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PROCEEDINGS OF HYBRID NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 14:01.

House Chairperson, Ms M G Boroto, took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation.

Announcements

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Order, hon members. Before we proceed with today's business, I wish to announce that the vacancy which occurred owing to the loss of membership of the National Assembly by Mr A V Khoza in terms of section 47(3)(c) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, has been filled by the nomination of Ms M S Letlape, with effect from 2 November 2023.

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The member has made and subscribed the oath in the Speaker's Office. I welcome the hon member. I thought she would be here. She was sworn in not long ago.

IsiZulu:

Baba uMthethwa, iphi ingane?

English:

Okay. It is not long that we were with her. I don't know what happened. Anyway, hon members, the only item on the Order Paper is questions addressed to the Deputy President. There are four supplementary questions on each Question. Parties have given an indication on which question their members to pose a supplementary question. Adequate notice was given to the parties for this purpose. This was done to facilitate the participation of members who are connecting to the sitting through the virtual platform.

The members who will pose supplementary questions will be recognised by the Presiding Officer. In allocating opportunities for supplementary questions the principle of fairness among others has been applied. If a member who is supposed to ask a supplementary question through the virtual platform is unable to do so due to technological difficulties

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the party Whip on duty will be allowed to ask the question on behalf of their member.

When all supplementary questions have been answered by the Deputy President, we will proceed to the next question on the Question Papers. Members asking supplementary questions or raising points of order may remain seated when doing so. Hon members, there was a request from the Office of the Speaker by the Deputy President as he is assigned on official duty to Saudi Arabia and he has to board as soon as we finish, so, he will be on virtual. Thank you very much as we proceed.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Hon House Chairperson, I did not want to disturb the Deputy President when it is time for him to respond to questions. The reason why I am standing up is simply because tomorrow the SA Cricket team is playing against Afghanistan in the semifinals of the Cricket World Cup. I think it is important that, through you, this House is able to wish them well because we will not be sitting before then and also to get the whole country to rally behind them as we did with the Springboks so that we do it for all the national teams. Thank you.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Thank you very much, hon Kwankwa. I think as the House, we share your sentiments and wish them well. Thank you very much.

QUESTIONS TO THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Question 19:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Good afternoon to all members. Hon House Chair, in addition to other responsibilities that the President has assigned to me, I also serve as a Leader of Government Business responsible for the following: Monitoring the implementation of the legislative programme in Parliament, this includes tracking the procession of priority Bills; second, introducing measures to effectively monitor and improve the quality of legislation submitted by the executive council.

In line with these responsibilities we have introduced the following measures: There is a dedicated official in the Office of the Deputy President responsible for tracking legislation as introduced by the Cabinet; second, all Bills are Tabled before Cabinet committees before being submitted to Cabinet for final approval; Bills that do not meet the required standards are not submitted to Cabinet but rather

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they are sent back to the relevant departments for further work; all Cabinet meetings have a standing agenda item for the Leader of Government Business to report especially on legislation; the Deputy President as the Leader of Government Business reminds all Ministers in writing to submit priority legislation on time and in line with the Parliament's programme. In this regard, the Deputy President as the Leader of Government Business in Parliament convenes regular meetings with the Speaker, the Chairperson of the NCOP and other Presiding Officers of Parliament in order to streamline legislative programme.

Hon House Chairperson, I am pleased to report that Cabinet approved 42 Bills on the 2023 legislative programme on 29 March this year. As of 26 October this year, 22 Bills on this programme have already been introduced to Parliament and are broken down as follows: Four Bills pronounced during the state of the nation address, Sona, by the President have all now been introduced; 17 Mandatory Money Bills, nine have been introduced; 9 legislations with Constitutional Court deadlines, 3 have been introduced; 12 critical priority Bills, six have been introduced and the rest of the Bills are currently being processed. In preparation for the next term, we will ensure that all the policy and legislative reforms

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introduced in the Sixth Parliament are realised. I thank you, hon House Chairperson.

Dr A LOTRIET: Deputy President, it is clear that these mechanisms that you have in place are not working. Not only are we sitting with a raft of Bills to be dealt with before the end of term but there is a very real possibility that many of these Bills will lapse with no guarantee that they will be revived in the Seventh Parliament. This becomes even more problematic when Parliament is not able to meet its deadlines set by the Constitutional Court and have to ask for extension upon extension.

Judges have been scathing in their judgments about Parliament and Ministers. To add insult to injury, the negligence of members of the executive to submit legislation timeously almost caused great embarrassment for the country. We would not have been able to celebrate the Springboks last week and their wonderful achievement if it were not even a last minute reprieve for not complying with the World Anti-Doping Agency, WADA, requirements. This was totally preventable by having proper monitoring systems in place that work to ensure the country at least have necessary legislation to ensure our international compliance.

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The same goes for the Electoral Act Amendment Bill, these are both that can have serious consequences for the country and it is unacceptable that it is left to the last minute. Deputy President, as Leader of Government Business, will there be consequence management? Will you take action against these Ministers? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon House Chairperson, let me reiterate once more, that I have written to all Ministers who wanted to introduce priority legislation and we did set deadlines. I must say that many of the Ministers complied and we did put a deadline to say that beyond this point we will not be taking any more Bills. I think it is important that we give Parliament the opportunity to be able to have time to process these Bills. So, you are quite right, hon member, that if we bring Bills late it creates a problem because many of these pieces of legislations are required out there in society.

So, yes, we have strongly stressed to Ministers that the legislation must come on time. In fact, we have agreed with the President that if the Ministers don't bring legislation on time, they won't see the light of day because they have to go to Cabinet committees to be processed to ensure that the quality is okay before they can go to Cabinet. We will

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consider what other further measures we will take in case the problem persists but so far all the Bills that were required for this year have gone through past Cabinet. I do hope that Parliament will be able to process. Thank you very much, hon member. Thank you very much, hon House Chair.

Mr B A RADEBE: Hon Deputy President, we appreciate the fact that the executive is committed to the radical socioeconomic transformation of the country as articulated in the Freedom Charter. This agenda can be achieved through the introduction of progressive laws such as the National Health Insurance, NHI, Bill and the Expropriation Bill.

Since section 85 of the Constitution gives the executive the right and authority to prepare and initiate legislation when Parliament is in session, is it correct to expect the executive to relinquish this authority to introduce Bills because the general elections are around the corner? In doing so, will that not undermine the aspirations of South Africans to achieve a better life for all through new laws and amendments to the existing laws? We are as well urging the SA citizens to register next week, will that not undermine that process? Thank you, Chair.

