TUESDAY, 11 AUGUST 2026

_____

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

_____

The Council met at 14:01

The Deputy Chairperson (Mr P Govender) took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Greetings to all the hon members on the platform. I wish you all a very good afternoon and hope that wherever you are, you are keeping warm and safe. I now declare the session open. I bow to the House, and I would like to remind hon delegates that Rules, in particular subrules 21, 22 and 23 of Rule 103 would apply. Hon delegates, I will now give you an opportunity to observe a moment of silence, prayer or meditation. Thank you, hon members. We shall now proceed.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Hon delegates, I will now allow an opportunity to delegates to give Notices of Motion for 20 minutes in total, for Notices of Motion, and Motions without Notice. I have the list of delegates who have indicated that they would like to move Notices of Motion and Motions without Notice. I shall start with the Notices of Motion, and I would like to call upon the Chief Whip of the NCOP, hon Mmoiemang, to proceed with this Notices of Motion.

NOTICES OF MOTION

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Greetings to yourself, Deputy Chairperson and hon members on the platform ...

Setswana:

... le baagi ba rona ka kakaretso.

English:

I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the Council I shall move on behalf of the ANC:

That the Council-

UNREVISED HANSARD

(1) debate the worrying rise in political killings South Africa has towards local government election;

(2) and also, with most concern, the reports of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime, GI-TOG, sometimes shortened to Global Initiative, an international non-governmental organisation based in Geneva, which shows that 25 people have been killed in South Africa recently, in what is described as the politically motivated killings; and lastly,

(3) that the House takes this opportunity to express its utmost concern about the growing murders of political office bearers as a serious attack and affront to our hard-earned democracy.

Ms S L SITHOLE: Hon Deputy Chairperson, if you allow me, because I am travelling, can I keep my camera off?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Can you just switch it on for a second or two so that we see you?

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms S L SITHOLE: Okay. Can you see me?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Yes, thank you. You may switch it off and continue.

Ms S L SITHOLE: All right. Hon Deputy Chairperson, greetings to the hon members on the platform.

I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the Council I shall move on behalf of the ANC:

That the Council-

(1) debate the growing financial squeeze facing South African households caused by high cost of living;

(2) note that last month, Statistics SA revealed that consumer inflation increased to 5%, which is its highest level since June 2024;

(3) acknowledges that the latest cost of living report from the Competition Commission also shows that the prices of essential services have increased

UNREVISED HANSARD

significantly in recent years, adding further pressure on household finances.

Ms S MASUMPA: Deputy Chairperson, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting of the Council I shall move on behalf of the ANC:

That the Council-

(1) debate the state of the Cape Town Municipal Planning Tribunal, which is criticised for operating under a view of secrecy and for granted disregard for the national legislation;

(2) note that although the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 16 of 2013, restricts tribunal members to a 10-year maximum term to safeguard the independence, the City of Cape Town amended its municipal planning by-laws to remove these term limits, allowing favoured members to be reappointed indefinitely and to serve effectively for life; and

UNREVISED HANSARD

(3) further notes that the several investigations have revealed a lack of public records regarding members' official employment background, qualifications or potential conflicts of interest.

PERSISTING AND DISTURBING HIGH LEVEL OF GUN AND GANG VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

(Draft Resolution)

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Hon Deputy Chairperson, greetings to yourself and hon members. Allow me to move without notice:

That this Council –

(1) notes with most concern the persisting and disturbing high level of gun and gang violence in our country, South Africa, resulting in a number of fatalities, and thereby also overwhelming local law enforcement and forcing the presidency to deploy extra force, the military and police force;

UNREVISED HANSARD

(2) further notes that while gang violence is a crisis primarily concentrated in the Western Cape, specifically Cape Town's Cape Flats and the Gauteng province, and many parts of our country, such as the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, continue to face gun-related matters driven by lucrative taxi routes, drug turf wars, extortion rings and deeply rooted systemic poverty; and

(3) to acknowledges that the persisting high levels of gun and gang violence in our country, South Africa, have left many communities shaken with multiple of lives taken daily, and frequently catching innocent bystanders and children in the crossfire.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

REPORT FROM THE INSTITUTE OF MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING SA, IMESA, WHICH HIGHLIGHTS THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN ENGINEERS LEADING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

(Draft Resolution)

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms K R MOLOKOMME: Hon Deputy Chairperson, thank you for the opportunity, and good afternoon to yourself and hon members on the platform. I move without notice:

That the Council-

(1) notes with pride the report from the Institute of Municipal Engineering SA, IMESA, which highlights the achievements of women engineers leading infrastructure projects across the country;

(2) further notes that although IMESA, since its founding in 1961, has never implemented formal gender policies, more than 30% of its members are women, many of whom occupy leadership positions, and we are hoping that they will reach 50%; and therefore

(3) takes this opportunity to congratulate IMESA on the important role it plays in creating a professional home for municipal engineers, and to call on it to increase its efforts to change the face of engineering by deliberately increasing the number of women engineers.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

MSUKALIGWA MUNICIPALITY FAILS TO DELIVER BASIC SERVICES TO ITS COMMUNITY

(Draft Resolution)

Mr K CEZA: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That this Council—

(1) notes with concern that ... [Inaudible.] ... Ward 14 under the Msukaligwa Local Municipality has endured a severe and persistent collapse of basic services, particularly with regard to access to reliable water, sanitation and electricity for a period exceeding three years;

(2) further notes that the continued failure to provide these constitutionally guaranteed basic services undermine the dignity, health, safety and socio-economic well-being of residents in contrary to

UNREVISED HANSARD

section 10, 24, 27 and 152 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa;

(3) acknowledges that section 152 of the Constitution obliges municipalities to ensure the sustainable provision of services to communities, promote a safe and healthy environment and encourage community involvement in local governance;

(4) further acknowledges that the Water Services Act of 1997 places a legal obligation on the water service authorities to provide efficient, affordable, economical and sustainable water supply and sanitation services while empowering the Minister of Water and Sanitation to intervene where a water service authority fails to fulfil its statutory obligation; and

(5) recognises that the continued deterioration of services raises serious concerns regarding compliance with constitutional principles of co-operative governance contained in Chapter 3 of the Constitution.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The motion will become a notice of motion and be printed in the next Order Paper.

GANG VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO SURGE IN THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN

(Draft Resolution)

Ms O D MEDUPE: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the Council—

(1) notes with concern the escalation of violent gang murders in the City of Cape Town despite the deployment of the South African National Defence Force;

(2) further notes the intersection between illegal drug trafficking and the circulation of illegal firearms in the perpetuation of these violent crimes;

(3) acknowledges that strengthening structured collaboration within the criminal justice system, and between communities and law enforcement

UNREVISED HANSARD

agencies, can go a long way towards effectively curbing these crimes; and

(4) takes this opportunity to urge the Minister of Police to take urgent and decisive steps to strengthen interdepartmental collaboration and partnership between the security sector and communities to wage a concerted and fearless battle against gangs and the proliferation of illegal arms in the Cape townships.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

IMPUMELELO SPORTS CENTRE IN SEDIBENG, GAUTENG CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE

(Draft Resolution)

Mr M M MAMPURU: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the Council—

UNREVISED HANSARD

(1) notes with concern the continued deterioration and neglect of Impumelelo Sports Centre in Ward 13, Lesedi Municipality, in Sedibeng Gauteng;

(2) further notes that the facility's infrastructure have reached an unacceptable hazardous state characterised by a non-functional ablution system, a vandalised stadium grandstand despite active security personnel, and the cracked swimming pool basin containing stagnant rainwater and toxic algae growth;

(3) acknowledges that the tennis, netball, and baseball courts have degraded beyond repair depriving residents in particular young people of the safe and decent recreational facilities;

(4) further notes with emphasis that the sport infrastructure is vital under the National Sport and Recreation Act 110 of 1998 to develop youth talent, foster a healthy lifestyle, ensure mental well-being and mitigate systematic social challenges like substance abuse;

UNREVISED HANSARD

(5) recognises and condemns the failure of the Lesedi Local Municipality to fulfil its constitutional mandate and statutory obligation under section 4(2)(j) of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 which mandates municipalities to ensure community members access to essential safe and equitable sporting facilities;

(6) further notes and recognise this neglect to constitute a failure to manage public assets responsible ... [Time expired.]

The motion will become a notice of a motion and be printed in full in the next Order Paper.

