local municipality in Mpumalanga and allegations of maladministration in Mossel Bay local municipality in the Western Cape. All these matters are presently at various stages of investigation.

Beyond these referrals, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs continues to strengthen consequence management by implementing section 57A of the Municipal Systems Act which prevents officials dismissed for misconduct or who resigned before disciplinary proceedings are concluded to simply resurface in another municipality. Thank you, hon Chair.

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Ms A M VAN ZYL: Minister, fighting local government corruption and ensuring the effective delivery of quality services is your essential responsibility. So law enforcement bodies and Chapter 9 institutions like the Auditor-General ought to be treated with strict independence, but that does not mean you cannot act using your powers like you've mentioned on the section 106 investigations on the Systems Act. Minister, in your two-year term in office, can you name one official that is no longer in office because your department exercised those powers to ensure that they were held to account? Thank you, Chair.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, hon Van Zyl. Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs term, as I said in the first response, it is the responsibility of the council to take actions on members that has transgressed the law. Where a municipality is not taking action and that matter has been drawn to our attention, it is only then that we can intervene. We have never been referred someone whom the municipality is not taking action, and we did not take action. We cannot just simply interfere on a matter that has not been reported to us. Thank you, hon Chair.

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Mr J B MTOLO: House Chair, does the Minister accept that his department's power to intervene under section 106 and 139 is being used reactively only after Auditor-General of South Africa, AGSA, or Special Investigating Unit, SIU, has already exposed the wrongdoing? And what does that say about his department's own early warning capacity after disciplinary or legal processes his department has pushed for? How many officials found guilty of financial misconduct are still employed in the local government sector today, whether in the same municipality or another one? And does he consider that as an acceptable outcome? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Mtolo, as I said, the intervention in terms of section 106 and 139 cannot happen as a way of overriding a municipality or the province. When a matter of corruption is referred to the national Minister in terms of the law, the Minister must write to the MEC at the provincial level in terms of section 106 to do an investigation. I can only take a step if the MEC is not responding. I have indicated the 106 investigation that are underway as we speak and at various stages, and I cannot override the process.

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Intervention in terms of section 139, also begins with a municipality. The early warning signs - when we see things are not going well - we indicate to the municipality and the provincial government. The provincial government must come on board, and once they have failed, and then national Minister comes in. I am not aware of an official who has been found guilty, but who is still in the employment of any municipality. If I can get details, I will definitely take steps against such. Thank you, hon House Chair.

Mr A D BEESLEY: Hon Minister, greetings. Currently, there is zero compliance by municipalities in regards of SIU blacklisting recommendations. It can be best described as a complete farce at the moment. Will the minister support legislation that turns SIU blacklisting findings into real consequences by ensuring that recommendations and orders arising from SIU investigations translate into meaningful procurement consequences? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Beesley, definitely. I will support that move because any move to clamp down corruption needs to be supported by every South African, whether a Minister or member

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of the National Assembly. It is our obligation. I will definitely support that move. Thank you, hon House Chair.

Mr A K NGOBESE: Greetings, Bulawayo. I also wish to join the queue in order to thank you for the work that you are doing as the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. It is quite recommendable. Now, hon Bulawayo, how are the department's interventions assisting municipalities to strengthen accountability and to ensure that instances of financial misconduct are addressed appropriately and do not recur?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, hon Ngobese, for that compliment. The department's approach is not limited to responding to incidents of financial misconduct after they occur. Our focus is also on strengthening the system's leadership and controls that prevent misconduct in the first place. This includes promoting professionalization in local government, strengthening merit-based appointments, improving oversight of senior management position and supporting municipalities in implementing sound governance and financial management practices.

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Where allegations of fraud, corruption or maladministration arise, we utilize legislative mechanisms available to us, including request for investigation in terms of section 106 and collaboration with oversight and law enforcement institutions. We have also strengthened consequence management by implementing section 57A of the Municipal Systems Act. Ultimately, our objective is to leave no municipality behind in terms of improving the consequence management and internal controls, as well as to uplift the culture of accountability that protects public resources and improves service delivery to our communities. Thank you, hon House Chair.

Ms A M VAN ZYL: Minister, the DA has announced the first list of criminal charges against the terrible 10 municipal managers who remain non-compliant with the municipal finance laws. I have asked you to name one official that is no longer in post due to your direct actions. Meanwhile, municipalities remain broken and you are unable to do so. Would you concede that instituting section 106 investigations is only the first step, and that the real test is whether these investigations actually result in consequences?

Can you therefore give this House a firm commitment that where wrongdoing is established, implicated municipal managers and

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officials will face disciplinary action, recovery of losses, and, where appropriate, criminal referral, rather than let another set of investigation reports to gather dust while residents continue to suffer the consequences of municipal failure? Thank you, Chair.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Chair, we share a common ground with hon Van Zyl and all members of this House that employees who are corrupt and who allow corruption and failure of municipalities to happen under their watch, they must be held accountable.

Now, every step that we must take, it must be within the law. I cannot simply go to a police station and open a case because the law says the first thing the Minister must do is draw the attention of the local municipality so that they can correct what is wrong or If I receive a complaint of a corrupt activity, I write formally to MEC and recommend section 106. If the MEC doesn't do so, then I will intervene. I cannot override that system. That is why I realize what the DA did as a political party in relation to 10 municipalities, that they did not do so as members of the National Assembly, but as members of a political party which is not governed by the legislation in terms of Parliament.

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In terms of accruing any member who will be found guilty, we will ensure that that member does not continue serving within the local government space. Thank you, hon Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon members, we now move to Question 701, which has been asked by Ms P P Xaba-Ntshaba, to the Minister of Public Service and Administration.

Given that a significant number of public servants who joined the Public Service in 1994 are approaching retirement, and noting the implications of this to state capacity and leadership, what (a) measures has his department put in place in respect of the imminent changes and/or transition in the Public Service and (b) is the envisaged impact of such transition on the implementation of the Public Service Amendment Act 9 of 2005?