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Radebe, our legislative programme is in line with the manifesto of the governing party. So, Ministers look at what the governing party has committed to do and they then develop legislation; secondly, the issues that the President raised during the sona and number of them do require legislation, so, that also get considered; thirdly, some of the issues that come from courts including the Constitutional Court require that certain pieces of legislation be processed. So, that is what we do. We make sure that these various Bills do go through during the term of office of the governing party because we do not want to leave legislation to be processed in the next term, we have to do all of them in the current term.

So, we are busy processing those to ensure that come the elections next year, the legislation that was required during this term has actually been processed and not left to fall over to the next term. All those Bills I mentioned are now before committees of Parliament. Some have been published and I am confident that by the end of the term of this Parliament they would have been processed all of them. Thank you very much.

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Ms Z MAJOZI: House Chair, I will take the question on behalf of hon Singh. Hon Deputy President, some of our Bills do not meet the constitutional values and quality as promised to South Africans. Not long ago the Minister of Health was slammed by the Constitutional Court on the Bill, meaning that, the quality of Bills that are being processed are not thoughtful. I would like to know what mechanisms are in place to ensure that Bills align with our constitutional values to ensure that they fit the postapartheid context we live in? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon House Chairperson, as I said earlier, when a Bill is being processed it goes through Cabinet committees. The Minister and the Director-General will make presentation. They can even bring experts, they can bring their lawyers and they present. That is where we ensure that we become rigorous to ensure that the quality of the Bills is up to standards. I did say earlier that in situations where the Bill does not meet the standard, it does not pass to Cabinet it is sent back to be reworked on.

Also, we know that in most cases before the President assent to pieces of legislation they get checked once more, the legalities thereof, so that they meet all the standards. So,

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from our side measures are in place to ensure that all legislation that pass by government meet the right standards that are required. Therefore, we make sure that we are very rigorous. It may happen that in some instances one or two things is missed, as you have referred to the Minister of Health, but in most cases the majority of our Bills do meet the required standards that is needed. That is why they have gone through. Thank you very much.

Mr S N SWART: Hon Deputy President, arising from your response the ACDP and I am sure all of us in Parliament are deeply concerned about missing Constitutional Court deadlines for remedial legislation. Deputy President, you indicated that 9 have deadlines and three have been Tabled. Now, in that recent Constitutional Court Ruling, for the first time ever the Constitutional Court ordered that the Minister of Home Affairs and his Director-General must personally pay part of the costs, which means that both fell through the cracks.

The court in expressing its discomfort and upset with what was said, said that the Director-General had attempted to blame its delay on COVID-19 pandemic and the fire ... [Inaudible.] ... although this had taken place 24 months past the deadline. There was also a comment about Parliament - which obviously on

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the face of it - that there was campaigning for re-election seemed to be more important to members than meeting the deadline for the enactment of remedial legislation. What mechanisms can we put in place from the executive to ensure Constitutional Court deadlines are met to avoid such judgements? Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Thank you. Please, hon members, let us avoid preambles so that we do not run over with time. The hon Deputy President.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: House Chairperson, we continue to look at mechanisms to improve. Obviously, what we did from March this year, as I indicated earlier, I do write letters to all Ministers asking them if they have priority legislation and indicate to them the deadlines that we put in place particularly after discussion with the Presiding Officers. I must say that most of the Ministers do keep to those deadlines including legislation that must be passed as required by the Constitutional Court.

So, my inclination is that all the legislation that have gone or all the Bills that have gone through Cabinet will definitely be passed before the end of the term of this

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Parliament. As I said, all of them are currently now being processed, of course, it means a lot of work for Parliament because we are going towards the end. We will try in the coming term that most of this legislation should come in much earlier than later in the year. We, as the Cabinet have now processed everything that needed to be processed. Thank you very much hon member and hon House Chairperson.

Question 20:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson. As part of our efforts to assess progress that the government is making in implementing its programmes, the President and I have been meeting all Ministers, Deputy Ministers, directors-general, DGs, and all heads of department. In this regard, the President and I have had the opportunity to also meet the Minister, the Deputy Minister and the Commissioner of Police to brief us on the work that they are doing, the plans that they have to fight crime in the Republic of South Africa. The Ministry is currently implementing Operation Shanela, a comprehensive plan to combat crime throughout the country. The plan includes clamping down amongst others illegal mining and other serious crimes.

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The SA Police Service has established specialised units to work with business, private security and state-owned enterprises to tackle illegal mining, the construction mafia, cable theft, vandalism of economic infrastructure and also gender-based violence. The Minister also announced that recruits are being enlisted to increase the capacity of the police. In this regard, 10 000 new trainees have already graduated and over the next financial years additional trainees will graduate, bringing the total number to 30 000 new police officers.

An amount of 1 000 of the newly recruited personnel have been ring-fenced to increase the capacity of public order policing which deals with crowd management issues and threats resulting from that. The public order policing, POP, has by the end of October this year, received an additional 4 000 members resulting from this recruitment drive.

Hon House Chairperson, I have confidence, not only in the Minister of Police Minister Cele, the Deputy Minister Mathale and Commissioner Masemola, but in all men and women in blue right to the lowest ranking police officer who are committed to fighting and defeating crime in our communities. There's recently launched, and I quote:

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Combating crime through decisive police action and robust community involvement and the operationalisation of increased crime prevention and combating action plans through Operation Shanela are yielding results in the fight against crime in our community.

Hon House Chair, we will continue to work jointly with the private sector to invest in efforts to combat crime. I also urge communities to continue to be involved in efforts to fight crime. They must work with the police and expose the rotten apples within our police force. Together we will win this fight. Let's continue to build safer communities. I thank you, hon House Chair.

Mr E MTHETHWA: Thank you, Chair. Today, the City of Johannesburg under the experience guidance of a commissar, Dr ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Hon Makwetla, "kwala" [close]. Proceed!