URGENT CALL FOR INTERVENTION ON THE ONGOING FRAUDULENT DEDUCTIONS ON OLD AGE GRANTS

(Draft Resolution)

Ms D W FIENIES: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That this august House—

UNREVISED HANSARD

(1) notes with great concern the persistence of media reports about the alleged unauthorised fraudulent deductions from the old age social grounds by illegal funeral insurance companies for funeral policies,

(2) acknowledges that this is not only criminal but also an inhuman act against the most vulnerable section of our society and;

(3) therefore takes this opportunity to call on the Minister of Social Development in collaboration with the relevant financial sector authorities and the law enforcement agencies to urgently investigate these allegations to bring to book those implicated in these crimes and recover the money already deducted from the vulnerable victims.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

WASTEWATER TREATMEANT PLANT LEAKS INTO A 71-YEAR-OLD'S HOME

(Draft Resolution)

UNREVISED HANSARD

Dr I SCHEURKOGEL: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the Council—

(1) notes with grave concern the circumstances of 71-year-old Oranjeville resident in Metsimaholo, Dawn Thompson, who has endured damage to her home and unacceptable living conditions for more than 15 years, linked to persistent water leakage from the Wastewater Treatment Plant next to her house;

(2) also notes that the South African Human Rights Commission, SAHRC, has communicated with and issued directives to the Municipal Manager of Metsimaholo Local Municipality regarding Ms Thompson’s circumstances and the municipality’s responsibility to address the matter;

(3) condemns the continued failure of Metsimaholo Local Municipality to provide a lasting solution, while an elderly resident continues to live in circumstances that undermine her dignity and quality of life;

UNREVISED HANSARD

(4) calls on the Municipal Manager and Council of Metsimaholo Local Municipality to immediately respond to and act upon the communication and directives of the SAHRC, and to provide clear timeframes for implementation;

(5) also calls on the municipality to urgently investigate and repair the infrastructure responsible for the continued water damage, and to determine what remedial assistance can be provided to restore Ms Thompson’s home to a safe and dignified condition;

(6) requests a written progress report to be submitted to the relevant provincial and national oversight structures on the actions taken; and

(7) affirms that no resident, especially an elderly resident, should have to fight government for 15 years simply to live safely and with dignity in her own home.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

MZI KHUMALO DIES

(Draft Resolution)

Mr M G MODISE: Hon Deputy Chair, on behalf of the ANC I rise to move without notice:

That the House-

(1) notes with profound sadness and grief the death of Mr Elias "Mzi" Khumalo, who chaired the Gauteng Provincial Legislature's Portfolio Committee on Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs after a short illness;

(2) further notes that "Mzi" Khumalo was a dedicated cadre of the ANC who served the organisation with unwavering commitment, passion and distinction, as he carried his service to the movement and the people of Gauteng with humility and conviction;

UNREVISED HANSARD

(3) further notes that Mr Khumalo dedicated many years of his life to public service, where he played an important role in strengthening oversight, supporting local government and advancing Co-operative Governance in Gauteng, including serving as the Chief Whip of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, and MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, e-governance, research and development; and

(4) takes this opportunity to convey its heartfelt condolences to his family, especially his wife and children and the people of Gauteng. Thank you, Chair.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

RISING RAPE CASES

(Draft Resolution)

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms M KENNEDY: I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice:

That the House-

(1) notes with great concern the persistent and whoring crisis of gender-based violence and femicide plague in South Africa annually;

(2) further notes that despite section 12(1)(c) of the Constitution of South Africa guaranteeing everyone the right to freedom and security of person including freedom from all forms of violence, millions of women continue to live under a constant state of fear, vulnerability and violation;

(3) acknowledges that quarterly crime reports validate this terror exposing a staggering 9 782 officially reported rape cases during the fourth quarter of 2025-26 financial year, from January to March 2026 with KwaZulu-Natal reporting 2 589 cases followed by Gauteng 2 469 cases recording the highest provincial numbers;

UNREVISED HANSARD

(4) further acknowledge that during this month of August designated to honour and celebrate the historic achievements and liberation of women, the reality on the ground forces South African women to mourn instead of celebrating. Recognise that this country ... [Time expired.]

Motion objected.

INTERNATIONAL DRUG SYNDICATES

(Draft Resolution)

Ms T I LEGWASE: Deputy Chairperson, on behalf of the ANC I rise to move without notice:

That the House-

(1) notes with utmost concern the persistent pattern of South Africa being used as both an international destination and transit route for illegal drugs originating from various parts of the world;

UNREVISED HANSARD

(2) further notes that, in most high-profile drug busts conducted by our law enforcement agencies at the international ports of entry, the countries of origin and transits of these narcotics have been consistently identified;

(3) acknowledges that organised international drug syndicates have established strong, sophisticated and dynamic networks in these countries to traffic drugs into South Africa; and

(4) calls upon the security cluster to urgently strengthen bilateral and multilateral co-operation with the affected countries as part of intensifying our national efforts to combat drug trafficking and protect our communities.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

NELISILE XOLO MURDERED

(Draft Resolution)

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr M FENI: Chair, on behalf of the ANC I rise without notice:

That the House-

(1) notes with profound sadness and grief the brutal and senseless murder of Cde Nelisile Xolo who was ambushed in the late hours of Friday by a gunman who riddled his body with bullets;

(2) notes that Cde Nelisile Xolo was a former regional chairperson of the ANC Youth League in Alfred Nzo region, and also serving as District Treasurer of the SACP and ANC branch chairperson of Nonqulana branch, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela subregion;

(3) acknowledges that Cde Xolo committed his life to the liberation struggle until his very last days, from his youthful days where he was defined by his radical stance and defiance against injustice; and

(4) extends my heartfelt condolences to the family and comrades of Cde Nelisile Xolo, his wife and children, whose lives were brutally taken away from

UNREVISED HANSARD

them by a gunman devoid of moral conscience, and may his revolutionary soul rest in eternal peace.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

Mr V GERICKE: Just a moment, Chair. Sorry, I have a problem here with my device.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Okay, we can hear you now.

Mr V GERICKE: Just a moment, please. Chairperson, I hear your voice.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Can you switch your camera on for a few seconds?

Mr V GERICKE: Yes, Chairperson. Can you see me?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Yes. Okay, you may go ahead. Thank you. You have muted yourself, hon Gericke, can you unmute? Hon Gericke, can you unmute your

UNREVISED HANSARD

microphone? Hon Gericke, you are muted. I don't think you can hear me. Hon Gericke, we could not hear you at all because you had muted yourself. Okay, hon members, I will move on to the next hon member and that's hon Mananiso.

ANTI-GANG UNIT OFFICERS MURDERED

(Draft Resolution)

Ms J S MANANISO: Deputy Chair, I move without notice:

That the House-

(1) notes with utmost concern and a great sense of apprehension the senseless and ruthless murder of two Anti-Gang Unit officers and two female civilians who were shot and killed while responding to gunshots during a police patrol in Reiger Park in the Gauteng province;

(2) acknowledges the tireless work of the police who ensured that the perpetrators of this heartless

UNREVISED HANSARD

crime are brought to book to face the full might of the law; and

(3) takes this opportunity to convey its heartfelt condolences to the families of the police officers and their colleagues, as well as the families of the two women who were murdered in a month of women when South Africa is honouring the role of women in our society.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Hon delegates, I shall give hon Gericke another opportunity to present his motion. We couldn’t hear him at all for he has muted himself. Hon Gericke, are you still with us? Okay, I don’t think hon Gericke is with us. So, that brings us to the end of motions without notice.

Hon members, before we proceed with the subject for debate, I would like to record the apology from the hon Chairperson of the NCOP, as well as the House Chair, Radebe, who are both in

UNREVISED HANSARD

Malawi participating in the 55th CPA Africa Region Conference. We wish them well in the conference. I know that them together with other members who are there will represent our country well.

Hon delegates, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Minister of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities, all the MECs that are on the platform, together with the special delegates, Salga representatives and all permanent delegates to the House. Hon delegates, it gives me pleasure to call upon the hon Chikunga to lead the debate. The theme: "Building resilient economies for all: Women leading the future of trade."

DEBATE ON WOMEN'S DAY: BUILDING RESILIENT ECONOMIES FOR ALL: WOMEN LEADING THE FUTURE OF TRADE

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Hon Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, NCOP, hon members, distinguished guests, and all women of South Africa watching from lengths and breadths of our country, I greet you all.

UNREVISED HANSARD

In this historic year, I am deeply honoured and grateful for the opportunity to participate in and contribute to the 2026 Women's Day Debate of the National Council of Provinces. Our debate takes place barely two days after His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered our National Women's Day address at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, the very site that witnessed the march of the heroic women of 1956 and their determination to free South Africa from all forms of gender-based oppression and exploitation.

This year marks 70 years, a platinum jubilee, since more than 20 000 women — mothers, grandmothers, factory workers, domestic workers, teachers, and nurses — marched side by side for a cause much bigger than themselves. Every man and woman in this NCOP stands on the broad and brave shoulders of those giants. We are all descendants of women who fought longer and harder against overwhelming odds to bring into being a democratic and collective, prosperous South Africa.

