TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2026

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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The House met at 14:00.

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

The Speaker announced that the virtual plenary sitting constituted a meeting of the National Assembly.

VIRTUAL SITTING RULES

(Announcement)

The 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

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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 in 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 only unmute when recognised to speak. This is because your mics, including mine, 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 icons on the bar at the bottom of their screens, which is 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, the first item on the Order Paper is a motion in the name of the Chief Whip. Hon Chief Whip!

Mr C M DUGMORE: Speaker!

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The SPEAKER: Yes, hon Dugmore.

Mr C M DUGMORE: Is it possible that I could just move that?

The SPEAKER: You can continue to put the motion, yes.

Mr C M DUGMORE: Thank you. I move on behalf of the Chief Whip:

> That the House, notwithstanding Rule 108(2) which provides that the time allocated to a member of each party for making a declaration of vote must be determined by the Rules Committee, taking into account the proportional strength of the parties, limits the time allocated to a member from each party for making a declaration of vote on any Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report to not more than two minutes for this annual session.

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

WIN FOR SUGAR INDUSTRY IN SOUTH AFRICA

(Member’s Statement)

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Ms S MOSIKATSI (ANC): Hon Speaker, the African National Congress welcomes the official announcement by the International Trade Administration Commission to increase the dollar-based reference price for sugar from US$680 to US$785 per tonne. This regulatory intervention marks a crucial step forward in safeguarding South Africa’s domestic agricultural sector, protecting local manufacturing and defending thousands of livelihoods.

The sugar industry is a vital pillar of rural economy, particularly across the province of KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, supporting entire communities, small-scale growers, commercial farmers and workers along the agricultural value chain. By adjusting the reference price to US$785 per tonne, government has demonstrated a positive and a balanced commitment to economic transformation and industrial sovereignty. This intervention is a critical step in ensuring the sustainability of the domestic sugar industry in the face of the rising subsidised imports.

The ANC remains steadfast in its mission to build a productive, inclusive economy. Protecting local industries against unfair global trade practises is essential for

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retaining industrial capacity and fostering long-term investment. Thank you, Speaker.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL INVESTIGATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED ON MUNICIPAL MANAGERS

(Member’s Statement)

Ms A M VAN ZYL (DA): Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to inform this House that this morning we referred the terrible 10 municipal managers to the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs for section 106 investigations. Minister, this is now on your desk. Section 106(4)(a) of the Municipal Systems Act empowers you to request the member of the executive council, MEC, to investigate maladministration, fraud, corruption or serious malpractice. The mechanism exists. Use it.

We are asking you to act where municipalities are financially distressed, where audits are disclaimed, where material irregularities remain unresolved and where serious financial misconduct demands scrutiny. Your own department says that local government must move from diagnosis to delivery. Minister, today the diagnosis is before you. Will you request

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these investigations? Will you ensure that they are completed, acted upon and their outcomes made public? Communities without water, sanitation, electricity and functioning roads cannot live on reports and promises. Accountability means consequences.

Minister Hlabisa, the evidence has been placed before you. South Africans deserve action, transparency and consequences now. The law gives you the tools. Now use them. Thank you.

AGRICULTURAL OWNERSHIP

(Member's Statement)

Mr B M MKONGI (MKP): Yes, it is hon Bongani Mkongi from uMkhonto weSizwe Party. Hon Speaker, 32 years into democracy, South African agriculture remains colonial in its ownership and racist in its composition. The sector contributes about 2,8% of the gross domestic product, GDP, and employs over 800 000 people. Yet the state-owned in 2017 Land Audit Report found that white South Africans own 72% of the farmland held by individuals, coloureds 15%, Indians 5%, Africans own only 4% as the majority.

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Yet Africans and coloureds work the land. They own the crumbs. This sector grows rich exporting food while millions of our people go hungry. A sector that feeds foreign markets before it feeds its own nation is unpatriotic. Agricultural black economic empowerment, Agri-BEE, exists only on paper. Commercial agriculture treats it as contempt and this government has built no mechanism to enforce any law. A policy without consequences is not a policy. It is a public relations exercise. The MK Party will not at any stage accept transformation by press release.

We demand binding ownership targets and forcible Agri-BEE compliance with the real penalties and the return of the land to the people from whom it was taken, especially the African. Those who work the land for centuries must now own it without any apology. The MKP will see to it that this happens. Thank you very much.

UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG'S RECENT RANKING

(Member's Statement)

Mr W T LETSIE (ANC): Speaker, it's Tebogo Letsie. The University of Johannesburg's, UJ, recent achievement of

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ranking number one in Africa in eight academic subjects is a proud moment for South Africa and a true reflection of what investment in education, research and innovation can produce. The 2026 ShanghaiRanking Global Ranking of Academic Subjects places UJ first in Africa in the following subjects: Hospitality and tourism management, earth sciences, political science, education, business administration, management, electrical and electronic engineering and telecommunication engineering. UJ is also ranked number one in South Africa in ten subjects and features across 15 academic subjects in the global ranking.

As the ANC, we believe that it is an achievement such as this that speaks directly to the vision of the Freedom Charter which declared that the doors of learning and culture shall be opened. Furthermore, education has always been and will always be understood as a powerful tool for harnessing the potential of our people and building a better society. It is on this basis that we have continued to place skills development, science, technology, research and innovation at the centre of our transformation agenda. The 2026 state of the nation address by the President, put education and skills development ... [Interjections.]

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The SPEAKER: Hon Imraan, can you please mute your mic? Proceed, hon Letsie and round out.

Mr W T LETSIE(ANC): Thank you very much, Speaker. The 2026 state of the nation address by the President of the Republic put education and skills development at the heart of preparing young people for the future. UJ's performance shows why investment matters to produce knowledge, innovation and research to respond to challenges of our country and Africa. We congratulate UJ and believe that this is indeed an African excellence that needs to be placed at the fore of our country's development. Thank you very much, Speaker.

NATIONAL STUDENT FINANCE AID SCHEME STUDENT ACCOMODATION CAP

(Member's Statement)

Mr S LONZI (EFF): Hon Speaker, if we use the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, student accommodation cap of R52 000, R616 million is enough to fund nearly 12 000 students for a full year's accommodation. This is what the National Student Financial Aid Scheme is paying the four middlemen companies in just two years to run student accommodation portal.

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The first question the people of South Africa must ask is: Why four fintech companies were contracted by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, to perform the same function? We are told that this portal was supposed to help students find accredited accommodation, keep a reliable record of available beds and support payments to landlords. Yet, we now know of cases where NSFAS paid for beds that did not exist.

The Auditor-General, AG, has reported ... [Injerjections.] Someone is disruptive, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon member! Hon member, Ramaila, please mute. You can continue, hon Lonzi.

Mr S LONZI (EFF): The Auditor-General, AG, has reported on properties whose beds' numbers were inflated and whose grading did not meet their conditions. Students have faced delayed payments and threats of eviction. How does an accommodation system that costs the government R616 million while the most basic question remains unanswered? Did the beds recorded on the portal actually exist? For the record, the four companies are Aziquell Group, New Dawn Technologies, Training Young Minds and Profecia Information Technologies.

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The EFF therefore calls on the President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, to broaden the scope of the Special Investigating Unit, SIU, 2022 Proclamation to cover these contracts and the R616 million paid to these companies. The SIU must investigate their appointments, their fees and whether the beds recorded on their portal actually exist. If money was improperly paid, it must be recovered. Thank you.

MASS SHOOTINGS CLAIM MORE LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICAN PROVINCES

(Member Statement)

Ms B E MACHI (IFP): Hon Speaker, the tragic loss of at least 28 lives across devastating mass shooting in Gauteng and in the Western Cape this past weekend alongside the recent bloodshed in KwaZulu-Natal must compel this House to confront an uncomfortable truth. Too often, we separate crime into convenient labels. We speak of gender-based violence, gang-turf wars and illegal mining conflicts, yet beneath these names lies a singular plain reality. South Africa is in the grip of an overhaul crises of violence that threatens our society daily.

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The IFP extends its deepest condolences to the grieving families and note that our nation needs more than sympathy. We need decisive action and visible protection. We urge the Acting Minister of Police to immediately intensify operational vigilance and ensure genuine co-ordination and capacity across all arms of law enforcement, metropolitan police departments and registered private security services. Officers cannot respond swiftly when patrol vehicles are out of service, stations lack basic telephonic communications or existing personnel are stretched beyond capacity.

The IFP calls for urgent reprioritisation of resources directly on the ground to ensure that law enforcement is fully capable of upholding the rule of law. I thank you, Speaker.

GRUESOME MURDERS OF WOMEN IN EKURHULENI

(Member’s Statement)

Mrs T M CHAUKE-ADONIS(ANC): Hon Speaker, it is the hon Meagan Tshegofatso Chauke-Adonis. The ANC is outraged and also sends its deepest condolences to the families of loved ones who have lost their lives based on gender-based violence and femicide in the Ekurhuleni murders that have been flooding our screens

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and our ears. We send our deepest condolences to those who have lost their loved ones and victims of gender-based violence.

We must say as the ANC that we have stayed committed to ensuring that we address the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide in our country. Therefore, we call on the SA Police Service, SAPS, to continue with its work. We also congratulate them for their swift intervention in addressing and also combating gender-based violence in our local communities and through its investigative wings.

We additionally call upon the private sector, civil society, public sector and individual South African citizens to come out in their numbers in protecting our communities but also providing law enforcement with credible information, tips and leads that can be followed so that we are able to capture and bring those who are complicit to justice.

We further call upon the institutions that have been elected to protect women and young girls in South Africa to put up their arms and provide the necessary resources and support such as psychosocial support to victims, to those who have lost their loved ones and also to communities.

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We additionally call for reinforced and ring-fenced funding to be allocated to institutions such as the National Council on Gender-Based Violence. We will support the work that are obligated to do within their constitutional mandate.

As the ANC, we remain committed to ensuring the protection and promotion of young girls and women in South Africa. We call upon the entire collective South African citizens and society to combat gender-based violence because this cannot only be fought by the government. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The ACTING MINISTER OF POLICE: Speaker, it is not a point of order. But I just want an opportunity to, at some point, contribute to the debate.

The SPEAKER: Well, at this moment it is members' statements, hon Cachalia. I think the debate will follow after this. Maybe you can speak to the National Assembly Table. I have not seen your name on the Order Paper. I am not sure if you have made such speaking rights. But I would advise that you speak to the National Assembly Table. Thank you very much.

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The ACTING POLICE MINISTER: Hon Speaker, my understanding is that, with respect to the Rules of the members' statements, Ministers and Deputy Ministers are afforded an opportunity.

The SPEAKER: Yes, at the end, hon Minister.

The ACTING MINISTER OF POLICE: But I do not have the speakers' list in front of me. I was just giving an indication.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I have noted your request for a response at the end.

CRIME CLINCHES SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

(Member's Statement)

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER (Bosa): Hon Speaker, my apologies! May I please ask to change the devices. This device is not allowing the camera. May I, please!

The SPEAKER: It does not matter. We can listen to your voice. You can continue. You can proceed, mam.

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Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER (Bosa): Hon Speaker, I rise not only as a public representative, but also as a woman, as a sister, as a wife and as a mother, and state today in this sitting that women live in fear. I live in fear. Women live in fear of walking, of taking a taxi, of fetching water or even of being alone in their homes.

The discovery of nine women's bodies in Ekurhuleni confronts this House with a painful question: What the promise of freedom means when women cannot leave without fear? These women were people with families, with dreams, with future and their lives matter. Their lives do deserve justice.

In the current financial year, 2026-27, the SA Police Service, SAPS, has been allocated over R127 billion. The Gauteng Community Safety department has been allocated R2,3 billion. This includes gender-based violence, GBV, interventions. It bags the question: What is the money doing if women still do not feel safe in our communities? How are the victims being supported?

As we have seen and as we hear, they do not patrol the streets. They do not answer the distressed calls or investigate a murder. That requires that we have trained

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officers that we properly equip and deploy them. The government has to explain how its spending translates its officers on the ground, into detectives solving cases and communities being protected.

In our submissions, we have demanded changes to provisions that seek to centralise national power and metro policing. We propose that municipal police services be established at the municipal or metro level that do not have national police leaders have effective veto on decision-making. We want capable metro police. We want accountability in communities. We want stronger powers to respond first and maintain public order working alongside SAPS.

Women have to be able to live freely, children have to be able to grow up safely and men as well have to be protected from violent crimes. I thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Time expired.]

DAYBREAK FOODS NEEDS FORENSIC INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED

(Member’s Statement)

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Mr A G BATEMAN (DA): Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the DA to explain why Daybreak Foods needs a presidential SIU investigation. In 2020, Daybreak generated almost R3 billion in revenue and R284 million in profit.

Five years later, it collapsed. Nearly 1 900 workers lost their jobs, and approximately R2 billion of pensioners' and workers' money has been placed at risk. What happened in between? The PIC appointed a new board.

The management team that had rebuilt Daybreak was pushed out. R124 million was paid to one law firm, including R40 million that couldn't be matched to invoices. Millions more were squandered on lavish marketing events, including R900 000 for rugby, hospitality and a branded party bus.

And now we have uncovered R3 million in legal bills to examine the findings of the State Capture Commission, including whether the Public Investment Corporation, PIC, itself was implicated.

And all of this is paid for by a chicken farm. The DA has asked the President to authorise an SIU investigation into the full chain of allegations surrounding Daybreak. Was Daybreak

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systematically captured? Did individuals within the PIC enable or protect those responsible? Were politicians involved?

The SIU must follow the money, follow the decisions, and establish who benefited. Accountability must be extended to everyone, no matter what their political pedigree is. I thank you.

MURDERS ON FARMS

(Member’s Statement)

Me H DENNER (VF PLUS): Speaker, 3 000 wit kruise is onlangs in Washington geplant. Die polemiek wat daarna gevolg het grens aan histerie, wat eintlik beteken dat, as bewusmaking die doel was, daarin geslaag is.

Wat die, soos die ANC in hul histeriese reaksie vergeet is die feit dat elkeen van daardie kruise ’n naam dra. Dit dra ’n naam van ’n slagoffer wat brutaal op ’n plaas vermoor is. En nee, dis nie net wit name nie.

Niemand kan die brutaliteit, wat met plaasmoorde van slagoffers oor rasgrense heen gepaard gaan, ontken nie. En dit

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is wat hierdie tipe misdaad uitsonderlik maak. Wat niemand wat teen hierdie projek gekant is nog in hierdie bekgeveg erken het nie, is die skandvlek op die ANC-regering, onder wie se wakende oog derduisende boere, plaaswerkers en plaasbewoners die afgelope 30 jaar gemartel en vermoor is, en die direkte impak wat dit op werksekerheid, voedselsekerheid en die kollektiewe psige van Suid-Afrikaners het.

En as dit dan die plant van kruise vat, om aandag daarop te vestig, moet ons dalk die histerie staak en oral voor die uniegebou, voor die Parlement, voor munisipaliteite se deure en op sypaadjies begin kruise plant vir boere, vir plaaswerkers, vir slagoffers van GBV [geslagsgebaseerde geweld], vir vermoorde kinders, vir die 12 vroue wat onlangs aan die Oos-Rand vermoor is, totdat iemand begin luister.

As die ANC geluister het toe daar gesmeek is om in te gryp, om te help, planne voorgestel is, oplossings gebied is, sou dit nie nodig gewees het om nou kruise te plant nie, en sou van daardie 3 000 en duisende ander lewens dalk gespaar gewees het. Dankie.

THE HANDOVER OF LEGAL OWNERSHIP DOCUMENTS TO KOMANI RESIDENTS

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(Member’s Statement)

Mr S L DITHEBE (ANC): Madam Speaker, the ANC welcomes the handover of legal ownership documents to Komani residents, restoring dignity and securing land tenure. This month, September 2026, saw the Department of Human Settlements carrying out nationwide housing and title deed handovers, including a major outreach where 254 beneficiaries received title deeds in Komani within the Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality, Eastern Cape.

The ANC welcomes this successful rollout and handover of legal ownership documents and title deeds to hundreds of families in Komani. This milestone marks a significant victory in our ongoing mission to correct past historical injustices, restore human dignity, and secure true economic freedom for our people.

For too long, the legacy of apartheid spatial planning denied the majority of South Africans legal ownership of the land and homes they occupy. By officially handing over these title deeds, such as the recent life-changing allocations in areas like Who Can Tell Village, the ANC-led government is putting

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real power, security, and generational wealth directly in the hands of ordinary citizens.

This achievement underscores the ANC's unwavering commitment to fast-tracking service delivery and land tenure reform across the Eastern Cape. While opposition parties resort to empty criticism and political grandstanding, the ANC-led municipality continues to do the hard work on the ground, turning promises into tangible improvements in the daily lives of our citizens.

So, we congratulate all the families that have received these title deeds, and the ANC on all its efforts to change people's lives around. Thank you.

THE STATUE OF KING SHAKA

(Member's Statement)

Mr Z E MTHETHWA (MK): Speaker, on behalf of MK, I move that the House notes the deliberate minimisation of the statue of King Shaka by the so-called GNU. It is an indictment of the GNU that there is a continued disregard for the contribution of King Shaka in modernising warfare and being a driver of

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nation-building. The change of the formerly provincial Shaka Day holiday into a national Reconciliation Day was an act of erasure.

This erasure finds expression in the racist big business practice of informally calling Shaka Day the braai day. A nation that does not respect and protect its national heroes and history is bound to collapse under the weight of forgetting.

King Shaka deserves the statue placed alongside the heroes of South Africa. He was groomed by King Tingsuya of the Mthethwas, and his name appears on the original map as the Paramount Chief of the Mthethwas.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, remember that this is the member statement, not yet the motion.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BT INDUSTRIAL GROUP

(Member’s Statement)

Mr M KHOZA(EFF): Hon Speaker, the EFF condemns the destruction of the BT Industrial Group. A black-owned manufacturer,

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Kgomotso Lekola, was funded, then abandoned when the Industrial Development Corporation, IDC's, funding structure failed. On 24 February 2026, the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nafcoc, brought five cases to Parliament.

Seven months later, BT Industrial Group remains closed. I visited BT Industrial Group. I saw an industrial graveyard. Assets were vandalised and stolen while IDC security kept the owner out of his own property. Who removed these assets? Who authorised it? Who must account? Mr Lekola invested R12,6 million of his own money. That is blood and sweat.

The consultant recommended a funding restart. Instead, the IDC pursued recovery and ignored the bank's attempt to engage because it wanted to save such a thriving company. The pattern is clear. Black industrialists face closure instead of restructuring, job losses instead of protection, and recovery demands instead of developmental support.

Parliament has already raised concerns about the IDC's practices affecting black businesses. The IDC must answer allegations of governance failures, BEE fraud, and retaliation against a whistleblower. If these allegations are false, then

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the Minister must prove it. If these are true, then heads must roll. Minister, act now. Secure assets, investigate the IDC, rescue and save the BT Industrial Group, recover what was lost, restore the factory, restore production, restore jobs, and save lives and livelihoods. Many people are unemployed while the IDC, through the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, DTIC, continues to shut down black industrialists. We so move. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, once again, this is not yet the time to move for adoption of the motion, but I take note that it is a member's statement.

PROMPT GOVERNMENT ACTION AMID MPOX CLUSTERS

(Member's Statement)

Ms M M SENNE(ANC): The ANC notes the recent public health updates regarding the rise in laboratory-confirmed mpox cases in the country, particularly within regional hotspots such as the Western Cape.

We commend the proactive measures taken by the Department of Health and our national health authorities to closely monitor

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transmission trends, transparently share data, and deploy targeted interventions. With 18 confirmed cases and one probable case recorded as of mid-September 2026, and a notable cluster of local transmissions concentrated in Cape Town between mid-August and September, our government has acted decisively to contain the spread.

Backed by the World Health Organisation, the government has successfully secured limited stocks of the Modified Vaccinia Ankara-Bavarian Nordic, MVA-BN, mpox vaccine and the antiviral treatment, tecovirimat. These critical medical countermeasures are being deployed strategically to manage high-risk exposures, protect vulnerable populations, and effectively disrupt further community transmission.

The ANC emphasises that public health is a collective responsibility, and we call upon all communities, civil society structures, and citizens to stay informed and vigilant. The ANC urges all communities to support those affected and to respect patient dignity.

We have absolute confidence in South Africa’s robust public health infrastructure, our dedicated healthcare workers, and our continued partnership with global health partners. The ANC

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will continue to monitor developments closely and ensure our government leaves no stone unturned in safeguarding the nation’s health.

ELECTRICITY PRICING POLICY

(Member’s Statement)

Mr K J MILEHAM (DA): Speaker, South Africans have heard for years that electricity must become more cost reflective. What they experience is something far worse, higher bills. The revised electricity pricing policy, now out for public comment, will shape those bills for years to come. It deals with fixed charges, network costs, cross-subsidies, free basic electricity, and the way municipalities recover electricity revenue.

The Department of Electricity and Energy says affordability, transparency, and protection of vulnerable households must form part of the new framework. The DA’s approach is clear and unchanged. We want a competitive electricity market where consumers have more choice, municipalities can buy from independent producers, households and businesses are treated

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fairly when they generate their own electricity, and tariffs recover costs rather than Eskom’s failures.

Fixed charges must be transparent, legacy costs must be justified, and time limited. Poor households must receive proper support, but that support must be funded honestly rather than hidden in ever-higher electricity bills. South Africans now have until 28 October to comment on the draft policy. We call on them to use that opportunity. Keeping the lights on is only half the job. The real question is whether South Africans can afford to keep the lights on. Thank you, Speaker.

SUCCESS OF NEW DIGITAL LICENSING SYSTEM (GPTRIS) IN REVOLUTIONISING PUBLIC TRANSPORT REGULATION

(Member’s Statement)

Ms N S NKOPANE(ANC): Speaker, on success of new digital licencing system, Gauteng Public Transport Regulatory Information System, GPTRIS, and revolutionising public transport regulation, the African National Congress celebrates the success and rapid uptake of the newly implemented housing public transport regulatory information system, GPTRIS.

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Throughout the month of September, this breakthrough digital platform system has successfully preceded hundreds of public transport operating licences online, effectively breaking the back of historical administrative backlogs and ushering in a new era of efficiency. For too long, the minibus, taxi, and commuter bus operators who serve as the backbone of our economy have faced severe administrative hurdles, exhausting queues, and systemic red tape just to keep their vehicles legally on the road.

The deployment of GPTRIS represents a decisive intervention by the ANC-led provincial government to restore dignity in these vital economic actors, streamlining compliance and safeguarding the livelihoods of thousands of workers within the economy. GPTRIS serves as a powerful mechanism to eliminate corruption, eradicate extortion, and remove arbitrary gatekeeping from the public transport licencing value chain by creating a fully automated, transparent, and auditable digital trade. The system ensures that operating licences are issued fairly swiftly and solely on merit.

This aligns perfectly with the ANC’s ongoing commitment to formalise, support, and improve the digital industry. The ANC will continue to champion innovative, tech-driven solutions

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that dismantle bureaucratic bottlenecks, improve public transport safety, and actively move housing forward. Thank you very much.

THE 96TH NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATED BY SAUDI ARABIA

(Member's Statement)

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA (Al Jamah-Ah): Speaker, on 23 September 2026, Saudi Arabia celebrated the 96th National Day, reflecting on unification and national development.

In South Africa, the President of Al Jamah-Ah, hon Mogamad Ganief Ebrahim Hendricks, represented His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa as a keynote speaker addressing the diplomatic corps on the occasion of the 96th Saudi National Day. He stated that South Africa's foreign policy remains firmly anchored in human rights and a rules-based world order, proclaiming South Africa's unwavering support for Palestine and its children. In his keynote address, Al Jamah-Ah's President quoted President Ramaphosa's fearless policy and thought-rightness, "on average, one Palestinian child has been killed every day by the Israeli military."

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Surviving Palestinians in Gaza are further traumatised, herded into ever-shrinking slavery of territory, and subjected to unbearable conditions in life.

The court’s orders are binding on Israel, and the international community also has an obligation to protect the Palestinian people from genocide, including to take all necessary action to prevent and punish genocide.

Being humbled by the honour to state this to the world, Al Jamah-Ah reminds hon members of this House of their obligation in terms of their oath of office to protect the Palestinian children from genocide, including all necessary action to prevent and punish those responsible for genocide or face the wrath of God.

isiZulu:

...Malibongwe!

English:

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. We only have seven spaces. Are there any Ministers who want to make a response? Acting Ministers Firoz Cachalia; Minister Hlabisa and Minister

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Aucamp. I have noted those three for now. We will start with Acting Minister Feroz Cachalia.

RESPONSE TO THE DISCOVERY OF THE MURDERED WOMEN IN EKURHULENI

(Minister's Response)

The ACTING MINISTER OF POLICE (Prof F Cachalia): Following the discovery of the murdered women in Ekurhuleni, the South African Police Service responded immediately, first of all, by establishing a well-equipped, highly skilled, multidisciplinary team to investigate these murders under the leadership of Acting Deputy National Commissioner, Lieutenant General Hilda Khosi Senthumule. The task team has made significant progress. I am happy to report arrests have already been affected in several of the investigations.

In the murder of Ms Busisiwe Mahlangu, a suspect was arrested and remains in custody. In the murder of Ms Jabulile Timba two suspects have been arrested and charged. Gauteng Police have also arrested a suspect in connection with the murder of Ms Khumalo, whose body was discovered in Tembisa.

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Beyond the arrests already affected, investigators have identified and profiled several persons of interest in a number of investigations. We are confident that further breakthroughs will be made. In addition, targeted intelligence-led, highly visible policing lockdown operations are underway in the affected parts of Ekurhuleni.

These enhanced operations are part of Operation Shanela, and as we did ensure the 30th of June illegal immigration protests remain peaceful, these operations have received the necessary additional financial and human resources. This is to give some assurance to our people that there is in this period of high anxiety.