Mr E MTHETHWA: ... a former EFF Member of Parliament and the current member of the mayoral committee for public safety launched a new crime combating and prevention unit as well as

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a technical reaction unit. This step was taken due to the EFF number 39 as prevention realisation that the SA Police Service, SAPS, lacks the capacity and willingness to adequately address the surge in the city in crimes such as robberies, cash-in-transit heists and theft marks a significant move towards the restoring order in the city. In order to extend this initiative, can you commit to engage with the City of Johannesburg, particularly commissar Dr Tshwaku to establish this specialised units across local governments? Additionally, would you consider proposing a conditional grant dedicated to fund these units in metropolitan municipalities? Thanks, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Hon Myeni, please! All hon members on the platform please check your gadgets and switch them off. No, we cannot talk the same thing every day. It is too much now. We don't want to know whether you are in or not we do have the participants' list in our gadgets too. Proceed, hon Deputy President, and my apologies for that.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you, hon House Chairperson. Hon Mthethwa, the approach to policing over a number of years has been to integrate our approach. The SA Polica Service does work with the municipal police. Some are called the

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metropolitan police throughout the country. Indeed, we will ensure that the SA Police Service, SAPS, do work with the City of Johannesburg as they are supposed to. And they are supposed to work with all other cities. We will succeed to combat crime and defeat it if all the security forces work together and not in silos. This is an approach that has been pursued over a number of years. I think it will be important that it continue to be pursued including in the City of Johannesburg where we do want to say that the City of Johannesburg working closely with the SAPS.

As I said earlier, the SA Police Service also do work with the private security companies. We enlist the services of the private sector where necessary so that we can ensure that we increase our efforts to combat crime.

The answer is, yes, we will work with the City of Johannesburg as we continue to work with all other cities. Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Hon Mahambehlala! The information technology, IT, please assist me. Just mute everybody whose mic is on. Please, assist me.

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Mr V C XABA: Thank you, hon Deputy President. Deputy President, the fight against crime ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Hon Xaba, you are tall, and that thing is ... no, don't sit down just try to bend. It is not that long.

Mr V C XABA: Thank you very much, hon Deputy President. Deputy President, the fight against crime and corruption and building safer communities is one of this government's top priorities. In line with that, the President of the Republic of South Africa directed significantly that more resources be made available to the Police, the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, and the Special Investigating Unit, and that these agencies be beefed up with resources, skilled and professional individuals including ensuring that the investigative directorate is established within the NPA to boost the country's fight against crime and criminality.

Deputy President, what progress is being made to give effect to this strategy in order to decisively deal with impunity, general lawlessness and restore confidence in our crime fighting structures?

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Again, preambles! To those who are coming in, I am no longer going to allow you. It is one minute.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson. Hon Xaba, yes, the President has ensured that there are a number of initiatives that have been put in place to ensure that we deal with the problem of serious crimes. As you are aware the Investigating Directorate within the NPA is tasked to deal with many of these matters, namely, to investigate serious crimes, corruption, etc, and they are empowered by the Prevention of Organised Crime Act which has been passed to ensure that they can do this work.

There are other pieces of legislations that are also in place to assist in combating these serious criminal activities including corruption. One of them is the Protection of Constitutional Democracy Against Terrorist and Related Activities Act. We also have - particularly for the government departments to deal with corruption - the Public Finance Management Act, PFMA, well-known to many of us. There is also the Financial Intelligence Centre Act that is in place. There are a number of these pieces of legislation that are in place. I am convinced that given all these pieces of legislation we

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will be able to succeed to deal with serious acts of criminality and corruption because we have the capacity to investigate and deal with all these matters that sometimes may seem complex, but these institutions like the Investigating Directorate, ID, have the capacity to be able to investigate. Thank you very much, hon Xaba. Thank you, hon House Chairperson.

Mr A G WHITFIELD: Thank you very much, House Chairperson. Deputy President, you know more than most people that lawlessness and violent crime is not just reserved for the criminals in our streets, but there are men and women in blue who commit some of the most violent crimes in our country. And you have personal experience of your own very important person, VIP, protection unit committing the most violent assault on innocent South African citizens on the side of the N1 in Fourways. The question to you is, what discussions have you had with the Minister of Police to ensure that there are real and meaningful consequences for police brutality. These officers are back at work. This is unacceptable. We need to know what you are doing to curb police brutality and ensure discipline amongst violent SAPS members. Thank you.

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you, hon House Chairperson. Hon member, as I said earlier members of the police are being trained and continuously trained. I did indicate earlier that within the next few financial years 30 000 and more police officers will graduate, and they would have received proper training.

The discussions that we had with the Minister of Police indicated that this is happening. From time to time you may have challenges as we deal with implantation. But there is no one who don the attire or the uniform of the police to be a police officer who is not properly trained. All of them are being trained and sometimes they deal with difficult matters out there, but they have been trained to be able to deal with people in a humane manner as far as possible. But outside there in the real world we know we do have hardened criminals and sometimes police have to be able to act in a particular way to deal with those situations. But in most cases they do apply what they have learnt during training when they are at the police college.

I am confident that South Africa will continue to do that to make sure that men and women in blue who are out there on the ground always implement the law and always respect the law. We

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know that when they don't do so there are consequences. They also know that if they don't behave in a manner that is lawful, they will face consequences as required by the law. Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Hon Kohler-Barnard and hon Papo, you are talking between yourselves and you are disturbing us.

Mr W M THRING: Hon Deputy President, it is a common cause that South Africans are under attack and this attack comes largely from the criminal element throughout the country. One can speak of the construction mafia, the new avocado mafia and the drug and human traffickers applying their trades almost openly in some instances in front of and with the tacit consent of SAPS. Mr Deputy President, it has been said that the Scorpions had a conviction rate of some 90%, currently SAPS has a conviction rate of 10% for murder and rape, and overall conviction rate of 20%.

Does the Deputy President agree that beside SAPS all crime fighting units in South Africa need to be adequately capacitated? If yes, will this include giving the Hawks its original mandate as under the former President Mbeki? If the

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Deputy President agrees, what are the timelines and parameters of this capacitation; and if not, why not?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson. Yes, indeed, I agree with the capacitation. In our meeting with Minister Cele, we were briefed with the President that that is what is happening now. I did allude earlier on to the specialised units that are being set up to face particular kind of crimes. I guess that when you speak about specialised units one could think, as the member is saying, about the Scorpions in the past. They may be called with different names, but the issue is, yes, let's put in these specialised units to face various challenges. There are armed robberies in our country, there are burglaries, there is gender-based violence and there is illegal mining. Specialised units are being set up and are being given the necessary training and the necessary support and equipment that they can use. We know that criminals are now very advanced using sophisticated equipment, and so should be the police. We will support our police to also be able to use new technologies to be able and not to lag behind criminals but to be or more ahead in terms of the equipment that they have.