We have come together this afternoon to mark the platinum jubilee of the day on which Mam Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa, Lillian Diedericks, Sophia Williams-De Bruyn, and the thousands whose names are yet to be recorded, marched.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The President has made a call for us to trace and ensure that every name is properly recorded in our history books. In line with this directive, we honour Nokuthula Aurelia Simelane of Bethal, Mpumalanga, a young woman who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom in which we now stand. We honour the sacrifices made by Ellen Cynthia Lindiwe Mokoena, known as Tsuma, from Barberton. We honour Josephine Feziwe Bookholane, a 40-year-old nursing sister, and Koleka Foley, a 25-year-old teacher from Port Elizabeth. We honour Happy Joyce Mashamba, a 30-year-old librarian at the University of the North, who in 1977 was sentenced to five years in prison alongside her husband. We honour Esther Maleka, a 33-year-old mother and SA Congress of Trade Unions worker from Soweto, who served a five-year sentence after being charged under apartheid terrorism legislation.

Hon members, we cannot commemorate the women of 1956 without remembering the message they carried in the form of a charter adopted in 1954, a petition they carried to the Union Buildings, and the message they displayed on their placards. Allow me to cast our minds back to 70 years ago and turn our attention to the message the women of 1956 carried and the

UNREVISED HANSARD

extent to which it continues to inform our realities today. In their petition, they carried a message that read as follows:

> We are women from every part of South Africa. We are women of every race; we come from the cities and the towns, from the reserves and the villages. We come as women united in our purpose to save the African women from the degradation of passes.

On their placards, they profoundly declared that, with dompasses, they are slaves. Their message transcended the pass laws. Those pass laws represented a society directly opposed to the one envisioned in the Women's Charter they had adopted two years earlier. In that Women's Charter, they shone the spotlight on the society they envisioned. They said:

> We women do not form a society separate from the men. There is only one society, and it is made up of both women and men. As women, we share the problems and anxieties of our men and join hands with them to remove social evils and obstacles to progress ... The level of civilisation which any society has reached can be measured by the degree of freedom that its members enjoy. The status of women is a

UNREVISED HANSARD

test of civilisation. Measured by that standard, South Africa must be considered low in the scale of civilised nations.

Hon members, the very theme of today's debate, "Building resilient economies for all", is a principle advanced in the very Women's Charter of 1954. In the true spirit of solidarity, they made it clear that—

> ... we women share with our menfolk the cares and anxieties imposed by poverty and its evils. As wives and mothers, it falls upon us to make small wages stretch a long way. It is we who feel the cries of our children when they are hungry and sick. It is our lot to keep and care for the homes that are too small, broken and dirty to be kept clean. We know the burden of looking after children and land when our husbands are away in the mines, on the farms, and in the towns earning our daily bread.
>
> We know what it is to keep family life going in pondokkies and shanties, or in overcrowded one-room apartments. We know the bitterness of children taken to lawless ways, of daughters becoming unmarried mothers whilst still at school,

UNREVISED HANSARD

of boys and girls growing up without education, training or jobs at a living wage.

We women have stood and will stand shoulder to shoulder with our menfolk in a common struggle against poverty, race, and class discrimination and the evils of the colour bar.

I now wish to turn my attention to some of the major achievements that have been registered under this democratic dispensation as part of an ongoing struggle to make the dreams of 1956 a reality. Statistics SA recently released verified data on the progress South African women have made since 1996.

Since 1996, supported by the Constitution’s commitment to equality and human rights, women have played an increasingly important role in the country’s development, contributing to labour markets, education, and household leadership.

Over the period 1996 to 2022, progress in the equalisation of rights has been reflected in rising educational attainment, increased participation in professional sectors, and greater visibility in leadership roles. Whilst challenges such as high unemployment rates compared to men remain, women’s resilience

UNREVISED HANSARD

and achievements have made a significant contribution to shaping South Africa’s democratic and developmental trajectory.

From 1996 to 2022, school attendance among young women increased steadily, reflecting both expanded access to schooling and the country’s commitment to equalising rights. This progress has not only narrowed gender disparities but has also positioned women as key drivers of socioeconomic development, with more females completing secondary education and advancing into higher education than ever before. The percentage of women who completed matric or Grade 12 increased from 15,8% in 1996 to almost 40% in 2022. Over the same period, the proportion of women who completed a post-matric qualification doubled, rising from 6,4% to 12,8%. At the same time, the percentage of women with no formal schooling decreased significantly, from 20,9% to 7,6%. School attendance among females aged 15 to 24 also improved, increasing from 67,9% in 1996 to 73,6% in 2022. This growth reflects expanded access to education and ongoing efforts to promote equal opportunities. These gains have helped reduce gender disparities in education and have positioned women as key drivers of socioeconomic development.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Notably, members, the evidence also shows that women's participation across different fields of education has increased significantly over the past decade. These gains suggest that more women are entering fields that can lead to leadership positions, influence decision-making, and contribute to economic growth. The increasing presence of women in law, business, agriculture, and engineering demonstrates both progress in equalising opportunities and an ongoing journey towards achieving parity in fields historically dominated by men.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Hon Minister, if I can just pause you for a moment, sorry to interrupt. Could you switch on your camera for a few minutes? Some hon member would like to see your face, and then you may switch it off afterwards. Thank you very much. Thank you. You may proceed. Thank you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Over the past three decades, women in South Africa have played an increasingly important role in the labour market, contributing to the country's socioeconomic transformation. Women's participation in the labour market has diversified

UNREVISED HANSARD

beyond traditional roles into professional, financial, and technical sectors. Despite rising unemployment, data from Statistics SA shows that there was an expansion in the number of women employed in the community and social services, finance, construction, and utility sectors.

The number of women employed in the finance sector increased from 502 000 in 2001 to 987 000 in 2022. The number of women employed in the construction and utility sectors also increased over the same period. There has been a significant increase in the proportion of women employed in the formal nonagricultural sector from 50,7% in 2001 to 69% in 2022. This is far from enough, but it is certainly a step in the right direction for fields previously dominated by men.

With regard to the protection of the rights of women and girls, our legislative record since 1994 is substantial, building a comprehensive shield of rights that began with constitutional guarantees of equality and the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, Act 92 of 1996. This framework was rapidly expanded by the Domestic Violence Act, Act 116 of 1998, the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, and the

UNREVISED HANSARD

Employment Equity Act to secure safety, family, and economic rights.

Further protections were added through the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act, Act 4 of 2000, the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, Act 32 of 2007, the Protection from Harassment Act, Act 17 of 2011, and the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, Act 7 of 2013. The fight against violence was recently fortified by the three gender-based violence Amendment Acts of 2021, which tightened bail and sentencing, and expanded the definition of sexual offences, and, most recently, by the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Act, Act 9 of 2024. However, legislation without enforcement is a promise without a delivery mechanism. Women’s parliamentary leadership must drive not only the passage of laws but the sustained, well-resourced implementation that transforms legal protection from paper to practice.

Women have particularly benefited from expanded access to housing and essential services. Between 1994 and March 2026, nearly 3,4 million housing subsidies were approved, with women

UNREVISED HANSARD

receiving approximately 58% of the total. Women also constituted 59% of beneficiaries with disabilities. Together with improved access to clean water, electricity, and sanitation, these interventions have strengthened women's security, reduced household vulnerability, and supported their ability to build stable families and communities. Women have achieved substantial representation in political and judicial leadership.

With regard to meaningful representation in decision-making and law-making structures, today women make up 43,5% of our Parliament, an increase from 28% representation in 1994, and 43% of the executive, up from only three women in 1994. As of February 2023, 45% of our 253 judges are women, up from only two women in 1994. This includes the very first South African woman to occupy the position of Chief Justice and head of the Constitutional Court.

This government, led by the ANC, has elevated financial inclusion from a welfare concern to a pillar of women's economic empowerment. The Public Procurement Act, now at regulation stage, designates women and enterprises owned by women as categories of 40% set-asides and preferential

UNREVISED HANSARD

treatment, which means that, for the first time, the buying power of the state carries a statutory instruction to include women rather than a request to consider them. The Expropriation Act gives the state a clearer legal basis to acquire land in the public interest, and land remains the foundation of all economic activities in this country.

Alongside these two instruments, our support for co-operatives is deliberate. Co-operatives allow women to assemble what they individually lack: scale, bargaining power, and the capacity to meet a large order on time, but a contract without capital is not inclusion. That is the gap this department is closing. Through our co-operatives financial institution, we aim to build a source of capital that women own and govern themselves, rather than one they must queue for and be refused at. Through the Women Economic Assembly, WECONA, initiatives, we are placing women inside the value chains where the money actually moves, not at the edges of those chains where they have always been permitted to stand.