In the coming week, the Acting National Commissioner and I will make further announcements regarding the details of the additional steps and resource allocations to support law enforcement functions with respect to GBVF. I thank you.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL INVESTIGATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED ON MUNICIPAL MANAGERS

(Minister’s Response)

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The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE, GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Speaker, I am responding to hon Marina van Zyl. Indeed, my office received the letter this morning in relation to the issue against ten municipal managers. We believe in accountability, transparency for maximum service delivery, and we are going to respond to the letter act accordingly within the prescript of the law. Thank you, hon Speaker.

AGRICULTURAL OWNERSHIP

(Minister's Response)

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, I am replying to the statement made by the hon Mkhongi from the MKP with regards to land ownership and ongoing projects there as well as agricultural exports. We are currently working closely with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform on the appointment of farmers that are currently working on land that they are renting to become the owners of those farms and get title deeds. We are working with the African Farmers' Association of South Africa, AFASA, where they will provide us with 100 names per province to use as a pilot project to transfer land into the names of the farmers that are farming it. It is very important for farm owners or farm workers to

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own that land because how can they access finance and put in capital if they don't own the land that they are working?

With regards to agricultural exports, the hon Mkhongi made the accusation that we should not export products that are needed in South Africa. We are not exporting any products outside of this country if we have a shortage of them inside this country. We are lucky in South Africa that we have an agricultural export surplus of R120 billion per annum. That means that our farmers are making money with their exports, and we do not have a food shortage in this country.

We can export products that we do not utilise. That R120 billion that we gain through agricultural export creates a huge number of jobs every year and helps us to grow our economy. So, it is false to insinuate that we are exporting and servicing the world market while the people in South Africa are hungry. That is not the case. Thank you, hon Speaker.

GRUESOME MURDERS OF WOMEN IN EKURHULENI

DISCOVERY OF NINE WOMEN'S BODIES IN EKURHULENI

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(Minister's Response)

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Hon Speaker, let me welcome statements made by different members on the issue of gender-based violence and femicide. We would also like to congratulate police for putting together a highly specialised team to investigate the cases, particularly those at Ekurhuleni.

We indicate that measures are being taken to prevent gender-based violence and femicide. We further appeal to men and boys to become active partners in ending violence against women and children. Men must challenge harmful behaviour, reject misogyny, teach boys to respect women and girls, and report abuse wherever it occurs, because silence, indifference and the protection of perpetrators allow violence to continue.

I must indicate that the Department of Social Development is already providing psychosocial support to families of the victims, in line with family needs. As hon Meagan Chauke-Adonis states, we emphasise that communities are essential partners in preventing gender-based violence and femicide, supporting investigations and creating safer public spaces. In

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that way, working together we will be able to reduce and eradicate gender-based violence and femicide. Thank you.

CALLING ON PARENTS/GUARDIANS TO ALWAYS REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH THEIR GIRLS

(Minister's Response)

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Social Development I would like to make an appeal to all mothers to be in contact with their daughters every day. It cannot be that your daughter is away from home and has now been one of the victims and not identified.

Our Minister has been very active in alerting families, and, I don't want to say I am pleased to say this, but through contacting mothers and families, one or two of the victims have now been identified. The call out is to mothers to please contact their daughters every day. Don't skip any day. Thank you very much.

THE SCOURGE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE RECENT KILLING OF WOMEN IN EKURHULENI AND THE URGENT NEED FOR GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

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The LEADER OF THE 2ND LARGEST MINORITY PARTY (Mr G Michalakis): Madam Speaker, on 18 September 2019 gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, was formally elevated to a joint national emergency under the ANC government. Seven years ago, lots of words, very little action.

In 2002, DA Members of Parliament, MPs, brought to this House the fact that police stations were failing to implement the Domestic Violence Act of 1999, turning away victims at police stations, saying that domestic violence was a private family matter. This was 24 years ago and the fight against GBV continues.

During that same period of about 25 years ago, the DA did battle with the ANC government about the deoxyribonucleic acid, DNA, backlog. Does this sound familiar? If it does, it’s because only a few months ago that the DA engaged universities who are willing to and capable of helping to clear the backlog.

The cycle of the same old problems keeps repeating, preventing rapists from going to jail. These universities, by the way, stand ready to help. The Minister of Police must just engage them too. We will make the appointments for him, if needs be.

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And it is unfortunate that the ANC did not schedule the Minister of Police to take part in this debate.

For almost three decades, the DA has been pointing out how the SA Police Service, SAPS, continues to fail the women of this country. We have exposed, time and time again, how rape kits are not available and how the police are simply incapable of reacting to crime.

It is the job of Parliament to point these out. It is the job of government, and particularly the President and the Minister of Police, both of whom have been in the ANC for the last 32 years, to take action.

Between 50 and 60% of stations are unreachable by phone at any given point, our multiple audits concluded, and if you reach them, they are unable to react due to a lack of boots on the ground or vehicles to get there ... [Interjections.] ... this is before a single case has even been opened.

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Des, can you please mute!

The LEADER OF THE 2ND LARGEST MINORITY PARTY (Mr G Michalakis): The nation was rightly shocked at the finding of

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a 12th body on the East Rand yesterday. But there are many more bodies that pile up every single day. On average, 15 women are killed per day in this country, three women are killed every day by their intimate partner, at the very least a total of 30 000 women in this country have lost their lives in this way, since the passing of the Domestic Violence Act in 1999. I suspect the number is much higher.

I can tell you who were not shocked at the discovery of those bodies. The millions of women in South Africa who live their lives every day having nowhere that they can be safe. Not on the streets, not at work, not at school, not at their own homes. They know they have been experiencing it every day from the time they were little girls.

What kind of a society are we if we cannot protect girls from perverse men who rape in order to feel powerful? What kind of a society are we that raises men who feel the need to hurt and kill and rape in order to feel like a man?

For three decades, ANC Presidents and Ministers have been presiding over appointing criminal national commissioners and generals to SAPS who have hollowed it out. They got rid of expertise and experience in favour of cadres. And as many of

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them that are criminal, there is an equal number that are simply incompetent and we, the public, are expected to meet their incompetence with patience. These criminal and incompetent elements blight the cause of those within SAPS that are there to make a difference, and there are many of them who do.

The inability of SAPS to protect and save lives cannot be divorced from the ANC's failure to give us a police service that does its job.

If a government fails to address a problem that goes back this many years, it either does not want to or it's incapable of it. It is as clear and as simple as that. This crisis was the ANC government's to solve and it has failed to do so for decades.

But Madam Speaker, we have a much more deeply-rooted crisis on our hands than that. I grew up in a society where the measure of whether you are a real man is how macho you are, how little you cry and how many girlfriends you can line up. Men raised in a society of domination, whose words are law and who are taught that we should do as they say, not as they do. And men who see power in violence and degradation, who view women as

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objects, stripped of their personhood, instead of as individuals and as equals.

Fortunately, I had a father who taught me otherwise. Most boys worship their fathers, no matter how good or bad their fathers are. And they end up becoming their fathers. They learn by example, good or bad. So, we, as men, need to set the example through our actions.

Boys must be taught that it is the job of a man to behave with respect. Not only to respect and protect their loved ones, but to protect society and especially the most vulnerable in it. And often, it is our role as men to protect them from ourselves.

Unless we build a society where being a man is not informed by the nonsense beat into boys by patriarchy, but by a fundamental understanding that it is their role to behave with respect, we will continue to raise boys that are filled with anger and resentment. And those boys will one day become someone’s husband or father or partner, and they will set an example for a next generation of small boys with big eyes wanting to be just like daddy.

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Ironically, the primary role of the state is also to protect. And its citizens are watching, like our children are, at how the leaders in society, at how our government treat the most vulnerable.

Madam Speaker, the chain of abuse must stop with us, as men and as leaders. I thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): Hon Speaker, we are meeting today debating about the society's response to gender-based violence and femicide. And we are doing so in the shadow of profound tragedy while the pains of victims and survivors remind us that GBVF is not merely a societal issue ... it's not a social issue but a national crisis demanding urgent action.

The recent discovery of 11 bodies in Ekurhuleni is not merely a statistic, serves as a harrowing reminder of our shared duty to protect our most vulnerable, our women and children.

Hon Speaker, it was painful for some of us who work directly with the GBV in the SA Police Service to be called and see women lying down there.

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I think most of us as policewomen in SAPS we were not sleeping after hearing that a body after body was discovered, because we are women, we might also befell by the same issue.

But this strategy underscores the urgency of our conversation and the critical role of governance in shaping society's response to gender-based violence and femicide.

SAPS is entrusted with an enormous responsibility to protect members of the public, uphold the law and safeguard the rights and dignity of women and children.

The recent arrest of the Lieutenant-General on disturbing allegations of rape of an 18-year-old and sexual grooming of a teenager, has intensified the GBVF debate, highlighting that accountability within the country's law enforcement structures must apply to everyone, regardless of the position in society, including in this Parliament.

The SAPS has responded by emphasising its commitment to a zero-tolerance approach regarding GBVF, no matter who you are or position you are holding.

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When we speak about women's representation in government, we are, therefore, not speaking about symbolic replacement or numbers alone. We are speaking about ensuring that the voice of women living in fear is heard in the institutions where police budgets are determined, which is Parliament, investigative priorities are set, policies are developed and accountability is demanded.

The agenda of women's advancement has always been central to our democratic project. No society can claim to be truly democratic while women continue to experience discrimination, violence and inequality.

Madam Speaker, I have attended most of the funerals of these women who have suffered under GBVF, and I can tell you, we shed tears, and looking at the families, it is not the correct thing to do, and it needs all of us. This is not the time to even start pointing fingers at each other.

Women's participation in government is, therefore, both an achievement and a responsibility. The question is not: How many women occupy positions in Parliament, Cabinet, government institutions, law enforcement agencies and other structures of authority? The deeper question is: Whether their participation

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changes policies, influences budget, strengthens institutions and improves the lives of women and children? This is what we mean by substantive representation.

Women-lived experiences can help shape more responsive approaches to GBVF, including safer communities, accessible services and meaningful justice.

But let us be clear, ending GBVF is not the responsibility of women alone, it requires action by the state, political leaders, communities, men and society as a whole.

It is against this understanding of substantive representation that we must examine how priorities relating to women and children are translated into the functioning of our law enforcement institutions. There has been progress in strengthening the SA Police Service’s response to GBVF.

The action plan supports the National Strategic Plan on GBVF by coordinating, monitoring and strengthening the police response. Its implementation is overseen by the SAPS GBVF Steering Committee.

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The establishment of 2 409 designated victim-friendly rooms and the deployment of specialised Family Violence, Children Protection and Sexual Offences members are important measures to ensure that survivors are treated with dignity, rather than being retraumatised by the system. These services, together with the critical work of Thuthuzela Care Centres, are essential to building confidence in the criminal justice system.

A victim who is treated with dignity, privacy and compassion is more likely to trust the system. We must, therefore, continue to monitor whether these facilities are fully operational, adequately equipped and properly staffed, particularly in rural and under-resourced communities.

The SAPS has 2 549 specialised Family Violence, Children Protection and Sexual Offenses members, supported by trained general detectives. And between January and July 2016, 1 185 officials received GBVF and Victim Services training.

However, training must be continuous and practical. It must ensure that the police understand the law, respond sensitively to trauma, preserve evidence, protect children and prevent secondary victimisation.

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The question is not only: How many officials are attending training? The question is: Whether victims are receiving better services as a result?

Our response must ultimately be measured by outcomes.

Between January and July 2026 SAPS served 19 883 protection orders within 24 hours at 593 police stations and reactivated 220 rape court cases, resulting in 127 identified offenders being arrested. These figures demonstrated that cases can be pursued even after significant periods of time.

Of the 11 murder and rape cases reported in Ekurhuleni, as the Minister has said, already four cases have been opened and unfortunately, one suspect committed suicide, which is a coward because he should have been there to answer for what he did to our sister.

Although this reflects progress, sustained investigations are needed to resolve all outstanding cases and bring perpetrators to justice.

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Due to diligent work between our detectives and prosecutors, a total of 317 life imprisonment sentences were handed down to 246 accused persons.

Oversight must fact each case from reporting and investigation, through to prosecution and conviction. Victims and survivors deserve justice and the assurance that the state would not abandon them.

The KwaZulu-Natal Forensic Science Laboratory at Mayville commenced operation in February 2026 and has continued to support the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA.

During the first quarter, 7 185 GBVF-related DNA analysis reports were finalised and submitted to the NPA, with a further 815 reports submitted by the end of July 2026.

This demonstrates the critical role of forensic services in supporting investigations and prosecutions.

We, therefore, need continuous investment in forensic laboratories, specialised personnel, technology and effective case management system.

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There is also where substantive representation matters. Governance must ensure that the systems supporting justice are adequately resourced, responsive to communities and subject to effective oversight by Parliament.

While these figures demonstrate progress, we must never lose sight of the lived experience of ordinary women and girls.

When a woman walks in a police station, we must ask: Is she treated with dignity? Is she believed? Is her complaint properly recorded? Does she receive information about her rights and the protection available to her? Is her case investigated professionally? And ultimately, does the criminal justice system hold the perpetrators accountable? These questions must remain at the centre of our work.

GBVF success must not be measured by meetings, facilities or reports alone, it must be measured by whether ... [Time expired.] ... thank you, hon House Chair.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Ms P Mkhize): House Chair, am I audible now?

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): You are audible. You may proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Ms P Mkhize): Okay. Thank you, House Chair. [Interjections.]

Mr S L DITHEBE: Hon Chair, on a point of order: My apologies. Hon Mbiko has a background with her party logo. Is that acceptable?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Mkhize, ... [Interjections.] ...

Mr M MANYI: Where do you see that?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members! Order! Hon Mkhize, may you proceed? I will intervene as the need arises. Please proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Ms P Mkhize): Hon House Chairperson, hon members and the people of South Africa, 11 women, 11 daughters, 11 mothers, and 11 sisters found dead in Ekurhuleni in 10 weeks. Some stripped naked. [Interjections.] Some sexually assaulted ... [Interjections.] ...

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Mkhize, my apologies. There is another intervention. Hon Kwankwa, what is your intervention?

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Chairperson, on a point of order: Sorry to disturb you. It is actually hon Fezeka Mbiko, who has the party logo behind her, and ... [Interjections.] ...

Mr S L DITHEBE: I said so, Chair! [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No. Hon members, may I request that the hon members on the platform remove their party logos behind them so that the speaker who's on the podium, who doesn't have a party logo, may proceed. Please proceed, hon Mkhize.

Mr M MANYI: Hon Chair!

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

Mr M MANYI: Chair, on a point of order: Now that our member has been so disrupted by things totally unrelated to her, I request that we give her the full allocation.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): The hon Mkhize?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Ms P Mkhize): House Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): You may start afresh.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Ms P Mkhize): ... one appears to have been stoned to death. One appears to have been strangled. And yesterday morning at 5 o'clock, a 12th woman, only 23 years of age, was shot dead in Tembisa on her way to work. Let us say their names where we know them. Busisiwe Mahlangu, Itumeleng Kekana, Nomfesane Mjobo, Gracious Nkomo, Elizabeth “Tsontso” Moselakgomo, Dineo Motapane, Jabulile Ntimba, and other women whose identities were initially unknown. These are not statistics. They were women with names, families and dreams. For some, their children and families are still asking why they never came back home. Between 15 July 2026 and 17 September 2026, nine women’s bodies were discovered across Ekurhuleni, and suddenly the country was shocked.

Meetings were convened, task teams activated, and Ministers issued statements. Elizabeth “Tsontso” Moselakgomo, a 30-year-old runner, went out on a lonely route and never came home. It

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was her eight-year-old daughter who reported her missing. An eight-year-old child did what the state failed to do. She raised the alarm. We participate in this debate in grief, but not in silence, and not in surprise. We are not surprised because this Parliament has held this debate before. After Anene Booysen, after Uyinene Mrwetyana, after Kirsten Kluyts, and after Olerato Mongale, each time a Minister promises and each time the killing continues. Each time Parliament makes promises, noises and fails to hold the executive accountable. What exactly is new here? Gender-based violence, GBV, is not new. Femicide is not new. Rape is not new. Women being murdered by people they know is not new. What has become predictable is that government urgency follows public outrage instead of preventing the tragedy that creates it. A tragedy must trend. Social media must first explode, cameras must arrive, and civil society must march. Only then does the state rediscover its constitutional duty to protect life. That is not leadership. It is crisis management after the blood has been spilt.

On 1 August 2018, women and gender nonconforming South Africans marched in the total shutdown protest against GBV. The Presidential Summit followed. Then came a declaration, committees, strategies, and the 2019 Emergency Response Action

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Plan, backed by approximately R1,6 billion. Then came the National Strategic Plan on GBVF, new legislation, specialised courts, Thuthuzela Care Centres, and promises of victim-friendly policy.

In November 2025, GBVF was formally classified as a national disaster. Yet here we are again. The question is no longer what the government is doing. The question is what happened to everything that the government already promised? South Africa does not lack strategies. We lack implementation, urgency and consequences. The National Strategic Plan speaks of accountability, prevention, justice, survivor support, economic empowerment and research. That is excellent on paper, but a woman fleeing abuse cannot hide inside a strategic plan. A protection order must only matter when it is enforced. A GBV case matters only when a trained officer believes the survivor and acts. A Thuthuzela Care Centre matters only when women can reach it.

The 2026 estimates of national expenditure provide R15 million over the medium term for additional sexual offences, R12 million for about 150 district court upgrades, and an estimated R58,5 million for new Thuthuzela Care Centres. An abuser does not wait for the Medium-Term Expenditure

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Framework, MTEF, and a murderer does not wait for the Treasury’s approval.

Between January and March 2026, the SAPS recorded 9 782 reported rapes, roughly 108 every day, and 12 590 sexual offences. Between April and June, the government reported 50 511 GBVF cases registered with the SAPS. Then, when August arrives, we celebrate Women's Month. We quote the women of 1956. We sing, ...

IsiZulu:

... Wathint’abafazi, wathint’imbokodo.

English:

We hold breakfasts and issue posters. But what kind of country celebrates women's strength while requiring women to be strong enough to survive the state's failure to protect them? Women do not need one month telling them how powerful they are. They need 12 months in which government proves that it is serious about keeping them alive.

The government previously said approximately R21 billion over the medium term was dedicated across the government to implementing the National Strategic Plan. For the year 2026-

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27, budget documentation records R43 million for operationalising the National Council on GBVF, with approximately R136 million over the MTEF.

So, Parliament must stop asking only how much we allocated. We must ask how much reached the survivors. How many detectives were added? How many shelters are adequately funded? And are protection orders enforced? How many forensic backlogs were reduced? How many repeat perpetrators were stopped? How many cases disappeared between reporting, investigation, prosecution, and conviction? A billion rand announced is not the same as a billion rand producing safety. The MKP has placed economic power, institutional accountability and well-resourced specialised gender crime capacity at police stations within its stated policy approach. Those commitments, like every commitment made in this House, must be measured against results. We must not debate GBVF only because Ekurhuleni is in the headlines, or because it's Women's Month, or because there is a shutdown, or because an election is approaching. After the hashtags disappear, women still have to walk home.

After this debate, another woman might still be deciding whether tonight is the right night to flee her own home. She does not care which political party receives applause in this

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Chamber. She wants to live. In May 2025, President Ramaphosa and the South African delegation travelled to Washington, where allegations of a so-called white genocide were raised. The President rejected those allegations. South Africa should defend its name abroad, but surely the same determination must be visible every single day in defending South Africans at home, including women whose labour and taxes contribute to the very fiscus that funds the state. Their lives must matter before their deaths become the headlines.

The hon Michalakis brought this debate, and we welcome it. But let us be honest with the people watching. The DA will stand here today and say the police have failed. On that, they are correct, but the DA sits in the Cabinet of the so-called Government of National Unity, GNU. The DA voted for these budgets. The DA has its hand on the steering wheel of the very state it now condemns. You cannot sit in the driver's seat and complain about the direction of the car. The DA's hands, together with the ANC dripping blood. South Africa has had the summits, the declaration, the legislation, the plans, and the billions. Now South Africa needs implementation, accountability, and consequences. Not after the next body is found, and not after the next hashtag, but now.

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Busisiwe Mahlangu, Itumeleng Kekana, Nomfesane Mjobo, Gracious Nkomo, Elizabeth Moselakgomo, Dineo Motapane, and Jabulile Ntimba. Let their names remain in the records of this Parliament and let the record show what the state did after their names were spoken. The true measure of the Republic will not be how passionately we mourn women after they are murdered; it would be whether we finally build a state that is capable of keeping them alive. I thank you.

Ms P R MAILOLA: House Chair, on behalf of the EFF, I stand to extend our deepest condolences to the families of Busisiwe Mahlangu, Itumeleng Kekana, Nomfesane Mjobo, Gracious Nkomo, Elizabeth 'Tsontso' Moselakgomo, Vutomi Mathebula, Dineo Evelyn Motapane and Jabulile Ntimba, whose bodies were found strewn in Ekurhuleni, their lives violently taken from them in the most heinous of manners. We also remember the woman whose identity remains unknown. She too was a daughter to someone, a sister, and maybe a mother.

South Africa is a very violent place. Just between April and June this year over 5,400 people were murders in this country and there were over 11,500 reported cases of sexual assault. Women, young and old, are no longer safe to walk in South Africa's streets. They are not safe in their own homes, they

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are not safe in places of worship, and they are not safe at work. It should therefore not surprise anyone that the rate of femicide in South Africa is about 12,2 for every 100,000 women, which is about 12 times the global average.

The unabated butchering of women in Ekurhuleni must therefore be located within a broader national problem of the killings of women in South Africa and the inability of the state to protect women from this violence. Right after the merciless murder of a young University of Cape Town student, Uyinene Mrwetyana, at the G20 Summit in Johannesburg in November 2025, President Ramaphosa declared gender-based violence and femicide as a national crisis.

House Chairperson, we are women and we live in this country. We have known for years that the sadistic violence perpetrated against women is a national crisis. What we have not seen forthcoming from government is action. What happens after this declaration? Do these declarations make women any safer in this country? Are these declarations followed by an increase in budget allocations meant for police visibility in Lusikisiki, where rapes are deeply embedded? In Nyanga and Delft, where women face daily assault from their intimate

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partners? In Inanda, where young men and women are socialised into violence?

In the Ekurhuleni case specifically, why was the South African Police Service, SAPS, was seemingly silent when women were being killed in the same area until there was media attention? Who was monitoring these cases? Who identified the possible pattern? And who must account for the apparent failure to act with urgency? A government that waits for public outrage before acting to protect women has failed in its most basic constitutional responsibility.

We must also vehemently reject the continued culture of victim blaming in this country. Women are told not to walk alone, not to run at night, to avoid certain streets, and to constantly watch their surroundings. Why must women live like prisoners in their own country? Why must a woman surrender her freedom because the state cannot guarantee her safety? The EFF refuse to accept a society where women must calculate the risk of simply going home, going to work, or going for a run. Women are not responsible for the violence committed against them. The perpetrators are responsible and the state must be held accountable where it fails to protect them.

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The President cannot declare gender-based violence a national crisis and then expect South Africans to be satisfied with speeches, condolences, and emergency meetings. Where is the funding? Where are the measurable interventions? Where is the accountability for police officers and officials who fail to respond to missing persons reports?

The EFF demands a comprehensive investigation into all the killings, including every previous missing person's report and the conduct of police in responding to them. We demand properly resourced investigations, urgent safety interventions in affected communities, and a public reporting on the progress of these cases.

We further demand that the government provide meaningful support to the families of the victims, who should not have to fight the state for answers while mourning their loved ones. We demand accountability from President Ramaphosa. We demand answers from the SAPS. We demand justice for Busisiwe, Itumeleng, Nomfesane, Gracious, Tsontso, Vutomi, Dineo, Jabulile, and the unidentified victims. Their lives mattered. Their deaths must not be in vain. Thank you very much, House Chair.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon member. My apologies to the ho Schickerling, she was supposed to be the next speaker. Hon Schickerling, you may now continue.

Ms L SCHICKERLING: House Chair and hon members, a mother recently told me that her 24-year-old daughter said: "I don't know what it feels like to be safe in my own home". Think about that — 24 years old and she's never known what it feels like to leave home without calculating the danger around her. She told her mother that she would never call the police if she were in danger because she is most likely afraid that they will not help her.

We have debated violence against women for years, we've passed laws, we have established councils and task teams and yet 12 women's bodies have been discovered in Ekurhuleni since July. Twelve families have been changed forever.

Government has responded with investigations and increased police visibility. However, we must be honest, a response only after a woman has been killed is not prevention. An arrest after the fact cannot return a life. As the institution that is supposed to prevent, protect and investigate, the South African Police Service is failing women at every stage.

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When we speak of the South African Police Service, it is easy to see only a failing institution, but I want to submit to this House that SAPS is not the root cause of the problem; it is a symptom and a victim of the same disease that is killing our woman — the ANC's systemic hollowing out of the state.

Let us be clear, understanding the cause does not excuse the consequences. Firstly, SAPS fails at the point of reporting. When a woman walks into a police station to report threats of domestic violence, she is too often met with indifference. Officers dismiss her, they tell her to come back later, they refuse to open a case, and when reports are taken seriously, SAPS does not even distinguish gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, cases from the rest. We are simply not given the data on this, our longest standing and most violent pandemic, even though we have been asking for months and for years.

Secondly, SAPS fails to enforce protection orders. A piece of paper does not stop a perpetrator, only police action does. When police fail to act, they enable violence. Thirdly, SAPS fails its specialised Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences, FCS, units. They are understaffed, under-resourced and overwhelmed. They need functioning rape kits,

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victim-friendly facilities, and forensic evidence processed within reasonable time, not endless DNA backlogs.

I want SAPS to tell this House exactly where the gaps are. How many FCS posts are vacant? How many detectives are carrying excessive caseloads? How many vehicles are operational? Where are the shortages in equipment and rape kits? How long are forensic results taking? And what is being done to address these gaps?

The South African Police Service fails to investigate properly, detectives are overburdened and overworked, cases disappear, dockets go missing, leads are not followed up, witnesses are not interviewed, and families are left with nothing more than extra questions. A mother loses a daughter; a child loses a mother. Those families have the right to justice, they have a right to know what happened to their loved one, they have a right to expect a proper investigation, and they have the right to know that their loved one’s case will not simply vanish when the headlines do.