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Yes, hon member, we will ensure that this capacity is given as soon as possible. At the moment I can't give the exact timeframes on when everybody would have been trained but as I said earlier a lot of those who are already working do continue to receive refresher courses and training. The new ones are also being enlisted now. By the end of the next financial year, as I said, we will have close to 30 000 new police officers on the ground. Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson.

Question 21:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon House Chairperson, I am pleased to report that together with the leadership of the Human Resource Development Council, HRDC, we have completed the ten-year review of the HRDC and as a result, we are refocusing the work of the council. The work of the HRDC has successfully been strengthened through partnerships, particularly between government, business, academia, trade unions, organised labour, civil society and other sectors as well, together addressing blockages in the country's human resource development.

The HRDC has been critical in contributing to the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, serving as an anchor by

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ensuring that the plan is skills-based innovation-led, and entrepreneurship-driven, but also advances technology.

Hon House Chairperson, as part of our commitment to addressing the skills shortage in the economy, the government, through the Department of Higher Education and Training, is committed to ensuring that the doors of education and learning remain open to all our people, to the youth, particularly from historically disadvantaged backgrounds. The Department of Higher Education and Training is already engaged in preparing the National Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, for the coming year two thousand and twenty-four academic year through various measures which include the finalization of a new comprehensive student financial aid model for Cabinet approval. As part of the process to develop this model, the department has consulted several stakeholders, including, amongst others, the Business Association of South Africa, National Economic Development and Labour Council, Nedlac, and other participants like organised labour.

According to the Minister of Higher Education and Training, clear proposals on the funding model will be submitted to the Cabinet by the end of this year. The proposed funding model seeks to ensure that in the new academic year, particularly

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2024, there will be the following: retention of existing funding for poor students in the income bracket of zero to R350 000 per annum per household. A funding strategy for the missing middle which includes engaging with the financial sector support by providing loans to students within that bracket and incorporating undergraduate and postgraduate students in the funding model.

Regarding the challenge with direct payments, which started around June this year, the Minister of Higher Education and Training has already met and directed the board to investigate the extent of the problem and further devised a plan to address the identified challenges. To this end, the board has developed a Seven Point Plan to speed up direct payments to affected individuals.

Lastly, the Minister has also directed the board to investigate the allegations of irregularities involving the appointment process of the four direct payment service providers. There have been notable actions on this matter. However, the board is still to provide a detailed plan on how it will respond to the remaining recommendations of the investigation report. I thank you very much, hon House Chairperson.

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Mr M G MAHLAULE: Thank you very much, House Chair. Deputy President, the ANC-led government has positively responded to the call of generations of progressive student leadership and the #FeesMustFall protests by expanding the threshold for funding from R120 000 to R350 000, which is a 191% increase.

Most of the students in higher education and training systems are supported by NSFAS. In other institutions over 80% of students are NSFAS funded. We have realised free education for the poor and the working class. This is the ANC election manifesto commitment we have accomplished. Supporting the missing middle in the context of an increased cost of living is critical to guarantee all students higher education access, and we welcome the work of Cabinet in this regard. We implore decisive interventions to strengthen the governance of NSFAS as mismanagement elements in NSFAS undermine the progress of transforming the conditions of the poor and undermine the ANC implementation.

Concerning skills-based innovation-led, entrepreneurship and advanced technology skills development, how will the HRDC ensure that universities and TVET colleges offer a curriculum that responds to the skills areas which are critical for economic growth and employability of graduates?

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Mahlaule, the Minister for Higher Education addressed a seminar in August this year which focussed on curriculum redesign and innovation, and at this summit, he largely addressed the issues you have raised. So the summit, which was organised by the Ministry, was themed TVET Curriculum transformation is key to unlocking skills development in the modern economy. One thing that we need to stress, hon House Chairperson is that TVET colleges are very important in this regard. We know that many children when they finish matric want to go to university, but we need a lot of our children to go to TVET colleges and the Minister has been stressing that a lot because we need artisans, etcetera. So, this seminar was critical.

In addition, there is a White Paper on Post-School Education and Training, which also outlines this TVET curriculum. So, we do hope that beyond this summit, many of our children have got the message to ensure that they find TVET colleges attractive. Because that's what the labour market needs, it needs those kinds of skills that you can acquire by going to TVET colleges. So, that is something that we support.

I have been on several occasions with the Minister of Higher Education when we go into communities, particularly with the

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District Development Model, where he has emphasised the importance of TVET colleges to ensure that we have the necessary skills that we need as a country. Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson.

Ms C V KING: Deputy President, there is a misalignment between Basic Education and Higher Education to narrow the critical skills gap. The NSFAS funds less than 50% of the career fields in the critical skills list. This was aggravated when students were defunded in June and more than 100 000 students did not receive their allowances, forcing students to abandon their studies due to hunger, poverty and inability to cover their funds. Deputy President, did Minister Nzimande present the expected comprehensive student funding model to Cabinet in October for its sustainability, considering that the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, MTBPS, highlighted a R2 billion downward budget adjustment for NSFAS?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon House Chairperson, yes, the Minister of Higher Education did present that model to Cabinet. He has been working hard with his team to ensure that we meet the demands of our students. We should consider that the number of students going to universities and TVET colleges has increased a lot in recent years and therefore requires that the

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government increase its support and you can see that increase in real terms.

If you go back ten years ago you will see that perhaps the number of children that were going to the universities and colleges maybe were half a million. The number has since tripled. But so is the funding that the government is providing. If I am not wrong, I think as we speak now, NSFAS is well over R15 billion now, having started at around R600 million. So, the number of students going to universities and TVET colleges is increasing, but the government is also increasing support. We may not be able to cover everybody. I know the honourable member is concerned that there are students who have not received their support, but the government will do all it can to ensure that every deserving student receives the support they need. We are doing our best to make sure that our children have to go to school, have to go to university, and have to go to university, especially those who come from disadvantaged families, they will continue to receive support from the government. Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Thank you ever so much, House Chair. Deputy President, apart from the responsibility that the HRDC of

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South Africa has to promote collaboration between government and the social partners in addressing the skills gap, have you considered the need to mobilise funding from the private sector and social partners to bridge the resource gap that we need to address the skills gap and ensure that we invest in the development of human capital in this country?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Kwankwa, indeed, we at the HRDC will seek partnerships with the private sector, civil society and organised labour, and I must say that this is working very well. We are finding a lot of support from these other partners to complement what the government is already doing because there is a lot to be done and a lot of resources are needed. Yes, hon Kwankwa, we are doing that.