On education, going forward, we will intensify our campaigns to channel as many young women as possible into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics where they remain

UNREVISED HANSARD

underrepresented. This is not a question of aptitude; it is a question of who is encouraged, who is funded, and who is told at 14 that a subject is not meant for her. The industries that will define the next 30 years — energy, digital infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, and the space economy — are being built now, and a girl who is not in that classroom today will not be in that boardroom tomorrow.

On the economy, our trade fairs have taught us something no policy document could. Women do not only need funding; they need equipment, they need technology, and they need a marketplace. Going forward, we will invest in shared productive equipment, and we have encouraged WECONA to build a centralised and accessible marketplace that connects women across the region to suppliers on one side and to their customers on the other. The Minister of Small Business Development, the hon Stella, is doing great work in ensuring that they establish and support small, medium, and micro enterprises.

On key sectors, we will push women’s co-operatives to leverage public procurement. The state is the single largest buyer in

UNREVISED HANSARD

this economy, and the Public Procurement Act now designates women and enterprises owned by black women for set-asides, but a set-aside is only as good as the enterprise is able to answer the tender. Co-operatives are how women assemble the scale to meet volumes and the capacity to deliver on time. Our work over the next five years is to prepare them so that, when the regulations are gazetted, women are not still assembling their paperwork.

On gender-based violence and femicide, we first extend our heartfelt condolences to all victims and survivors of gender-based violence and femicide. We'll confront the source and not only the symptoms. Prosecutions matter, shelters matter, courts matter, but none of them reach the attitude that places a woman in danger long before the first blow lands. We will therefore drive positive masculinity in our schools, our workplaces, our sporting codes, and our places of worship, and we'll support the boy child deliberately. We will not leave out the girl-child, and we will do this without an apology. A boy raised to believe that a woman is his equal does not become a man she has to escape. We will not end this violence by treating the wounded alone. We must stop producing the men who inflict it.

UNREVISED HANSARD

I wish to close with the words of the women who gathered at the very first World Conference of the International Women's Year held in Mexico City, where participating women representatives began to lay down the foundational principles for a more humane world. They said that—

> ... discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and with the welfare of the family and of society, prevents their participation, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries and is an obstacle to the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity.
>
> Taking into account the role played by women in the history of humanity, especially in the struggle for national liberation ... greater and equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making shall decisively contribute to accelerating the pace of development and the maintenance of peace.
>
> Women of the entire world, whatever differences exist between them, share the painful experience of receiving or

UNREVISED HANSARD

having received unequal treatment, and ... as their awareness of this phenomenon increases, they will become natural allies in the struggle against any form of oppression.

In South Africa, the liberation story has always been a woman's story. As South Africa, we believe that a woman's voice is a political force, a woman's dignity is a human right, and a woman's courage can move a nation. The struggle for women's emancipation continues. Aluta continua! I thank you, Chairperson.

Mrs M B NDLANGISA-NODADA: House Chair, good afternoon. Deputy Chair, Chief Whip of the Council, hon members, hon Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon to you all. I am very delighted to debate on this women's debate. It gives me pleasure because women's issues are always in my heart. The theme for this year's Women's Day is "Empowered Women, Empower the Nation." This theme is very relevant to the country's priorities. It is well known that amongst everything articulated, and among the priorities of this government, women are always on top. Women must be empowered to take leading positions in all what we do.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Our priorities advocate that, on every platform, women must be given leading roles because, with women leading, the country and everyone become empowered. Hon House Chair, South Africa has moved a lot in empowering women. Ever since the dawn of democracy, women's representation and empowerment became one of the priorities of government.

There is good movement, though women are still strongly advocated for the protection of women by systems. Women must be more represented in the spaces where those systems are designed, implemented, and governed.

Hon members, the democratic government has achieved a lot on women's equality. Today we are Members of Parliament as women in legislatures. We also see women leading in municipalities, some as mayors, speakers, MMCs, and women are also leading as Ministers, Deputy Ministers, MECs in provinces, premiers, and we appreciate all that. We have women leading in justice everywhere.

The democratic government has assured that, even in the government departments, women must be prioritised in senior positions like CEOs, Directo-Generals, etc, and they must be

UNREVISED HANSARD

made to lead. Women participate even in the economy of this country, but we still need much focus on the next generation of women leaders. This government needs to identify, mentor, educate, and capacitate young women to take up leadership positions, not only in politics, but in economics, science, medicine, law, technology, and in public administration.

Hon House Chair, we are facing the feminisation of poverty and inequality. We need to address the gender pay gap and workplace discrimination. Women must be made to access education, improve skills development, get funding in the markets, and entrepreneurship opportunities. There must be improvement in making sure that women-owned businesses are established and make sure that women access government and private procurement.

Hon House Chair, rural and poor women are mostly affected by gender-based violence and femicide because they find it incredibly difficult and traumatic to access justice. Mostly because they depend on the abusive husbands for their livelihoods. Government needs to make sure that the justice system is victim-centred, accessible, efficient, and

UNREVISED HANSARD

accountable. Cases involving gender-based violence must be dealt with effectively without unnecessary delays.

Hon members, we must also highlight on the cultural barriers to women empowerment, which is mostly prevalent in the rural areas where women are placed second to males because of some oppressive cultural behaviours. As government, we need to deal with the stereotypes of cultural barriers that make women accept that they are inferior to men.

Traditional councils mostly drive stereotyped cultural rules that are much more oppressive to women. If I can make an example of something that has been long happening and we are failing to address as women. If a woman loses a partner or husband, she is supposed to mourn for a year, sitting down, being separated from people and activities, as if she is the one who killed the man. While men will be free even during the mourning period in preparation for the funeral.

These are some of the cultural barriers that need to be done away with. All these are hindrances to women’s empowerment. Hon members, besides the 1956 Women’s March, women have laid

UNREVISED HANSARD

foundations even for the Freedom Charter, as the hon Minister has just alluded to.

In 1954, women leaders like Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Ray Alexander and the others drafted the Women's Charter, wherein they demanded equal pay, equal voting rights and the removal of discriminatory marriage and property laws. When the Freedom Charter was adopted in 1955, women's core demands such as equal pay for equal work, full democratic voting rights for every man and woman, and maternity and child welfare provisions were woven directly into the text of the Freedom Charter. The demands of the Women's Charter of 1954, hon members, went on to influence much in the South African Constitution of 1995. We as women were proud of that.

As I conclude, hon House Chair, I would like to invite all women in this House to continue fighting for women's rights, as women of 1956, 70 years ago, which paved the way, marching side by side for the issues affecting women across racial lines and across party representation. Indeed, ...

IsiZulu:

... wathint'abafazi wathint'imbokodo ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

English:

... should be the slogan that must continue to unite us as the South African women. I thank you.

Ms N S DU PLESSIS: Hon House Chair, Ministers, MECs, members and fellow South Africans, there are a few moments in history that most of us wish we were part of. For me, the one moment I wish I could have seen with my own eyes was 9 August 1956, when 20 000 women stood in silence at the Union Buildings to protest the pass laws. Imagine that moment when the silence broke, first with a whisper and then with a roar: ...

IsiZulu:

... Wathinta abafazi; wathinta imbokodo!

English:

You strike a woman; you strike a rock! In that moment, the world listened, mostly with discomfort, as these powerhouses found their voices and used them to declare war on discrimination and injustice. Their voices reverberated for decades until the chains of apartheid were finally broken. Today, without any discomfort, they are celebrated as heroes, ordinary women standing up against an oppressive and

UNREVISED HANSARD

patriarchal regime. These women, like many others, changed the narrative about where women belong. Since their moment of bravery, apartheid fell, and all women have been able to vote. Women further have voices in rooms where decisions are made that determine the future of the country. The progress has been exponential, showing how deep the discrimination lay. However, the progress is not enough.

The progress is truly not enough, with the Quarterly Labour Force Survey reporting that women, especially young black women, have the least access to the economy. And this not only makes no moral sense, but it also further weakens the economy. International trends show that women with access to economic opportunities drive economic growth, boost productivity and reduce poverty. According to the United Nations, a true turnaround on closing the gender gap in economic activities can exponentially grow the GDP, stimulate entrepreneurship, and improve health and education outcomes throughout and across generations.

This positive economic impact starts with diverse teams and leadership that improves corporate innovation and business productivity. And on a more personal level, women reinvest a

UNREVISED HANSARD

high share of their income into their families and communities. The impacts stretch beyond this but depend largely on better education and living conditions for women, thus raising the overall labour productivity in our country. Yet, in South Africa, the demographic group with the highest new infections of HIV/Aids is young girls between the ages of 10 and17. The speculation is that older men prey on these young children and infect them for life. With the resultant pregnancies forcing young girls out of school, with little to no chance of getting a formal education to allow access to economic opportunities.