Hon members, I have now been informed that there is an apology for oral questions by the Minister of Public Service and Administration, but the Deputy Minister, hon Kekana, will take over in answering the questions. I will give over to you, ma'am. Before you proceed, hon Kekana, there is a hand. Hon Reddy.

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Mr V G REDDY: Hon Chairperson, what was the reason for the apology by the Minister? This has been circulated for some time now and members are aware of the programme for today. The question that has been raised by hon Xaba-Ntshaba is relevant and very important for the Minister to answer. So what is the reason for the Minister not being here today? Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): My apologies, hon Reddy. I didn't read the whole letter. However, to respond to you, the letter that was written to the Speaker of the National Assembly ...

Dear hon Speaker, I wish to convey my sincere apologies for my inability to attend the sitting of the National Assembly scheduled for Wednesday, 19 August 2026, at which I was due to answer oral questions, regrettably due to a bereavement in my family. I'm required to attend to family responsibilities and will consequently be unable to attend the sitting. I deeply regret any inconvenience that my absence may cause and respectfully request to be excused. I have requested the Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration, Ms Pinky Kekana, to respond to the oral questions on my behalf.

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Hon members, my sincere apologies. I did not read the whole letter, but that is what the letter explains. I would plead that we allow hon Minister Kekana to continue answering Question 701. Thank you.

Question 701:

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: As a response, comrade ... hon Chair, I nearly said comrade ... Parliament has just amended two laws — the Public Administration Management Act 7 of 2025 and the Public Service Act 9 of 2025.

Now, this month ... on the 6th of June 2026, our department was able to issue circular 23 of 2026. In that circular we advise departments that the supporting regulations are being processed to facilitate an orderly legislative transition to provide clarity during the implementation of these two laws.

Once the Minister approves these regulations, the President will then determine the commencement date through a proclamation in the *Government Gazette*. So, that’s where we are currently.

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In terms of the practical impact of the retirement transition ... the department is expected to prepare successors so that we retain critical institutional knowledge and avoid a brain drain as part of maintaining service delivery and also to ensure that we strengthen state capacity.

So, ordinarily and as a practice by the Department of Public Service and Administration, we expect departments to prepare the workforce on succession planning, on knowledge transfer, and they are also expected to do skills ... and ensure that as they conduct skills audits, they are also able to identify competency-based recruitment ... based on the skills gaps that they may have identified.

We also expect departments to have mentorship programmes and also targeted capacity-building programmes so that in all those initiatives we are able to give these departments and continue to give them guidance as well as support just to curb the issue of a brain drain.

We are doing all these things as the Department of Public Service and Administration because we have to live up to the expectation of Chapter 13 of the National Development Plan, as well as Priority 3 of the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP,

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which seeks to strengthen accountability in a capable, ethical and developmental state. Thank you very much.

Ms W TIKANA-GXOTIWE: Hon House Chair, my name is Weziwe Tikana-Gxotiwe. I will take the question on behalf of hon Xaba-Ntshaba.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon member, before you continue, we must then say that in accordance with Rule 137(10)(2), you will be taking care of that question. You may continue.

Ms W TIKANA-GXOTIWE: Hon Deputy Minister, given the technological advancements of today, what recruitment strategies does the Public Service use to ensure that public servants of the future are aligned with the advancements in science and technology? Thank you, House Chair.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: Hon Chair, hon member Tikana-Gxotiwe will remember that the current technological advancements also of course speak to mandate-specific recruitment that is needed by various departments. So, the skills that are required also speak to the mandate that the department is responsible for.

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Of course, technology will always evolve and departments have to adapt, but departments are responsible for recruiting employees according to what the mandate of the department says. That mandate is also supported by the structure of the department and that structure of the department has to be funded. Also, the same structure must be reviewed from time to time to also align with the skills gap, to also respond to the technological advancements that the department may require.

However, what we as the Department of Public Service and Administration are doing is to establish norms, to establish standards and to ensure that from time to time we issue directives on human resources. So, we keep departments on their feet to ensure that the skills, the structure and the mandate that they have also speak to what technological advancements speak to. Thank you.

Ms E R J SPIES: Deputy Minister, you have made mention of an audit that has been undertaken. My question to you is as follows. Has your department indeed conducted what I want to believe is a comprehensive skills audit? And, can you give us the details of what the skills audit that was done entails, because, of course one needs to determine exactly which critical skills the Public Service stands to lose, and

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obviously which skills will be needed to replace them? So, if that has not been done, on what basis is the department then planning for this transition?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: House Chair, I think one of the things we also need to clarify ... Parliament and hon members, is that as the Department of Public Service and Administration one of our responsibilities is to ensure that we have a capable workforce across the Public Service. That's the first thing.

However, one of the things that we do — because I said the departments have mandate-specific skill requirements — is to establish task teams across various departments ... to say this is your time to ensure that you put a task team ... that must conduct a skills audit, look at the personnel that you have, the workforce that is currently there. As you go and do job evaluations and other related things, look at the current capacity that you have and then ... be able to speak to your structure and how you deal with that.

As the Department of Public Service and Administration, we don't conduct skills audits for the entire personnel, whether national and provincial.

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However, we have a framework that guides them in saying, can we embark on a skills audit programme, this is how you need to establish your task team, speak to your organogram, do job evaluations, and from there you are able to deal with some of those things.

So, the Public Service Skills Audit Methodology Framework is there and that was done. This framework was done and the guidelines were done in 2023, and departments know how to roll out the skills audits.

Mr J S MALINGA: Deputy Minister, I submit ... what mechanism will be put in place to ensure that the impending retirement of experienced Public Service ... does not create leadership gaps, loss of institutional memory or instability? And, who will be held accountable if departments fail to implement effective transition and succession plans?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: Hon House Chair, if the hon member will remember, I think one of the things that is also unfolding is an early retirement programme that government is currently embarking on, which does not punish or bring penalties to those who retire at 55 years and beyond.

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So, what we have also done there ... we said to departments, do your assessments, make sure that whoever is getting into this dispensation ... we don't have a brain drain, we don't have a skills gap, there's a mechanism to ensure that when Pinky Kekana retires at least we know there are systems in place to do that. So, it's an exercise that is currently running.