I think it's important that if we want to make sure that many of our children benefit and we have the kind of skills that we need as a country, we need to make efforts from many quarters, not only from the government but also from the private sector and civil society. There are lots of organisations out there that are involved in training there are lots of organisations that are doing funding. I am happy that with the work of the HRDC, we are reaching out to many of these partners and they are coming on board. Thank you.

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Mr A M SHAIK-EMAM: Thank you very much, Chairperson. Deputy President, I think we've got it all wrong. A lot of emphasis appears to be on funds and a lot of funds have been allocated to TVET colleges, 60% of those who are going to TVET colleges drop out in the first year. There are no mechanisms to monitor these students. Funding is being given whether they even attend college one single day in the year. So, there is a 60% dropout in the first year, and another 30% that makes it fail Mathematics, Deputy President. And then there is the problem of TVET colleges are not addressing the skills needs, no matter what you discuss. The curriculum is based on the availability of lecturers at these vocational schools. How do you intend to address that with your counterparts to ensure that we prepare them based on the skills needs of this country?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Shaik-Emam, one of the things we have done in recent years is to invest heavily in education from an early age. We need to invest in our children from an early age, in what we call early childhood development. Because if you do that, by the time they get to secondary school or even before university, they will be well prepared. I agree with you that in recent years we have experienced

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quite a high number of children dropping out of school. So, we must prepare them as early as possible.

The Ministry of Basic Education is now allocating a lot of resources to early childhood development. I believe if we do that, our children will go to high school much better prepared and we can avoid the problem of dropouts. So it's not so much about whether they go to a vocational school or university, it's more about making sure they are better prepared from an early age when they enter the school system. Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson.

Question 22:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon House Chairperson, thank you very much. Thank you, hon Hlengwa. Section 154 of the Constitution is important as it serves as a constitutional mechanism that effectively bolsters and fortifies the capacity of municipalities. It enables the national and provincial governments to support and strengthen municipalities to fulfil their responsibilities and provide quality services to the people. Whereas section 139(1) of the Constitution prescribes that when a municipality cannot or does not fulfil its executive obligation in terms of the Constitution or legislation, the relevant provincial executive may intervene

by taking any appropriate steps to ensure the fulfilment of that obligation.

We have always believed that we must, as directed by section 154 of the Constitution, continue to support municipalities to fulfil their constitutional mandate. In instances where there are serious capacity challenges, we will have to implement section 139, which is in my consideration the last resort in this instance, hence informed by section 154 and the intergovernmental framework. In October 2019, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa launched a metropolitan version of the District Development Model, DDM.

The President has always emphasised the need for an improved co-ordination and co-operation system for coherent planning and implementation between all spheres of government.

Enhancing co-operative government through a district co-ordination model is to improve coherence and the impact of spatial targeting by all three integrated government spheres. For practicality disintegration is calibrated at a district and metropolitan scale.

In improving co-ordination, we have established an interministerial committee, IMC, ideally positioned at the

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national level to facilitate it and deliver on the above-mentioned vision, given its composition and also recent experiences. To date, district champions have been appointed and continue to oversee the implementation of the DDM, particularly as facilitated through the presidential DDM izimbizo that have been held in all provinces.

In carrying the mandate of overseeing service delivery interventions across the country, going forward, I have convened the IMC on District-Based Service Delivery, Co-ordination and Implementation, which has now established a war room. The District-Based Service Delivery War Room has been giving attention to the following, among others, identifying service delivery hotspots for interventions identified, implementing quick wins for service delivery programmes in hotspots by sector departments and their entities, ensuring assign alignment of infrastructure development plans and operations with national, provincial, district plans, intensifying the implementation of pipeline infrastructure projects in the identified priority district and metropolitan municipalities, ensuring policy coherence and unlocking bottlenecks to fast-track service delivery, and lastly, improving the safety and security of communities by providing

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early warning and quick win responses mechanisms in areas with service delivery problems.

Through the service delivery war room, we have been doing outreaches. We visited a lot of provinces, many of them out there - including North West, Gauteng, Free State, Kwazulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and we will be visiting many more of these provinces. We believe that the DDM is the way to go and we will work out there with traditional leaders, businesses and other communities.

In conclusion, let me say we are convinced that through improved co-ordination, service delivery interventions across municipalities, related to infrastructure backlogs and the provision of access to essential services can be fast-tracked. Be rest assured that we will not rest until we have brought stability across all municipalities. I thank you, House Chairperson.

Ms Z MAJOZI: Thank you, hon House Chairperson. Hon Deputy President, quest for power in municipalities mirror those of the governing party's internal factional disputes and the abuse of courts to settle political scores serve as an indication of weak internal democracy and mistrust therein. I

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am happy with your response on what the government is going to do, but I do hope that it is not only lip service that you are saying today because we are used to getting government processes and nothing is being done. But what I want to know is: How is the government safeguarding against the abuse of political power at the expense of South Africans? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson and thank you, hon member. Thank you for understanding our approach in this regard. I agree with you that we must do everything in our power to ensure that we minimise disputes in municipalities, particularly if its power struggles. As a governing party, we have taken a lot of steps to ensure that those we deploy to operate at those levels, whether as mayors, etc, go through a rigorous process of interviews. We select the best ... [Inaudible.] ... and so on.

It is human nature that in various spheres of life you will have disputes, but we are doing our best to minimise them. Because as you say, it does affect service delivery on the ground if people are not focused on the work but engage in power struggles. We will definitely do more in this regard. We will do our best. As I said when I concluded earlier when answering that we want to stabilise these municipalities

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because municipalities are really at the coalface of delivery. They are the closest to our people and if there is a sphere of government that must work even better, it is municipalities. And rest assured, we are paying attention to that. Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson and thank you, hon member.

Dr J NOTHNAGEL: Thank you, hon House Chair. Hon Deputy President, the District Development Model is designed to address problems with service delivery from local government perspective. Most municipalities will attest to the struggle to get provincial and national departments to participate in the integrated development plan, IDP, and municipal planning processes. Through the service delivery war room, you stated that there was already an outreach and interaction with stakeholders in several provinces. When will the DDM as an operational model, target the other provinces to improve co-operative governance and build a capable and ethical state? I thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson. Indeed, hon member, I did allude to the fact that we are doing outreach programmes now, going out to provinces. One of the responsibilities that the President has assigned to me is the implementation of the DDM. We felt that the best way

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to do it, in addition to the interministerial committee that we have established, is to do an outreach programme to the provinces and actually go right to the ground where we go to districts levels where we meet with people at those local levels.