Fifth, SAPS fails to hold its own members accountable. When police officers themselves commit violence against women, and sadly some do, the response is too often silence, cover-ups or

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a slap on the wrist. That is not a few bad apples; that is a culture of tolerance of abuse, and it tells every woman in the country that even the enforcers of law are not safe.

The question is not only what is SAPS doing now, the question is what should SAPS have done before this? If a woman repeatedly reports threats and nobody acts, that is a SAPS failure. If a protection order is breached and nothing happens, that is a SAPS failure. If a victim cannot access a properly resourced FCS unit, that is a SAPS failure. If evidence is lost or delayed because the system lacks capacity, that is a SAPS failure. If families spend years fighting, simply to get basic answers, that is a SAPS failure.

However, we must also ask, who created the conditions for these failures? Who hollowed out the FCS units? Who allowed corruption to rot the SAPS leadership? Who appointed cadres instead of professionals? The answer is simple, 32 years of ANC police Ministers and presidents.

We must stop measuring success by the number of strategies produced. We must measure whether women are actually safer, whether the complaints are acted upon, whether protection

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orders are enforced, whether FCS units are resourced and whether families eventually receive justice.

We must rebuild SAPS from the top down, properly fund and capacitate FCS units, fill vacant posts and ensure forensic laboratories are fully operational. No more DNA backlogs, no more missing rape kits, no more red tape, and what accountability actually looks like. This is it and that is what is missing.

South African women do not need another warning telling them to be careful; they need to know that when they say, I am afraid, somebody will listen, and when they say, I am in danger, SAPS will pick up a phone and act. That is not asking for special treatment; that is asking for the rights guaranteed to every person in in our Constitution.

We owe the women who have been murdered more than our outrage; we owe them justice. We owe the women who are still alive more than our sympathy; we owe them the right to live without fear in our country. I thank you.

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: House Chairperson, we meet at a difficult yet defining moment in the life of our nation.

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Across South Africa, there's a growing sense that something has gone terribly wrong within our beloved nation. Our people are angry. Our people are anxious. Our people are tired. Our people are tired of feeling unsafe. They're tired of empty promises such as claims that we are winning the war against crime and gender-based violence.

I want to begin where the president of the IFP, Velenkosini Hlabisa, began at the IFP's recent manifesto launch. He conveyed condolences on behalf of the IFP to those families who have lost their loved ones in Ekurhuleni and the surrounding areas, but he reminded us that condolences are not enough, that sympathy cannot fill the empty chairs at dining room tables. Words cannot erase the trauma of children who have lost their mothers. Promises of action should not be allowed to disappear when the headlines fade.

It is sobering to think that we meet today in this debate, seven years after President Cyril Ramaphosa called a historic Joint Sitting of the National Assembly on 18 September 2019 to address our gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, crisis. Seven years later, we are still confronting the same national emergency, seven years later, families are still burying their

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loved ones, and, seven years later, women are still asking who will protect them.

Last Tuesday, the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities held an urgent engagement on our GBVF crisis. The briefing the committee received made one uncomfortable truth very clear: South Africa is not short of policies, legislation, and plans. In fact, we are drowning in plans. What we are dangerously short of is real resources, real action, real commitment, and real implementation. The National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide was intended to provide a common direction for all of government and all of society. It is comprehensive, and it identifies important priorities. However, a plan that cannot clearly show what has been implemented, where it's been implemented and by whom, at what cost and with what results, is not an effective strategy. In fact, it remains an aspiration. We cannot measure our success by the number of meetings held, workshops conducted, or awareness campaigns launched. We must measure our success by whether fewer women are being attacked, whether survivors are receiving help without delay, whether protection orders are being enforced, whether cases move through the justice system, and whether perpetrators — this is very important — are in fact convicted.

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Now, declaring gender-based violence and femicide a national disaster was a very important political acknowledgement of the scale of our crisis. However, a declaration without dedicated and ring-fenced funding by National Treasury risks making this declaration merely a symbolic gesture. A national emergency requires national resources. We need those resources to employ the thousands of social workers that have been trained by the state but are sitting at home, social workers that we require at our police stations, at our schools, at our hospitals, and elsewhere. We need those resources for technology, for the justice system, for trained police officers, for forensic capacity, for functioning SA Police Service vehicles, and also for prevention because prevention must receive the same urgency as intervention.

Let us remind ourselves that behind every statistic is a human being: a mother who will never come home, a child who will grow up without her mother, a family whose future has been changed forever. We owe it to them to ensure that their deaths are not reduced just to mere statistics, numbers, or just being mentioned in our speeches. Their lives must be the reason why we change.

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A darkness has fallen over our nation, and it will not be lifted by our words alone. It will be lifted when our streetlights work, when police respond on time, when survivors are supported, when perpetrators are convicted, and when we fund our national disaster.

Let this be the moment when Parliament refuses to accept another cycle of outrage, mourning, and inaction. Let this be the moment when we begin to restore the moral fabric of South Africa, not through slogans and speeches but through our action. I thank you, House Chair.

Ms T JEYI: Chair, on behalf of the PA, I rise as a South African woman, as a daughter, as a sister, as a mother, and as a woman who knows what it is to check over her shoulder when she walks to her car.

In the past two months, 12 women were murdered in Ekurhuleni: Nomfesane Mjobo, Busisiwe Mahlangu, and others whose names we may never know. However, Ekurhuleni is not an exception. It is a symptom. Between January and March this year, 9 782 rapes were recorded in this country, 108 every single day. Nearly half happened in the victim’s own home, by someone she knew. Between April and June, 569 women were murdered, six women a

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day. A woman is killed in South Africa every four hours. This is not a crisis. This is a war, and the state is losing it.

The President said he is ashamed of what men are doing to the women of South Africa. Yes, he is right to be ashamed, but words do not stop the bullets. Gender-based violence and femicide was declared a national disaster 10 months ago. The national council was supposed to be operational by April, and yet it is still not. The budget for it is R49 million, less than a single day of state funerals.

We must confront a difficult question. What does our democracy mean to a woman who lives in fear of being attacked, to a child who suffers abuse in silence, or to a family that lost loved ones due to gender-based violence? What does freedom mean when people cannot feel safe in their own homes, in their relationships, or in their communities? South Africa has a Constitution that guarantees equality, dignity, freedom, and security of the person, yet the existence of these constitutional rights is not enough. The true test of government is whether these rights are protected in the everyday lives of ordinary people.

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Gender-based violence is not simply a social problem. It is a matter of human rights, public safety, justice, and government accountability. What must be done? First, enable the national council now, not tomorrow, but now. Second, fund prevention, not just response. Third, make survivor support accessible in every community, not just urban centres. Fourth, strengthen the courts and deny bail where women are in danger. Lastly, change the culture.

This is not government’s job alone. It is every man’s job — every father, every uncle, every employee, every community that stays silent.

Afrikaans:
Ons is moeg daarvan om te hoor dat vroue versigtig moet wees. Dit is tyd dat mans aangesê word om op te hou.

Aan die vroue van Suid-Afrika: Ons sien julle. Ons hoor julle. Ons glo in julle. Ons sal saam met julle veg. Hoeveel vroue moet nog sterf voordat ons optree? Die PA ondersteun hierdie mosie. Salut. [Tyd verstreke.]

English:

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Mrs H DENNER: Chair, South Africa is a country at war with its women. This is a reality we can no longer ignore.

Afrikaans:

Die skokkende ontdekking van die liggame van 12 vroue in Ekurhuleni oor die afgelope twee maande is nie net ’n tragedie nie. Dis ’n nasionale skande. Van Kemptonpark tot Thembisa en oor die res van die land word ons moeders, dogters, en susters gejag en soos vullis in oop velde en begrafplase weggesmyt.

English:

How did we arrive at a point where a woman like Elizabeth Moselakgomo cannot even go for an afternoon run without paying with her life?

In 2019, following the brutal murder of Uyinene, President Cyril Ramaphosa stood before the nation and promised sweeping institutional reforms, harsher sentences, and an end to gender-based violence, yet, despite declaring GBVF a national disaster, the blood continues to flow. The statistics are horrifyingly stagnant.

According to recent data from the SA Human Rights Commission, 569 women were murdered between April and June alone, an

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average of six women slaughtered every single day. In total, the SA Police Service registered over 50 000 GBVF cases over the past financial year.

Afrikaans:

Waar is die vervulling van daardie beloftes?

English:

As the police investigates whether a serial killer is roaming Ekurhuleni, we must look deeper than the victim's gender. A serial killer thrives where the system allows them to thrive. This horror highlights a profound collapse in our state infrastructure. It exposes a critical lack of resources in public health care and mental health services and policing. We are failing to identify, treat, and rehabilitate individuals with violent psychological disorders before they turn our streets into hunting grounds.

Afrikaans:

Dit is 'n sistemiese en maatskaplike krisis wat aangevuur word deur swak regering. Ons polisiestelsel is lamgelê deur 'n tekort aan hulpbronne, onvoldoende opleiding, en vakante speurposte. Dit is skreiend dat die staat byvoorbeeld miljoene rande meer op beskerming van baie belangrike persone bestee as

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aan die eenhede wat gesinsgeweld en kindermishandeling moet bekamp.

English:

Our streets are dark because of failed municipal governance. Our informal settlements are unmonitored, and our DNA-testing backlogs delay justice for years. The deep social ills of poverty, substance abuse, and toxic social norms fuel this scourge.

Afrikaans:

Dit word egter vererger deur ’n kultuur van straffeloosheid. Dié wat genoeg haat om te moor, doen dit omdat hulle weet die kans dat hulle gevang en skuldig bevind sal word, is skraal. Ons kan nie voortgaan om vir vroue te sê om waaksaam te wees nie.

English:

South African women are already hypervigilant.

Afrikaans:

Ons leef in ’n opeluggevangenis.

English:

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We need urgent and immediate intervention. We've needed it for years. So, tonight when the President addresses the nation, we don't want to hear about more interministerial committees, task teams, and empty rhetoric. We want to hear and, more specifically, see tangible solutions.

Afrikaans:

Hulpbronne moet op grondvlak by polisiestasies uitkom en behoorlik bestuur word.

English:

We need visible policing, functional streetlights, and adequately funded forensic laboratories. Adequate services like mental health care must also be prioritised and decentralised into our communities to address the root of psychological causes of violence, where it is present.

Since 2019, this House has held 21 major debates focusing on gender-based violence and femicide. We've stood here 21 times bemoaning this crisis.

Afrikaans:

Vandag is die 22ste keer wat ons hierdie krisis debatteer. Wanneer gaan hierdie gety draai?

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English:

Government must step up, govern effectively, and resource the fight against femicide as a true national emergency.

Afrikaans:

Ons weier om verder in vrees te lewe.

English:

Let us protect our women, fix our broken systems, and clean up the governance failures that allow perpetrators to kill with impunity. Thank you, House Chair.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: House Chair, if women are not safe at home, they cannot be safe anywhere, and that is fundamentally what we have to look at. People will tell us. We do not care about what you say; what matters is what you do. And instead of blaming other structures, as Parliament, we should take responsibility that we have not done enough, except lip service and creating structures that we do not fund regarding the fighting of gender-based violence. The genesis of GBV is gender inequality.

Our Constitution has created a Chapter 9 institution called the Commission for Gender Equality. What characterizes it is

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gross underfunding. Instead of Parliament funding it, we create other structures.

We now have the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. Are we going to fund it properly when we cannot fund a constitutionally mandated structure that would deal with the issues that would prevent gender-based violence and embedded inequality in our societal norms? You can sit out there, and your father might do a good job with you; but if we do not change the structures of society where women are disrespected in the home because of our traditions, in religious institutions because of their norms, in our cultures because of patriarchy, in our schools and workplaces, we now ask women to be careful. They cannot even go out and walk.

Gender-based violence, GBV, has been declared a national disaster. But what is characteristic of that national disaster? No committed resources. Reprioritise within your budget, within your underfunding. The police are woefully funded. We must deal with an issue where we have a Deputy Minister in the Presidency who has spent over R2 million on car hire in 11 months, while we have police stations that have no cars and do not have sufficient officers. Even on the reactive side, there is no funding, and we do nothing. And I

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mean nothing on the prevention side. Unless we fund the Commission for Gender Equality fully and properly as Parliament, we should be ashamed of the role we play regarding the prevention of gender-based violence. Let us stop looking at other institutions that fail the women of this country and look at ourselves as Parliament.

And I speak as a survivor of GBV. When all these things occur, it takes me back to when I lost my daughter. I see the family suffer, and I say: Parliament, stop talking, start funding. Go back to the basics. Fund the constitutional structure properly and give it the responsibility and dignity to do what it is mandated to do. Thank you, Chair.

Rev K R J MESHOE: House Chairperson, on Monday police reported a grim discovery - yet another body of a murdered woman in Ekurhuleni. That brought the number of female victims recently found in that area to 11. And yesterday, I received a call from my brother in Rustenburg, who said, on Saturday they found a 17-year-old girl naked, stabbed to death; and unfortunately, that incident was not reported.

Despite that, I wish on behalf of the ACDP, to convey our sincere condolences to the grieving families that have lost

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either a daughter, sister, wife, or mother. Government has a constitutional obligation to ensure that all South Africans live in safety and security in their country. It is always painful to hear a woman say, "I am scared; I am afraid; I am living in fear." This should not be the case. No one is born to live in fear.

A recent study revealed that between 2020 and 2021, three women were killed every single day by an intimate partner in South Africa. These tragedies reflect a society that has forgotten the biblical values of respect and consideration for others. But it is not only women who suffer. Since January 2026, at least 196 people have been gunned down in mass shootings across our nation. Something more drastic and decisive must be done.

The ACDP calls upon this House to amend our Constitution with a view to reintroducing capital punishment. The scourge of GBV, femicide, rape, and mass shootings will never be ended until rapists and murderers are given the most severe punishment that will stop repeat offenders in their tracks.

Contrary to most global studies, a 2016 study in Japan claimed that one execution for murder deters two homicides. Beyond

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deterrence, taxpayers should not be burdened with the cost of housing vicious murderers in prison. Of course, we recognise that police resources and capacity are inadequate. That is why it is urgent that police resources be increased. Yet the ACDP believes the deeper root lies in a moral and anger issue. Violent pornography, for example, is strongly linked to diminished respect for women... [Time expired.]

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: House Chair, we must start by sending our condolences to the families of the bereaved in Ekurhuleni who have died because of the femicide that we are confronting in our country. We must also send our condolences to the family of Refilwe Matjila, a young lady who was brutally murdered in Rustenburg less than two weeks ago.

We must also agree that of all the debates which we have had in this House, the one that we are having today is not one through which we must score political points that are very cheap and try to point fingers at the expense of the young women that are dying. This is because gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, remain amongst the most serious social, human rights, governance, and criminal justice challenges confronting South Africa. It is a devastating scourge which affects women, children, and other vulnerable members of

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society across social and economic groups and has consequences that extend beyond individual victims to families, communities, and the broader development of the country.

Although South Africa has established legislative policies and institutional mechanisms to combat GBVF and went further to declare it a national disaster, the persistent violence against women demonstrates that the existence of policies and legislation alone is insufficient if we are to fully address this pandemic. It is for this reason that we must be deliberate in our drive to enforce effective implementation of policy, co-ordination of efforts from all sectors of society, accountability, and community participation as we pursue this mammoth task.

The South African Constitution provides a strong foundation for addressing GBVF through its commitment to human dignity, equality, freedom, and security of persons. Section 195 further establishes principles for public administration, which include accountability, transparency, responsiveness, effectiveness, and efficient use of resources. These constitutional principles require the state to ensure that policies designed to protect citizens are translated into effective services and interventions.

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The National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, 2020-30, provides a national framework for addressing the structural and social factors contributing to gender-based violence and femicide, while strengthening prevention, justice, protection, and support for survivors. The establishment of the National Council of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide provides an additional mechanism for co-ordinating and implementing this national response. However, effective GBVF prevention requires co-operation across all spheres of government: gender-responsive budgeting, responsive local government, effective parliamentary oversight, professional policing, and criminal justice response, as well as the involvement of families and the communities. It will therefore be difficult for anyone to challenge the assertion that South Africa’s response to GBVF must move beyond policy formulation towards co-ordinated implementation, measurable accountability, and social transformation. Attention must be given to the co-ordinating role of the National Council of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. Co-operative governance and gender-responsive budgeting, GBVF-responsive local government, parliamentary oversight, prevention and effective policy, but more importantly, the role, as I mentioned, of families as well as moral regeneration.

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The establishment of the National Council of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide represents an important development in South Africa's institutional response to gender-based violence. The council provides a mechanism through which government and other stakeholders can co-ordinate their efforts towards reducing and ultimately eliminating gender-based violence. This is particularly important because gender-based violence and femicide are complex problems that cannot be addressed effectively by a single department or institution. A survivor of gender-based violence may interact with several parts of the state, for example, the SA Police Service, SAPS, may be responsible for receiving and investigating criminal complaints, whilst the Department of Health may provide medical treatment, and the Department of Social Development may provide psychosocial support or shelter services. The justice system is responsible for prosecution and adjudication.

While municipalities can contribute through community safety initiatives and local infrastructure, without effective co-ordination between these institutions, survivors may experience fragmented services and may be required to navigate multiple systems while already experiencing trauma. The National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide

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therefore has an important co-ordinating role in ensuring that government departments and other stakeholders work towards common objectives. Co-ordination should include the development of clear implementation priorities, progress monitoring, information sharing, and accountability for outcomes. The council should also ensure that the national strategic plan is translated into practical programmes at national, provincial, and local levels. Their co-ordination responsibilities should not only be limited to government institutions. Civil society organizations, which include survivor groups, traditional leaders, faith-based organizations, researchers, community organizations, and other stakeholders, possess important knowledge about the causes and consequences of GBV. Their participation can strengthen the design and implementation of interventions. The effectiveness of the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide should ultimately be assessed according to co-ordination results in improved services and reduced vulnerability to violence. The council should therefore promote measurable indicators that allow government to determine whether interventions are achieving their intended outcomes. Effective implementation of GBVF policies requires the application of the constitutional principles of harmonized co-operative governance.

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Chapter 3 of the Constitution establishes national, provincial, and local government as distinctive, interdependent, and interrelated spheres that must co-operate with one another and co-ordinate their actions. GBVF demonstrates why this approach is necessary. The national government may develop policies and allocate resources, but provincial departments and municipalities are often responsible for delivering services directly to communities. Effective GBVF prevention therefore requires alignment between national priorities, provincial implementation plans, and municipal programmes.

One important instrument for strengthening this alignment is gender-responsive budgeting. Gender-responsive budgeting involves analyzing the different impacts of public expenditure on women, men, girls, and boys, and ensuring that government resources respond to gender inequalities and vulnerabilities. It does not necessarily mean creating a separate budget for women. Instead, it requires gender considerations to be incorporated into the mainstream budget planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation processes of government. In the context of GBVF, gender responsive budgeting requires government to ask whether sufficient resources are being directed towards prevention, survivor

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support, policing, health care, shelter, social services, and community interventions.

We are heading towards the local government elections. The ANC understands that local government has an important role in preventing gender-based violence because municipalities are the closest to the communities. The Constitution assigns local government the responsibility that includes promoting the social and economic development of communities and sustainably providing services ... [Time expired.]

Ms C T NONTENJA: Hon House Chair, the UDM expresses serious concern about the killings of women in Ekurhuleni, emphasizing that gender-based violence and femicide are a national crisis, not merely statistics. The party calls for more than condemnation, urging effective prevention, policing, justice, community interventions, and accountability across all levels of government. Every woman should be able to leave for work, travel, and return home safely without fear of violence.

A major weakness in South Africa’s justice system is the ongoing backlog in DNA testing. Delays in processing forensic evidence can hinder investigations, postpone justice, and make it more difficult to identify and prosecute perpetrators,

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particularly in cases involving rape and murder. The failure of the forensic system highlights the need to strengthen community-based crime prevention.

Community police forums, CPFs, can help bridge the gap between the SAPS and the communities by identifying crime hotspots, sharing information, encouraging reporting, and supporting prevention efforts. Providing CPFs with stipends, training, and adequate resources would enable them to play a more active role in identifying warning signs and preventing violence. The killings of women in Ekurhuleni should prompt government to reconsider whether CPFs are receiving sufficient support to fulfill their intended role.

The UDM calls for stronger SAPS investigative capacity, including appropriate bail measures for perpetrators of violence against women. The UDM also supports greater co-operation between the SAPS, CPFs, Justice, and Correctional Services ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, hon Nontenja, may I just interrupt you. Hon Lucas, will you switch off your microphone, please? This is interfering with the

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speaker who is on the platform. You may continue, hon Nontenja.

Ms C T NONTENJA: ... As a nation, we must respond to GBV by reporting abuse, supporting victims, demanding accountability and refusing to normalize gender-based violence. Thank you.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu, ...

English:

... let me first convey our sincere condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of the women that have been murdered in the last period, including those that have been murdered and discovered in Ekurhuleni. There are no words that could adequately capture the hurt, the fear and the anger felt by South African women at this time.

Just this past week, the bodies of three more women were discovered in Ekurhuleni. This brings the total of up to 12 women who have been violently killed in just the last two months. This figure is of those that were discovered, their bodies found in the bush or near the railway lines. This is

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not the total number of the women that have been murdered in Ekurhuleni.

If we are to take into account the women that have been murdered, the number will be higher. The investigation has reached international headlines, shocking the entire world, but it is not surprising for the women in our country. Every life lost is horrifying. Yet, this is just a drop in the bucket of more than 4 000 women that are murdered every year. The women of South Africa are not safe and they have not been for a long, long time.

They are not safe at work, at school, going to a post office or going for a ride. They are not even safe at home. The last few weeks have been a sombre reminder of the care with which every woman has to approach daily life in this country. Every one of us knows a woman who has been sexually assaulted. These are stories that they share in whispers with one another, because we do not admit that we also know men who have sexually assaulted a woman.

We need a societal reset, one where we start by admitting the problem. We live in a very violent patriarchal society that have normalised the abuse towards women and children. This

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reset will take time, but we must start now. We cannot let another generation of boys grow up thinking that such violence is normal and even celebrated. Before our nation can prosper, we must heal and before we heal, there must be justice.

Justice in the form of police who treat survivors and their families with care and dignity. Justice in the form of proper investigations that lead to convictions. Justice in the form of boys and men who call one another out for their unacceptable behaviour towards women before it escalated to violence.

Rise Mzansi stand by the women of this country. We call on the SA Police Service and the other law enforcement agencies to act with care and urgency in these cases, but also the thousands of unsolved cases that go under the rug. We call on the government to make the state of emergency count so that we can see a societal reset in this generation.

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: House Chair, about two weeks ago I hosted an engagement evening in Johannesburg. In attendance

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and in the audience were daughters of a friend who are teenagers. They had asked their parents to come to this engagement because they felt anxious and they felt scared after the killings that had been reported in Ekurhuleni. They felt that they had not been sleeping and they felt that they at least wanted to know what can they do, teenage girls.

It broke my heart. It broke my heart as a woman and it broke my heart as a mother, that we live in a society where not only do we not feel safe, not only are we scared and not only are we anxious, but where we have children, where we have young women whose thoughts, instead of school and making sure that they are focused on their studies, whose thoughts and sleepless nights are about the state of their safety in this country.

There’s a lot that we have to engage as this Parliament, but also there’s much that as the executive, we have to bring and constantly bring to the attention until it is done. The SA Police Service has a budget of more than R127 billion, but there’s roughly one officer for every 427 people and a shortage of almost 2 500 detectives.

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We do need visible policing and that's SAPS, but we also need metro police to actually be visible in the streets. We need effective investigations, we need successful prosecutions. From a societal perspective, I respectfully want to respond to the Deputy Minister of Social Development, Ganif Hendricks, in his answer responding to members' statements on the crisis, he referred to and spoke about mothers knowing where their daughters are. This puts a burden back on women who now must spend their lives policing their daughters or wondering whether the latest body found as their own. It must be women.

Interestingly, it wasn't about fathers or men in society, it was about women. I'd urge, Deputy Minister, that his responsibility must also be to help build society, a social development where men know not to rape or kill women. There's members here who've spoken about the names of the women we've lost, and that matters, and it's important because these are real people and not statistics.

Honouring them, though, also means ensuring that reports lead to convictions. It means that we name offenders so that they can be held accountable. Yes, we honour their names, but most importantly, we must at some point, be able to know who these

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perpetrators are and know their names. That's why we've pursued access to the National Register of Sex Offenders.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, your time has now expired.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Thank you.

Ms T L MARAWU: Hon House Chair, I rise on behalf of the ATM with anger and profound sadness. Our women are being murdered, our families are being destroyed, and this government continues to offer condolences instead of solutions. How many more women must die before this government declares enough is enough? The ANC Deputy Secretary General, DSG, calls the restoration of capital punishment barbaric.

We asked her: What is barbaric? What is barbaric is the inaction of a government while perpetrators roam freely, while women who report that remain unprotected and while suspects in in such cases sometimes obtain bail. The ANC must stop policing the language of the public and start addressing the violence that is killing our women. The ATM advanced the restoration of capital punishment for heinous crimes in our 2019 manifesto. We stand by the need for this debate.

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A person cannot take another person's life and then invoke the right to life. What about the life you have taken? Was that woman not worthy of living? Were her children not worthy of having their mother? We, therefore, call for a national referendum on the restoration of capital punishment for the most heinous crimes, subject to the constitutional and legislative processes and the strictest judicial safeguards.

Let me be unequivocal, if the Constitution as it currently stands does not adequately protect the lives of women, then let it be amended. The Constitution must never become a shield behind which murderers hide while innocent women are buried. We must have the courage to amend it through lawful democratic processes because the right to life of a woman who is murdered matters just as much as the right of the person who takes her life. Let the people decide.