The directors-general, DGs, are on top of it, because one of the things we also thought was that, you know public servants may of course approach this and use it as an incentive. It is an incentive to us of course, and it's working positively in even helping to bring a new cohort of young public servants into the service. However, as we do that, there must be a balancing act.

The DGs and human resource units are on top of ... they are on their feet to ensure that the brain drain element is not tampered with.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you very much, Deputy Minister. Our fourth supplementary question will be asked by hon Gcilishe.

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Mr M B BLOSE: House Chair, hon Blose will take the question. Look, Deputy Minister, research was done on over 192 million persons records. That research indicated that the Public Service is ageing ... within the 1994 cohort retiring in critical sectors. You know, sectors such as the police, health and education. However, your department has not conducted a centralised assessment of the overall turnout of the impact on front line services.

Minister, are you able to give us a detailed breakdown, you know by each province and the officials in these key departments that are now eligible for retirement in the next three years, and what the targeted recruitment programmes that are in place to mitigate the loss of institutional memory and to avoid leadership gaps as we move forward? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: Hon Chair, of course we as the Department of Public Service and Administration are now learning lessons on the current early retirement packages that is unfolding. The process ... the first cohort has just left now in March and the second tranche will be leaving in January.

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Now, one of the things that we have said to our team is to collate all the information of all the personnel that took up the first benefit of leaving the Public Service and then let's embark on an assessment programme that will tell us which skills were affected, which areas have been impacted negatively or positively, not only to be happy that many public servants are leaving and maybe the salary bill will decrease. If it's a DG, then we save. If it's a what-what, if it's at senior management service, SMS, level, then we save, and then we can open up for new entrants. However, we also want to see what this initiative can bring as an unintended consequence on the capacity of the state to deliver.

So that assessment is currently underway and at some point the Minister will be able to table it and say, with this assessment do we have scarce skills that we have lost and can we then work on a programme in terms of targeted recruitment to deal with some of those things. Thank you.

Ms W TIKANA-GXOTIWE: Hon Deputy Minister, what plans are available in the Public Service to attract and retain the talent of young professionals who often leave the public sector for the private sector or even migrate to other countries outside Africa? I thank you, hon Chair.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: Hon Chair, it is true that as a department we really have to work towards retaining capacity but also to ensure that we strengthen the Public Service going into the future. So, we as this department are anticipating this process of new recruits and how we are going forward, including ensuring that we are up to scratch in as far as the MTDP is concerned, as well as in responding to our priority, which is Priority 3. There are programmes, even internship programmes now. We are now starting to say to departments that whatever intent you want should be an intern that also fills in on the gaps that we think we do not have.

There's some engagement that the Minister is going to embark on to say, yes we have a programme on interns, but we also lose them after two years to become unemployed. So, what are the things that we do to ensure that as departments we keep those interns and even take them beyond the internship programme? That's one.

There's also a graduate recruitment scheme that we are embarking on, and we think that as we embark on this programme of early retirement it will also help us to live up to that plan of the graduate recruitment scheme.

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Then, there's also departments that are doing apprenticeship, which also work on some of those things. [Time expired.]

Question 689:

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: House Chair, I thank the hon Taaibosch. On (a), as I have explained before, what will give the full recognition in our country to the Khoi and San communities and its leaders is finalising the law, the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, as it is before Parliament for correction as a result of a Constitutional Court judgment. Once that law is corrected, it will accord full status to the Khoi and San communities and its leaders.

What happened is that the Commission on Khoi-San Matters appointed in 2021 has received 239 applications for Khoi and San leaders that want to be recognised as leaders of the Khoi and San communities. The commission has done the preliminary investigation on the 239 applicants and has also conducted public hearings to confirm the lineage, the correctness of these applicants that call themselves the leaders of certain branches or of certain kingdoms within the Khoi and San communities. Once the commission has processed the

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239 applications, the commission will make recommendations to the Minister.

I indicated before that the term of the commission that was appointed in 2021 will expire at the end of August. We resorted to not extending the term but to open reapplications, which allows the five current commissioners to apply but is open also to other interested people to fast-track the recognition of the Khoi and San leaders, either as the kings or queens. That is the process. What we are doing as the Ministry is giving the necessary support to ensure that the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act complies and gives recognition to Khoi and San communities and, secondly, that the commission speedily does its work and finalises the recognition of the leadership of the Khoi and San. That is what is going to be the pathway to full recognition so that it becomes lawful and within the legislation. Thank you, hon House Chair.

Mr G TAAIBOSCH: Chair, to the Minister: I will be failing in my duty as a Khoi and San leader if I don’t commend you on the progress that your presence, ever since you took office, brought to the subject of the Khoi and San people. I say thank you to you from a personal level. However, I wish that

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everyone in your department was as passionate, as committed, and as honest as you are for the Khoi and San emancipation. Thank you for that, Minister. However, back to my question.

Hon Minister, why is it that you ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Taaibosch, you have muted yourself. Can you please unmute? We cannot hear you.

Mr G TAAIBOSCH: So sorry, Madam Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): You can start afresh with your question, not the comment but where you started.

Mr G TAAIBOSCH: Thank you, Chair, no problem. Hon Minister, why is it that you and the department are so hellbent on denying the first nation of this world, the Khoi and San nation, participation in the wellbeing of this country? Why do we, as the Khoi and San leaders, have to have a different system for recognition than the Nguni traditional leaders? We are five years down the line, actually more than five years down the line, and still not one recognised Khoi and San leader. Yet every month, new Nguni traditional leaders are

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being inaugurated, even though you say this Bill is still in Parliament.

We demand to be recognised according to our proven bloodlines, similar to the Nguni traditional leaders. Even if it's just chieftaincies, not kingdoms, it's all right. That can come later. We want to enjoy the same benefits that Nguni traditional leaders are enjoying. Is this further oppression of the minority or a lack of political will that prevents the Khoi and San from being recognised? I submit. Thank you, Chair.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Chair, I thank the hon Taaibosch for the compliments. The first thing is the faster, hon Taaibosch and all members of the National Assembly, we conclude the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, the better for the Khoi and San communities.