So, we are doing that already and I agree with you that we need to go to other provinces. We have already gone to six provinces. We have been to North West, Gauteng, Free State, Kwazulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and we still have to go to the other provinces. When we go to these provinces, we meet with all stakeholders. We meet with provincial governments, the premiers, MECs, and we meet with mayors, we meet with councillors - particularly ward councillors, but we also meet with business, we also meet with NGOs on the ground, we meet with traditional leaders when you go to rural areas. And that's the way you are going to get the DDM right - to ensure that the participants are the people themselves in those local areas. That is why I said earlier that we now have a war room that we are using to be able to fast-track the roll-out of this work. So, the district-based service delivery co-ordination and implementation is done well through this war room, which is reporting to the Office of the Deputy President. So, I am convinced that this is the right way to go, hon

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member, and as you requested, we should fast-track our approach to reach all provinces. Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson.

Ms E R J SPIES: Thank you, House Chair. Deputy President, if I'm correct, the question refers to section 139 intervention to the District Development Model and the effectiveness of that intervention, I suppose. Now, Deputy President, the conflicts and uncertainties surrounding your proposed District Development Model for fixing South Africa's failing municipalities raise critical concerns about the balance of power between district municipalities, provincial authority, and the Constitution.

Deputy President, how will you ensure that the District Development Model in South Africa effectively addresses the fundamental problem of conflicting interests and uncertainties, particularly in cases where district municipalities seek to intervene in local government without undermining constitutionally prescribed provincial authority and the unique situations of distressed municipalities?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson. Yes, the hon member is right. The question at the

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beginning referred to section 139. I indicated that I see that as a last resort because that's where provincial government can put a municipality under administration. But the approach that we seek to take, firstly, is that of support - support in various ways and only when that intervention is not working, then we then consider section 139. Regarding the DDM, yes, the DDM is a mechanism that we must implement but we must avoid disrupting the work of other spheres of government. It is not intended for that. Because the DDM does not have its own programme. The DDM is a mechanism to ensure that government programmes that already exist are implemented, when the President has delivered the Sona, premiers delivered their state of the province addresses, Sopas, the executive mayors delivered the mayoral budget speeches.

So, the programmes are already there, they are prioritised. The DDM is a mechanism for implementation. The reason why it will be able to avoid destabilising other programmes or spheres of government is a partnership approach. So, when we go to these areas, we are received by the mayors. They invite the premiers, the MECs and the mayors. So, almost everybody is there because this is borne out of the spirit of one plan. Yes, you have our different plans but bring them together because if we pull them together, we will make an impact.

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That's really the gist of the DDM - pull the plans together that exist because in that way you are aligning, and you will make an impact. So, that's really what we do, but thank you very much for the question. Thank you, hon House Chairperson

Mrs H DENNER: Thank you, House Chairperson. Hon Deputy President, there are many municipalities where the last resort of section 139 has been implemented because the so-called support was insufficient. Section 139 in essence may be an effective intervention tool, but the implementation thereof is extremely ineffective under provincial and national government. For example, the Mafube Local Municipality in the Free State is currently under intervention for the second time. The first time from 2017 to 2019 failed. The current interventions instituted in 2022 is failing with the council recently even requesting the intervention team to be replaced because they are incompetent, unavailable and unable to properly intervene in the circumstances in which this municipality finds itself - and that's only one example.

So, Deputy President, I would like to know who should intervene when the intervention fails, despite your service delivery, war rooms and service delivery hotspots and other plans that have little to no effect when a municipality being

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under intervention for nearly four years still cannot manage to pay salaries or deliver basic services? Thank you, House Chair.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson. Thank you to the member for the question. Well, let me just say that, as I said earlier, when a municipality fails, the first intervention is support. You support the municipality in various ways, you look at the capacity and so on. When that fails, section 139 comes in - that's when the provincial government, through the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs may take over that municipality and run it.

So, if I understand the hon member, she said that there are instances where even that has not succeeded. I think that's where national government should come in as a last resort because if the intervention by a province does not work, then the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs needs to come in to intervene and make sure that services are provided to the people on the ground and the things that need to be done by the municipalities are done. When you intervene, it's not so much that you put in new leadership at local level. National government can go straight

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on the ground. We have done it in some areas where people didn't have water. Instead of spending time thinking who the next mayor should be and so on, national departments go straight on the ground and provide water and such services. So, yes, national department is in fact the last resort if everything else fails to move into a municipality and make sure that people receive their services. Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson.

Question 23:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon House Chairperson and thank you very much to Dr Mulder. Hon House chairperson after the successful convening of the national dialogue on coalition government at the University of the Western Cape in August of this year, political parties felt that it would be proper for them to share the outcome of the dialogue with their member constituencies. Hon Mulder will recall that at that dialogue we agreed to come up with a declaration of some sort that shows what is it that we agree upon.

Really, in principle and that was discussed, debated, but at the end, as I say, the parties then said, look, instead of adopting a final declaration here, allow us to go back report to our constituencies what came out of the dialogue and study

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these matters further and then we will come back. We will come back with views from our constituencies. So indeed, we did send the declaration, it was the declaration in the road map to all the parties that participated in that dialogue. So, where we are? We really want to thank the political parties that have submitted their input, not all parties, have responded yet.

I did say the last time I answered this question that it was only the IFP that has responded. I am told by my office that there are others now who have also responded. We are compiling the list. But not everybody has responded. So, we want to urge all political parties to submit as agreed so that we can then consolidate that report, prepare it and submit it to Parliament before the end of this term, and in that way, we would have concluded our work properly.

So, hon House Chairperson, this is important because the dialogue is intended to produce a framework to urgently mitigate governance instability which pervades some of our municipalities that are currently governed by coalitions. So, it is important that we finalize the framework. It will help us because we have seen the problems that some of our municipalities, particularly where there are coalitions that

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people are not focusing on service delivery. We want to ensure that there is a framework that can bind everybody to say what is important is service delivery to the people, good governance, ensure that there is resource mobilization that goes to serving communities and all these other issues. So, I am awaiting a response from the rest. We will follow up with other parties and we will then finalize that framework accordingly and we will then bring it to Parliament for consideration. So that is where we are hon House Chairperson and I thank you very much.