Just for a moment of power and pleasure, these men aggressively take away from these children, these young women. In the words of Simone de Beauvoir, 'No one is more arrogant toward women, more aggressive or scornful, than the man who is anxious about his virility." Gender-based violence and femicide have increased in South Africa. More men than women access higher education despite the majority of the population being women. Corrective rape is still accepted and even encouraged at times so that men anxious about their virility can teach a lesbian what she should be doing, committing both an assault and a hate crime against a woman who rejected

UNREVISED HANSARD

patriarchy. To the minds of those who do not wish to understand the complexity of life, this makes sense. Marital rape is still prevalent; transgender women are beaten or worse. The progress is not enough. And it is only lip service when we can't even finish the Women's Living Monument in Tshwane after millions have been spent. Locally and further abroad, female genital mutilation is still practised by forcing young girls and young children into procedures of labia pulling or cutting off the head of the clitoris. And this mutilation is thought to make sex better for men, and not women. However, what is often more shocking is that it is the mothers of these young girls who take them to the procedure.

This is not the only case of where women become part of the perpetuation of oppression of other women, and I have spoken often about men needing to do better, and I maintain that. But so do women. Women need to create more space for each other. We should not be shaming each other when we do not please the man. What is worse, today, 70 years after 20 000 women showed that they can change history. That they could bring down a regime, that their silence, that became a whisper and then a roar, crumbled the foundations of a depraved system; today, 70 years later, we are still debating whether there are benefits

UNREVISED HANSARD

of economic inclusion, as if women have not shown their power already. Today, let our silence become a whisper and let our whisper become a roar. A roar that reverberates through this and future generations, a roar that protects the young girl, each woman, and each gogo [granny], so that they can be the rock and have true equal access. I thank you.

Ms M P GASA: Greetings, Hon Chair. May I switch off my camera?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Give us a very brief glimpse of yourself. If you can just give us a slightly bit of yourself, and then you're welcome to ... that is fantastic. Thank you very much. You are then welcome to proceed with your speech with your camera off if you need. Thank you.

Ms M P GASA: Thank you, Chair. As I switch it off

IsiZulu:

Ngibingelela uMongameli uZuma eseNkandla, ...

English:

... the NCOP Chief Whip, hon Lungi Mhlongo and the enemies of the Stellenbosch Mafia, the Progressive Caucus, I greet you

UNREVISED HANSARD

all in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ. As we mark 70 years of women's struggle, ...

IsiZulu:

... sikwenza lokho sikhumbula omama abaphula umgogodla wobandlululo weminyaka edlule, lapho abantu bakithi bekumele behle benyuka nodompasi. Minyaka yonke lolu suku siyalubungaza kodwa imiphumela asikayiboni. Abantu besifazane basalokhu becindezelekile, njengoba babecindezelekile kudala.

English:

It is a revolutionary reminder that no nation can prosper if it continues to take from women without giving back dignity, opportunity, and justice. It is a fact that when we invest in women, society benefits as a whole. I trust that the discussions will inform how we move forward and break the bonds of colonialism while building the country and the continent we want. This is indeed reflective of our commitment to our continental vision of becoming an integrated, prosperous and peaceful South Africa, as well as the entire continent. The economy is still concentrated in the hands of a few in South Africa, which is where you see obscene opulence on the one hand and extreme poverty on the other. In South

UNREVISED HANSARD

Africa, we still have the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality, which disproportionately affect women for far too long. The women of South Africa have carried the burden of this nation on their shoulders in our homes, in our communities, in our workplaces, yet remain the most underpaid, the most vulnerable, and too often the most forgotten. What needs to be done then? You must give women access to land. You must give women economic power. You must give women safety in their homes, in their streets and in their workplaces. You must give young girls the freedom to dream without fear, access to funding and financial resources, ownership of land and productive assets, skills and alignment with the modern economy, real opportunities to participate in industry beyond survivalist activities.

Because when we give to women, we do not lose, but we gain. We gain stronger families, we gain thriving communities, and we gain a just and prosperous nation. This must not just be another slogan to appease women. It is a call to conscience. It is a call to act. We must focus on empowering blacks and African women in particular to take advantage of the opportunities presented by what promises to be the century of Africa, which talks to the potential for significant growth,

UNREVISED HANSARD

development, and transformation across the African continent. Part of that empowerment must include restoring the African values that were eroded by centuries of imperialism, colonialism, and slavery. The failures of the economic system of the world have affected African women the hardest. They have manifested common challenges for women across the country and the continent at large, such as unemployment, poverty, and inequality, created negative stereotypes and norms and values that continue to allow patriarchy to impact the lives of women and girls. The scourge of gender-based violence and femicide has become rampant, lack of access to financing and women remaining on the margins of the mainstream economy and economic opportunities.

This is not by accident. It is the result of a system that has for generations pushed African women to the margins, denying them access to land, to capital, to markets, and to opportunity. Even today, the African woman wakes up before dawn, works harder than the most, carries families and communities on her back, yet remains locked out of economic power. This is exploitation, and this is not empowerment. These are delays; these are daily realities. And if we are to be honest, and we must be honest in this House, we must also

UNREVISED HANSARD

acknowledge that women across the political spectrum, including women within the MKP, are not immune to these challenges. Women in political spaces often carry a double barrier. They are expected to lead, to organise, to mobilise and represent, while at the same time navigating marginalisation, and at times, internal party dynamics that do not always prioritise their voices. We must not shy away from this truth. If we are serious about women's empowerment, it cannot be selective; it cannot be convenient, but it must be consistent across all parties, across all institutions, and across all levels of society. Our duty as a nation is not to speak for women, but to stand with them. Let this Women's Month not be another ceremonial moment. Let it be a turning point. Let it be the moment we move from promises to programmes, from slogans to solutions, because the future of South Africa will not be built on the exclusion of women. It will be built on their empowerment.

As the MKP, we stand firmly on the side of women, not in words but in action. We believe that true liberation is incomplete without the emancipation of women. Economic freedom must be feminist in its character, or it is not freedom at all. We cannot speak of progress while gender-based violence continues

UNREVISED HANSARD

to rob women of their dignity and their lives. This is not just a women's issue. It is a national crisis, and it demands decisive, uncompromising action. And we call for stronger protection for women and children, economic programmes that prioritise women-owned enterprises, equal pay for equal work, and the full inclusion of women in leadership across all sectors of society. Thomas Sankara once said:

> Comrades, there is no true social revolution without the liberation of women. May my eyes never see, and my feet never take me to a society where half the people are held in silence. I hear the roar of women’s silence. I sense the rumble of their storm and feel the fury of their revolt.

When we give to women, we gain a nation that works for all. No women. No revolution. I thank you.

Ms A MATSHOBENI: Hon House Chairperson, hon Minister and hon members, greetings to you.

IsiXhosa:

Namhlanje simanyene sibhiyozela uSuku lweSizwe lwabaseTyhini ukukhumbuzana ngamandla nangenyaniso yabafazi baseMzantsi

UNREVISED HANSARD

Afrika. Lo ngumhla obaluleke kakhulu kwimbali yoMzantsi Afrika kuba ngumhla wokukhumbula umngcelele wamakhosikazi angaphezulu kwama20 000. La makhosikazi amisa mantsantsa ikomkhulu lorhulumente wengcinezelo kwiZakhiwo zoMdibaniso ePitoli ngowe1956 ekhalazela uMthetho weMithetho yamaPasi aBantu boMthonyama owawuphethe kabuhlungu umzi ontsundu.

Ukuze siqonde indawo esikuyo namhlanje, kufuneka sikhumbule apho sisuka khona. Ngowe1956 urhulumente wamaBhulu wayezimisele ukuthoba isidima somntu ontsundu, ingakumbi ongumfazi. Lo rhulumente wayebona umfazi njengomntu ongenamalungelo, umntu ophantsi kwendoda nophantsi kolawulo nasemisebenzini. Ngokuhlangana kwala makhosikazi, awayesuka kwiindawo ngeendawo, ethetha iilwimi ngeelwimi kwabonakala umanyano olungazange lwabonwa kweli lizwe.

La makhosikazi ashiya amapasi emnyango kwezo Zakhiwo Zomdibaniso aze ema ezolile, ethe cwaka imizuzu e15. Loo nto yabonakalisa amandla, isidima somntu ontsundu nokukhalipha. La makhosikazi, avula indlela eya enkululekweni nesiyidingayo thina namhlanje.

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD

Seventy years have passed since the courageous women of 1956 stood against the evil regime of racial segregation. Now exactly 70 years after that foundational uprising, South Africa stands at a critical juncture in 2026 and while we recognise that the post-apartheid state has enhanced some of the world's most progressive gender equality legislations. As the EFF, we are saddened by the systematic inequality which still persists across all our provinces and saddened by how true liberation remains elusive for the vast majority of South African women.