Secondly, the 239 applications, the quicker we can get them finalised, the better. We must put in every effort, hon Taaibosch and all other hon members, to assist this process as we are giving attention to it. The people who have made applications, when they are requested to bring more

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substantiation of their applications, they must do so. If we do not go that route, we might end up with 1 000 traditional leaders among Khoi and San, 1 000 kings, 1 000 queens.

Anyone that is being inaugurated ... As you would know, hon member, there is the inauguration of Mr Maurice Vivian Kok. It's unconstitutional. Vivian Kok must go through the process of the commission so that papers are verified that indeed, in terms of lineage, he is the king of that branch. Once that is confirmed, we will not hesitate as the Ministry to do the necessary process that he be confirmed as a king. Thank you, hon House Chair.

Ms N S SOMPA-MASIU: Chair, in the previous administration ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Masiu, before you proceed, I see the hand of the hon Taaibosch.

Mr G TAAIBOSCH: Chair, my apologies. I don't want this to become a dialogue. The Minister has not answered me. I'm asking why we can't have the same recognition process as the Nguni traditional leaders. Why do we have to go according to this new method that we have a special commission appointed,

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but every week, every other month, there are Nguni traditional leaders being recognised?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Taaibosch, can you please switch off now? I will give over to the hon Masiu, and she will ask the question. If the Minister then would want to maybe add to the response that he has given now, he will then do so.

So, can we then not do that? I thought maybe it was a point of order, but we'll proceed as I've given over to the hon Masiu to ask the question, and we'll then allow the Minister, if there's time left, to maybe add to response that he has given. Thank you.

Ms N S SOMPA-MASIU: House Chair, to the Minister: In the previous administration, there had been efforts to recognise the Khoi and San leadership in South Africa. Can the Minister update the nation on the Traditional and Khoisan Leadership Bill's intention and how it is tailored to be inclusive?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Chair, if I heard correctly, the hon Sompa-Masiu says there was a fault in the Act. Yes, it is what I responded

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before, that the Constitutional Court found gaps in terms of consultation, and then the Act could not pass the constitutional and legal muster. As a result, the current ministerial leadership went back to the Constitutional Court and requested an extension. The Constitutional Court gave us an extension, and the Bill is back before Parliament for ratification. That process is out of the hands of the Minister now and in the hands of Parliament. Once that process is finalised, the Act will be rectified as compliant, and it will automatically accord the status to the Khoi and San communities.

Going back to the hon Taaibosch, all amaNguni traditional leaders are recognised under a certain law. It does not become automatic. There are kings outside the Khoi and San community who could not get recognition through the Nhlapo Commission. They are still challenging their exclusion. So now, it is not only the Khoi and San leaders that experience a similar situation. There must be a law. Otherwise, every individual will proclaim himself or herself either a king or a queen. Thank you, hon House Chair.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: House Chair, through you: Greetings, hon Minister. Minister, in your response about this delay of the

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Constitutional Court that was declared on the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, as a result, we are not ... Sorry, I have ... So, Minister, I want to understand, as we are articulating the reason why there is a delay as per the Constitutional Court, this matter dates back to 2023. It is now 2026, and you are going towards the end of the year. We are saying that the main reason why you are not implementing ... The process is such that it is in Parliament, but, at the same time, you are saying that there are 239 applicants, but the Constitution said there was a lack of consultation.

So, what are you really struggling with as a department? Is it the 239 applications, or is it due to the lack of consultation as the Constitutional Court declared? Also, the commissioners, as you are saying, the commission is coming to an end. Now, we are starting the process all over again. So, what is the timeframe ...

IsiZulu:

Nksz H O MKHALIPHI: Kahle kahle Ngqongqoshe.

English:

... Minister, with the department to ensure that this Act will get the green light at the end of the day? Thank you, Chair.

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The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Chair, I wish I had more minutes to respond sufficiently, but, firstly, these are two separate things, hon Mkhaliphi. The Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act is now in the hands of Parliament. I have no control on that one. The Act is going to recognise the Khoi and San communities. This process must be finished next year, but it is with Parliament.

The second section of this process is the recognition of leaders, not communities, either kings or queens. For a king and a queen to be recognised, a commission firstly receives applications. Remember, hon members, the Khoi and San communities were nearly extinguished in our country during the apartheid period. They lost their status, either kings or queens, and now, in order to confirm whether this person is a real king, in terms of lineage, you need to establish a commission to receive applications, do research, and confirm. This is what is done by the commission, and it is expiring, with its period ending at the end of August. They've taken five years. We are going to extend the period up to 2028, which is three more years. Within these three years, once one, two, or three kings are confirmed, we will do the necessary process to ensure that they are installed as kings or queens.

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It’s two separate processes. One is in Parliament, and the other one is under the watch of the Minister. We are fast-tracking both processes. We aren’t stuck anywhere. Thank you, hon Chair. I will engage the hon Minister even outside this platform.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: You mean, Minister, you mean me. Hon Minister, are you calling me a Minister?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Mkhaliphi, you must just say “I received.”

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: I received.

Mr S H M VAN WYK: I am very happy that the Khoi and San are getting a platform. Thank you ever so much.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): No, hon Van Wyk. No. Hon Van Wyk, can you mute? You know the Rules of the House. You are not allowed to do that. I will now take our fourth supplementary question from the hon Inkosi Buthelezi.

Mr A K NGOBESE: Chairperson, will you allow me to take this question? It is the hon Ngobese.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Proceed, hon Ngobese.

Mr A K NGOBESE: Thank you, hon Chair. Greetings once again, Bulawayo. As Parliament considers the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill, what lesson has the department drawn from the implementation of the 2019 Act and the work of the Commission on Khoi-San Matters to ensure that Khoi and San communities and leaders enjoy meaningful participation in South Africa's system of traditional governance? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Chair, the lesson we have learned is that a lack of consultation led to the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act not passing constitutional muster. That is why, for every Bill or White Paper review that is being done — and I think this is a lesson across departments — there must be sufficient consultation.