However, we're not calling for mob justice. We are calling for justice through the law with the highest possible safeguards. Those safeguards must include; full bench hearing by appropriately constituted courts, independent evidence leaders to assist in scrutinising the evidence, mandatory appeals and comprehensive judicial review, including access to the Constitutional Court on constitutional questions, the highest

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evidential standard with no capital sentence based on unreliable or insufficient evidence, competent legal representation for every accused person, independent forensic investigations and mechanisms to review the evidence and prevent wrongful convictions.

Chair of Chairs, let us stop pretending that the rights of perpetrators are more important than the lives of their victims. The Constitution must protect everyone, but government must answer to its failure to protect women whose lives are being destroyed. A protection order that cannot protect a woman is nothing but a piece of paper.

A police station that ignores a cry for help is a betrayal of its constitutional duty and the justice system that fails to act on credible threats must account to its failures. We demand that the Minister of Police and Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development explain to this House, why women continue to report abuse and threats without receiving adequate protection. We demand answers, not another task team.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, your time has now expired. Thank you.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon House Chair, Aljam-ah is throwing its weight behind government programmes, ie, the Men Championing Change, MCC, programme which is under the auspices of the Deputy President. Just in this month, I led three programmes, the Men's Parliament, the Boy's Parliament and the MCC. All over South Africa men are championing change.

Our police force will continue to help women. It is a misconception that police are not helpful. Police go the extra mile to play their part to fight gender-based violence. There is no tolerance of abuse in SA Police Service, SAPS. When women phone SAPS, they react. SAPs are geared up to protect women. You cannot ask men to phone their daughters if they are the perpetrators, so they have no choice but to ask mothers to phone their daughters every day.

Since the President classified gender-based violence as a national state of disaster nearly a year ago, there is no tangible evidence to show something different has happened. President, classification, has not helped. You need to make a declaration so that funding can become available. The Minister of Finance must not see this as slush funds. He must see it as an attempt to address the gaps that we have.

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It has been scientifically proven that unacceptable levels of alcohol have been and continue to be the main cause of gender-based violence that takes place in households. In this regard, the government is in an advanced stage in imposing a ban on driving even with a drop of alcohol in the body. There must be a ban on the consumption of both wine and liquor when the consumption level contains more than 2,5% alcohol until there is no more killings to the rest of women. Let us punish the men so that they can feel it.

Lastly, the final Cabinet policy on alcohol adopted nine years ago must be implemented and the Minister of Police must have the resolve to do so. Those responsible for alcohol harm, the person who grows grapes, bottle the wine and sell it, must pay for the harm, starting with our supermarkets. This is the position of the national community concerned about alcohol harm and the effect on women. Aljam-ah extends its condolences and support to all women. Thank you very much, hon House Chair.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Hon House Chair ...

Sesotho:

...kgotso, Maafrika!

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English:

South Africa is bleeding from a crisis of violence that can no longer be met with condolences alone. Twenty-seven people were killed in two mass shootings over one weekend while 11 women's bodies have been discovered in Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality since July. Behind every statistic is a human life, a grieving family and a community demanding justice.

From the forensic investigation and criminal psychology perspective, this incident requires more than a political statement after the fact. Investigations must be evidence-led, examining victimology, geographic patterns, timelines, modus operandi, forensic evidence and intelligence to establish whether cases are connected. Importantly, there must be no premature conclusion that Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality cases involve a single perpetrator.

At the same time, the psychological impact on communities cannot be underestimated. Repeated exposure to extreme violence creates fear, trauma, and dangerously, a gradual normalisation of violence. These require a multidisciplinary response involving detectives, forensic investigators, crime intelligence, behavioural specialists, prosecutors and community structures. United African Transformation, UAT,

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therefore calls for a stronger intelligence-led policing, improved forensic capacity, effective firearm control measures, protection of witnesses and victims and investigation capable of converting evidence into a successful prosecution.

Parliament must not wait for another massacre before demanding action. Every crime scene contains evidence. Every victim represents a human life and a family devastated and every unresolved violent crime represents a potential failure of prevention and justice. The UAT therefore called for a SA Police Service which does not arrive after the bullet had been fired but possess the intelligence, forensic capability and institutional courage to identify threats and prevent violence before another family receives a knock on the door.

Xitsonga:

Khanimambo!

IsiXhosa:

Mnu. B B NODADA: Mandibhotise kuSihlalo weNdlu nakumaLungu ePalamente ahloniphekileyo.

English:

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I am here on behalf of our mothers, grandmothers, sisters and all the women and girls of South Africa. I am angry to have to speak about gender-based violence again. Proof that words alone will not solve these atrocities. Twelve bodies have been discovered in Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. Amongst them is Busisiwe Mahlangu, Itumeleng Kekana, Nomfesane Mjobo, Gracious Nkomo, Elizabeth Tsontso Moselakgomo, Dineo Motapane, Jabulile Ntimba, Ntombifuthi Nxumalo and Boitumelo Gift Mashita.

Twelve women brutally assaulted and murdered, 12 families torn apart and the worst part, these 12 women are not the only victims in our country. They are not the exception. They are the rule. That is what women in South Africa expect to happen when they leave their homes. Many women fear this fate inside their homes. Brutal assaults, rapes and murders, usually at the hands of the men who claim to love them. Their souls will not rest in peace until justice is served.

The South African Medical Research Council, SAMRC, study on GBVF found that intimate partner violence is the most common form of GBV. Male intimate partners are the most common perpetrators of femicide. An average of three women per day are killed by an intimate partner. It pains me to speak about

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women in statistics as if they are things to be counted. We can never accept this to be our norm.

Look around you colleagues, count the woman in the room. One hundred seventy-seven female National Assembly colleagues who face the same risk of GBVF as all other women in South Africa. One of the women that you know and work with could already be a victim or become a victim. Any of the women on this virtual platform, any of the women in your life, your mothers, sisters, nieces or cousins, the women assisting you in shops, teaching your children or healing your illnesses could become a horrific statistic. Let us take the 177 in this room today. Who will it be? Will you make a lovely speech at their grave and then move on? It cannot be.

Mr President and Acting Minister of Police, your words have just been platitudes. We must be proactive to prevent gender-based violence.

IsiXhosa:

Ye madoda, sabelani. Ye madoda nqandani. Sithi le ngozi. Mongameli nawe Mphathiswa, masingathethi njee, masenze ukuze sinqande obu bundlobongela bungekenzeki.

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English:

Mr President, SA Police Service has failed to disintegrate the number of women murdered since the fourth quarter of last year and this year, just after you declared that GBVF would be classified as a national disaster. So, while the efforts to fight this scourge should have intensified, it has been watered down. Until then, the disintegrated numbers were common in the crime stats but not anymore. What is being hidden? The classification of GBVF as a disaster was announced with great fanfare to appease the women in this country but you announced it and then did not fund it. After years of promises, the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide was finally established. Yet its first task is to replicate work done by organisations like the World Bank.

We need a body that will co-ordinate a solid response to GBVF, not another think tank. We were promised 1 155 GBVF desks at police stations across the country. Mr President and Acting Minister Cachalia, when was the last time you had the misfortune of visiting a SAPS station? On this blue moon, did you experience the same frustration of thousands of women whose local stations either do not have a GBVF desk or are so understaffed that they are unable to fulfil this empty promise of yours, as we have seen ourselves in KwaZakhele?

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As for the one-stop victim centres, their oversights have revealed that they are severely understaffed and lack rape kits. Municipalities under your watch are dramatically failing to create safe environments with no streetlights, no cutting down of bushes and tall grass. We need interventions now across the board. We need improved services at police stations by training staff, especially GBVF specific services. We need to expedite forensic and DNA evidence to ensure justice. Gender-based violence and femicide survivors need access to response services at Thuthuzela care centres, including healthcare, legal services, shelters and dignity kits.

We must develop interventions that focus on perpetrators that both respond to and prevents family and sexual violence. We need effective monitoring mechanisms for GBVF cases to ensure they are investigated, prosecuted and resolved.

I will now speak to the men in this House and all the men in our country. We do not have a GBVF problem. For the women in South Africa, we are the GBVF problem. The saying, "it is not all men" but it is always a man, springs to mind. No GBVF solution would be needed if we simply stop gender-based violence to begin with. We must insist on brother circles in every community to change the moral etiquette of the boy child

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and men in our society. We must act with vigour at any sniff of violence or abuse in our communities.

Let us take allegations against so-called top cop, Shadrack Sibiya. He was once seen as a hero in the GBVF fight but has been accused of heinous sexual crimes. These alleged crimes did not happen in isolation. I do not believe that his colleagues or friends suspected nothing. What environment allowed rape culture to flourish? A strip club was reportedly the honorary headquarters for SAPS. This is not a country that is serious about fighting GBVF when cops meant to protect communities allegedly enable a hyena culture against women.

What allows rape culture to flourish in boardrooms, universities, schools, streets and our homes? What are we doing to embolden the belief of entitlement to a woman’s body? What actions and words are we putting out to dehumanise women and girls? We need to break this culture. It is on us. It is on the men. Women have been crying out and fighting for decades. We must join their fight. Call out the men, the boys who sow seeds of disrespect and violence wherever we find them.

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I do it in my Brothers Circle Foundation. I challenge you, all of you, to do the same in your communities. Unless men openly stand up against GBVF, openly calls out misogyny and sexism, openly create safe environments for women and girls, openly care more about female bodies than their fear, women will continue to fight alone.

The next blood spilt will be on the hands of the quiet observers. There is no neutrality in this fight. You either care and act or you are as guilty as the killers slaughtering their way through Kempton Park, as the man beating his intimate partner to death, as the police officers who fail to open cases of investigation against gender-based violence, as each person who blames the victim.

Mr President, hire a permanent Minister of Police and a National Commissioner of Police, establish a Scorpions 2,0 and devolve policing powers so we can investigate and convict perpetrators at a local level before they are released to hunt more victims.

Hon Mkize of the MKP, it is sad that you are politicising such a painful experience of families who have lost their loved ones because you want to make a political statement. The DA

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has brought this debate because we have been putting solutions on the table for years now, and yet it has been falling on deaf ears and we must expose that.

Lastly ...

IsiXhosa:

... madoda, ziza kuqhawulwa ezi zinto zenu ukuba zinixakile. Asisayi kunqanda ke thina kuba siyayicaphukela le nto niyenzayo kubafazi boMzantsi Afrika. Manditshaye, Sihlalo weNdlu.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon House Chairperson, hon members, gender-based violence and femicide, GBV+F, are an assault on our constitutional democracy. The preamble to our Constitution affirms the dignity of every person. It commits us to build a society based on democratic values, social justice, and fundamental human rights, where every person is equally protected by law. It declares that we seek to improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person.

When a woman is murdered by her intimate partner, when a woman is raped, and the perpetrator walks free, and when a woman

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lives in fear in her own home, these promises are broken. GBVF is an assault against both women as well as the very idea of the South Africa that so many fought and died for.

We convey our condolences to the families who lost daughters, sisters, mothers, friends and colleagues to this terrible brutality. We thank the residents of Ekurhuleni and Soweto and elsewhere who have assisted the police with information.

My constituency office is in Mitchells Plain. Every day the people of the Cape Flats experience the impact of violent crime, gangsterism and gender-based violence and femicide.

We are indeed a society under siege from within. The recent mass shootings in Gauteng and the Western Cape, which claimed dozens of lives, are a stark reminder that we face a broader crisis of violent crime that disproportionately affects women and girls.

On 24 November 2025, gender-based violence and femicide were classified as a national disaster. This was not a symbolic gesture. It was a recognition that the scale, the brutality, and the geographic spread of GBVF is a problem for the entire state – national, provincial and local.

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This classification means the national executive now carries the primary responsibility for co-ordinating and managing the response. It means that all organs of state are called upon to strengthen their support for existing structures. It elevates GBVF to the highest level of national priority, and it gives us the tools to hold every department accountable for its contribution to ending this scourge.

Since the classification, government has strengthened co-ordination through the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure, Natjoints, and provincial structures, improved survivor support, expanded specialised court services, strengthened the service and monitoring of protection orders, and improved the way GBVF cases are tracked across SAPS, the NPA and the courts.

The SAPS has established a GBVF Information Centre at the SAPS Academy to track incidents. This is not about collecting data for its own sake. It should help us see where a case is stalled, whether a suspect has been arrested, whether a docket has reached the prosecutor, why a case has been postponed, and what support has been provided to the survivor.

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The joint co-operation between SAPS and the National Prosecuting Authority has been strengthened. This has resulted in improved case management, faster evidence processing, and a more co-ordinated approach to investigations. The establishment of a specialised multidisciplinary team to investigate the murders in Ekurhuleni is a direct result of this improved co-operation.

The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, the Domestic Violence Amendment Act, and the Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Act have all been operationalised. These laws have expanded the definition of domestic violence, tightened bail provisions for GBVF perpetrators, introduced additional sex crimes, and broadened the scope of the National Register for Sex Offenders.

Concretely, this means that a police officer may no longer release an accused person on bail if that person is charged with violating a domestic violence protection order. There is no police bail for persons accused of femicide, domestic homicide, or rape in a domestic relationship. Courts must consider the safety of the victim before granting bail, including any threats made by the accused.

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The definition of domestic violence now includes coercive behaviour, controlling behaviour, economic abuse, and the exposure of children to domestic violence.

The National Register for Sex Offenders now protects not just children and persons with mental disabilities, but also vulnerable persons such as women under 25 in tertiary institutions, older persons in care facilities, and persons with disabilities. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is working on legislative amendments to ensure greater public access to the National Register for Sex Offenders.

However, laws do not implement themselves. They must be implemented by the state working with the people.

In the first two quarters of this financial year, 99,6% of domestic violence protection orders served by clerks of the court were served within 24 hours of receipt. Forty domestic-violence courts were upgraded in 2025-26, and a further 44 district courts are being upgraded this year. Thirty-five compliant sexual offences courts had been established by the end of 2025-26, with more being developed. The NPA is at the frontline of our fight against GBVF.

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In the 2025-26 financial year, the NPA achieved an overall performance rate of 88% against its set targets – the highest to date. This demonstrates that despite the enormity of the challenge, the NPA is delivering results, including in the fight against GBVF.

The conviction rate in sexual offences matters was 74%, with 3 794 convictions secured from 5 141 cases finalised. This is significant progress, but we know it is not enough. We know we must do better.

The Thuthuzela Care Centres, TCCs, recorded a conviction rate of 79,2%. Of these, life imprisonment sentences increased by 23%, from 293 to 360. Long-term sentences increased by 9%, from 958 to 1 040. In total, 1 400 severe custodial outcomes were achieved for GBV perpetrators. These are not just numbers; these are perpetrators removed from society, and survivors who received justice. The Thuthuzela Care Centres assisted 46 301 victims. Two new Thuthuzela Care Centres were established in Rietvlei, KwaZulu-Natal, and Flagstaff, Eastern Cape, bringing justice closer to rural communities.

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The NPA has introduced compulsory GBV training for 800 prosecutors, from entry level. It has introduced compulsory vetting of all NPA officials against the National Sex Offender Register and the Child Protection Register. One hundred and ninety-four names have been submitted for vetting. The NPA has prioritised the investigation and prosecution of serial rapists through the Serial Rapists Prioritisation Initiative. It has prioritised the prosecution of child pregnancy cases caused by criminal conduct. Through the DNA initiative, 5 155 DNA reports were received, leading to an overall reduction in withdrawals. The NPA has secured education bursaries for victims of GBVF, to the value of R45 000 per victim, through public-private partnerships.

However, we must be honest and not claim easy victories. A conviction rate of 74% in sexual offences means that more than one in four cases do not result in conviction. Equally concerning is the fact that 1 658 sexual offence charges were withdrawn in the first quarter of 2026-27, and 563 sexual offence cases had been in the system for 24 months or longer.

There are challenges of implementation, of resourcing, and of accountability across the criminal justice system. And they

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are exactly what the national disaster classification is designed to address.

On an issue as serious as GBVF, accountability should lead to common action not a competition over which political party cares more about women.

It is unfortunate that some parties are prone to hunting with the hounds and running with the hares. They are happy to exercise power in the Government of National Unity and loudly claim the victories that they attribute to themselves, but they undergo a sudden political transubstantiation into opposition parties when that same government is confronted with difficult issues that they should share in taking responsibility for and solving.

We also want to take this opportunity to say that we reject outright calls made for the reintroduction of the death penalty. It is unrealistic. It is populist. It is meant to sound good, but ultimately, it is the proverbial sound and fury signifying nothing.

We are the first to admit that government must do more, but government cannot end GBVF on its own. We need the religious

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communities, civil society movements, the traditional leaders, and every single South African to act. We need men to stop being silent. We need fathers to teach their sons that respect is not weakness. We need communities to stop protecting perpetrators and start reporting them. We need the entertainment industry, the religious sector, and cultural leaders to reject the toxic norms that enable violence. I thank you.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Hon House Chairperson, hon members, fellow South Africans, allow me to extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the families, victims and survivors of gender-based violence and femicide. No words can fully carry the weight of your loss and pain.

To every person living with physical, social, psychological and economic consequences of abuse, please be assured of our deepest compassion, steadfast support and unwavering solidarity.

As we debate in this House, women across South Africa continue to live in fear. From Ekurhuleni, where the recent murders of women have shocked the nation, to communities across the

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country that continue to experience high levels of violence, women are justifiably asking a simple question, when will enough finally be enough?

This debate cannot become an exercise for political point-scoring as some, including Michalakis have demonstrated during this debate while South African women are being buried.

In my line of work, I travel across South Africa — I hear and see some of the most painful stories: women whose last moments were filled with terror; children who have seen things no child should ever witness; families broken because someone they trusted chose violence over love.

There is no justification, no excuse and no place in our constitutional democracy for such violence. It is criminal, dehumanising and an assault on our shared humanity. We condemn gender-based violence and femicide without qualification and in the strongest possible terms. And I understand the anger and frustration of hon members.

However, some hon members opportunistically argue that because GBVF remains prevalent, it means there are no government interventions. While government must be held accountable for

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the effectiveness of its interventions, we reject any attempt to create the false impression that government has done nothing, that Parliament has done nothing, that civil society, academia, private sector and communities have done nothing in the face of this crisis.

That assertion would be factually incorrect, politically convenient and intellectually dishonest by people who are determined to use any platform to fuel an agenda of doom.

This crisis predates any single administration, transcends Party-political lines, and requires a whole-of government and a whole-of-society response.

As alluded too by previous speakers, at the centre of GBVF, are deeply rooted drivers which include entrenched patriarchal norms, harmful social attitudes, economic marginalisation, alcohol and substance abuse, intergenerational exposure to violence, and the normalisation of coercive and controlling behaviours.

These structural and socio-economic factors create an enabling environment in which violence is tolerated, underreported, and reproduced across generations. Addressing GBVF calls for

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change of behaviour and attitudes by men, families, communities and all of us.

South Africa’s response to gender-based violence is extensive and grounded in a robust body of international, continental, regional and national obligations.

Internationally, they include the Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW, widely regarded as the international Bill of Rights for Women. Continentally, the Maputo Protocol concentrates on the Rights of Women in Africa. Domestically, our Constitution enshrines the rights to life, equality, dignity, freedom and security of every citizen of the Republic including women and girls.

Following the Women’s March in 2018, South Africa adopted one of the most comprehensive National Strategic Plan on GBVF, with a smart implementation plan, which was drafted by a team constituted by government, civil society, academia, private sector and community representatives.

It remains the country’s collective framework for preventing violence, ensuring coordination and accountability,

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strengthening criminal justice response, supporting victims and survivors and addressing the social and economic conditions that enables abuse.

Following its adoption, a number of legislative reforms were introduced to deal harshly with perpetrators of GBVF as covered by Deputy Minister Nel.

His Excellency, the President established an Inter-Ministerial Committee on GBVF and Alcohol and Substance Abuse; its mandate is to fast-track the policy interventions in relation to GBVF, which it is doing. His Excellency, President directed the IMC to ensure that the investigations into the women's killings receive the highest level of attention from government and Law Enforcement Agencies.

Hon Jeyi, we have operationalised the National Council on GBVF, whose immediate mandate is to produce a costed action plan on the NSP on GBVF for South Africa.

His Excellency, the President classification GBVF as a National Disaster was welcomed by all. And hon Mailola, asked, what happened after classification? The answer to that is GBVF Disaster Action Plan was presented and approved by Cabinet.

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The plan also presented civil sector and private sector organizations. The plan is being implemented by all spheres of government.

It includes training, awareness and prevention programmes, it has established stronger institutional mechanisms for coordination and accountability.

To this end, we have trained 69 rapid response teams on the ground, data collectors and data capturers that are placed in Premier's offices and are funded through European Funds, who are on the ground providing on-time information concerning GBVF cases and prevention. We have profiled 257 municipalities on the END GBVF Dashboard, improving monitoring and accountability.

A strong emphasis is placed on changing harmful social norms engaging men and boys, through our Positive Masculinity flagship project.

We are strengthening families, addressing alcohol and substance abuse and improving safety in communities and ensuring that survivors have quality support services.

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Our approach is to promote a whole-of society partnership involving government, civil society, traditional and religious leaders, private sector, academic institutions and communities.

We have rolled-out the 100-Day Challenge Programme to localise GBVF interventions across 50 hotspots earmarked Local Municipalities including lately the Ekurhuleni Metro.

The gender-based violence and femicide response fund continues to fund some Anti GBV non-profit organizations South Africa completed its first National Gender-Based Violence Prevalence Study, providing a scientific baseline for measuring progress. These are concrete legislative and institutional interventions backed by policy, resources and implementation mechanisms by this government and of course the civil society.

Hon Tshotetsi, on Gender-Responsive Framework is correct, it does aimed to transform the lives of women and girls across our nation.

Some parliamentarians are quick to utter irresponsible statements that government is not serious about addressing gender-based violence and femicide.

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Hon Mkhize, the existence of a challenge does not negate the interventions undertaken to address it. Rather, it underscores the magnitude of the task before us. Can I say hon Mkhize, that the DA is actually the government in Cape Town metro in the Western Cape. It is failing simple lights in Khayelitsha, in KwaLanga, in Mitchells Plain, with their racist policies they ensure that the lights are on in their own places only. What we need are proposed tested solutions in addressing the scourge of GBVF, amidst a pivotal time when the nations require sober thought leaders who are invested in protecting the very soul of our nation.

Some may seek to erase the gains of our constitutional democracy for short-term political advantage. We will not permit history to be rewritten. Since 1994 South Africa has built one of the most progressive gender equality frameworks in the world.

These achievements did not emerge by accident. They emerged through deliberate democratic transformation and sustained legislative and policy reforms.

Dr Letlape, some want to reverse the gains we have made and continue to make for women when it comes to gender equality.

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And some are in the House, and they are also in courts. What is of significance, can some of the hon members, show proof of their stride in the struggle for gender equality?

Those who seek political mileage from the pain of victims must first account to South African citizens and this House.

Have they challenged patriarchy within their own political structures? The answer is no. Have they transformed representation within their own leadership ranks? No. Or they are also statistics that need to be counted amongst the perpetrators of patriarchal stereotypes? And the answer is yes. They say it only in this House, when they leave the House, they forget.

Hon Nodada, here we want to know what you have done to men and boys outside of this debate ... the correct and strong ... [Inaudible.] ... we will be very happy, if can come and report that have actually put together so many boys and told them about positive masculinity, that is what we want to hear. Otherwise, you are right that you are actually tired of speaking.

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Outrage without solutions does not protect a single woman who leave in terror. Condemnation without action does not save a single girl or boy child. Research states that one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner. Most often than not behind the closed doors. And this makes the issue of gender-based violence sometimes very difficult to deal with.

And these realities demand urgency, humility and intensified action from all of us. It needs moral regeneration, not legislators who are political gymnasts even when the soul of the nation is under siege.

I respect you hon Gana, for consistently being objective when it comes to the issue of gender-based violence and femicide. We do not shy away from the reality that implementation gaps exist and that there are areas that are capacity constraints.

However, it would be both inaccurate and intellectually dishonest to conflate these challenges with a claim that nothing has been done.

Although significant progress has been made, GBVF remains at unacceptable high levels and unabated. Our task now is not to

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dismiss progress, but to build upon it with greater urgency, effectiveness and accountability.

The women of South Africa are not asking for ... [Inaudible.] ... they are asking for safety, justice and freedom. Therefore, this House must rise ... [Inaudible.] ... partisan.

The perpetrators must face the full might of the law. Communities must reject silence. Men must reject toxic notions of power. Together, as government and society, we have to stand together, fight and obliterate gender-based violence. That is the task before this Parliament and that is ... [Inaudible.] ...from. I thank you very much. [Time expired.]

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS ON DRAFT NOTICE DETERMINING REMUNERATION OF COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE 2025-26 FINANCIAL YEAR

Mr M S CHABANE: House Chair, we present this Report at the time the IEC is engaged in the preparation for the 2026 local government election, and it remains one of our most vital Chapter 9 institutions. Its independence execution of free, fair, and credible election is the very backdrop upon which

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our constitutional democracy is anchored. The integrity of this institution relied heavily on the dedication and leadership of its commissioners and the entire executive. This has been demonstrated through its good governance and seven years' consistent clean audit outcomes.

The Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs, having considered the draft notice of the President's determination of salaries and allowances of members of the various institutions, including the Commission of Electoral Commission, reports to this House that a notice dated 10th January was received from the President of the Republic, requiring the National Assembly to consider the determination of salaries and allowance of members of various institutions, including the Commissioners of the Electoral Commission, in terms of the determination of remuneration of office bearers of Independent Constitutional Institution Law Amendment Act 2014 for the financial year 2025 and 2026.

Section 219, subsection 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides that the national legislation must establish a framework for determining the salaries, allowances, and benefits of judges, the Public-Protector, the Auditor-General, and members of any commission provided for in

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the Constitution, including the Electoral Commission referred to in section 192 of the Constitution. Section 7, subsection 2 of the Electoral Act 73 of 1998 provides that the conditions of service, remuneration, allowance, and other benefits of commissioners shall from time to time be determined by the President after consultation with the commission on the remuneration of representatives established by section 2 of the Act, and a distinction may be made between the commissioners appointed in full-time and part-time capacity.