Dr C P MULDER: House Chair, let me thank hon Deputy President for your reply. Deputy President, you will recall that at that conference, that was about three months ago and the whole idea, as you correctly pointed out, was to try and find a framework so that we can take coalition governments in South Africa forward in a constructive manner. I think there was agreement that everybody realizes that our democracy has developed to the point where coalitions are becoming a reality and that we need to find some kind of framework. I can understand and it seems that the response from political parties and the fervency of the process has not been that forthcoming if I might put it that.

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I can understand that we still have time to try and get the necessary framework in place if you look specifically at local government and the next local government period that will start with the next election in 2026. My concern is that we are unlikely to find an agreement on amendments and legislation sorted in time for the provincial and national legislative election that will be next year, seeing that we are less than five months before the election.

Are we not concerned that trying to find a framework at this stage will cause some problems because of the political climate that will have an effect on how people look at this kind of approach and framework? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Dr Mulder, you are correct. The sooner we finalize the framework the better. I know that during the debate, the dialogue there was an issue of whether we want legislation in this regard and others will say, not necessarily, the framework is enough. There was also concern whether you want to rush the framework because you anticipate that in the coming elections in 2024, there will be a need for coalition. We kept saying, not necessarily, but there is already a reality on the ground in municipalities where this framework is needed.

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It is true that, you know, when we started in 2016 with the municipalities, we were very unprepared for coalitions. We did not have a framework. At the very least, each party had its own and I think now we all came to the realization that we do need a framework, should there be a need for legislation that will be considered in the near future. But at the very least, I think we should have the framework conclude that as soon as possible. So, my office will remind all political parties to come on board so that we can do a consolidation of that report. Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson.

IsiXhosa:

UMBHEXESHI OYINTLOKO WEQELA ELILAWULAYO: Sekela Mongameli, njengoko kubonakala uqulukubhode phaya koomasipala abakulawulo lwendibanisela, ingaba ungakwazi ukusixelela ukuba uwanika ixesha elingakanani na, la maqela ezopolitiko angekazifaki izindululo zawo? Loo nto iya kusinceda ukuze singavuli uhalala wento ongapheliyo ngoba kuyamoshakala. Ukuba ungayicacisa nento yokuba le nkqubo igxile kulonyulo loorhulumente basemakhaya (local government elections) sisaya kulonyulo lwamaphondo nolukazwelonke. Enkosi.

English:

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon House Chair, let me thank the hon Chief Whip for the question. Hon Chief Whip...

IsiXhosa:

... ndingathanda ukuba lo mcimbi siwuququmbele phambi kokuba le Palamente ivale.

English:

In other words, before the end of the term.

IsiXhosa:

Besinqwenela kananjalo ukuba esi sakhelo sinaso, sisetyenziswe phaya ezantsi kulonyulo loorhulumente basemakhaya kuba ingxaki ikhona phaya kakhulu ezantsi. Ndiza kuwabhalela la maqela ezopolitiko ndiwakhumbuza ukuba iinyanga ezintathu seziphelile, masibuyeleni esithebeni sengxoxo.

English:

I am happy to say that ...

IsiXhosa:

... asiyivulanga uhalala.

English:

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So, the cut-off date is by the end of this term. I am hoping that hon Majodina, maybe even by the end of this year we should get those responses so that we can bring them through to Parliament.

IsiXhosa:

Ndiyabulela.

Dr L A SCHREIBER: Hon House Chair, deputy president, I am glad you mentioned some instances of dysfunctionality at local government level. Let us talk about one of those coalitions. In the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, roads are exploding, and people are dying in building fires. Just yesterday, the DA won a court case which confirmed that the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipal manager was illegally appointed by the current coalition government. The truth is that, the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality is fast becoming ungovernable because its council is divided among 18 different political parties, including eight parties which only have one seat each but hold the balance of power. This has been aggravated by the Merry-go-round of Motions of No Confidence that we have seen there.

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Hon Deputy President, given the way in which extreme political fragmentation has made functional coalitions impossible in Johannesburg, will you support the DA's motion to dissolve the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality so that we can hold fresh elections where voters can restore stability? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Chairperson, I have seen in the news a lot of stories about the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality and I have decided that the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs and myself should immediately intervene. So, we will go to the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality to deal with that situation. I often find that intervention of that nature is very helpful. When you go to the ground, meet with the people, find out what the challenges are and if there is a need that we need to change people, that will be done. But we will let you know once we have intervened there because I am as concerned as you about the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality. In fact, I live there and I am worried because the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality is supposed to be the shining star. There was a time when we used to call it the Africa's best city when Parks Tau was still there. We know that there are challenges now. So, we will go and

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intervene. We must get the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality right. So, I am happy that you have asked that question hon member, you will hear from me.

IsiXhosa:

Siyabulela.

English:

Prof C T MSIMANG: Hon House Chair, Deputy President, since we did respond, one of the proposals that was put forward was that the largest party lead a coalition. There were concerns from other parties about this proposal model. Are you aware of the ruling party, if the ruling party has given any consideration to the proposal? I thank you, hon House Chair.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon House Chair, in fact, hon member will recall that was also our proposal, if I recall very well, when Secretary General Fikile Mbalula presented our proposal. That was one of them. But there were parties who were saying, maybe not necessarily. So, I guess that is where we are. We will deal with this within the framework when we finalize it, because now, it may also border on give and take. Because if you do not have a framework that is working on principle, you look for numbers and if I want numbers, the hon member, I can

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give you a post and so on and say do not worry, you take the mayorship, but my team will take eight MMCs. So, people do those kinds of things, whereas If you have a proper ...

Sepedi:

MODULASETULO WA NGWAKO (Moh M G Boroto): Ke kgopela tshwarelo moo, Motlatšamopresidente. Ntate Seabi! Ka kgopelo, nke le tswalele maekrofone wa gagwe.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I was saying, hon House Chairperson that we will fine tune this framework when we finalise it. Thank you very much.

Question 24:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon House chair, after the national tragedy in July 2021 which left over 354 people dead, especially in some parts of KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng. His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa appointed an expert panel led by Professor Sandy Africa, Advocate Mojanku Gumbi and Mr Silumko Sokupa as additional members to investigate the incident and report to him.