This response will also help the hon Mkhaliphi. The extension given by the Constitutional Court to rectify the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act is up to 29 May 2027, which is next year. So, by May 2027, we must have concluded this Act in terms of ratification, the recognition of kings and queens, and the leadership of the Khoi and San communities. As we are

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extending the period from 1 September, it is extended up until 31 August 2028, which is two years. Within two years, they must finalise the research, confirmation of the lineage, and recommend who must be a king, who must be a queen, and who must be a leader of a branch. Then we will take the process forward after that. Thank you, hon Chair.

Mr G TAAIBOSCH: Hon Chair, to the Minister: Can you tell us — the Nhlapo Commission, the last time they operated, I think, was 2006. The Taaibosch family went under scrutiny of the Nhlapo Commission. We never received the results of that. However, since then, which commission is it that approved or recognised Nguni traditional leaders? Why is it that there are over 800 recognised chiefs — kings and queens — and Nguni traditional leaders, but, when you get 239 applications for Khoi and San leaders, it is a problem?

Even KwaZulu-Natal has more than 239 recognised traditional leaders. My question is the following: Where is the equality in this whole thing, hon Minister? Where is the equality? Is it a lack of political will, or what is it? There is something not right. Please, if you can’t see that, then I ask you, hon Minister, that, maybe, we need to look at another forum. Thank you.

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The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Chair, the traditional leaders, or, rather, let me start with the Nhlapo Commission. There are kings that were not recognised by the Nhlapo Commission, and they are not recognised as kings even today amongst other Nguni nations in South Africa. Similarly, there will be kings and queens that will not be recognised by the Commission on Khoi-San Matters. They will remain not recognised, the same as what happened with the Nhlapo Commission. So, there is no difference here.

For a person to be recognised as a king or a queen, there must be a proper process in order to confirm the lineage. Otherwise, you will have 1 000 kings and queens that would not have been verified. We can take it further outside this platform with hon members who have more interest in this question. There is no different treatment for the Khoi and San communities. That is why 27 May is only next year. We need to fast-track the process of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act and give full recognition to the Khoi and San communities.

In terms of kings and queens, yes, the 239 applications, those people who have made applications, when requested to give evidence, they must not run away. If they run away, they won’t

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be recognised. If they co-operate, like in the Nhlapo Commission, they will get recognition. Thank you, Chair.

Question 679:

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Hon House Chairperson, let me also thank the hon Mailola for this question. Hon members, the measurable 2025 implementation results within the department’s co-ordination and monitoring mandate are as follows: By the end of 2025, departmental records reflected 69 Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, GBVF, rapid response teams established at district and local municipal levels across eight provinces. Fourteen of these teams received structured capacity building. The End GBV National Dashboard was also launched in March 2025. It profiles available services across all 257 municipalities. It enables municipalities to monitor GBVF indicators, compare local trends with provincial and national data and identify gaps in institutional readiness and survival support and services. It tracks essential response mechanisms including GBVF services at police stations, courts, hospitals and even Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET, colleges, Thuthuzela Care Centres, shelters, rapid response teams, dedicated gender focal persons and local co-ordination structures.

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This strengthens evidenced-based planning, resource prioritisation and accountability by showing where services exist, where critical gaps remain and where corrective interventions are required.

The five-year review assessed 191 indicators across the six pillars of the National Strategic Plan, NSP. It recorded 65 has achieved, 104 in progress and 22 not achieved. These accumulative results for 2020 to 2025 and are not presented as achievements of 2025 alone. These results demonstrated improved local co-ordination and monitoring capacity. They should not however be interpreted as proof that national GBVF prevalence declined during 2025.

Frontline services are delivered by the relevant line function departments, while department co-ordinates and monitors implementation of the National Strategic Plan. The department evaluates progress at three levels. Firstly, quarterly monitoring tracks, implementation against approved indicators, targets, means of verification and expenditure, including where the National Strategic Plan priorities are incorporated into national, provincial and municipal plans.

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Secondly, programmes and service monitoring assertive, rapid response team’s functionality, stakeholder participation implementation of local plans referral pathway service accessibility and case progression.

Thirdly, population level is assessed through national prevalence and femicide studies supported by administrative data from the Police, justice, health and social development sectors. Indeed, we also conducted the Human Science Research Council prevalence study. Thank you very much, House Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): I will now allow the first supplementary question to be asked by the hon Mailola.

The hon Mailola.

Is the hon Mailola on the platform?

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Hon House Chairperson, let me check her.

An MALE MEMBER: No. She is sleeping on the job.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Alright.

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Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Can I take it hon House Chairperson?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Alright. Continue hon Mkhaliphi, in accordance with Rule 137 (10).

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Hon Minister, in your response you have outlined a number of activities undertaken by the department including monitoring departments strengthening GBVF Rapid Response Team and developing monitoring mechanisms, however, these are outputs and do not necessarily demonstrate that GBVF is actually declining.

Given that the SA Police Service, SAPS, recorded 10 688 rape cases between January and March 2025: What specific independently verifiable outcome indicators and targets does the department use to determine whether the GBVF interventions are reducing violence against women and girls?

Furthermore, hon Minister, if the department cannot demonstrate a measurable reduction in the GBVF attributable to its intervention: What corrective measures will the Minister take and, but what date will Parliament receive a credible impact evaluation of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF? Thanks, hon House Chairperson.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Minister.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Oh, thank you, hon Horn.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Hon House Chairperson, let me again indicate that last year, we conducted the mid-term review of the NSP. It guided us on what we are doing well and where there are shortcomings. For instance, it actually indicated to us that we are more responding, which is Pillar 2, we are responding to in fact Pillat 3, we are responding to gender-based violence in the main than preventing it. That is why now our approach is emphasising on the prevention of gender-based violence than on responding to gender-based violence which is Pillar 3. Therefore, Pillar 2 which is prevention of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide is the one that our work is focussing on. That is why we even have programmes that are referred to as positive masculinity which is about targeting our work and resources to boys and man of course young girls as well.