Therefore, the President received an annual recommendation of the public office bearers from the independent commission for the remuneration of public office bearers. The commission recommended a 4,1 per cent salary increment for all categories of public office bearers, including members of the independent constitutional institution for the financial year 2025-26. The President considered the commission’s recommendation and its impact on the fiscal and decided on a 4,1 salary increment for all members of the independent constitutional institution.

The one part-time IEC commissioner is a judge, and as such is remunerated in terms of section 2, subsection 4 of the Judge’s Remuneration and Conditions of Employment Act of 2001. The committee having deliberated, concur with the President’s

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determination on the remuneration adjustment of IEC Commissioners that salary increment of 4,1 per cent be implemented for 2025-26 for the chairperson and other full-time commissioners. A part-time commissioner will be remunerated at a daily rate or hourly rate sitting calculated on the salary of judges of the high court.

House Chairperson, the committee tabled this Report and recommends that the National Assembly approve notice determining the remuneration of the Commissioners of the Electoral Commission of SA. I thank you.

Declaration(s) of vote:

Mr J S NGUBANE: Hon Chair, first and foremost, as the MK Party would like to send sympathy and condolences to the senseless killing of innocent women in Kempton Park as well as the killing in Carletonville on young people entertaining themselves in a place of entertainment just to pass that.

We are asked to consider a determination on the remuneration of the commissioners of the electoral commission of South Africa for the 2025-26 financial year. I would like to state at the outset that the independence of the IEC must be protected, and its commissions must be properly remunerated.

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But independence does not mean immunity from scrutiny and remuneration cannot be separated from performance, accountability, and public confidence.

Our major concern as MK is that as we speak today, the IEC is busy with the huge upgrades in the midst during the late hours of this local government election which all of it puts a high risk in the running of the election that is coming, the local government election. These are our concerns as MK Party that these people who are remunerating, they are busy doing huge upgrades, they are busy running parallel V-ROC with an actual Gallagher Estate ROC and carelessly not care about what happens during the 2024 May election. The IEC has explained the reasons for their ETL position that caused the ... [Inaudible.] to be blank for two hours.

Our noble request as MK Party on court papers was the application to amend our Notice of Motion in the request for evidential proof of all data that counter our assertion. We received none of that. Instead, we were told it was late.

The 2024 election exposed why these matters. The public facing result board went out for two hours. According to the report, they were displayed as a zero and the court may have found no

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evidence that the election was not free and fair and that the court findings must be respected.

But the court judgement does not erase the institutional duty to explain what happened to the IEC to be held accountable. To just say no evidence of deliberate interference is not enough or is not the same as proof that the systems were resilient, that no data was at risk or that every control worked as intended through evidential proof of logs or the trails and all data provisions as recorded by MK Party.

We therefore demand that IEC must be responsible for any of its doing in terms of IT upgrade, in terms of any activities, in terms of treating each and every voter with respect and in terms of making sure that the people in Diepsloot, Ivory Park, eThekwini, and Nanda-section, their vote must be respected, must be counted as individuals and transparency must be the order of the day.

The IEC is not an ordinary institution. It is a constitutional guardian of the people’s right to choose their government. Its credibility rests not only on the final tally but on whether each stage of the process can withstand the public, technical and parliamentary scrutiny.

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Commissioners should therefore be held to high standard, not merely legal compliance after a crisis but proactive transparency before the next election. Our position should therefore be principled and constructive. We should not weaken the commission on its priority work.

Hon members, public trust is the currency of our democracy. It cannot be procured, coded or awarded by tender or negotiated in boardrooms. It is earned through competence, ... [Inaudible.] transparency, honesty and accountability.

Let us support the events of the IEC. But let us also insist that those who are entrusted with our democracy demonstrates that every rand, system and decision serve the voters of South Africa. IEC, please do not disappoint us in the 2024 local government election and I thank you.

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: There is no local election 2024.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Please don’t unmute if you are not recognised. Please proceed.

Mr T P MOGALE: House Chairperson, the EFF recognises the constitutional importance of the IEC. Electoral commissioners

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carry a profound responsibility because they administer the processes through which the people exercise their democratic power. Their independence and integrity must therefore never be compromised. Parliament must not simply rubber stamp remuneration determinations without interrogating whether they represent value for money and whether the financial resources of the IEC are being directed towards the priorities of our democracy.

The IEC is not an ordinary institution. It is the institution entrusted with protecting the most fundamental instrument of our democracy, which is the right to vote. Therefore, when the IEC fails, Parliament must not simply acknowledge those failures and move on. We must demand correction, accountability, and there must be consequences.

As we draw close to the local government elections, what assurances do we have that the challenges encountered in the 2024 national and provincial elections will not repeat themselves? The IEC's own assessment of the 2024 national and provincial elections identified challenges with its IT systems, faults affecting voter management devices, inefficiencies at voting stations and weaknesses requiring improved training of electoral staff.

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Parliament itself subsequently identified the need for better queue management, reduced waiting times and full-scale testing of voter management devices and other ICT systems before elections.

These are not insignificant administrative inconveniences. When a voter stands in a queue for hours, when technology fails, when a voting station is poorly managed, or when an electoral official is inadequately prepared, it is the voter who pays the price. House Chairperson, we do not support this report. I thank you.

Ms B E MACHI: Chairperson, the IFP acknowledges the report and seconds its approval of the draft notice determining the enumeration of commissioners of the IEC for the 2025-2026 financial year. It is evident that the assessment of the commissioners' remuneration has been conducted with precision and aligns with the constitutional legislation on the fair payment of office bearers.

We note the 4,1% salary increase for public office bearers, including members of independent constitutional institutions, and are pleased with the transparency shown throughout this process. The IFP has consistently highlighted the importance

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of transparency in governance, particularly when it comes to the remuneration of office bearers and the distribution of taxpayers' money.

The IEC commissioners are instrumental in protecting the integrity of South Africa's democracy. As local elections approach, their importance and responsibility increase. It is essential that they are compensated appropriately for the significance of their role in protecting our nation's electoral process. The IFP supports this report. I thank you.

Ms M L MHLANGA: House Chair, hon members, the IEC is one of the critical institutions supporting our constitutional democracy. The work of its commissioners carries significant responsibility, particularly in ensuring that the elections are administered in a manner that is credible, transparent, impartial and consistent with our Constitution. It is therefore important that the remuneration of commissioners is considered fairly and within the appropriate legal and institutional framework.

At the same time, we must recognise that these are public funds. Parliament has the responsibility to ensure that remuneration is determined responsibly, transparently and with

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due consideration of the financial circumstances of our country. There must be a balance between recognising the demanding responsibilities entrusted to the IEC commissioners while ensuring that their expenditure remains responsible and that they are accountable to the people of South Africa.

House Chair, the independence of the IEC must never be compromised. Equally, independence does not mean an absence of accountability. Constitutional institutions must be adequately supported to perform their functions while remaining subject to appropriate oversight and responsible financial management.

The Portfolio Committee has considered the matter and, through its report, recommends that the House adopts the committee's position. The PA, therefore, supports the adoption of this report. As Parliament, we must continue strengthening the institutions that protect our democracy, while ensuring that every rand of public money is treated with the seriousness it deserves.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: House Chair, the IEC Commissioners perform a critical constitutional role in protecting South Africa's electoral democracy. Their remuneration must reflect the responsibility and demands of the position. At the same time,

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remuneration must be fair, reasonable and affordable for taxpayers. The IEC's independence must be protected from political interference. Independence must be accompanied by accountability and performance.

The 2026 local government elections place significant additional demands on the IEC. South Africans expect elections that are free, fair, credible and efficiently administered. Commissioners must be held to high standards of integrity and professionalism. Public confidence in the IEC depends on both its independence and effectiveness. The Parliament must ensure that remuneration is justified by the constitutional responsibilities and performance expected of Commissioners. The ActionSA supports the report. Thank you, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, the ACDP. Is there a declaration on behalf of the ACDP?

Rev K R J MESHOE: I am struggling with my machines, Chair. Can I ... [Faded.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Swart and hon Meshoe, you were both now on the platform, but I couldn't ... [Interjections.]

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Mr S N SWART: Can I indicate that the Rev Meshoe is struggling with his connectivity? Could you come back to him just in a few minutes?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Okay, I will call him again after the next speaker. The UDM!

Mr N L S KWANKWA: The UDM supports the draft notice determining the remuneration of commissioners of the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa for 2025-2026. The salary increase of 4,1% is necessary to help the commissioners keep up with the rising cost of living. Given the IEC's significant contribution in fostering a stable democratic environment, the increase is therefore duly deserved.

Over the years, the IEC has successfully overseen and ensured free and fair elections as mandated by the Constitution, which is crucial for democratic stability. Its role in enforcing rules and ensuring ethical conduct has been pivotal in promoting electoral democracy. However, despite ... progress

[Interjections.]

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Kwankwa, you were muted there for a moment. Please continue.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: It is my gadget there, sorry. Despite this problem, there have been administrative setbacks or mistakes enabled by the IEC and political contestants, which have undermined this problem. They have experienced technical issues and underperformance in some of the voting stations around the country. Even now, there are administrative issues that have affected several political parties around the country.

As we support this motion, we want to urge, again, that those parties who did not meet the deadline for candidate nomination submissions on 28 August 2026 for various reasons should be looked into. Their requests should be looked into so that, come 4 November 2026, we are able to have free and fair elections that do not lock out important stakeholders from a very key democratic process in our country. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. The ACDP!

Mr S N SWART: I can hear Rev Meshoe in the background. Could we align to speak?

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yes, Rev Meshoe, you are unmuted.

Rev K R J MESHOE: Hey!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yeah, Rev Meshoe, we can't hear you apart from the, "Hey!"

Rev K R J MESHOE: Chairperson. Can you hear me now?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yes, please proceed. Hon Swart, the hon Meshoe has now dropped off the platform. Are you in a position to declare?

Mr S N SWART: Yes, Chair!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you.

Mr S N SWART: The ACDP supports the report given the rise in the cost of living, and so we support the increase for the IEC commissioners. We take note of the performance of the IEC over many years in ensuring free and fair elections, despite certain challenges that they have faced over the years and despite the challenges in the 2024 elections.

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We trust that they have learned from those challenges, particularly when it comes to gadgets that were not working optimally, as well as the inexperienced staff that were manning voting stations, resulting in the underperformance of such voting stations. We trust that these shortcomings will be addressed, given the complexity of the 2024 elections and, as we have said, given the need to have competent, able and God-fearing candidates elected, who hate corruption and dishonest gains.

So, Chairperson, from the ACDP's perspective, we also faced a challenge of not being placed on a metro election list many years ago. We were also turned down by the Electoral Court, and we applied urgently to the Constitutional Court, which upheld our appeal and allowed us to stand in the Metropolitan Municipality of Cape Town in the local government elections.

So, there is a precedent, but obviously every case differs from the next. I am sure that the precedent-setting case of the ACDP will be considered in matters that are brought before the Constitutional Court or the Electoral Court. Having said that, the ACDP supports this report. I thank you.

Xitsonga:

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Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu, Rise Mzansi yi seketela xiviko lexi. Chabane, ha khensa ntirho lowu mi nga wu endla.

English:

However, as we support this report, we must also say the next 35 or so days are critical, especially from the Independent Electoral Commission, IEC, side.

The work of the IEC does not start and end on the day of the voting. I think in terms of ensuring that the political parties themselves and ourselves as politicians, we behave in a manner consistent with the electoral code that we are signing every week at province, the ones that we signed at the national level at Gallagher last week. We must stay true to that commitment that we made in front of the people, because what we want to see is that after 4 November, the will of the people must be the one that prevails.

There should not be any shenanigans of whatever nature that creeps in, and that will then bring into question the election results. We want to see from ourselves as Rise Mzanzi that the people freely express who must govern them, because at the end of the day, the people must govern. We have said this, and we will continue to say this, that on 4 November, the people must

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govern. But that process must be enabled by the IEC that deploys competent staff that is responsive to the queries of political parties contesting an independent candidate that are contesting. It must be, at all times, deliver a free and fair elections, but we support the report.

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: House Chair, BOSA supports with no declaration.

Mr V ZUNGULA: Chair, when it comes to the IEC, we need to indicate that we are cautious in which we declare when it comes to the work of the IEC, particularly because when it comes to the IEC on the aspect of voter education, not much is done by IEC to ensure that the electorate is adequately informed, adequately equipped to participate in voter education, and the voters are able to cast their votes because enough voter education has been done.

We know for a fact that the majority of the townships, villages, not enough voter education is done, and then that

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does affect the participation of the people when it comes to making the electoral choices.

The other concern we want to raise when it comes to the IEC is that South African citizens themselves do not fully trust the IEC, in the sense that many South Africans will say, if there is no party agent of the party I want to vote for, I am not going to vote for that party because I know if there is no party agent of that respective party, that vote will not be counted. That is a clearest indication of the loss of faith to the IEC when it comes to their independence. We need to stress it out as the ATM that all votes count and all votes matter.

Therefore, regardless of whether it is one vote in a particular voting station, the IEC, through their representatives, must ensure that all votes are counted because if they are not counted, then South Africans are going to express themselves, and by expressing themselves, then you are going to have a pushback from the IEC saying that some parties do not want to accept the results.

So, we are not going to accept a reality whereby IEC can be shady when it comes to doing their work and they are going to

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be let off scot-free because this push that they are the most independent institution. Thank you.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon House Chairperson, Al-Jama-ah supports the remuneration. The work of the Independent Electoral Commission is fundamental to our democracy. Its officials and staff carry a significant responsibility in ensuring free, fair and credible elections. We therefore support fair, reasonable and properly structured remuneration that recognises their responsibilities whilst ensuring that public funds are utilised responsibly. A strong and independent IEC is essential to the strength of our democracy.

Importantly, such remuneration should strengthen the principles of trustworthiness, independence, transparency, free and fair elections, whilst ensuring responsible use of public funds.

In the public interest, Parliament must ensure that the remuneration of the IEC supports a trusted, independent and effective electoral institution, while safeguarding accountability and the responsible use of public resources. I thank you.

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Dr L W MAHLATSI: Chairperson, no declaration from UAT.

Mr A C ROOS: House Chair, the DA supports this report on the IEC commissioner's remuneration for the 2025-26 financial year. In fact, we believe the IEC commissioners deserve every single sentiment, not just because running an election in this country is an enormous logistical feat, but because of what these commissioners have to put up with.

The IEC is forced to deal with the organisational failures of political parties that cannot accept their decline in support and look outside for someone to save them from themselves. The commissioners continue to hold the line of free and fair elections in an environment where voter sentiment continues to decline due to political parties who betray the trust of their voters.

Candidate registrations are a case in point. The timetable is published well in advance; the deadlines are set in statute. It is complicated, yet like clockwork, certain parties drop the ball, miss the cut-off and then run to the electoral court on an urgent basis. The internal administrative mess suddenly becomes the commission's midnight crisis.

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Taxpayers pick up the tab for urgent legal fees, the timetable is thrown into jeopardy, and the IEC is dragged through a time-consuming process, all because an organisation couldn't get its own house in order on time.

In short, you cannot proclaim to be capable of governing a municipality if you cannot even submit your candidate lists on time. Then we have the cynical stunts played out in our local municipalities.

Our municipal electoral laws have an augmentation clause. It was put there for genuine flukes if the extremely unlikely event that a very small party running a modest campaign unexpectedly wins a seat or two it didn't plan for, a sensible safeguard, and instead we see parties exploiting it deliberately. They rack up on deadline day with a PR councillor list featuring exactly one name. Why? Because they fear public scrutiny. They want voters to sign a blank cheque on voting day. They hide the actual human beings who will sit in those council chambers until the counting is done, and then quietly parachute cronies, factional allies and rent-seekers into the municipal seats through the back door.

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It is a blatant insult to our communities. If you are asking a mother in an informal settlement or a ratepayer in the suburbs to trust you with their water pipes, their electrical substations and their hard-earned rates, you put your candidates up for inspection. Our towns and cities are collapsing across South Africa because of backroom deals cut by chameleons who hide their lists and dodge accountability. A party that’s hide its list from voters stands to steal your rates and taxes if elected and hide from you when it falls apart.

Voters deserve better. They deserve parties that show up on time, submit transparent lists, and don’t treat our courts like a backup secretariat.

In the DA we publish our lists, we stand by our people, and where we govern, we get things working for all. Our IEC commissioners shoulder the burden of holding the line against this growing tide of political cynicism. For their steadfast commitment to defending our electoral integrity against continuous disruption, that is a fair compensation, full support, and the appreciation of this House. The DA supports this report.

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Ms M MODISE-MPYA: House Chair, the ANC supports the President's determination of the salaries and allowances of members of various institutions, including commissioners of the Electoral Commission of South Africa.

As the Chairperson alluded, this is in line with the Determination of Remuneration of Office-Bearers of Independent Constitutional Laws Amendment Act 22 of 2014, which came into operation on 1 April 2019. That creates the necessary framework to determine the salaries of office bearers of Chapter 9 institutions mentioned in the Constitution.

The IEC is one of the critical Chapter 9 institution provided for in the Constitution of the Republic to support our democratic system.

Since 1994, the IEC has ensured that our country conducts free and fair elections in which South Africans of a voting age will exercise their right to elect political parties of their choice and independent candidates to represent and serve in different legislative bodies. The IEC, therefore, put to practice the principle in the Freedom Charter that: The People Shall Govern! The IEC attracts fit and proper men and women

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amongst our citizens to serve as its commissioners of ensuring free and fair elections.

We appreciate the work undertaken by the independent commission for the remuneration of public office bearers that recommended an increase by 4,1% to which the President made a determination on. All of us who are earning a salary, we enjoy the benefit of our annual salaries increases to cater for inflation and thus ensure the value of the salaries we get in real terms as opposed to nominal increases. Indeed, this Parliament plays an oversight role on the execution of the mandate of the IEC by its commissioners as they account to Parliament.

It is common cause that the IEC has been performing very well regarding the audit of its financial expenditure. We obviously want the IEC to continue to conduct free and fair elections at all times. Yes, there are areas within the IEC that require us to be strengthened to ensure our confidence in its operations, especially following some undesirable incidences that occurred some time ago.

We are encouraged that the IEC has made a commitment to this House that it will tighten its systems. Our hope is that in

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the coming local government elections on 4 November 2026, the IEC will ensure that the elections happen without any glitches. Once again, on behalf of the ANC, we communicate our support for the report on the President's determination of the salaries and allowances of the IEC of South Africa. I thank you.

Draft Notice determining the remuneration of Commissioners of Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) for 2025/26 financial year accordingly approved (uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

CONSIDERATION OF JOINT REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON POLICE, PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES, PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENT AND PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS ON PETITION ON BEHALF OF RESIDENTS OF WARD 92 IN CITY OF EKURHULENI, GAUTENG (SUBMITTED BY HON M CLARKE, MP) (ATCs, 14 AUGUST 2026, P 3)

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu, ...

English:

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Hon House Chairperson, I table the report on behalf of the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police. I rise to introduce the Joint Report of the Portfolio Committee on Mineral and Petroleum Resources, the Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and Environment and the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs on the petition that was submitted by the hon Clarke on behalf of the residents of Ward 92 in Ekurhuleni. The residents of Kloba Park, Highway Gardens, Buurendal and Harmelia, despite the effects of illegal mining on their safety, their homes, their businesses and essential infrastructure.

The committees heard the concerns about the armed criminal groups, damage linked to the underground activity, electricity disruptions and unsecured mineshafts.

The SA Police Service reported substantial arrests and seizures under Operation Vala Umgodi. However, policing operations alone cannot provide a lasting solution. Shafts must be secured and rehabilitated. Organised syndicates must be prosecuted and the departments responsible for mining, for the environment, border management and policing must act together.

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The report therefore recommends that the relevant departments table a co-ordinated action plan for Ward 92 within six months with measurable targets, assigned responsibilities and reporting to Parliament. It also calls for stronger enforcement of mining companies rehabilitation obligations, specialist persecution and asset forfeiture, improved border control and regular feedback to affected communities in Ward 92 and other areas especially those found in Gauteng and the Western part of Johannesburg.

The committees intend to hold further joint meetings to follow up on this work. The residents who brought this petition to Parliament deserve a response they can see and measure. I therefore recommend this report to this House.

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr D M SKOSANA: Hon House Chairperson, I am not sure whether the picture is fine or I can switch off the video. Let me hide the picture because it looks bad.

Hon House Chairperson, hon House Chairperson!

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yes, hon Skosana, you may proceed.

Mr D M SKOSANA: Yes, I just wanted to find out whether is it fine if I do not show my face on the video.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yes, hon Skosana, you are welcome.

Mr D M SKOSANA: Thank you, hon House Chairperson.

Hon House Chairperson, it is very unfortunate that the country finds itself in this predicament and the President is saying nothing about it. You know the suspended National Commissioner, Fani Masemola was indeed on the ground with these zama zamas.

The residents of Ekurhuleni are very worried and very concerned. I must say that this House must indeed make a return on them. The report dated August 2026 that relies on Police figures from 2025, budget question about years already gone, not one number for the current financial year, the people of Ward 92 live in 2026, Parliament is reporting from the past, they table a report in which the firearms totalling

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from Operation Vala Umgodi simply disappears living the fragmented real arms ceased. If you cannot count the guns on paper, how will you take them from the street? A report that cannot settle on the name of the department seeks to hold accountable.

The Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources on one-page DMPR on the next. The SA Revenue Service, Sars, reported 507 arrests in the area, 251 of them undocumented.

Mr M MANYI: Hon House Chairperson, on a point of order.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Skosana, my apologies. Just hold on.

Hon Manyi, why do you want to be recognised?

Hon Manyi, you raised your hand.

Mr M MANYI: Apologies, hon House Chairperson. It is a mistake. I wanted to press a congratulatory emoji. I am sorry. My apologies.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Alight. Thank you.

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Hon Skosana, my apologies, but it was your own member who interrupted you. So, please proceed.

Mr D M SKOSANA: Not anywhere convicted. The report does not say nationally, 30 200 arrests produced, 7 577 convictions. One conviction for every four arrests, it is disappointing! The report records this and moves on.

The MK party does not move on regarding this matter that as government you failed as the Government of National Unity, GNU. An arrest without a conviction is a revolving door and the syndicates knows that.

Then the recommendations of a six-month action plan with no name of a Minister and no consequences if it never arrives. Mining houses who abandon shafts face possible licence suspension, but we see that not happening.

Hon members, possible, any open shaft is not a possibility, it is a crime scene. The petitioners asked for a lawful path for a small-scale money so that our unemployed youth are not recruited by criminals and for the mineral wealth to stay in the communities where it is taken from.

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This answers the first one written question, it answers the second with silence.

The MK party therefore demands four things. Firstly, the current 2026-27 data from SA Police Service, SAPS, the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, and the department before the follow up joint meeting.

Secondly, name the accountable Minister and fix the reporting date for the action plan with consequences for failure.

Thirdly, mandatory licence suspension for mining houses that fail the rehabilitation obligations.

Lastly, a dedicated recommendation on small scale mining and community reimbursement.

Hon House Chairperson, this House has given 192 a report. The MK party will give Ekurhuleni a mayor unlike this disappointing report.

My last part on that ...

IsiNdebele:

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... ngithi, Sihlalo, siyabawa bona uMongameli enze into akhethelwa yona. UKomitjhinara weNarha wamaPholisa ojanyisiweko u-Fani Masemola imilandu yakhe isusiwe.

English:

They are withdrawn.

IsiNdebele:

Asazi bona uhlezi ekhaya uhlalele ini njenganje ngombana uMongameli akafuni ukwenza into akhethelwe yona. Siyabawa njenganje Sihlalo kobana uMongameli abuyisele uKomitjhinara weNarha wamaPholisa ojanyisiweko esihlalweni sakhe ngokurhabileko. Ngombana uyakwazi ukuya kumazama zama. Wawavimba. Siyawazi umlando waka Komitjhinara weNarha wamaPholisa ojanyisiweko. Siyamfuna! [Kwaphela iskhathi.]

Dr L MANAGA: Hon House Chairperson, this report exposes a reality that communities have been warning the ruling party, which is the Government of National Unity, GNU, about for years. Mining in closed shafts is no longer a mining problem however, a policy and environmental, economic and infrastructure problem and fundamentally a governance problem.

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Residents of Ward 92 in the City of Ekurhuleni, Kloba Park, Highway Gardens, Buurendal and Harmelia have been and to date are still reporting armed intimidation, robbery extortion, damaged houses, electricity disruptions and threats to their businesses. This is the problem that the government has contributed to because of failure to issue mining licences to African black people. As the EFF, we cannot treat this as business as usual because the government failed and it is still failing to hold mining companies accountable for abandoned shafts.

Hon House Chairperson, the report before us stipulates clearly that abandoned and unsecured shafts create conditions in which the so-called illegal mining continues.

Hon House Chairperson, before I run out of time, I call on all South Africans to join us at the EFF Tshela Thupa rally on 31 October 2026 at Orlando Stadium in Gauteng, where the commander-in-chief and the president of the EFF will be addressing the nation ahead of the 2026 Local Government Elections.

Hon House Chairperson, the questions we must ask ourselves time and again is: Why the mining companies who benefitted

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from our wealth are allowed to abandon dangerous shafts and leave the consequences for communities, municipalities and the state to deal with? We demand an answer to these questions. Why is the government not enforcing rehabilitation obligations of mining companies who benefitted from our mineral resources and can just simply walk away when the mining becomes unprofitable and leave behind dangerous shafts, environmental destruction and communities exposed to criminal activities?

That is why we are faced with this challenge today. We repeat, it is the government's own making. Where companies fail to rehabilitate and secure their sides there must be meaningful enforcement including financial penalties and where legally justified consequences for their mining rights.

Hon House Chairperson and hon members, this is not about protecting mining companies from the consequences of their own operations, it is about ensuring that the mineral wealth of this country does not become a private benefit, while the environmental and social costs are carried by ordinary people hence as the EFF, we are saying all mines should be nationalised.