Hon House Chairperson on Friday the 4th of February 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa tabled the expert panel's report to

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the National Security Council. Among other findings, the report of the panel highlighted the weaknesses of state institutions to conduct timely risk assessments and the ability of these institutions to forewarn police and government of similar impending violence.

One area of concern as raised by the panel was the lack of capacity of police officers to stop and contain the rioting and looting as well as the lack of capacity within the SA Police Service, SAPS to control huge crowds. In this regard, we have already indicated as reported to the National Council of Provinces Earlier that 10 000 police trainees have already graduated this year and this recruitment drive will be implemented annually for the next two financial years and in that case, bringing the number, as I said earlier, to about 30 000 new recruits.

I said earlier hon House Chair, that 1 000 of these have now been ring-fenced to serve in the public order policing, which now boasts about additional 4 000 members through this recruitment drive.

Furthermore, the SA Police Service has also developed what they call the increased crime prevention and combating action

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plan. And they do this in collaboration with other law enforcement partners, whether they be metropolitan police, private sector, etc. And that will ensure that they are able to immediately stabilise areas where there is violent crime.

Ministers of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster, JCPS, have since committed to strengthen the criminal justice system and capacitating law enforcement personnel to serve our people better. We have also been engaging other countries which have state-of-the-art criminal justice system to share some of the good practices with us to be able to bring improvements in our own country. So, there's a lot of work now happening to ensure that we should not be caught off guard and the JCPS which I chair is driving that process. Hon House Chair, I thank you.

Ms A RAMOLOBENG: Thank you for the comprehensive response, Deputy president. We appreciate the efforts of government in strengthening the JCPS Cluster, including capacitating SAPS by way of recruitment of more police officers that we have elaborated on and the implementation of the basic police training and development programme as well as appointments that have been made in the leadership of the State Security Agency.

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Deputy President, the terrible mayhem, and violence meted out during the July 2021 unrest undermined the legitimacy of state institutions and left the nation psychologically traumatised. Apart from the implementation of the panel's recommendation, what other measures will government put in place to capacitate state institutions to effectively execute their mandate in order to increase public confidence in our state institutions? I thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you very much hon House Chairperson and thank you very much to the hon Ramolobeng. I think in a way, hon member, I have alluded to some of the things that we are doing in this regard, as you yourself acknowledge. Training is one of them, increase in the number of police officers but, beyond that, we have decided that one of the critical areas that we need to invest in is intelligence. Because you can have a big number of police officers on the ground, but if they have no information or information real time, they may not be able to do better policing.

So, we have agreed that we will also capacitate the crime intelligence unit within the SAPS and the Investigative

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Directorate. Many of these institutions need to be capacitated as we said earlier because once you do so, they give capacity to men and women on the ground. They operate with knowledge, they know what they can expect, and that's really what we are doing now to ensure that these institutions are capacitated, and they must be able to deal with all sorts of complexities that they find on the ground such corruption and criminality.

So, we expect that the national director of public prosecution will play a little role in this regard to ensure that we improve in the way we do our work. Thank you very much hon House Chairperson and thank you very much hon Ramolobeng.

Ms D KOHLER: Chair, this Parliament is littered with experiences of investigations, panel reports, commissions, the High-Level Review Panel report of 2018 has the majority of its recommendations still unfulfilled. The Zondo Commission has seen no arrests despite astounding revelations and this expert panel reports specifically about tasking security institutions to forewarn the police and government of impending violence was much praised in July last year.

Then how was it that this country was surprised by the burning of its 21 trucks this year? Again, no warning arrived, despite

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the billions spent on the security services. Once again, our police were caught with their pants down. The violent protests and crime rates are soaring, so it seems to me your words ring rather hollow and that this latest panel was just another smokescreen to make it look as though you're doing something, when in fact you're achieving nothing. Do pinpoint for this House what exactly has been achieved by commissioning this, no doubt horrendously expensive expert panel report.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon House Chairperson, I see the member is giving up too early. I've just said that the President received the report. We are now busy with implementing the report. Things don't happen overnight hon member, we have to train people, we have to put capacity, so watch the space. There will be improvement, but things won't happen overnight. I know you are a bit impatient but be assured that government is on top of the situation. Thank you very much.

Adv B J MKHWEBANE: Deputy President, the ANC government stands in fighting crime, any crime, including violent crime, shows that the ANC wants to be seen to be committed to fighting crime. But the panel report shows that the weakness is in the ANC fighting crime in all spheres.

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Therefore, it's very disappointing that to combat crime, corruption and money laundering, there are instances like the Phala Phala farm scandal involving concealed cash and potential tax evasion, the SA Reserve Bank, Sars and the Public Protector have all found in favour of the President.

The only person who was committed to deal with this was removed from the system. So, this is a challenge because then it shows that there's a rod from the head, why does the justice system fail or appear to fail to act against the President?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon House Chairperson, hon Mkhwebane, welcome. It's your maiden question to the Deputy President. Let me put it this way hon Mkhwebane. The law does not have eyes. When the law is being implemented, it doesn't look and say this one is the President. Let's treat him differently.

You would recall that right from the beginning, with allegations of Phala Phala and anything else, the President himself said:

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"I subject myself to the processes of the law. Let those agencies that have been tasked to do the task be allowed to do it. Let them investigate. Let's give them their space."

So, once they've done so, I think it is our duty to be able to say thank you very much you have done the work, we accept the reports. I don't think we must want to accept the reports that we want or that we anticipated. I think we must respect the professionalism of those who have been tasked to do the work.

There may be allegations of tax evasion, etc. but I have confidence in the law enforcement agencies of the country. I have confidence in the criminal justice system that it will deal with all of us without fear or favour. There's no favouritism in the criminal justice system. Whether you are a President, Deputy President, Minister, or Advocate. The law is the same for all of us.

The problem is that we as the public sometimes become the court ourselves and we find people guilty when they are not found guilty by the court of law. Hon House Chairperson, I'm happy with the work that is being done by this institution that we have tasked, I think let's respect their work. Thank you very much hon House Chair.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Hon members, there was no request for the last supplementary question and as such, that concludes questions to the Deputy President, and I want to thank you Deputy President and *Bon Voyage*. Thank you very much. Hon members, I request members to stand and wait for the Chair and the Mace to leave the Chamber. That concludes the business of the day, and the House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 15:53.