Today, the promise of total liberation remains unfulfilled for the masses of black women in 2026. This is despite the existence of section 9 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 that guarantees absolute equality as well as the existence of pieces of legislation such as Employment Equity Act, No 55 of 1998 and the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act No 4 of 2000. These laws only look great on paper.

It is also a painful truth that data from Statistics SA confirms what we see every day. Black African women suffer from highest rates of unemployment, far worse than any other

UNREVISED HANSARD

group in this country. On top of that, a broken system of capitalist patriarchal forces women to carry the heavy, uncompensated load of unpaid care workers, spending their lives raising children, running households and nursing the sick without a single cent of state support.

In our rural communities, this exploitation is made even worse by vicious landlessness because land ownership is still locked away by white monopolies and old-fashioned patriarchal rules. Black women are denied land tenure, keeping them economically trapped and socially exposed. To make matters worse, women across every single province are still haunted by an onslaught of sexual harassment, domestic abuse, rape, reproductive coercion and obstacle violence.

The absolute proof that women are not free in South Africa is the horrific crisis of gender-based violence and femicide. Our country’s femicide rate is staggering five times the global average. Think about that, rape, domestic abuse and hate crimes against women have been allowed to become part of everyday lives. When women turn to the state for help, what do they find? a system that is fundamentally broken. Police stations lack basic forensic kids, cops traumatise the victims

UNREVISED HANSARD

all over again and sex offenders walk free because conviction rates are dismally low. This normalised cruelty proves that you cannot have freedom when your body is under consistent threat and the state refuses to protect you.

What is the Government of National Unity' response to this war on women? It is nothing but verbally gymnastics. The GNU has built a hypocritical august culture. They print brochures, hold breakfast and pretend to care about women for 31 days. But the very moment, Women's Month end, men go right back to their abusive women-bashing ways.

Black women have throughout the years of oppressive rule been the only group to carry triple oppression. In South Africa, the oppression of women, particularly the Black African women, has been normalised. It is the normalisation that sees women languish in cruelty and die in vain. Look around our communities. The painful truth is that the face of poverty, landlessness, unemployment and abuse in South Africa is black, young and female. Throughout the decades of oppression, black women are the only group that has carried the heavy chains of triple oppression, race, class, and gender.

UNREVISED HANSARD

We have normalised this cruelty and that is why our sisters, mothers and daughters languish in pain and die in vain. We cannot stand here in 2026 making empty speeches about 1956 when black women are still not free. The EFF 2026 Manifesto offers a radical weapon to smash this capitalist patriarchy. We are going to conduct aggressive municipal land audits to seize all unused, underutilised and hijacked land. An EFF-led local government will expropriate and redistribute this land with a strict quota allocated directly to women for farming, factories and housing by breaking male dominated land ownership. We are giving women the ultimate tool for absolute economic power.

We are launching a massive infrastructure programme and completely banning the corrupt tender system. The EFF-led municipality will permanently hire workers, our engineers, artisans and cleaners with full benefits ending the hyper-exploitation of outsourced women. Our local government procurement will strictly favour women-owned co-operatives. Black women will no longer just be consumers. They will be the producers and owners of our economy.

UNREVISED HANSARD

To end the horror of obstacle violence and terrible mental health, the 2026 manifesto will build fully equipped 24-hour municipal health clinics. These clinics will guarantee free reproductive health, dignified maternity care and mental health support for gender-based violence and femicide survivors without any bureaucratic red tape. National Women's Day must stop being an annual checking shop used by the state to hide its failures. We cannot claim to honour the heroic women of 1956 while the Black women of 2026 is trapped in poverty, landlessness and physical terror.

Quotations and policies are completely useless without changing who owns the economy. True emancipation will not come from Parliament's speeches or fancy co-operative breakfast in August. Freedom will come when we weaponize the local government to return the land to women, insource workers permanently, build 24-hour clinic and achieve economic freedom in our lifetime. Only then will the rock stand unshakable. I so thank you, Chairperson.

Ms S L SITHOLE: House Chairperson, I wanted to say that I stand on the protocol that has been established, but I can't say that because my last two speakers established something

UNREVISED HANSARD

else. But let me just firstly say that I greet the Chairperson of the House, the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, the Chief Whip of the NCOP, House Chairpersons, hon members, Ministers on the platform, ...

Sesotho:

... Afrika Borwa, dumelang.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D RYDER): Hon member, if I can ask you, in accordance with our normal process, if you can turn your camera on at least for a couple of moments, that we can have sight of you, and then by all means, please continue with your speech. We don't have sight of you. Your screen has gone quite black. Thank you very much.

Ms S L SITHOLE: I am using a different gadget here, House Chair, that is why I can't even turn it on.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D RYDER): Hon member, I suggest that you take a moment to sort your gadget out. While you do that, we'll take the next speaker, and we'll come straight back to you thereafter. Hopefully, you will have resolved the issue,

UNREVISED HANSARD

and we'll be able to see you. Hon Adriaanse, is the next speaker, developing the position of the DA. Hon Adriaanse, you have seven minutes.

Ms J M ADRIAANSE: Hon Chairperson, just give me a moment with my gadget. Right. Just struggling a bit here. There we go. Thank you. Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, hon members and fellow South Africans, good day.

On 9 August every year, we celebrate Women's Day. Women, if we are honest, who didn't ask for permission, didn't wait for perfect timing, and definitely didn't have a backup plan. They simply showed up, and history moved. Seventy years ago, on 9 August 1956, more than 20 000 women marched to the Union Buildings. Pretoria must have felt it in its bones.

Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa, Sophia Williams-De Bruyn, giants in flat shoes. They didn't carry weapons. They carried something far more dangerous, certainty. They left us with words still echoing, you strike a woman, you strike a rock.

UNREVISED HANSARD

We've come far, yes, but not far enough, because freedom without economic power is still a half-finished story. Our Constitution promises equality. Perfect on paper, but in real life? Women still, in many instances, earn less than men for work of equal value. They remain overrepresented among the unemployed and underrepresented in the boardrooms where decisions are made about money they help generate. Economic empowerment means very little if women are not safe.

South Africa's devastatingly high levels of gender-based violence remain one of the greatest betrayals of the promise of equality. We cannot speak about women confidently entering markets, workplaces and boardrooms while so many still fear what awaits them in their own homes and communities.

So, 70 years later, we must ask without sugarcoating it: Have we finished what those women started? No. That is why the theme:

> Building Resilient Economies for All: Women Leading the Future of Trade, Matters.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Because resilience isn’t built in boardrooms alone. It is built in kitchens where businesses are started on credit. In taxis where ideas are sketched on receipts. By the informal trader putting her children through university with her income. As far as I am concerned, a business genius.

It is built late at night by women doing the maths, the marketing and the miracle of keeping it all going. The world is changing fast. Artificial intelligence, AI is rewriting industries. Digital platforms are flattening borders. Green economies are opening entirely new doors. Trade is no longer simply about who has the biggest factory. It is increasingly about who has the boldest idea, and, of course, the fastest internet.

So listen up, women don’t need to catch up to the future. Women are the future. As they were 70 years ago, they are today. But only if we stop treating women like guests in the economy and start treating women like architects of it. It is no longer enough simply to be the difference. We must think differently, innovate differently, trade differently, build differently and sometimes disrupt loudly and unapologetically. Equality isn’t charity, it is economic strategy.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Government must clear the road, less red tape and more real access. Banks must fund potential, not simply collateral. The private sector must stop supporting women entrepreneurs in speeches only and start supporting them through procurement. Our universities and colleges must prepare women not only for employment, but for ownership, and all of us must mentor, open doors and, sometimes, simply get out of the way.

The women of 1956 didn't march so that 70 years later we could admire them on posters and speeches. They marched so that we could go further. So, let us build an economy where a young woman with an idea no longer asks: Is this possible? She asks: How big can this get? Because the strongest economies use the talents of all their people. Not half, not some, all. Until a woman is equally safe in her home, equally valued in her workplace and equally rewarded for her contribution, our work remains unfinished.

So, perhaps the most fitting words with which to end are those attributed to Lillian Ngoyi: "We are the women who will make history." Seventy years later, let us not only be reminded of the women who made history. Let us be the women who make the future and be the rock of South Africa. I thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The MINISTER OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: House Chairperson, hon members, distinguished guests, fellow South Africans, and most importantly, women and entrepreneurs of our nation, we gather only two days after commemorating one of the defining moments in the history of our liberation struggle, the historic Women's March to Union Buildings on 9 August 1956. Those gallant women did not march simply for themselves. They marched for generations they would never meet. They marched so that women could have a voice, occupy spaces from which they had deliberately been excluded, and have agency in determining their own destiny.