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The ANC and DA-led government must deal with the organised criminal networks behind this illegal mining like we have seen the MMC of Public Safety, Dr Mgcini Tshwaku doing it in Johannesburg Metropolitan area. Government must give support to small scale miners, licence them and teach them the importance of safe mining. I so move. Thank you so much, hon House Chairperson. [Time expired.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): The IFP. Is there a declaration on behalf of the IFP?

Ms B E MACHI: Thank you.

Inkosi R N CEBEKHULU: Yes, House Chair. I think there is a problem ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Please proceed.

Ms N H MHLONGO: Hon House Chair ...

Inkosi R N CEBEKHULU: ... on my network here. That’s why I’ve asked my colleague to take on the declaration. Thank you.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. Yes, I think between the hon Machi the hon Mhlongo, one must just now decide to do the declaration.

Ms N H MHLONGO: House Chair, the IFP recognises the impact that illegal mining has on the safety, livelihoods, and dignity of the residents in Ward 92.

The IFP notes with concern the SA Police Service capacity challenges in confronting heavily armed illegal mining syndicates and threats to business, electricity infrastructure, roads, and homes. We welcome recommendations for stronger enforcement by the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources to ensure mining houses secure abandoned shafts and by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment to address the environmental damage.

The IFP supports stronger border and immigration management by Home Affairs and the Border Management Authority to prevent the movement and re-entry of individuals linked to illegal mining. The IFP welcomes the recognition that illegal mining requires co-ordinated action across relevant departments to address challenges. We call for accountability, community feedback, and tangible results.

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Therefore, the IFP supports this report and calls for stronger enforcement, accountable institutions, and safer communities. I thank you.

Mr E HENDRICKS: Chair and hon members, I rise on behalf of the PA to declare our full support for the joint report on the petition presented by the residents of Ward 92 in the City of Ekurhuleni.

We commend the four portfolio committees — Police; Mineral and Petroleum Resources; Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment; and Home Affairs — for working together to tackle these issues. The petition submitted by the hon Clarke highlights a severe cluster of interconnected problems: rampant illegal mining, environmental degradation, constant water supply disruptions, and serious safety concerns. These are clear symptoms of a broader failure in co-ordinated governance.

Whilst we acknowledge the detailed feedback provided by the SA Police Service and partner departments on action taken on illegal mining, we must be honest: The people of Ward 92 have waited far too long. They have endured years of dry taps, watched illegal operations destroy the environment, and seen

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local infrastructure deteriorating, whilst promises go unfulfilled.

Therefore, the PA declares that we support this report and its recommendations as an essential first step. Two, we call for immediate implementation, not just documentation. The value of this report lies strictly in urgent action. Three, we urge all relevant departments and the City of Ekurhuleni to set strict timelines and clear accountability mechanisms. The people of Ward 92 did not petition Parliament for a document to gather dust. They petitioned because their water does not flow, their environment is being poisoned, and their safety is compromised. Parliament owes them action, not promises.

The PA supports this report. I thank you, Chair.

Afrikaans:

Dr W J BOSHOFF: Agb Huisvoorsitter, hierdie verslag behandel een wyk in een metropolitaanse gebied, maar dit dring deur tot die kern van die Suid-Afrikaanse regeringsprobleem. Dit is dat die regering slegs mense kan regeer wat regeer wil word.

Formele mynmaatskappye verkies om slegs met lisensies te myn en mense volgens arbeidswetgewing in diens te neem. Om dit reg

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te kry, is glad nie maklik onder die huidige bedeling nie. Daarom is Suid-Afrika een van die mees onaantreklike bestemmings vir belegging in mynbou, ten spyte van die land se minerale rykdom.

Wettige binnelandse plofstofvervaardigers wil aan nasporingsvereistes voldoen, maar daar is vervaardigers wat glad nie omgee nie. Wettige myne plaas oral borde met die boodskap dat veiligheid eerste kom. Onwettige mynbase gee nie om hoeveel lyke hulle in die eindelose gange laat nie. Wettige sakelui is oor die algemeen versigtig om niks te doen wat die polisie of die Inkomstediens se aandag kan trek nie. Onwettiges gee nie om nie. Hulle sorg dat hul wapens groter slaankrag as die polisie s'n het, en daarmee is die probleem opgelos. Hulle beplan glad nie om belasting te betaal nie.

Hoe gebeur dit? Dit gebeur deur 'n kombinasie van slap wetstoepassing en oorregulering. Sedert die ANC aan bewind gekom het, het hulle die totale ekonomie met soveel kodes en wette begin reguleer dat talle wetsgehoorsame korporatiewe burgers bloot uit die ekonomie onttrek. Twee syfers bevestig dit: Werkloosheid raak meer, en kontant en kontantekwivalente bates ook. Sakelui oordeel met ander woorde dat hul geld

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veiliger in die bank is as in fabrieke, toerusting, en ander produktiewe bates.

Die verslag is goed. Dit wys ’n skrefie van die totale prentjie. Waar daar niks is om te steel nie gaan dit beter. Waar die gemeenskap sterk genoeg is om orde af te dwing van sy kant af gaan dit ook beter. Die komende plaaslike verkiesing gee elke gemeenskap die kans om terug te druk, want dit lyk nie of die regering gaan nie. Ek dank u.

English:

Mr A D BEESLEY: House Chair, what these residents of Ward 92 in Ekurhuleni endure with rampant illegal mining is not unique to their community. The immense challenge facing our police is well known and well documented, but what I’d like to focus on is the porous nature of our borders.

How is it that materials extracted through illegal mining can so easily leave our country? The reality is that our borders remain inadequately secured, and, where there is security, there are persistent concerns about corruption. I fail to see in the committee’s report adequate consideration of the need to approach this problem holistically, particularly the urgent need for stronger border management and security.

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The movement of people and goods across our border is directly connected to the growth of zama-zama mining and the illegal mining economy in this country. If we can cut off this flow at its source by securing our borders and disrupting the movement of people, equipment, and illegally mined materials, then we would have already won half the battle. We cannot hope to defeat illegal mining whilst ignoring the porous borders that allow the people, equipment, and proceeds connected to this criminal economy to move across our country. I thank you.

Mr S N SWART: House Chair, the ACDP supports this joint report, which is a petition reflecting the deep concerns of a community grappling with challenges from public safety and environmental degradation to the socioeconomic impacts of mining and service delivery gaps. It highlights the urgent need for enhanced policing to combat crime, particularly where there is illegal mining and related criminal networks, and that even before the horrendous spate of femicides debated earlier today. It calls for stricter regulation and rehabilitation of mining sites, and this the ACDP supports. It also emphasises interdepartmental co-ordination.

Hon members, this report is not an administrative exercise. It is a call to action, and it urges us as Parliament to

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strengthen oversight and deliver tangible improvements to the people of Ward 92. They are not isolated problems, they are symptoms of a government that has largely neglected its duty to the people, particularly at local government level. However, the time of reckoning is at hand. Elections approach and the ACDP offers citizens a different and better path: Ethical governments by servant leaders that puts people before politics, and effective policing to make sure our citizens feel and are safe in the communities and brings an end to illegal mining and related criminal activities and your vote can be the turning point.

Therefore, we urge voters to vote for leaders, servant leaders who stand with you, fight for you, and deliver for you, and for a government that serves not one that takes, in the knowledge that when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice. Together we can build safe streets, clean environments, honest governance and thriving communities. I thank you.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: House Chair, the United Democratic Movement supports this petition submitted on behalf of the residents of Ward 92 in the City of Ekurhuleni in the Gauteng province for Parliament to intervene in the escalating crisis of illegal

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mining and its severe effects on public safety, local economies and infrastructure. Hon members, we have debated this crisis several times in the National Assembly. The truth is illegal mining is no longer a regular criminal act. It has become a crucial threat to various communities around the country.

In fact, what has happened is in the past, many interventions have been made by government. For example, you will recall that several interventions established such as the deployment of the SA Police Service, SAPS, the Special Task Force, the National Intervention Unit, drones to support surveillance and other technical teams in various hotspots in communities that are affected by illegal mining. However, it seems that the crisis persists.

The residents of Clover Park, Highway Gardens, Burundal and Hamelia have been subjected to constant fear due to the intimidation of illegal miners, increased crime, tremors and blasting damage, including infrastructure damage to properties around various areas that are affected by these matters. What kind of a sovereign nation watches while criminals infiltrate, terrorise local communities, seize control of mining shafts and, most importantly, cause a massive financial drain on the

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economy? Illegal mining drains about an estimated R70 billion annually in the gold sector by diverting valuable national resources away from the formal economy. Illegal miners have bypassed and exploited state witnesses of porous borders.

We need stronger border control to stop illegal immigration and the smuggling of weapons that is beginning to affect everyone in South Africa. It is because of the smuggling of weapons that we find ourselves in a situation where our children, our people, while they're enjoying themselves in clubs, pubs around the country, people just walk in and randomly shoot at them and we find it difficult to locate the perpetrators. It is precisely because of that. We must curb this crisis, intervene on behalf of the people of Ward 92 and not just lament about the problem but to be seen to be doing something meaningful about it. I thank you, House Chair.

Xitsonga:

Ttn S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu wa Yindlu, hi ri vandla ra Rise Mzansi hi seketela xiviko lexi xa tikomiti leti. Xa nkoka swinene i mhaka ya ntirhisano exikarhi ka maphorisa na vaaki.

English:

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Because what we are seeing, especially with the illegal mining, the zama zamas, they are terrorising communities. We know of what's happening in the western side of Johannesburg, in Carletonville and other parts of the West Rand where we even had an instance that the community had to run away from their areas or their places of residence, running away into a local community centre because of this terror act by illegal mining and zama zama.

Therefore, the law must take its course and us as Members of Parliament must continue pushing that the SA Police Service working together with the SA National Defence Force, the Hawks, the National Prosecuting Authorities can find those that are the masterminds behind this illegal mining. Because those that are going underground are just doing the bidding for the masterminds that are hiding behind the high-walled residence in and around the suburbs of South Africa. Therefore, we support this report.

Xitsonga:

Ndzi khensile swinene, Mutshamaxitulu wa Yindlu.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: House Chair, Build One South Africa supports this report and notes that illegal mining as a threat

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in Ward 92, but also in other various parts of Gauteng and its threat to the safety, the homes, the businesses, critical infrastructure in various municipalities. SAPS in this report acknowledge that it lacks sufficient personnel and specialised capacity to respond effectively. This is something we've raised continuously as Build One South Africa when it comes to the resourcing of SAPS, and it must be addressed alongside stronger co-ordination across the departments. We want to state that the response must also target the syndicates that are behind these operations and must hold mining companies accountable for securing and rehabilitating the abandoned shafts.

We support the proposed action plan that is outlined in the report and want to call on us as Parliament, to monitor the delivery of this action plan to ensure that residents receive the response they need to, but also that there is reporting and regular updates to the residents. Thank you very much, House Chair.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon House Chair, there is no declaration from Aljam-ah. Thank you.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Thank you very much, Chairperson.

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Sesotho:

Kgotso, Maafrika!

English:

Hon Chair, the involvement of four portfolio committees demonstrates the interconnected nature of the challenges confronting communities, policing and public safety, mineral and petroleum resources, environmental protection and administration of our communities. These responsibilities cannot be addressed in isolation, whereas their consequences converge at the ward level.

The UAT therefore supports an approach that places the lived experiences of residents at the centre of parliamentary oversight. A petition is not merely an administrative document. It is an expression of citizens' constitutional right to participate in the affairs of government and demand accountability from the institutions exercising public power.

The joint report must consequently be assessed, not only as to whether the committee have completed their procedural obligation, but on whether its recommendation provides a credible pathway towards resolving concerns raised by the residents of Ward 92 in Ekurhuleni District.

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Parliament must remain accessible, responsive and accountable to the people. Communities should not have to repeatedly petition the state before their basic concerns receive attention. The UAT therefore calls for clear institutional responsibility, measurable follow-up actions and continued oversight to ensure that the matters raised by the residents of Ward 92 in Ekurhuleni do not end up with the adoption of this report.

Parliament must hear the people. Parliament must act on what it hears. Parliament must return to the people with answers. Hence, the people of Ward 92 in Ekurhuleni, on 4 November 2026, must vote for the UAT, a political party that will put their needs before our political agendas. So, do the right thing!

Xitsonga:

Khanimambo!

Mr J R B LORIMER: House Chair, consider that R60 billion to R70 billion annually is the estimated loss to the South African economy from illegal mining. On top of that, there is an estimated annual loss to the state of between R11 billion and R15 billion in unpaid taxes and royalties. Mine crime

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affects all of us, not just the people who signed this petition, although it is particularly bad where the petitioners are in Ekurhuleni.

You can’t underplay blasting every night or frequent automatic gunfire. You can’t ignore the intimidation and theft that go along with living next to a major criminal enterprise. You cannot ignore the fact that it is difficult or impossible to drive on major roads like Johan Rissik in Primrose or Snake Road in Benoni.

However, this is a pattern that affects hundreds of thousands of people across South Africa. Mine crime affects people in Sekhukhune land; it affects them in Rivoli; and it affects them in Klopper Park and Highway Gardens. People are intimidated, dispossessed, assaulted and murdered by mining criminals. It has been going on for years, and the government has dragged its feet in dealing with it. This House has dragged its feet!

The efforts to get illegal mining properly criminalised keep stalling. We should ask why. It was supposed to be in the rewrite of the main mining legislation, the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002. That was

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poorly thought out and has disappeared off our agenda, at least for now. Then it was supposed to be contained in the General Law Amendment Bill that went to the Justice Committee, but the Justice Committee is so busy that it has not even begun to consider it.

It was interesting in this regard to count how many of those arrested for illegal mining end up being charged with weapons or drug offences or trespass, but not the crime which gave rise to their presence there, which is illegal mining. Mining without a license or a permit is not a standalone criminal offence. Because of this, we have tied the hands of the police, and this House needs to do its part if we are to tackle mining crime.

It is time we seriously consider a committee Bill to break this logjam. If we don’t, it will be at least another year of police not being able to properly address this problem. That is another R60 billion to R70 billion lost to South Africa. However, even if we make it a crime, the problem won’t be solved. The police said to Parliament that they were insufficiently trained. The scale and sophistication of mine crime can’t be tackled by simply sending police officers on more courses.

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This report details how police said they did not have the numbers to tackle illegal mining. Police on the ground have told me how they rarely have the numbers or the heavy armament to take on the zama zama gangs. When there is a large-scale action by the police, supported by the military, in Operation Prosper, for example, there are huge show raids. Dozens of scores of illegal miners are arrested, but this doesn't shut it down. Conviction rates are low, and not enough of the kingpins are arrested.

Arresting the workers at the rock face won't stop mining crime. Those workers are instantly replaceable by thousands of other desperate people from our neighbouring countries. Co-ordination is also lacking. The DMPR has the expertise; the police do not. I do not believe there are proper structures in place for effective co-ordination of efforts.

Put yourself in the shoes of a police officer stopping a truck carrying a mined mineral. How can he be expected to identify the mineral without special training? How can he be expected to be aware of the processes and permits that are needed to comply with mining law? Regular police are not experts; it is experts that we need.

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The answer is a police unit trained, equipped and staffed to specifically deal with mining crime. That unit needs to have real mining expertise and to be able to pursue illegal mining right up the value chain, so that the kingpins at the heart of it are found, arrested and convicted. That unit needs to co-ordinate with prosecutors to make sure the courts are properly informed and incorruptible.

We have talked about a specialised police unit in this House before. Nobody has raised any strenuous objection, and yet nothing happens. Somebody needs to step up and take ownership of the project. We look to the Minister of Police or the Portfolio Committee. If nobody steps up now, the fight against mining crime will continue to fail. Thank you.

Mr M S MOELA: House Chairperson and hon members, the community of the City of Ekurhuleni has correctly tabled to Parliament a clear account of the disturbance brought by illegal miners and illegal mining in and around their community. The community has experienced illegal mining activities and accidents in residential and industrial areas. The residents have reported armed intimidation, robbery and extortion. The community has raised concerns about blasting and disturbances to the

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electricity and infrastructure. At the centre of this are safety and concerns of citizens.

Hon Chairperson and members, you might be aware of the alarming safety issues in Ekurhuleni, with 11 dead women's bodies discovered over the past week or two, while more discoveries keep rising day in and day out. The community of Ekurhuleni have been consistent in writing to Parliament, reporting the intimidation they face from armed groups casually walking up and down their streets.

They have been complaining about damage to their homes and interruptions to electricity. The community of Ekurhuleni have repeatedly and consistently tabled these matters with the committees of this House and the police. I think it is high time that the Parliament commits itself to a meaningful intervention with the community of Ekurhuleni.

As the ANC, our position is clear: We have, in our commitment to the people, committed ourselves to intensifying the fight against crime. We have declared war on lawlessness and have committed to keep our streets and communities safe. We want to strongly condemn the creeping tendency of gangsterism and lawlessness that is trying to take hold in the city of

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Ekurhuleni. We are saying it will never find any ground or expression.

We are calling on the SA Police Service to deploy its intelligence in that area and come to the bottom of this problem. We have excellent men in blue and will not allow our communities to be threatened and intimidated by criminals. The same way we have closed the opportunists in the North West is the same way we must close these opportunists in Gauteng.

We refuse to have our state undermined. We acknowledge the work already done by the police officers in an area under Operation Vala Umgodi. We have noted substantial arrests, seizures and convictions. We encourage the police to intensify the resources deployed to those pressure points, such as Primrose, Bedford View and Edenvale, for more visible policing and sector presence around the area.

We encourage the communities to also work hand-in-hand with the police and also perhaps look into having operational and well-resourced community policing forums. The world of criminal activity is one thing. On the side of the police, we need better enforcement to ensure that non-operational mine

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shafts are closed or properly secured. We need strict penalties and sanctions for noncompliance.

It is our plea that the DMRE and the municipalities really work together for better enforcement. Mine owners must secure and rehabilitate sites for which they are responsible. The Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources must enforce those obligations with support from environmental authorities and municipalities.

Hon Chairperson, as I submit, the ANC supports the adoption of this joint committee report on the petition submitted on behalf of the residents of Ward 92 in Ekurhuleni. Thank you.

The Deputy Chief Whip moved: That the Joint Report be adopted.

Question put: That the Joint Report of Portfolio Committee on Police, Portfolio Committee on Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and Environment and Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs on Petition on behalf of residents of Ward 92 in City of Ekurhuleni, Gauteng, as submitted by Hon M Clarke, be adopted.

Motion agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

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Joint Report accordingly adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ON PETITION RECEIVED FROM FOUR PETITIONERS FROM GA-RANKUWA/MAWIGA

Mr S L DITHEBE: House Chairperson, I will deliver the statement in the name of hon Seabi. The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, having considered progress made in implementing the remedial action contained in Public Protector Report No 14 of 2018, calls on hon members to adopt the report on the Mabopane, Winterveld and Ga-Rankuwa, MAWIGA, Petition.

The petition before us concerns serious allegations that state-subsidised properties belonging to four residents of Mabopane, Winterveld and Ga-Rankuwa were unlawfully sold and transferred to third parties without their knowledge or consent. This long-standing matter has spanned both the Sixth and Seventh Parliaments and highlights the profound injustice suffered by four vulnerable citizens who were deprived of their homes through irregular and unlawful property transactions.

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To fulfil its oversight responsibility, the committee engaged extensively with the petitioners and relevant stakeholders, including the national Department of Human Settlements, the Gauteng and North West provincial departments responsible for human settlements, the City of Tshwane and the North West Housing Corporation. These engagements aimed to establish the facts, assess progress made and identify the outstanding actions required to resolve the matter.

Investigations conducted by both the City of Tshwane and the Public Protector confirmed serious irregularities in the transfer and sale of the affected properties.

Although the remedial action prescribed in Public Protector Report No 14 of 2018 has not yet been fully implemented, the committee acknowledges that progress has been made ... alternative housing opportunities ... [Inaudible.] ... applications and planning processes related to replacement housing solutions.

The committee further notes and appreciates the national Department of Human Settlements' efforts to co-ordinate stakeholders and keep Parliament informed of developments.

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Despite this progress, however, two critical concerns remain. First is the persistent breakdown in communication. Delays, missed deadlines and uncertainty about implementation have prolonged the suffering of the petitioners and imposed an unnecessary emotional burden on individuals who have already endured years of hardship.

Second is the lack of accountability. The committee remains concerned about the limited information available regarding disciplinary and corrective action against officials implicated in the unlawful transactions. While providing alternative housing solutions is essential, meaningful justice also requires accountability where wrongdoing has been identified.

The committee firmly believes this matter cannot be regarded as resolved until all four petitioners have received complete, tangible and sustainable remedies. This includes appropriate housing or other lawful relief, the finalisation of title deeds where applicable, full implementation of the remedial actions and demonstrable accountability for the fraud that occurred.

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Accordingly, the committee recommends that the national Department of Human Settlements lead the development and implementation of a single, integrated action plan involving all relevant stakeholders. The plan should clearly allocate responsibilities, set measurable milestones and provide firm timeframes for completing all outstanding interventions.

Furthermore, all responsible authorities must expedite the remaining municipal administrative subsidy and land transfer processes, and ensure that the petitioners are regularly informed of progress.

The committee also recommends that Parliament maintain active oversight of this matter. The national department should continue submitting regular progress reports until all outstanding issues have been resolved and the petition can be formally closed.

The committee is satisfied that this report accurately reflects the engagements undertaken, the progress made, the challenges that remain and the actions required to bring this painful chapter to a just and final conclusion.

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The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements thanks all participants in this process, including officials from the relevant stakeholder organisations. The committee now calls on this august House to vote and adopt this report. I thank you very much, House Chair.

There was no debate.

Declarations of vote:

Ms Z S ABADER: Hon Chairperson, I greet you in the universal greeting of peace.

Arabic:

As salaamu alai kum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatu.

English:

The MK Party rises today because behind this report are four South Africans who have waited almost two decades for justice — Mr Ernest Kgasoe, Mr Michael Mere, Mr Bongo Sepeng and Ms Marie Ledingoane. These are not just names in another parliamentary report. This is a report about land, about homes, about dignity and about a state that failed its own people.

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Investigations by the City of Tshwane and the Public Protector confirmed maladministration and irregularities involving the sale and transfer of these petitioners' properties. Yet, almost 20 years later, we are still talking about implementation plans, stakeholder engagements, subsidy approvals and intergovernmental co-ordination.

The MK Party asks three simple questions. Where are their houses? Where are their title deeds? And, where is the accountability? Our people cannot live in reports, raise their children in implementation plans or build their future on stakeholder engagements. They need land, they need houses, they need security of tenure.

This speaks to something bigger — South Africa's unresolved land and housing question. For generations, our people were dispossessed of land and denied the opportunity to build security and intergenerational wealth. That is why the MK Party places land and human settlements at the centre of its political programme.

Land is not simply soil. Land is security, land is inheritance, land is dignity. A home gives a family security, a title deed gives them an asset to leave to their children.

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Yet, these four South Africans had their property rights prejudiced, and then spent years fighting the very state that was supposed to protect them.

That is unacceptable. Alternative housing must never be presented as though government is doing these families a favour. This is not charity; this is redress.

Their rights were prejudiced, their dignity was compromised. Government has an obligation to correct that injustice. To every responsible department and institution, the MK Party says, the time for shifting responsibility is over. The time for accountability and delivery is now. We want clear responsibilities, firm deadlines and accountability where wrongdoing is established.

We will not measure progress by meetings held. We will measure it by houses delivered, keys handed over, title deeds finalised and dignity restored.

Across South Africa, people are asking, when will I get my land? When will I get my house? When will I receive my title deed? Housing is not simply bricks and mortar. It is about restoring humanity and dignity to our people.

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When the state takes almost 20 years to correct an injustice it already knows occurred, the delay itself becomes another injustice. So, stop giving our people reports when you owe them houses. Stop giving them promises when you owe them title deeds and stop giving them excuses when you owe them justice.

Almost 20 years is not simply a delay; it is a disgrace. Give these families their keys, give them their title deeds, restore their dignity and let accountability finally have an address.

To South Africans listening, examine the record in the policies on land and housing of different parties. The MK Party has placed land and human settlements within its people's mandate.

The choice at the ballot box belongs to the people. Land, housing, humanity, dignity and accountability. Because a government that cannot give its people their keys, restore their humanity and protect their dignity, cannot claim to have unlocked their freedom. Vote MK Party on the 4th of November. I thank you.

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Ms M DLAMINI: House Chairperson, four residents from Mabopane, Winterveld and Ga-Rankuwa have spent almost two decades fighting for justice after their homes were unlawfully sold and transferred to other people without their knowledge or consent.

These residents were lawful occupants and purchasers who had complied with the requirements placed before them. Yet before title deeds could be issued, their properties were transferred to third parties, leaving families to deal with displacements, financial hardships and years of uncertainty.

Investigations by the City of Tshwane and the Public Protector confirmed irregularities and maladministration. Yet all four petitioners have not received complete redress. This is a painful reality of years of ANC government. Even after the state has established that these residents were wronged, they were made to fight the same state to restore what should have never been taken from them to begin with.

Government cannot admit that people were wronged and then spend years giving them processes and excuses instead of justice. A home is simply not a property on a government database. It is where families build their lives. When people

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lose their homes through maladministration, government must correct that injustice without forcing them through years of bureaucracy.

This petition shows what happens when government decisions are not translated into outcomes for ordinary people. The report identifies missed deadlines, procurement delays, slow subsidiary processes, municipal backlogs and poor coordination. The City of Tshwane provincial government and the national government and the North West Housing Corporation have all been involved. Yet the petitioners are still waiting for finality.

This must force us to question whether overlapping responsibilities between government departments and entities improve housing delivery or make it easier to shift responsibilities when things go wrong.

The EFF is particularly concerned about the relationship between the North West Housing Corporation and the North West Department of Human Settlements, where functions overlap, government must be clear without ultimately being responsible for delivery.

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Our people cannot be sent from one institution to another while nobody takes responsibility for the final outcome. There must always be consequence management for officials implicated in unlawful sale and transfers of these properties. Ordinary people cannot carry the consequences of maladministration while those that are responsible escape accountability. The EFF supports the report.