Secondly, indeed when you look at the data that we are using we get it from the Police, justice, health where cases go to the Department of Health for instances, because the people are injured, raped, etc and of course social development sectors.

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The issue about whether we will have impact the study that has just been conducted recently is actually saying for as long as we do nothing about the heavy drinking that is happening in South Africa and the heavy use of drugs that is happening in South Africa and probably the availability of guns freely in South Africa it is difficult that we are going to make any impact on reducing Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. If you look at all studies, they are showing that gender-based violence happens when people are drunk. It is either one person is drunk or both are drunk. It happens in the evening on weekends in the main when everybody who drinks alcohol is drunk but also the use of drugs. [Time expired.]

Ms T A KHANYILE: Hon House Chairperson and hon Minister, with the establishment of the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, what concrete mechanisms would be put in place to ensure that government moves beyond measuring expenditure and the number of programmes implemented and instead measures whether these interventions are actually resulting in a reduction of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide? I thank you.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Hon House Chairperson, like I have indicated gender-based

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violence is measured particularly in South Africa we have good statistics that get collected to know whether women have been raped or not, to know whether women have been assaulted or not. So, we do have that reliable information to the extent that we can measure whether this quarter, or this month or this whatever has been more gender-based violence committed against women or not. We do have those statistics as South Africa. It is reliable if you look at how it is gathered particularly whether you speak about the Police or whether you speak about cases that go to court, etc, we do have that information.

The issue of the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide I think I must also appreciate the work done by the portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities in ensuring that there are names that were adopted by the National Assembly. Of course, now we have the Board on the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. It is going to convene its first inaugural meeting in terms of the Act, on the 31st and after that it is going to do the work it is supposed to do in terms of the founding legislation. Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson.

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Ms H M RADEBE: Hon House Chairperson and hon Minister, given that GBVF, sorry, my apologies.

Hon Minister, given that GBVF remains at an unacceptable level, despite government spending on interventions: Can you tell this House what specific consequences follow when your department GBVF programmes fail to achieve their targets and who is ultimately held accountable for that failure? I thank you.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Hon Radebe, thank you very much for the question. If you look on the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide and the pillars, it is not one department that alone can fight Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. Our department is responsible for Pillar 1 and the main because we have to provide co-ordinating responsibilities accountability and leadership. However, of course if you look at other pillars: Pillar 5 for instance is the power women talking to issues of economy I am making an example.

So, the issue of gender-based violence whether prevention or intervention or rehabilitation they call on all whether it is government, Parliament, civil society, academia, private

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sector and everybody else it is according to how the National Strategic Plan was even approved in South Africa. It was a co-ordinated and a highly consulted document. That is why its implementation calls on everybody to do everything. We have our rule and you are correct hon member, we have our role to make ensure we that we monitor the implementation of the NSP to intervene where we should, but it call on everybody including communities themselves, including families themselves on how they socialise their boy children. So, indeed the issue of gender-based violence is huge. It call on everybody to say not in our lifetime we cannot continue like this. Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: Hon House Chairperson and hon Minister, my questions are: We know that the major driver of gender-based violence is gender inequality, and alcohol just removes the inhibitions about expressing the social values of women being treated as possessions and not as equal human beings.

Given that we fund the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA, more than ten-fold better than we fund the Commission for Gender Equality. When are we going to ensure that the Commission for Gender Equality is properly resourced and supported and we stop creating other structures that are not

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constitutionally mandated like the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide?

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Hon House Chairperson, I do believe strongly that the NYDA should be funded. In fact, the money that the NYDA is not adequate to deal with the problems that young people are facing. Even when looking at issues of the abuse of alcohol that we are talking about, the majority of them are being involved in crime and social ills because they are frustrated and sitting at home. Therefore, the budget of NYDA as far as I am concerned is much too little

Let me just indicate that the R1,8 million, of that R1,3 million is actually for the National Youth Service, NYS. Therefore, the NYDA only remains with R495 million for its projects and programmes. Not R495 million for its programmes and projects but also to run and to pay for everything. So, I think on that one NYDA needs more money if I were to say it and if you look at the magnitude young people are facing.

Secondly, on the issue of the Commission for Gender Equality, CGE, yes, the budget is little for CGE. However, being a Chapter 9 institution, it is well not within myself to speak

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for CGE. I think the National Assembly, to which CGE is the best institution to agitate for more budget for CGE. I think that can be done. Of course, the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide is now established in terms of the law and of course it has to run and ensure that the National Strategic Plan is implemented and ensure that it is implemented at all sectors and at all levels of local municipalities, provinces and in national in terms of the legislation and the founding legislation. Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson.

IsiZulu:

Nksz H O MKHALIPHI: Ngqongqoshe ake niphume emahhovisi, izingane zethu ziyafa, izingane zethu ziyadlwengulwa.

English:

Hon Minister, it cannot be that from January to March, more than 10 698 cases that is three months, hon Minister. While listening to you, you do not have quite clear plans on how to deal with these GBVF things.

Also, I do not hear you saying there is an integrated plan with the Department of Social Development and SAPS. So, therefore, I want to propose that instead of sitting in

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conditioners in offices, let us go on the ground and ensure that our people do hear us instead of just talking for the sake of talking. Do you have concrete plans on how to address this scourge of violence that is based on especially on young women in our society, Minister?

What are the plans that would make you to go and visit every young person affected through this GBVF. Thank you, hon House Chairperson.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Hon House Chairperson, indeed hon Mkhaliphi, I can tell you now that we do not sit in offices we are everywhere dealing with the issue of and Gender-Based Violence Femicide in person but also through the bodies we have created. The rapid response teams are on the ground as we speak. We have the data capturers and data analysts paid through the European Fund on the ground gathering information from the rapid response teams reporting direct to us. On those bases, we therefore know as to what is happening.