Today, 70 years later, we must ask ourselves a difficult but necessary question. What does freedom mean to a woman who enjoys political rights but remains economically excluded? What does democracy mean to a woman who can vote but cannot access capital to grow her business? What does equality mean to a woman who has skills and ambition to become an entrepreneur but cannot access markets, productive assets or finance? What does transformation mean if women enter the economy mainly as workers and consumers but remain underrepresented as owners, as producers, employers and exporters?

UNREVISED HANSARD

Hon members, these questions go to the heart of our democratic project. Our democratic dispensation since 1994, has always been premised on the realisation of both political and socioeconomic rights. We have made tremendous progress. However, democracy cannot only be measured by whether our people have the right to vote every five years. Democracy must also change the material conditions under which our people live. Parliament must be a living voice of the people. By Taking Parliament to The People, we reaffirm that governance is not about power but service. We strengthen accessibility because citizens must never feel disconnected from decision-making. We strengthen accountability because when Parliament enters communities, it is reminded directly of its duty to listen and act. However, today, we're particularly concerned with women and their participation in the economy.

Hon members, South Africa has made significant strides in empowering women. The latest World Economic Forum Global Gender Report places our country 33rd out of 146 countries. We are particularly strong in political empowerment, including women's representation in Parliament and executives. This is an achievement, our democracy, that we must celebrate and defend. However, our progress on political representation has

UNREVISED HANSARD

not yet been met by economic equality. The next frontier of women's emancipation must therefore be economic power. We must move from representation to ownership, from participation to production, from survivalist entrepreneurs to sustainable enterprises, from women receiving economic opportunities to women owning productive assets and building enterprises capable of creating employment and wealth. The evidence tells us that the problem is not a lack of entrepreneurial spirit or ambition amongst South African women.

Women are identifying opportunities. They are starting businesses. They are trading and innovating. They are sustaining households and local economies across our townships and communities. Yet many women-owned enterprises remain small and vulnerable. Why, because entrepreneurship does not happen in a vacuum. It happens within an economic system. Therefore, if that system restricts access to finance, access to markets, access to capital, it tells you that the talent alone is not sufficient and cannot overcome structural exclusion. Our responsibility, therefore, cannot simply be to tell women, start your business.

UNREVISED HANSARD

We must ask what happens after they start the business. Can she access finance? Can she access markets? Can she access machinery? Can she participate in supply chains? Can she access technology? Can she scale? Can she employ other people? Can she export? Can she build an enterprise that eventually exists independently of government support? That is the transformation we seek. One of the greatest barriers remain access to finance. Women-owned start-ups and early-stage enterprises frequently have thin or no credit files. Many women do not possess a ... [Inaudible.] ... property or fixed assets that conventional lenders require as security. This creates what we call the missing middle. The entrepreneur has moved beyond microfinance but does not yet meet conventional commercial banking requirements.

She has a business. She has a customer. She may even have an order, but she cannot access capital required to take the next step. That is why, as a department, we are looking at creative ways to accelerate the development of collateral light lending. Our micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, MSMEs, and co-operatives funding policy advances, amongst other interventions, a movable assets collateral registry, which would allow MSMEs to use product assets such as

UNREVISED HANSARD

equipment, machinery, inventory, and other movable property as security for finance. Together with our agency, we also have a range of credit guarantees, blended finance instruments, and tailored funding products that respond to the realities faced by women entrepreneurs, though we still short of budget.

We are building on work already done. Since 2014, approximately R9 billion has been disbursed in funding women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses. Over the last three years, Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency, SEDFA, reached 495 000 women beneficiaries across various programmes. Importantly, 60% of these beneficiaries were women from rural areas and township communities. Township women-owned enterprises benefited approximately R845 million in support, while R66 million of that went towards women with disabilities. Through this intervention, more than 563 000 jobs were sustained and created. However, we must never allow a few beneficiaries to become our only measure of success. We must ask, did the business survive? Did it grow? Did it create jobs? Did it enter new markets? Did it acquire productive assets? Did the entrepreneur graduate from dependence on government support into sustainable enterprise? Because the

UNREVISED HANSARD

objective of enterprise development cannot be permanent dependency. It must be economic dependence.

In grant-based programmes such as Asset Assist and Informal Micro Enterprise Development Programme, IMEDP, we ensure that 40% of programme funds go to women-owned enterprises, particularly those that are in townships and rural areas. These are not abstract targets. They represent access to equipment, access to productive assets, to infrastructure, to markets, and ultimately, access to opportunity. We've also recently launched the Imbali for Her, a dedicated women entrepreneurship programme which provides an integrated package of financial and nonfinancial support to formally registered women-owned enterprises across the country, covering startups, early-stage enterprises, and established businesses with growth potential. The programme has a particular emphasis on townships, rural and underserved communities, funded with more than R800 million over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF. It offers blended finance of up to R5 million, which is linked to enterprise stage, viability and developmental impact.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Eligible uses include capital expenditure, working capital, business formalisation, technology adoption and market access. However, finance alone is not sufficient. That is why our Women Coaching Enterprise Programme complements financial assistance by strengthening the capabilities of women entrepreneurs and enterprise managers. It enables women entrepreneurs to enter networks that have historically been dominated by men because sometimes the difference between two enterprises is not talent. It is who has access to information, networks, markets and opportunity. Transformation requires us to open those doors.

Hon members, funding a business without opening markets for that business will not deliver sustainable economic transformation. We must connect finance to markets. This is where the purchasing power of the state becomes important. The Public Procurement Act provides an important framework through which public procurement can advance transformation and broaden economic participation. As the new procurement framework is implemented, we must ensure that women-owned MSMEs and co-operatives are positioned to participate meaningfully in the opportunities created. Government buys goods and services every day. That purchasing power must

UNREVISED HANSARD

contribute to building productive capacity in our economy. However, our objective cannot be to create a generation of women whose businesses survive exclusively on government tenders. Public procurement must be a bridge, not a destination. It must help women-owned enterprises establish track records, acquire productive assets, expand capacity, employ people, and ultimately compete for opportunities across both the public and private markets.

That is how procurement becomes an instrument of enterprise development and economic transformation rather than merely a transactional process and people as workers. We must also confront another challenge repeatedly raised by entrepreneurs, which is the difficulty of cost of doing business. For a large corporation, another form, licence, another visit to a government office, or another administrative delay may simply be an inconvenience. For a microenterprise run by women supporting a household business, the same delay can determine whether her business survives or dies. That is why the Business Licencing Bill currently in progress is important. It forms part of our broader framework to modernise the business licencing environment, improve consistency and address fragmentation within the regulatory system.

UNREVISED HANSARD

For women entrepreneurs, particularly those operating in informal townships and rural economies, this matters. We want a regulatory environment that protects consumers and communities and ensures compliance with the law, while making it easier, cheaper, and faster for legitimate businesses to formalise and participate in the economy. Formalisation must open doors, not simply create another compliance obligation. It must create a pathway through which a woman entrepreneur can access finance, markets and enterprise support. Regulation must therefore protect the public interest without unnecessarily becoming a barrier to entrepreneurship. Women's economic empowerment must also mean opening opportunities beyond the sectors in which women have traditionally been concentrated.

Our women must increasingly participate in manufacturing, agriculture and agro-processing, technology, and the many other areas of high growth sectors. Importantly, they must participate in the creative industry. South African women are already designers, filmmakers, musicians, fashion entrepreneurs, crafters, content creators and innovators. The challenge is turning that creativity and talent into sustainable enterprises and intellectual property, IP, capable

UNREVISED HANSARD

of generating jobs and wealth. This is why, as the department, we are preparing to launch the creatives fund. We want creativity to become commerce, talent to become enterprise, and South African IP to create South African economic value. The creative economy must not be treated simply as entertainment sitting outside economic policy. It is an industry. It creates jobs, it creates IP, it creates exports, and it creates enterprises.

Women and young people must be at the centre of those opportunities. For generations, South African women have understood the power of collective economic action, pooling resources, supporting one another, and building livelihoods together. However, our ambition cannot simply be to register more co-operatives. We need to support them by building from them so that they can be able to be sustainable and access the value chains. The women-sewing governments must open their own manufacturing. The women-producing crafts must be able to access tourism, domestic and export markets.

Of course, Parliament must help change the economy. When we bring these interventions together, we make sure that we build an ecosystem capable of moving women from survival to

UNREVISED HANSARD

sustainability. That is why Taking Parliament to The People cannot mean just bringing microphones. We urge all hon members to support MSMEs, buy locally produced products, because when you do so, you are saving jobs, you are growing the economy, and most importantly, you are giving an opportunity to the most vulnerable that can change the status quo and make sure that every citizen that has an interest in participating in the economy can do so on an equal footing, being supported, starting with you as the Member of Parliament, and the rest of our people will follow. Thank you so much, House Chairperson.