I thank you.

Mr A K NGOBESE: Hon Chairperson, the IFP acknowledges the report and reiterates its commitment of ensuring that human settlements are addressed with dignity and in a manner that protects the constitutional rights for all South Africans. The report is particularly concerning, highlighting unlawful property transfers, maladministration, prolonged bureaucratic delays, and the failure to provide timely redress and accountability.

The unlawful sale and transfer of state subsidised properties have caused significant hardship to our four petitioners and raised broader concerns regarding the property rights and administration of human settlement.

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The fact that this matter remains unresolved after almost two decades, despite the involvement of multiple government institutions, demand urgent action. We therefore call for the immediate resolution of this matter, stronger coordination across government and clear accountability to ensure that bureaucratic processes do not obstruct a lawful and effective redress. The IFP supports the report and calls for all its recommendations to be implemented without further delays.

I thank you, hon Chair.

Mr S H M VAN WYK: Chairperson, salute. The PA rises on behalf of this petition. We support it wholeheartedly, and I'm not going to waste anybody's time here by repeating what all the other speakers before me have said.

Chairperson, the PA therefore declares, we support the report and its call for a single integrated implementation plan with clear time frames. We urge the national Department of Human Settlements to coordinate with the City of Tshwane, Gauteng and the North West to finalise all outstanding matters, housing, land transfers, title deeds, and compensation. We insist on consequence management against any official

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implicated in the unlawful sale and transfer of these properties.

Chairperson, the rights to adequate housing, just administration action, and the human dignity are not negotiable. The petitioners have shown remarkable patience.

Parliament owes them more than another report. The PA supports this report, and we will monitor its implementation until every petitioner has a home, a title deed, and dignity that they were denied.

Thank you.

Mr P A VAN STADEN: Mr No declaration, House Chairperson. Thank you.

Ms M P KOBE: House Chair, as ActionSA, we believe that it is rather unfortunate that we are still dealing with this matter 20 years down the line, where we are seeing four petitioners from Ga-Rankuwa speaking to Parliament and elevating their issues.

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It has been three years since this petition was first brought to the attention of this very Parliament in 2023, even before I myself became a member, but the underlying issues and irregularities date back to two decades. It's been 20 years. It's far too long for matters of this nature to remain unresolved.

We therefore call for expediting subsidy approvals to finalise the sign-off of all pending housing subsidies and to prioritise the petitioners' projects, elevate and fast-track all housing developments that are linked to our petitioners, and track milestones for progress.

As ActionSA, we believe that this government must redouble their efforts to ensure that this matter is brought to a conclusion, that the outstanding issues are properly addressed, and that the petitioners finally receive the answers and resolutions that they are hoping for.

Thank you very much, House Chair.

Mr S N SWART: House Chair, yet again, here we have a case of corruption and maladministration, with various committees having considered this petition over a number of years. Now,

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the complaint is that state subsidised properties were unlawfully sold and transferred to third parties without the petitioners' consent, and despite findings by the City of Tshwane and the Public Protector that the transfer was irregular, remedial measures have largely only partially been implemented. And as others have said, how much longer must the petitioners wait before their cases are resolved?

The ACDP believes that it is absolutely disgraceful that almost 20 years have passed since the original unlawful action took place, and the petitioners have still not received justice. Just as concerning is that officials responsible for these illegal transactions have not been brought to book. This is scandalous.

The ACDP also asks how widespread this practice may be. How many homeowners ever check their title deeds? They too might be in for an unpleasant surprise that their properties have also been unlawfully transferred to third parties. Your title deed is more than just a piece of paper. It's the ultimate shield for your hard-earned income. It's wealth generation. It is enshrined in law.

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Private property rights give you the exclusive authority of your home, your land, and your family's future. But they require active protection, and today's sophisticated property fraud and unlawful documentation changes pose a quite but devastating threat to homeowners, as illustrated by this petition.

The ACDP calls on homeowners to remain vigilant. Check your property records regularly. Your personal data must be protected and guard your title deeds fiercely. Securing your deed isn't just about protecting physical land. It's about preserving your freedom and securing your legacy. Lastly, vote for the ACDP that supports the protection of private property rights.

I thank you.

Chairperson, your camera seems very transparent today. I'm not sure if you're aware of it. You might want to adjust it, but your image is - and we welcome transparency, but in this case, it's quite excessive. I'm not sure if you're aware of it. Thank you.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): I can see myself and the Parliament building clearly from my side. I'm not sure, it's probably the network. I will try and fix it properly. I was not aware. Thank you very much, hon Swart. [Laughter.] Hon members have been speaking all this time, and they don't alert me that I'm transparent today.

Mr S N SWART: Chair, we welcome transparency, we welcome transparency.

Mr C J POOLE: House Chair, what has happened to the residents of Mabopane, Winterveld and Ga-Rankuwa, MAWIGA, really shows how the Department of Human Settlements has, for successive administrations, treated poor South Africans and its constitutional obligation to give all those in need adequate housing. Nearly two decades ago, state-subsidised houses belonging to Mr Ernest Kgasoe, Mr Michael Mere, Mr Bongo Sepeng and Ms Marie Ledingoane were sold without their knowledge.

After learning of this crime, they reported it to the City of Tshwane and the North West Housing Corporation, NWHC, and nothing happened. Their only assets were stolen from them, and nothing happened when they called on the state for help. The

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National Department of Human Settlements would only start to intervene after the Public Protector issued binding remedial actions on the crime, and after being called out by Parliament for not ensuring that the City of Tshwane and North West Housing Corporation were fulfilling the Public Protector’s remedial actions.

The case of Mr Kgasoe, Mr Mere, Mr Sepeng and Ms Ledingoane is sadly indicative of an uncaring national department. The national housing backlog sits at nearly 4 million units. When this figure is broken up in terms of how long South Africans have waited, the data is more staggering. Nearly 900 000 South Africans have waited for a home for more than a decade, and nearly 600 000 South Africans have waited for a home for more than 20 years. Year after year, the department spends billions of rands of taxpayers’ funds, which lands in the hands of failure.

Our housing crisis is not a money issue; it is an issue about policy implementation and caring for South Africans. In 1998-99, the then Department of Housing built the most state-subsidised houses annually to date — building 235 635 units from a budget of R16 billion, adjusted for inflation. If we fast-track to 2024-25, with a R32 billion budget, the

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Department of Human Settlements has built only 38 453 houses. We also do not know how accurate the 38 453 figure is, as the Auditor-General could not verify it.

Aside from incompetence and being uncaring, how else does one explain having double the budget, yet only delivering 16% of houses? The issue then compounds to title deeds. If Mr Kgasoe, Mr Mere, Mr Sepeng and Ms Ledingoane had their title deeds, how would their houses have been stolen from them? That is very likely because they fall under the title deed backlog of 1,2 million South Africans. This figure also did not balloon overnight; it started building from the dawn of democracy and has only grown since.

There are more than 400 000 South Africans who have waited for a title deed since 1994. Without assets in their hands, they cannot enjoy the full promise of democracy. They have nothing to pass on, leverage and no means to close generational inequality. The problem gets even worse. Since the Sixth Administration, well into democracy, more than 700 000 South Africans have joined the title deed backlog queue.

What has happened to Mr Kgasoe, Mr Mere, Mr Sepeng and Ms Ledingoane is part of a much, much larger problem.

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Undoubtedly, they are also not the only South Africans whose houses have been stolen from them. More stories like these will emerge. The Department of Human Settlements has an important decision to make. Will it learn from its horror and seek to do better, or is this another example of the department failing in its constitutional obligation and fading into the periphery?

The DA cares about South Africans, and we want this country to work for all who live in it. If the Department of Human Settlements wants to throw in the towel, with your support out there, South Africans, on November 4, we can start to turn this around in our towns and cities. Let this case be an inflexion point for the change to come. Vote DA on 4 November. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you, hon member. I hope now my video is proper. I am not ...

An HON MEMBER: Ah, it’s proper, Chair. Now, we can see you.

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Siyabonga.

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English:

An HON MEMBER: At last!

An HON MEMBER: You look beautiful, Look at the smile.

Mrs B M KEGAKILWE: House Chairperson, the ANC supports the report. This petition is not simply an administrative matter; it concerns four residents who approached Parliament after their state-subsidised properties were allegedly sold and transferred to third parties without their knowledge or consent. Investigation by the City of Tshwane and the Public Protector confirmed irregularities and maladministration. Yet the remedial measures have not been fully implemented.

The four petitioners, Mr Kgasoe, Mr Mere, Mr Sepeng and Ms Ledingoane, have waited many years for the government to restore their housing rights. Their cases demonstrate the seriousness of lack of consequence management, especially when it comes to administrative failures. The petitioners maintain that there were lawful occupants and purchasers of their properties, originating from the former Bophuthatswana Housing Corporation, BHC, and subsequently falling under the Northwest Housing Corporation.

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They indicated that after complying with ownership requirements, their homes were allegedly sold and transferred to other people before title deeds could be issued. The committee, therefore, focused on restoring the petitioners' rights, implementing the Public Protector's remedial actions, ensuring accountability, and strengthening co-ordination among government institutions.

It is important to acknowledge that progress has been made. Through sustained parliamentary oversight, alternative housing opportunities and land parcels were identified. Some petitioners accepted land allocations. Progress was made with subsidy applications and planning for the replacement of the houses has taken place. However, progress cannot be measured merely by meetings, reports, and commitments; it must be ultimately measured by whether affected citizens received tangible and sustainable redress.

As at 26 June 2026, outstanding matters included the completion and handover of replacement houses, finalisation of land transfer and title deeds; resolution of disputes concerning the size and suitability of replacement housing, implementation of the Public Protector's remedial actions and appropriate accountability for officials implicated in the

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irregular transactions. This is particularly concerning because the matter has remained unresolved for almost two decades.

The prolonged delay also raises a concern, especially when it comes to these institutions. The committee observed that inadequate co-ordination among the national, provincial, and local institutions contributed to missed deadlines and implementation delays. The national government, provincial department, the City of Tshwane and the North West Housing Corporation, all have responsibilities in resolving this matter, yet they implement fragmented interventions, administrative bottlenecks and they've delayed the finalisation of the concern of the petitioners.

The committee's recommendation that the National Department of Human Settlement lead a single, integrated implementation plan, is therefore important. The plan must clearly identify responsibilities, measurable milestones and firm deadlines, and must be submitted to Parliament to continue oversight. Accountability must also receive serious attention. Where investigation has maladministration or irregular conduct, affected citizens are entitled to know what steps have been

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taken to establish responsibility and institute consequence management where appropriate.

The committee noted limited information regarding accountability measures against officials implicated in the unlawful transactions. Responsible institutions must therefore provide Parliament with clear reports on investigations and any disciplinary or legal process undertaken. We must also strengthen communication with the petitioners.

The committee found that they repeatedly raised concerns about inadequate feedback, uncertainty regarding timelines, and the gap between government commitments and delivery. Government must therefore communicate regularly and clearly on what has been achieved, what remains outstanding, who is responsible, and when the interventions will be completed.

The Constitution places human dignity, access to adequate housing, and just administration action at the centre of our democratic order. The rights must guide the resolution of the MAWIGA petition. Where the original properties cannot be restored, alternative remedies must be lawful, fair, practical and sustainable, and disputes regarding replacement housing

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must be resolved in consultation with the affected petitioners.

The petition also reminds us of Parliament’s important role in giving citizens a voice. Sustained parliamentary oversight has kept the plight of these petitioners on the agenda and contributed to the progress on outstanding intervention. We should therefore support the committee’s report and its recommendations. However, support for the report must translate into action.

The ultimate measure of success will be whether the four petitioners receive appropriate housing or equivalent lawful remedies, whether land transfer and title deeds are finalised, administrative barriers removed and appropriate accountability measures taken.

The committee has correctly resolved that the petition should not be regarded as finalised until all four petitioners have received complete, tangible, satisfactory redress. Parliament must continue exercising oversight until government’s commitments are translated into actual delivery and dignity ... [Time expired.] Thank you. The ANC supports the report.

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The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY moved:

That the Report be adopted.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon members, the motion is that the report be adopted. Are there any objections?

An HON MEMBER: No, no objections.

Motion agreed to.

Report accordingly adopted.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon members, we are moving to the Fifth and Sixth Orders of the day. These orders relate to reports of the Powers and Privileges Committee concerning allegations of conduct constituting contempt of Parliament by the hon J S Malema and the hon S Thambo, respectively, as argued amongst parties. There will be no declaration of votes taken on these reports, but once they are adopted, the hon Malema and the hon Thambo will enter their apologies to the House. I will now give over to the hon Speaker of the National Assembly.

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CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF POWERS AND PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE ON ALLEGATIONS OF CONDUCT CONSTITUTING CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT BY HON J S MALEMA.

AND

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF POWERS AND PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE ON ALLEGATIONS OF CONDUCT CONSTITUTING CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT BY HON S THAMBO,

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Majozi. Hon Majozi, having read the purpose of the Fifth and Sixth Orders, I now ask whether there are any objections to the adoption of the report of the Powers and Privileges Committee on allegations of conduct constituting contempt of Parliament by the hon Malema, as it appears on the Order Paper. I do not see any objections. Hon members will recall that the hon Malema was found to have violated various clauses of the Code of Ethical Conduct, Disclosures of Members' Interests, and that on 22 November 2021 the Ethics Committee adopted the following recommendations in respect of the sanction: that the member enters an apology in the House by specifically apologising to Judge Matojane and the Judicial Services Commission for his question to Judge Matojane during the interview process that related to the quantum of 500 000 damages.

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On 7 December 2021, the Ethics Committee report and recommendations were adopted by this House. On 4 December 2025, the Speaker addressed the correspondence to the hon Malema, directing him to enter an apology in the House no later than 27 February 2026. Hon Malema was informed that arrangements can be made with the Speaker to deliver the apology at an appropriate time. I now ask the hon Malema, in accordance with the recommendations that the House has agreed to, to enter an apology for his conduct. Hon Malema?

Sepedi:

Mna J S MALEMA: Re a leboga, Modulasetulo le Sepikara sa Palamente ya rena. Ke re letsogo godimo ga le lengwe. Ngwana a phoša dira ga a bolawe. Thobela!

English:

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Malema. Hon Malema, in vernacular, in his home language, which is a South African language, has given an apology as it was required by the Powers and Privileges Committee.

Report on allegations of conduct constituting contempt of Parliament by Hon J S Malema accordingly adopted.

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The SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the adoption of the report on Powers and Privileges Committee on allegations of conduct constituting contempt of Parliament by the hon S Thambo as it appears in the Order Paper? I don't see any objections. The recommendation of the report is that the hon Thambo enter an apology in the House for his conduct towards the hon K J Mileham at the queue at the security entrance to enter the Nieuwmeester Dome on 25 February 2026 for the Budget Speech. Hon Thambo, I now ask that in accordance with the recommendations the House has agreed to, you make an apology for your conduct. Thank you, Speaker.

Mr S THAMBO: Hon Speaker, I apologise. Thank you.

Report on allegations of conduct constituting contempt of Parliament by Hon S Thambo accordingly adopted.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AMBER-ROSE BERRY FOR HER HISTORIC AND INSPIRING ACHIEVEMENT IN SUCCESSFULLY SWIMMING THE ENGLISH CHANNEL

(Draft Resolution)

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Mr W T LETSIE: Speaker, I move without notice on behalf of the ANC:

That the House-

(1) notes that on August 23, 2026, 18-year-old Amber-Rose Berry from Pringle Bay near Cape Town made national and international history by successfully swimming the English Channel;

(2) further notes that through this extraordinary feat of endurance, she officially became the youngest South African woman to conquer the grueling channel crossing;

(3) acknowledges that Amber-Rose Berry's historic milestone places her name amongst the elite ranks of international marathon swimmers and serves as a proud moment for the entire nation of South Africa;

(4) further acknowledges that this remarkable achievement represents months of rigorous physical training, unwavering mental resilience and exceptional personal dedication; and

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(5) lastly congratulates Amber-Rose Berry for her historic and inspiring achievement in successfully swimming the English Channel and commend her for flying the South African flag high on the global stage and inspiring a new generation of young South Africans.

Agreed to.

ROLE OF STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS IN COMBATING VIOLENT CRIME COMMENDED

(Draft Resolution)

Ms L SCHICKERLING: Hon House Speaker, I move without notice on behalf of the DA:

That this House-

(1) notes the important role of communities and community policing structures in preventing and responding to crime;

(2) recognises the vital contribution made by the community police forums, neighbourhood organisations,

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community leaders and residents who work alongside law enforcement agencies to improve safety in their communities;

(3) commends those who report criminal activity, supports victims, assist law enforcement and remain actively involved in building safer communities;

(4) acknowledges that effective crime prevention requires meaningful co-operation between the police, government and communities; and

(5) recognises the important role that strong community partnerships play in combating violent crime.

Agreed to.

CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION TO ADDRESS SEVERE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS CONFRONTING MILLIONS OF SOUTH AFRICANS

(Draft Resolution)

Mr A NCHABELENG: Chair, I move without notice on behalf of the MK party:

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That the House-

(1) notes the severe cost-of-living crisis confronting millions of South Africans, particularly the poor and the working-class household;

(2) further notes that electricity, water, sanitation and refuse removal are essential basic services and that rapidly rising municipal tariffs are placing the services increasingly beyond reach of ordinary households;

(3) recognises that VAT charged on basic municipal services adds a further financial burden on households already struggling to afford food, transport, electricity and other necessities;

(4) further recognises that a family should not have to choose between putting food on the table and keeping the lights on;

(5) affirms that basic services must serve the people and must not become another source of financial punishment for the poor and the working class; and

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(6) therefore calls on the House to support the consideration of the appropriate fiscal measures, including VAT exemptions, zero rating or targeting VAT relief on defined basic levels of municipal services for qualifying poor and working-class households with a view to reducing the cost of living and protecting access to essential services.

Agreed to.

DEEP CONCERN OVER THE BRUTAL KILLINGS OF 11 PEOPLE IN KWAMAKHUTHA, KWAZULU-NATAL

(Draft Resolution)

Mr M B BLOSE: Speaker, I move without notice on behalf of the EFF:

That the House-

(1) notes with deep concern the brutal killings of 11 people in KwaMakhutha, KwaZulu-Natal on the night of 22 September 2026;

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(2) also notes that three other people were injured during the shooting while a pregnant innocent lives through gun violence, organised crime and proliferation of illegal firearms in communities across KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa at large;

(3) expresses our deepest condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of 11 victims and wishes those injured a speedy recovery;

(4) calls upon the SA Police Services to intensify the investigation and ensure that all those responsible are identified, arrested and brought before the courts;

(5) further calls upon law enforcement agencies to strengthen intelligence-led operations against illegal firearms, organised criminal networks and violence gangs in KwaMakhutha and surrounding areas in KwaZulu-Natal;

(6) calls for the Minister of Police to provide Parliament with a comprehensive report on the progress of the investigation and measures being implemented to prevent further mass shootings in KwaZulu-Natal; and

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(7) resolves that this House stands in solidarity with the people of KwaMakhutha and reaffirms its commitments to the protection of life and the safety of all communities.

Agreed to.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon members, may I remind you once again that the time for motions without notice is one and a half minutes. May you please proceed. Hon Cameron, you have your hand up. May I know what's the point of order?

Mr C DUGMORE: Yes, I am actually hon Dugmore, I don't want to confuse you with the DA's ...

The SPEAKER: Okay ...

Mr C DUGMORE: No, it's fine. Speaker, it's just that I believe it is normal practice to put these motions to the House and ask for objections, and I have just noticed that with the first three, that was done.

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The SPEAKER: Oh, yes. No. I am sorry. My apologies. Thank you very much. We will go back to the first motion by the ANC. Were there no objections to that motion? Yes, ma'am.

Ms B E MACHI: Speaker, I would like to raise a point of order. The House should note that a motion without notice needs to be moved. The motion must be moved. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Machi?

Ms B MACHI: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Are you saying that the motions without notice need to be moved?

Ms B E MACHI: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Yes, I think they were moved. That is why I am going back because I made a mistake by not putting them to the House for agreement or objection. Can we go back to the motions? Okay.

WELCOMING THE RETURN OF PITSO MOSIMANE TO BAFANA BAFANA

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(Draft Resolution)

Mr G DKGABO: Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House –

(1) notes that coach Pitso Mosimane has been appointed as the Head Coach of the South African senior men's national football team, Bafana Bafana, marking his return to the national team;

(2) further notes that coach Mosimane is one of Africa's most celebrated coaches, who has won the CAF Champions League on three occasions and achieved remarkable success with Mamelodi Sundowns and Al Ahly;

(3) acknowledges that his return to Bafana Bafana represents an important moment for South African football and gives an opportunity for local coaching skill to continue contributing at the highest level of the soccer game;

(4) recognises that coach Mosimane's journey from playing and coaching in South Africa to achieving great success across the African continent demonstrates the

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possibilities that exist for South Africans to pursue excellence, discipline and dedication in their chosen fields; and

(5) expresses its best wishes to coach Pitso Mosimane and Bafana Bafana as they undertake their upcoming duties and commend him for continuing to fly the South African flag very high on the African and international football stage.

Agreed to.

PROTEAS CELEBRATE PINK DAY IN STYLE BY BEATING AUSTRALIA IN THE SECOND ONE DAY INTERNATIONAL MATCH IN JOHANNESBURG

(Draft Resolution)

Ms N H MHLONGO: Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House –

(1) congratulates the Proteas on their 32-run victory over Australia in the second One Day International, ODI, at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Sunday, 27

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September 2026, securing 2–0 lead in the three-match series;

(2) further congratulates Proteas captain Mr Temba Bavuma on his outstanding innings of 103 runs and Mr David Miller on his career-best 142 runs, their performances helping to propel South Africa to victory;

(3) recognises that the match formed part of Cricket South Africa’s annual Pink Day initiative, which uses the power and reach of sport to raise awareness and funds in the fight against breast cancer;

(4) commends the Proteas for marking this year’s Pink Day by carrying the names of breast-cancer fighters and survivors on their jerseys, honouring the courage and resilience of those affected by the disease;

(5) acknowledges the important work of the Breast Care Clinic at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, which benefits from funds raised through the Pink Day initiative; and

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(7) applauds Cricket South Africa, the Proteas, supporters and all partners involved in Pink Day for demonstrating the powerful role that sport can play in uniting South Africans behind important social causes and expresses its solidarity with all those affected by breast cancer.

Agreed to.

WORRYING SPIKE OF THE KILLING OF WOMEN IN THE BROADER KEMPTON PARK AND EKURHULENI AREAS

(Draft Resolution)

Ms J A BASSON: Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House –

(1) notes with profound sadness the tragic death of Elizabeth “Tsontso” Moselakgomo, a 38-year-old mother, runner and community member from Kempton Park, whose body was identified after she disappeared while out on a routine run;

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(2) further notes that her death comes amid growing concern over violence against women and the discovery of several female victims in the broader Kempton Park and Ekurhuleni areas;

(3) expresses its sincere condolences to her family, friends, colleagues and especially her young daughter during this time of grief;

(4) commends the efforts of the SA Police Service, SAPS, and urges the multidisciplinary task team investigating these cases to act with urgency in bringing those responsible to justice; and

(5) reaffirms Parliament's commitment to combating gender-based violence, GBV, and ensuring that women and girls can live, work and exercise in safety and dignity.

Agreed to.

RELIEF OVER RECENT WIDESPREAD AND BENEFICIAL RAINFALL ACROSS SIGNIFICANT PARTS OF SOUTH AFRICA

(Draft Resolution)

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Mr P A VAN STADEN: Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House –

(1) notes the widespread and beneficial rainfall received across significant parts of South Africa during recent months, which has provided welcome relief to communities, farmers, water users and the country's water resources;

(2) recognises that good rainfall contributes to improved dam levels, groundwater recharge, agricultural production, grazing conditions and overall water security, while also supporting rural economies and food security;

(3) further notes that the SA Weather Service has previously indicated the possibility of a transition from neutral conditions towards an El Niño event during 2026, which could have implications for rainfall patterns in South Africa's summer rainfall regions;

(4) acknowledges that the beneficial rainfall received thus far provides an important opportunity to strengthen

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water storage, agricultural resilience and preparedness before potentially drier conditions develop;

(5) calls on the government, municipalities, water authorities and agricultural stakeholders to use this opportunity to ensure that available water resources are properly managed, infrastructure is maintained and contingency measures are in place should El Niño conditions result in below-normal rainfall; and

(6) expresses its appreciation for the rainfall received and calls for continued responsible stewardship of the country's water resources in preparation for the forthcoming summer season.

Agreed to.

HORRIFIC SPATE OF MASS SHOOTINGS ACROSS SOUTH AFRICA LEADS TO THE DEATH OF 32 PEOPLE IN ONE WEEKEND

(Draft Resolution)

Ms D E JAMES: Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

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That the House –

(1) notes with deep concern the horrific spate of mass shootings across South Africa over the weekend, including the killing of 18 people in Wedela on the West Rand, 10 people in Lwandle near Strand, and four people in Khayelitsha;

(2) acknowledges that these devastating incidents highlight the severe levels of violent crime and the proliferation of illegal firearms in communities across the country, leaving families and communities vulnerable to senseless and deadly attacks;

(3) recognises the grave concern that communities are increasingly being subjected to mass shootings and other violent crimes, while criminal networks continue to operate with access to illegal firearms and high-powered weapons;

(4) further recognises that these challenges are exacerbated by inadequate policing, intelligence failures and insufficient action against the illegal firearms fuelling violent crime, and that without urgent

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intervention the continued failure to protect communities will have fatal consequences; and

(5) calls on this House to prioritise the immediate strengthening of the country's response to violent crime, including intelligence-led policing, decisive action against illegal firearms and organised criminal networks, improved policing capacity and strict accountability for officials who fail in their duties.

Agreed to.