Looking at the National Strategic Plan, hon Mkhaliphi, I just wish that Members of Parliament can download that document. For not only does it have the six pillars 6, but it has the

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action plan with timelines and who should do what, where and when. It is there. South Africa has a strategic plan that has an implementation.

Of course, after the classification of gender-based violence, we then in response to that took Cabinet and to the people of South Africa the action plan that also has implementation timelines and everything.

Of course, like I have said the information that is coming from us through our data capturers is telling us that and research of course, conducted by institutions of higher learning is telling us that we probably should focus on the family because there is a problem with the family structure but also to young boys. This is informed by research. That is why we have positive masculinity as the main programme and the project we are running.

That is why we are busy through the Deputy Minister with the strategy on teenage pregnancy. For that we have also seen that it is actually affecting young girls. Some are a product of gender-based violence and fall pregnant being young. There is a lot of work that we are doing not only in offices, hon

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Mkhaliphi, we are out there. However, also hon Mkhaliphi give us money, we do not have the budget. [Time expired.]

Question 702:

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Chairperson, let me also thank hon the Tshotetsi for the question. The right to vote enshrined in the Constitution includes persons with disabilities towards exercising their political right and contributing towards voting for the party of their choice or even for a person of their choice.

Engaging the Independent Electoral Commission, IEC on the issue, the IEC informed me that they have done a lot towards ensuring that persons with disabilities are also able to vote. They have looked into voting stations infrastructure, conducting surveys in that regard for all 223 000 voting stations. This survey has given the commission a sense of what facilities are available to assist persons with disabilities. This includes ramps etc.

They have also looked into the issue of the ballot papers themselves. The IEC has indicated to us that they are procuring a Braille template which works in conjunction with the ballot paper to enable Braille-literate voters to use at

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all voting stations. This is called the universal ballot template. You take a normal ballot paper, place it inside the template, and it gives you the ability to read and navigate the ballot through Braille.

Of course, one other issue that they've told us about is to ensure that everybody votes with dignity. Each voting station pack contains three voting booths, and one of those is a low-access booth designed to assist voters using wheelchairs, as well as persons of short stature. In this way, persons with disabilities are afforded the opportunity to exercise their right to vote with dignity and to cast their vote for the candidates and organisations of their choice.

Thank you very much, Chairperson.

Setswana:

Rre N T TSHOTETSI: Ere ke simolole ka go go leboga Modulasetilo wa Ntlo ya rona ya Kokoanotheomolao ya Bosetšhaba. Ke leboge gape le Tona ka karabo ya gagwe mo potsong ya rona.

English:

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The Minister detailed the current progress and roadmap for finalising the draft Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disability Bill and explained how this overarching framework will consolidate fragmented protection into an enforceable statutory mandate.

Thank you, House Chair.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Hon Chairperson, thank you to the hon Tshotetsi, for the follow-up question. The department, in collaboration with the South African Law Reform Commission, commenced the process of developing the Disability Rights Bill in September 2020. The Issue Paper was completed and published in December 2020, and the Issue Paper recommended that an overarching legislation on disability rights should be developed in Phase One. I must indicate that it's the first time in South Africa that we're going to have a legislation of this kind.

It also recommended that sector-specific legislation should be developed through amendments of existing laws or promulgation of new laws where applicable. After a country-wide consultation in 2021, a discussion paper was initiated with

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questions arising from the Issue Paper. And then, of course, the discussion paper was completed and consulted in 2024.

The development of the draft Bill commenced in 2024 through a process of an advisory committee of experts, which was appointed by the then Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development in 2020. The basis of the Bill, as members would be aware, is the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that was published and adopted in 2024.

Looking at the process we are embarking on, we believe that, if everything proceeds according to plan, we will be able to introduce this Bill in Parliament during the last quarter of this financial year. However, if there are delays for any unforeseen reasons, we are targeting the first quarter of the 2027-28 financial year. That will be after the Bill has been approved by Cabinet for introduction to Parliament, and the introduction will then take place during that financial year.

Thank you very much, Chair.

IsiZulu:

Nkosazane M S KHAWULA: Ngqongqoshe lana kunoGogo owazi kahle ukuthi bayizintandane, bakhulisa izingane kanzima.

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Okubalulekile ukuthi baphile ukuze izingane zabo zikwazi ukukhula. laboGogo engikutholile ukuthi bayakwazi ukuthi badlale ibhola lezinyawo njengalapha eNanda, kodwa laboGogo kanye nomama abanye abakwazi ukuthola uxhaso lokuthi nabo babone befana namanye amaqembu ezemidlalo. Yini ongayenza Ngqonggoshe ukwenza isiqiniseko sokuthi nabo bayafakwa kwibalazwe ukuze uma kungenelwa uxhaso nabo bayathola nabo. Lapha eNanda kunoGogo abano-89 abanye bako-70 abanye bano-45 abangoGogo, abanye abafika bephethe izinduku kodwa ngenxa yezemidlalo abaziqalile ezishoda ngoxhaso, sebekwazile ukushiya izinduku, sebeyakwazi ukuphila, bayagijima bahamba ngisho ko Limpopo kuzo zonke izifundazwe. Yini Ngqongqoshe ongayenza ukuxhasa labogogo na? ngoba ulokhuzana ungqongqoshe wezemidlalo akakaze angilekelele ngalutho ngiyabonga.

IsiZulu:

UNGQONGQOSHE WABESIFAZANE, INTSHA KANYE NABANTU ABAKHUBAZEKILE: Ngiyabonga mphathisihlalo, ngibonge nakumama uKhawula ngombuzo wakhe. Mhlawumbe esingasiza ngakho, noma izindaba zogogo abaziphilelayo bengekho kuMnyango wethu njengo Gogo. Kodwa singakhulumisana naboMnyango wezobuciko namasiko, siphinde sikhulumisane nabezokuthuthukiswa komphakathi. Mhlawumbe kuzwelonke noma siphinde sibuke kwisifundazwe sakwaZulu-Natal. Ngiyacabanga ukuthi mhlawumbe indaba

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esingayikhuluma eceleni, sibonisane ukuthi singasiza kanjani kulokho. Mhlawumbe singabe singena ngokuthi oGogo bangabantu besifazane kodwa khona kusemahlombe omnyango wezokuthuthukiswa komphakathi, mhlawumbe noxhaso olungacishe luqhamuke khona, kodwa singakhulumisana eceleni njengoba ngisho ukuthi noma bewogogo kepha bangabantu besifazane. Ngiyabonga kakhulu mphathi wohlelo.