SPRINGBOKS SEAL A 3-1 SERIES TRIUMPH OVER THE ALL BLACKS IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

(Draft Resolution)

Ms M L MMOLOTSANE: Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House –

(1) notes that on Saturday, 12 September 2026, the Springboks delivered a resounding victory on American soil, defeating their historic arch-rivals, the New

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Zealand All Blacks, 43–28 at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, Maryland;

(2) further notes that this victory sealed a magnificent 3–1 series triumph marking it the first time since 2009 that the Boks have secured three consecutive Test victories against the All Blacks in a single calendar year;

(3) recognises the brilliance and physical dominance displayed by the team outscoring the All Blacks six tries to four through stellar plays from the likes of Morné van den Berg, Malcolm Marx, Pieter-Steph du Toit and Kurt-Lee Arendse;

(4) applauds captain Siya Kolisi, coach Rassie Erasmus, the entire coaching staff and the legendary team for once again carrying the hopes of a nation across oceans and proudly flying the South African flag high; and

(5) congratulates the Springboks on cementing their status as the undisputed gold standard of world rugby, bringing immense joy and unity back home to fans across the country.

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Agreed to.

NATIONAL SEA RESCUE INSTITUTE REFLECTS ITS LIFE-SAVING LEGACY STRETCING BACK ALMOST 60 YEARS

(Draft Resolution)

Mr S N SWART: Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House –

(1) notes that as the country celebrated Heritage Day on 24 September, the National Sea Rescue Institute, NSRI, reflected on its life-saving legacy stretching back almost 60 years;

(2) further notes that what is today a nationwide rescue organisation began with tragedy in 1966 when three fishing boats sank during a storm off Stilbaai, claiming 17 lives;

(3) acknowledges that this disaster prompted Simonstown teacher, Patti Priceto, herself a survivor of a

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shipwreck, to launch a letter-writing campaign calling for a dedicated sea rescue service in South Africa;

(4) further acknowledges that her campaign led to the establishment of the SA Inshore Rescue Service in 1967, which was later renamed the NSRI;

(5) recognises that today, as it approaches its 60th anniversary in 2027, the organisation has 43 active rescue stations across eight provinces, and that in 2025 its 1431 operational volunteers responded to 1 069 operations and rescued 1 548 people;

(6) understands that its work has expanded far beyond emergency rescues to include water safety education, survival swimming, lifeguarding and the distinctive Pink Rescue Buoy programme;

(7) realises that more than 97% of the NSRI’s funding continues to come from private individuals and companies; and

(8) commends the NSRI leadership, staff, volunteers and supporters for not only its courageous sea rescues but

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also its education programmes to prevent drownings which have reached more than 924 000 people through water safety education and survival swimming programmes.

The SPEAKER: I put the motion. There are no objections to the motion. The motion will be converted to a notice of motion.

I now move to the DA!

Mr S N SWART: Speaker, my apologies!

The SPEAKER: Yes, hon Swart!

Mr S N SWART: I just wanted to hear what you said, because if the motion without notice is accepted, I'm not sure if it is then converted to a motion with notice. Could I just have clarity on that?

The SPEAKER: Yes, it is converted to a notice of motion!

Mr S N SWART: Is that correct? And if, thank you, Speaker. I hope that's ... I trust that's correct.

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The SPEAKER: I trust that's correct too.

Can we move to the DA!

MINISTER MOTSOALEDI TO APPROACH SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT REGARDING THE R182 MILLION NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE COMMUNICATION CONTRACTS

(Draft Resolution)

Mrs M O CLARKE: Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House –

(1) notes that Minister Motsoaledi has promised to approach the Special Investigating Unit, SIU, to investigate the R182 million National Health Insurance, NHI, communications contracts;

(2) further notes the Department of Health's bizarre decision to award two contracts for communication and marketing to the tune of R1 620 and R520 per transaction without calculating or advertising the

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total estimated value of the contract as per the Public Finance Management Act, PFMA;

(3) recognises that both these contracts were paid from at least eight critical health programmes including HIV/Aids, TB and child nutrition;

(4) acknowledges that 28% of children under five years in South Africa is stunted due to malnutrition and that 453 children under five years died in public hospitals with moderate and severe acute malnutrition as underlying conditions between January and September 2025. In the same period, 9 479 children under five years were admitted to public hospitals with moderate and severe malnutrition;

(5) further recognises that at a recent portfolio committee meeting the department stated that only 39% of people diagnosed with TB received a short message service, SMS, notification, affecting them starting their treatment. Initiating treatment is crucial to survival and quality of life; and lastly

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(6) acknowledges that the NHI itself has yet to be costed and that this cost has yet to be presented to Parliament as requested on numerous occasions.

The SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion?

Mr C M DUGMORE: Yes, there is an objection, and also a concern that, that motion really doesn't comply with the motion without notice. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Cameron, what are you saying? Is there an objection or no objection?

Mr C M DUGMORE: It's an objection.

The SPEAKER: As there is an objection, the motion will be converted to a notice of motion.

May I correct what hon Swart raised. All the other motions where there were no objections, those motions without notice have been agreed to. But it's only when a motion is not agreed to that it is converted to a notice of motion.

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Hon Cameron, you still have your hand up. What is the point of order?

Mr C M DUGMORE: It's hon Dugmore and it's a legacy hand. Thanks, Speaker.

MORATORIUM ON WATER AND ELECTRICITY DISCONNECTIONS

(Draft Resolution)

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

That the House—

(1) notes with grave concern that municipalities are disconnecting water and electricity services for families already struggling to ends meet;

(2) further notes that many of these municipalities have failing billing systems, issue estimated bills, relying on faulty meters and allow pipes to leak and suffer massive water losses;

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(3) condemns the fact that ordinary people are punished and disconnected while officials responsible for these failures face no consequences;

(4) asks why residents should pay for water losses by municipalities through broken pipes or for the bills that municipalities cannot prove that they are accurate; and

(5) calls on the national executives working with provincial and local government to urgently introduce a moratorium on water and electricity disconnections where bills are disputed, meters are faulty or accounts cannot be proven to be correct until these problems are resolved.

Motion not agreed to.

The SPEAKER: As the motion without notice is not agreed, it now becomes a notice of a motion.

Hon Dugmore, if you are objecting, can you please raise your hand. Can you also please indicate what your position is.

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Mr C M DUGMORE: There's an objection once again. It is not in the format required for a motion without notice.

The SPEAKER: No, hon Dugmore. Is it about the format or is it about the essence of the motion that you are objecting?

Mr C M DUGMORE: It is both!

The SPEAKER: The motion is not agreed to. The motion will be converted into a notice of a motion. Can I again ask the hon members. Firstly, if you want to be recognised to speak, as I said earlier, please raise your hand so that you can be noted. Please, be clear on what your objections are based on.

SHENANIGANS OF FOUNDATION PHASE CATALOGUE

(Draft Resolution)

Ms C T NONTENJA: Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) notes with concern that the roll-out of the new Foundation Phase textbook catalogue for Grade 1 to

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Grade 3 remains suspended due to concerns regarding procurement, governance and potential financial risks;

(2) further notes that South Africa is facing a severe foundational literacy crisis;

(3) realises that the 2021 Progress in International Reading Literacy Study revealed that over 80% of Grade 4 learners were unable to read for meaning in any language;

(4) recognises that Foundation Phase is the critical stage at which learners acquire the literacy, numeracy and language skills upon which their future education depends;

(5) calls upon the Minister of Basic Education, the Department of Basic Education and provincial education departments to urgently resolve the procurement and governance concerns surrounding Foundation Phase catalogue, while ensuring that no learner enters the 2027 academic year without adequate, appropriate and up-to-date learning and teaching support materials.

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Agreed to.

KWAMAKHUTHA MASS KILLINGS

(Draft Resolution)

Mr M KHOZA: Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) shows concern on the brutal killings of 11 people in KwaMakutha in KwaZulu-Natal on the night of 22 September 2026;

(2) notes that three other people were injured during the shooting while a pregnant woman was amongst those who were injured during the shooting;

(3) further notes that a pregnant woman was amongst those who lost their lives;

(4) condemns the continued loss of innocent lives through gun shooting , organised crime and the proliferation of

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illegal firearms in communities across KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa;

(5) expresses its condolences to the families, friends and loved one of the 11 victims;

(6) wishes those injured a speedy recovery;

(7) calls upon the SA Police Service to intensify investigation and ensure that all those responsible are identified, arrested and brought before the courts;

(8) further calls upon the law enforcement agencies to strengthen intelligence-led operation against illegal firearms, organised criminal networks and violent gangs in KwaMakhutha and the surrounding communities;

(9) calls on the Minister of Police to provide Parliament with a comprehensive report on the progress of the investigation and measures being implemented to prevent and resolve further mass shootings in KwaZulu-Natal;

(10) stands in solidarity with the people of KwaMakhutha and reaffirm ... [Time expired.] ... its commitment to the

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protection of lives of the communities and people of KwaMakhutha.

Agreed to.

KING MAKHOSONKE II PASSES ON

(Draft Resolution)

Mr M NONTSELE: Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) notes with sadness the passing of His Majesty King Makhosonke II, Enock Makhosonke Mabhena, of the amaNdebele nation on Tuesday, 9 June 2026, at the age of 65;

(2) further notes that he served for 40 years, ascending the throne in 1986 after succeeding his late father, King William Mbhongo;

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(3) acknowledges that throughout his reign, His Majesty showed a strong commitment to the development and empowerment of traditional communities;

(4) further acknowledges that he played a key role in strengthening the amaNdebele community, preserving its cultural heritage, promoting social cohesion and fostering unity among his people;

(5) understands that His Majesty was unanimously elected as the inaugural chairperson of the Forum for South Africa's Majesties, a historic platform established to enhance collaboration between government and kings, queens and principal traditional leaders on matters affecting traditional communities;

(6) further understands that he participated in the forum's strategic planning session, where traditional leaders and government worked together to strengthen the institution of traditional leadership and advance development in traditional communities; and

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(7) extends its heartfelt condolences to the royal family, the amaNdebele community and all those mourning the loss of His Majesty King Makhosoke II.

Agreed to.

SOUTH AFRICA SNATCHES INTERNATIONAL AWARRD

(Draft Resolution)

Ms L B SAPO: Chairperson, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) notes that South Africa made historic strides on the international stage by being designated as the first-ever African global country of honour at the 19th Pujiang Innovation Forum, held in Shanghai, China;

(2) further notes that this momentous occasion coincided with the celebration of the 28th anniversary of diplomatic relations between South Africa and the People’s Republic of China, reinforcing our all-round strategic partnership in the new era;

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(3) applauds the brilliant exhibition at the South African Pavilion, which proudly spotlighted local breakthroughs and advanced technologies from critical institutions, including the SA National Space Agency, Sansa, for its cutting-edge space science developments;

(4) recognises that this prominent cohosting platform allowed South Africa to effectively project not only its own capabilities but the broader African science, technology and innovation agenda on the global stage; and

(5) congratulates the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, our participating scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs for flying the South African flag high and solidifying our position as a leader of scientific innovation on the African continent.

Agreed to.

SHEIKH AHMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM PASSES ON

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(Draft Resolution)

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) notes the passing of Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, a member of Dubai’s ruling Al Maktoum family, on 21 September 2026;

(2) further notes that he played an instrumental role in the wider Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, MBRGI, a humanitarian umbrella body of the Dubai leadership;

(3) recognises that the Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, MBRGI, actively supports educational programmes and digital transformation across South Africa;

(4) further recognises that beneficiaries of MBRGI educational projects were mainly young African girls from remote villages;

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(5) acknowledges some of its global initiatives in South Africa such as The Digital School, Teacher Task Force Knowledge Platform, Foundation For Medical And Educational Sciences and Al Maktoum School of Management Excellence which provides training facilities in South Africa to empower young students looking to enter into the equestrian and agricultural management industries; and

(6) conveys its heartfelt condolences to Dubai's ruling Al Maktoum family.

Agreed to.

YOUTH HERITAGE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

(Draft Resolution)

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the House–

(1) commends Freedom Park, the National Heritage Council, National Liberation Heritage Institute of South

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Africa, NaLHISA, and Afreximbank for arranging the Youth Heritage Leadership Academy under the theme: *Developing Young Custodians and Leaders of Africa's Liberation Heritage;*

(2) notes that the initiative brings young people together to deepen their understanding of Africa's liberation heritage and the importance of preserving the collective memory of the continent;

(3) acknowledges that empowering young people to become custodians of our heritage ensures that the sacrifices, the struggles, the values and the achievements of those who came before us are preserved and carried forward to coming generations;

(4) recognises that this initiative gives practical expression to this year's Heritage Month's theme: *Celebrating Our Living Heritage: Strengthening the Ties That Bind Us*, by strengthening youth's connection to our shared history and fostering unity through a common appreciation of our liberation heritage; and

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(5) expresses its appreciation to Freedom Park, the National Heritage Council, NaLHISA and Afreximbank for investing in young heritage leaders and for contributing to the preservation and promotion of Africa's living heritage.

Agreed to.

TOURISM BOOSTS ECONOMIC GROWTH

(Draft Resolution)

Ms H ISMAIL: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the House -

(1) notes that tourism boosts economic growth, but its full potential is not yet realised;

(2) recognises that the private sector is the main driver of South Africa's tourism sector, fulfilling parts of the mandate that SA Tourism is supposed to fulfil;

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(3) acknowledges that the Department of Tourism needs to better incorporate the private sector in decisions made about developing new air routes, as well as securing better buyers for the Africa Indaba and Meetings Africa;

(4) calls for stronger partnerships with Board of Airline Representatives of South Africa, Barsa, Airlines Association of Southern Africa, Aasa, and Airports Company SA, Acsa, with the intention to expand air access with a focus on Chinese and Indian markets; and

(5) dissolves that an urgent industry-led tourism aviation task team is established to work with airlines serving South Africa to develop a strategy for new air routes to global aviation hubs in countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as well as securing better buyers for Africa’s Travel Indaba and Meetings Africa, leading to an increase in tourism numbers, investment, job creation and economic growth.

Agreed to.

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MASS GRADUATION CEREMONY

(Draft Resolution)

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the House-

(1) notes the successful Mass Graduation Ceremony held by the International Pentecostal Holiness Church in Kanana City, Heidelberg, Gauteng province, on 20 June 2026;

(2) further notes that a total of 930 graduates were celebrated for their academic achievement; comprising of 702 women and 228 men;

(3) acknowledges the outstanding participation of the children of the Lion King of Yehud graduates from Manpower – the Willows, the Antiquity Stars, Bammuso – the Custodians of the Kingdom;

(4) recognises the declaration made at the ceremony that the God of yesteryears remains the God of the

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present, affirming continuity of faith, wisdom, and spiritual grounding in the journey of education;

(5) further recognises that under the leadership of Yahweh, the Lion King of Judah, the institution has continued to spearhead academic excellence through teachings rooted in *Ubuntu*, gnostic wisdom, Pan-African consciousness;

(6) affirms that the nurturing of vibrant, educated, and ideologically conscious youth remains essential in building a prosperous state, a self-reliant continent, and a future anchored in African dignity, our land, and liberation; and

(7) commends the educators, families, and broader Kanana City community for their collective contribution towards advancing knowledge and preserving African values forever and always.

Agreed to.

CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS AND IMPORTANT ROLE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP AND THE ROYAL HOUSES OF SOUTH AFRICA

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(Draft Resolution)

Mr W M DOUGLAS: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the House-

(1) notes the constitutional status and important role of traditional leadership and the Royal Houses of South Africa in the lives of millions of our people;

(2) further notes that traditional leaders are often closest to communities, yet their voices are not always adequately incorporated into municipal planning and decision-making;

(3) recognises that democracy and traditional leadership should not compete, but should work together in the interests of communities;

(4) further recognises the establishment and strengthening of properly constituted Local Houses of Traditional and Khoisan leaders, representing recognised traditional leadership structures within relevant municipalities;

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(5) supports these Local Houses having a meaningful consultative role on municipal development, land, infrastructure, service delivery and matters directly affecting traditional communities; and

(6) affirms that traditional leaders must not simply be invited to ceremonies, their voices must be heard when decisions affecting their communities are made;

(7) reaffirms that our traditional institutions are not relics of our past, they remain an important part of our future.

Agreed to.

GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S OVERDUE NORMS AND STANDARDS ALLOCATIONS

(Draft Resolution)

Ms E R J SPIES: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the House-

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(1) notes with grave concern reports that, as of 3 September 2026, the Gauteng Department of Education had yet to pay R971 million in overdue norms and standards allocations to 2 202 public schools;

(2) further notes that this includes R472,9 million owed to 953 no-fee schools and R250,9 million owed to 129 public special schools;

(3) recognises that these funds pay for essentials, including learning materials, maintenance and municipal services, and that delayed payments place the greatest strain on schools serving vulnerable learners;

(4) urges the Gauteng MEC for Education and Provincial Treasury to publish a school-by-school account of the outstanding payments, provide firm payment dates, and settle the arrears urgently, while reporting to the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education on how teaching and learning will be protected; and

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(5) acknowledges that schools cannot be expected to deliver quality education on promises, and that money allocated to learners must reach their schools.

Agreed to.

SCORPION KINGS LIVE CONCERT

(Draft Resolution)

Mrs T M CHAUKE-ADONIS: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the House-

(1) notes the historical moment that was achieved by Pretoria-born and music trailblazers DJ Maphorisa and Kabza De Small whose landmark festival attracted 74 000 attendees;

(2) further notes that this was a landmark that showed the capability and abilities of South African musicians and the entertainment industry.;

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(3) applaud them on the historical landmark in ensuring that young people were able to participate within the entertainment and music industry;

(4) further applaud them for flying the South African high within the music and the entertainment industry, showing that South Africa is able to compete with the broader global and international music arena;

(5) appreciate their contribution towards the social and economic landscape of South Africa, and through their commitment to ensure that vendors, content producers, but also those who are merchandisers, are able to benefit from the festivals and from the events;

(6) congratulates Kabza De Small and DJ Maphorisa, the Scorpion Kings, on their remarkable achievement; and

(7) may they continue to lead South Africa into new and higher heights and also advocate and take more young people and harness their talents.

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Agreed to.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Ms A N KUMBACA: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the ANC:

> That the House debates measures to safeguard national sovereignty against external and domestic anti-transformation pressures. I thank you, hon Speaker.

Mrs W R ALEXANDER: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the DA:

> That the House debates solutions to the failing system of blacklisting that allows companies to defraud the state, abandon a contract, or is caught in corruption to remain in business with the state. Thank you, Speaker.

Mr W M DOUGLAS: Hon Speaker, our speaker has just got technical problems. Can we come back to MK Party, please? Thank you.

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Mrs N K BILANKULU: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the ANC:

> That the House debates environmental justice and addressing the issue of fairness in how the environmental decision impacts different communities, ensuring everyone has equal access to a healthy environment and meaningful environmental policies. Thank you.

Ms B E MACHI: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the IFP:

> That the House debates the overarching crisis of violent crime in South Africa, resulting in the critical need for co-ordinated law enforcement vigilance, and the adequate resourcing and capacitation of local police stations directly on the ground. Thank you.

Ms S M PETERS: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the PA:

> That the House-

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(1) acknowledges and commends the government of Zimbabwe for its firm approach to addressing illegal immigration, including undocumented South African nationals within its borders. Despite the small number involved, Zimbabwe has made it clear that access to employment and public health services is prioritised for its own citizens. The South African government recognise this as an exercise of national sovereignty rather than xenophobic behaviour.

(2) debates the substantial influx of undocumented foreigners in South Africa, estimated at 3,9 million, with approximately 2 million Zimbabweans with about 180 000 linked to unrenewed Zimbabwean exemption permits.

(3) further debates and examine our immigration policies and consider legislative reforms that provide decisive and lawful mechanisms to deal with undocumented immigration.

(4) finally, must ensure that the employment opportunities are prioritised for South African citizens in accordance with the Immigration Act 13

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of 2002, while respecting the rights and legal status of those lawfully residing in our country.

Mr P A VAN STADEN: Madam Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the FF Plus:

That the House-

(1) debates-

(a) the deteriorating conditions of roads in Newcastle, Vryheid and the surrounding areas of KwaZulu-Natal,

(b) the need for an investigation into the state of these roads, including measures to hold the relevant local and provincial authorities accountable for the extremely poor road conditions.

(c) the urgent implementation of measures to prevent further deterioration and to commence extensive repairs and rehabilitation of these

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roads in order to support local economic activity, improve road safety and prevent the loss of lives resulting from accidents caused by or exacerbated by the poor conditions of the roads.

Mr A D BEESLEY: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the ActionSA:

That the House debates the increasingly severe operational challenges facing the Port of Durban. The Port of Durban handles 61% of South Africa’s container traffic and while it increased efficiency last year, we cannot allow it to take a single step backwards as seems to be the case unfolding with recent industry reports recording sever average anchorage times of 214 hours, berth times of 123 hours, and a total Durban vessel queue of 33 vessels.

The continued dysfunction reflected in these figures is having serious consequences for businesses and the wider economy. These delays increase costs for importers and exporters, disrupt supply chains, undermine the

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competitiveness of South African businesses and more broadly, throttle economic growth and leads to further increases in unemployment.

Mr K S RAMAILA: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the ANC:

That the House debates the urgent need for a response to the escalating increase in drug trafficking into South Africa. Thank you.

Mr S N SWART: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the ACDP:

That the House debates the planned national digital ID roll-out, given that the policy of centralising sensitive biometric data risks enabling unchecked state overreach, and mass surveillance typically found in authoritarian regimes, which fundamentally compromises the citizens' right to privacy. This despite government framing this policy as a means to mitigate identity fraud and the tracking of undocumented foreigners. I thank you.

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Dr K W P D LE ROUX: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the DA:

> That the House debates solutions to the widespread shortage of essential medications impacting the lives of countless diabetics, people with mental health conditions, people suffering from epilepsy, pregnant women, women and girls reliant on contraceptives, and even people requiring simple antibiotics. The shortage of medications at many hospitals and clinics is having a major impact on the health of many South Africans and is a growing human rights concern.

Mr K B MADLALA: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the MK Party:

> That the House debates and supports an urgent infrastructure recovery plan for Ilembe District Municipality with dedicated funding, clear deadlines, and accountability for the repair of failing water and sanitation infrastructure.

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IsiZulu:

Abantu baseLembeni bafanelwe ngamanzi, hhayi izaba. Siyabonga, Somlomo.

English:

Vote MK Party on 04 November. Thank you.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the UDM:

That the House debates the need to prevent the use of the Expanded Public Works Programme and other forms of fiscal dumping by government governing parties at both national and local government level during an election year where deployment of public resources is used to secure an unfair electoral advantage of our political opponents as is the case in Buffalo City Municipality where I'm campaigning for mayor. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: I didn't know that you were campaigning for mayor. Thank you very much. ANC!

Mr N L S KWANKWA: I am mama, I am.

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IsiXhosa:

Ndifuna ivoti yakho.

English:

The SPEAKER: No. [Laughter.]

Mr C M DUGMORE: Are you registered?

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the ANC:

That the House debates youth unemployment as an escalating national crisis.

Mr V ZUNGULA: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the ATM:

That the House debates the reports that R6,3 billion was moved out of the South African economy, particularly in Tshwane, from the spaza or township economy. This is drainage of the economy, it contributes to job losses, unemployment and it is a widespread phenomenon across the entire country.

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This debate will help assist the country to ensure that the township economy is able to prioritise job creation, particularly for the South Africans who have to endure a country with high unemployment rates and high poverty rates.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the Al Jama-ah:

That the House debates the unnecessary means test that families of detainees killed in detention during apartheid are subjected to qualify for funds from the SA Legal Aid Board for the reopening of inquests into the deaths of their loved ones.

This follows the recent re-humiliation the widow of Black Consciousness leader Steve Bantu Biko had to endure at the start of the reopening into the inquest of his death, and the long delays in reopening of inquests that families such as Imam Abdullah Haron, Chief Albert Luthuli, and many others went through. Malibongwe [Praise.] Vote for Al Jama-ah. Thank you.

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Dr L W MAHLATSI: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the UAT:

> That the House debates the current misplacement and underutilisation of the Co-operative Enterprise Development capacity, which is placed within the Office of the Director-General in the Department of Agriculture, where experienced officials lack a clear programme of work and defined responsibilities. Despite repeated strategic planning, there is no implementation plan, and affected officials have not been directly engaged to address operational challenges.

The SPEAKER: I noted the hand of Megan Chauke and Christie from the DA.

Ms K A CHRISTIE: Hon Speaker, may I pass my motion now?

The SPEAKER: You can, but next time you will miss the opportunity, because I did pause and ask and no one came up, so I thought you are going for dinner. Okay, you can proceed.

Ms K A CHRISTIE: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the DA:

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That the House debates the urgent need for the radical overhauling of the manner in which national state-owned enterprise board members are appointed. Thank you.

Mrs T M CHAUKE-ADONIS: Hon Speaker, I do sincerely apologise, we were struggling to unmute. I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the ANC:

That the House debates the escalating increase or national crisis on youth unemployment, and therefore its declaration as a disaster in the National Assembly.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chauke, but that had already been raised by one of your members. GOOD!

Ms B E S ZUMA: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the MK Party:

That the House calls for stronger measures to investigate municipal contracts found to have been unlawfully or corruptly awarded, to recover public funds lost and ensure consequences for those responsible.

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Ms S SINGH: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the DA:

> That the House debates the effectiveness of interventions by national and provincial government in failing municipalities. Thank you.

Mrs T M CHAUKE-ADONIS: Hon Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the House I shall move on behalf of the ANC:

> That the House debates a public campaign that is strengthened on toxic masculinity and improved public participation and participation of men and homosexuality.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I just want to remind you. I know we had had a long constituency period a bit, such that parties might have forgotten some of the procedures. I just want to remind you that in respect of motions without notice, you actually have to share those among each other through the normal channels that you use, so that we can minimise the processes of objection and maybe parties have an opportunity to amend.

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I just want to remind you of that, because there had been instances where it wasn't clear what was the issue the objections was about. This concludes the business for the day and the House is adjourned. You can go to your dinner and have a good rest for tomorrow.

The business of the day concluded.

The House adjourned at 19:51.

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