English:

Dr M A MAIMANE: Hon Minister, in the recent community meeting I held, South Africans who are living with disability raised with me that to some extent the question of accessing their right to vote is not always just about physical infrastructure, be it ramps, etc. It's also about the assistance that people get when they go exercise their vote.

Now, the IEC does a lot of work in this space. My question to you, Minister is that, is it not about time, that given the constitutional imperative and the labour policy of employing a set number of people with disabilities in any work environment, is it not time that we mandate the IEC that for all the people who work, the electoral officers, a set percentage of them must be people with disabilities in order to physically assist people, not only those in wheelchairs or

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suffering, but with blindness, intellectual disability and many other aspects so that we are comprehensive in being able to afford that right to citizens and people living with disability.

May I ask that we set a particular quotient, and will Minister investigate and ensure that that is in fact in practice when it goes to the IEC?

Thank you very much, House Chairperson.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Hon Chairperson, thank you hon Maiman, for the question. I will agree with you that persons with disabilities can also be employed by the IEC. On that point, I agree with you fully, because there is nowhere in South Africa where you can say that you cannot find a person to perform a particular job simply because of a disability. There will always be someone with a disability who is capable of performing the work.

On the issue of employment equity, what you are saying to me is that, Minister, it should also apply to the IEC, and I fully agree with you on that point. I also want to clarify something, perhaps for the benefit of Members of Parliament,

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the correct term is not people living with disabilities or persons living with disabilities, but persons with disabilities. It's just three words. Persons with disabilities, not people, persons with disabilities. I am saying this so that we as Members of Parliament address them in a manner that makes persons with disabilities comfortable.

So, I fully agree with you, hon Maimane. As a matter of fact, it's a question that I will be asking the IEC to say, of the people that you have employed, have you met the 5% target for the 2026-27 financial year? I agree with that view.

Thank you very much, Chair.

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Hon Minister, data suggests that as many as 90% of persons with disabilities in South Africa are unemployed, leaving many without a stable income or the resources needed to fully participate in public and democratic life. For example, the cost of transport to a voting station may be unaffordable for persons with disabilities with limited or no income, while limited access to data and smartphones can also make it difficult to locate polling stations and access information about political parties and candidates.

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Hon Minister, what has your department done since you took office to ensure that all government departments comply with the minimum employment targets for persons with disabilities and what mechanisms are in place to monitor compliance and hold to account departments that fail our persons with disabilities?

Thank you.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Hon Chairperson, thank you to the hon van der Merwe for the question. We have the National Development Plan that sets a target of 7% employment equity for persons with disabilities by 2030. The Cabinet took a decision that in order for us to achieve the target, we would be increasing the percentage year on year.

Last year, we were at 4%, and 2026-27, we are at 5% and we monitor whether departments are achieving this. Realising that there are departments that are doing well, including our department that were already at 5% last year and we are currently at 5%, followed by the Department of Tourism, followed by the Department of Trade and Industry, followed by

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the Department of Small Business Development, and of course others that are still around 3%.

We then approached the Department of Public Service and Administration, requesting the Minister that we issue a circular to Public Service for them to compel them to ensure that they employ persons with disabilities and comply with the 5% for this financial year.

Of course, the Minister wanted to have it in ministerial order, which carries more weight than the circular. Because it was taking time, we ended up issuing a circular to all government departments in South Africa in the public service that they have to reach the 5% and next year will be at 6%, so that by 2030 will be at 6%. That has been done in the public service.

We are supposed to extend to public administration, that is to state-owned companies and private sector, but also to assist the support employment enterprises that are owned by the state that can only appoint and employ persons with disabilities. Government departments can just procure from those entities.

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The Minister of Finance in the meeting also agreed to reduce the requirements for competition, etc. We are trying everything possible to ensure that young persons with disabilities are employable and are able to find jobs.

Thank you very much.

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: Minister, let's go back to the Promotion and Protection Bill. Are there any specific targets, monitoring mechanisms and accountability measures which will ensure that the rights and accessibility guarantee contained in the Bill are translated into practical outcomes, particularly as it relates to service delivery for the rights of persons with disabilities?

Thank you.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Chairperson, like I indicated, the basis of the Bill is the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was published in 2015. But it is also the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It is the protocol that we have also ratified on persons with disabilities in the continent.

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If you look at those, they are very clear on what should happen. Whether you speak about persons with disabilities on health issues, whether you speak about persons with disabilities on education issues, whether you speak about - everything is in the White Paper.

Therefore, yes, indeed, we believe that the Bill will make these provisions enforceable, because what we have right now is a policy. What we want to do now is to ensure that the policy becomes enforceable. Through the Bill and the parliamentary process, once it becomes an Act, we will have a legal instrument that compels compliance. Unlike a policy, where non-compliance may not necessarily result in legal consequences, an Act provides an enforceable legal framework. If people fail to comply with the Act, we will be able to take the necessary legal steps to ensure compliance, including taking matters to court where appropriate.

That is why we believe it is going to assist in addressing the gaps that may exist. It is also going to give us the teeth to bite, because it will provide the necessary legal authority to act. We also hope that, when Parliament processes the Bill, it will identify any loopholes that may still exist and ensure that they are addressed as part of the Bill. Furthermore, we

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hope it will strengthen the powers of the department to deal with issues that are currently scattered across different areas and are therefore not easy to monitor or implement effectively.

Thank you very much, Chairperson.

THE HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, the time allocated for questions has now expired. The replies to the additional questions we could not deal with during the session will be printed in the Hansard as received. That concludes the business for today and this House is now adjourned.

Business concluded.

The House adjourned at 18:37.

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