Ms S L SITHOLE: House Chair, let me just continue with my debate here. The face of power is changing across the world. Women are taking their rightful places in the halls of Parliament, in corporate boardrooms in diplomacy and in global business... [Interjection.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D Ryder): Hon Sithole ...

Ms S L SITHOLE: ... can you hear me?

UNREVISED HANSARD

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D Ryder): ... no ... please I have asked you to turn on your camera if you would like to continue with the debate.

Ms S L SITHOLE: I turned on my camera with another phone, and I switched it off again.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D Ryder): Hon Sithole, you will need to speak into that because we are unable to see it, if it’s not triggered. So, your voice speaking into that particular microphone, where the camera is, will be required to trigger it so that it appears on the screen. Otherwise, it just languishes in the pinned gallery. So, if I can ask you to turn your camera on, using the device that your camera is on, you will need to say something and then you can proceed with your speech.

Ms S L SITHOLE: Can you see me now?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D Ryder): No, we can’t see you ... ah, but there we go. If I can ask ... I can see half of you, half of you, hon Sithole. There we go, right. Thank you very much, hon Sithole. Please, if you can proceed with your speech

UNREVISED HANSARD

... now you've now muted both devices. You'll need to unmute one of them. Hon Sithole, please unmute the device that you're going to be using to deliver your speech and proceed.

Ms S L SITHOLE: The face of power is changing across the world. Women are taking their rightful places in the halls of Parliament, in corporate boardrooms in diplomacy and in global business. They are no longer asking for permission to lead. They are leading with confidence, vision and purpose.

South Africa has been at the forefront of this transformation. Our democracy was built on a sacrifice of courageous women who refused to accept injustice. They challenged operations, they broke barriers, they changed the course of our history.

In this House, we stand on the shoulders of giants. Mama Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Mama Stella Nomzamo Sigcau, among the first women Ministers of democratic South Africa, helped lay the foundation for those of us who serve here today. They showed that leadership knows no gender. They proved that wisdom of the Kenyan proverb: "A mother's strength is like the baobab; deeply rooted and impossible to break."

UNREVISED HANSARD

Because of pioneers like them, women today occupies more than 44% of the seats in Parliament and provincial legislatures. This is not just a statistic; it is a reflection of a democracy that recognises the value of women's voices in shaping our nation's future.

But representation is only the beginning. The progress we celebrate today extends beyond politics, across the economy, South African women continue to redefine what leadership looks like. Mary Villakazi became the first woman to lead one of our country's big five banks as Chief Executive Officer of FirstRand. And Mpumi Madisa has successfully led one of South African's largest listed companies as Group Chief Executive of Bitvest. Their achievement sent a powerful message to every young girl - there is no profession, no bottom, and no office beyond your reach.

These women did not succeed by chance, they succeeded because those who came before them opened doors, challenged, stereotyped, and refused to accept that leadership belongs only to men. Today, it is our responsibility to ensure that those doors remain open for generations to come.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Hon members, while we celebrate these milestones, we must also confront an uncomfortable reality. For far too ... many women, equality remains a promise rather than a lived experience. Gender-based violence and femicide continue to cast a dark shadow over our nation. Women still face discrimination in the workplace. They continue to carry the burden of unequal pay, limited economic opportunities, and deeply exchange patriarchal attitudes. These challenges remind us that struggles for equality is far from over.

The women who marched to the Union Building in 1956 did not march for symbolic victories. They marched for justice. They marched for dignity. They marched for freedom. They marched believing that future generations of women will enjoy opportunities they themselves had been denied.

That generation passes the baton to us. It is now our responsibility to confront gender-based violence with urgency, to expand economic opportunities for women, to remove every barrier that prevents women from participating fully in society, and to ensure that equality exists not only in our laws but in the daily lives of our people.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Hon members, women leadership must never be reduced to individual achievement, it must translate into better policies, stronger institutions, and improved lives for all South Africans. When women lead, communities benefit. When women participate equally in the economy, countries grow stronger. When women are represented in decision making, democracy becomes more responsive and more inclusive.

That is why we must continue to push boundaries. We must dismantle patriarchy wherever it exists. We must reject our detailed stereotype that seeks to limit women’s potential. Above all, we must create a South Africa where women occupying the highest office is no longer viewed as extraordinary, but as entirely normal.

The ANC has consistently championed women’s representation. Through deliberate policies and political will, women have served as Ministers, Speakers of the National Assembly, Deputy Speakers, premiers, judges, Members of Parliament, and leaders across government. This demonstrates that transformation does not happen by accident. It requires commitment, it requires courage, and it requires action.

UNREVISED HANSARD

We encourage all political parties to deepen their commitment to gender equality and ensure that women are not only represented but empowered to lead and to shape the future of our country.

The measure of our democracy will not be how many women occupy seats in this House, but whether every woman in South Africa can live freely from fear, enjoy equal opportunity, and realise her full position. That is the unfinished business of our generation.

Let us honour the legacy of me Charlotte Maxeke, Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa, Sophia Williams-de Bruyn, and the countless women who refuse to accept injustice. Let us merge their courage with action. Let us build an economy that works for women, a society that protects women, and a nation that values the leadership of women.

The struggle for gender equality did not end in 1956 nor in 1994 it continues today and it is our responsibility to ensure that the next generation inherit a South Africa where leadership is determined by talent not gender. Where every

UNREVISED HANSARD

girl knows that their voices matter. And where every woman can rise without barriers. When women rise, South Africa rises, when women lead our democracy grows stronger.

Let us move from celebrating women's achievement to creating a society where their success is no longer exceptional but expected.

Setswana:
Ke a leboga.

Ms T BREEDT: House Chairperson, today we celebrate the women who came before us, but we also have a responsibility to speak honestly about the women who must build South Africa's future. The theme before us today is, Building Resilient Economies for All: Women Leading the Future of Trade. These are inspiring words, but resilient economies are not built through slogans. They are built through opportunity, certainty, safety and good governance.

Statistics SA reminds us why this debate matters. In the second quarter of 2025, 35,9% of women were unemployed, compared to 31% of men. Only 54,9% of working-age women

UNREVISED HANSARD

practised in the labour force, compared to 65,6% of men. That’s more than one in four employed women who work in vulnerable forms of employment, often without contracts, pensions and medical aids.

Afrikaans:

Dit is nie omdat Suid-Afrikaanse vroue nie bereid is om te werk nie. Inteendeel, vroue is entrepreneurs, boere, onderwysers, ambagslui, professionele persone, sakemense en eienaars. Hulle hou gesinne aan die gang, onderhou gemeenskappe en dra reeds die ekonomie op hul skouers. Maar die grootste struikelblokke vir vroue is nie ’n gebrek aan talent nie. Dit is ’n staat wat sy basiese verantwoordelikhede versaak.

English:

How can women lead trade when freight rail is collapsing? How do women grow businesses when municipalities cannot provide clean water, reliable electricity or safe roads? How do women invest when crime threatens their employees and customers every single day? Economic resilience begins with a capable state, not an overbearing one.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Afrikaans:

Die VF Plus glo dat vroue sterker gemaak word deur regeringsbeheer en burokratiese programme te verminder. Vroue word sterker waneer die regering uit die pad staan, wanneer entrepreneurskap aangemoedig word, en wanneer meriete, harde werk en innovasie beloon word.

English:

Women’s success should never depend on political connections. It should depend on their ideas, determination and ability to compete in an economy that is open, fair and growing. The future of trade belongs to women who can innovate freely, export confidently and build businesses without being buried under red tape.

Afrikaans:

Ons moet ook onthou dat handel nie net oor groot korporasies gaan nie. Dit gaan oor die vrou wat ’n klein onderneming vanuit haar motorhuis bedryf. Dit gaan oor die boervrou wat waarde toevoeg tot landbouprodukte. Dit gaan oor die jong vrou wat ’n tegnologie onderneming begin of ’n ambag aanleer. Elke keer wanneer buurkrag, swak infrastruktuur of korrupsie haar besigheid benadeel, verloor Suid-Afrika ekonomiese groei.

UNREVISED HANSARD

English:

Government often speaks about empowering women through procurement programmes. Yet empowerment cannot only come from government contracts. Sustainable empowerment comes from an economy where businesses can grow because markets function, infrastructure works, investors have confidence and communities are safe. Even where procurement targets exist, they will never replace the opportunities created by sustainable economic growth.

House Chairperson, women already hold the key to South Africa’s future.

Afrikaans:

Hulle is die meerderheid van ons bevolking. Hulle verstaan die werklikheid van swak dienslewering van misdaad, onveilige skole en munisipale verval omdat hulle dit elke dag beleef. Daarom is hul stem nie net belangrik in hierdie Huis nie, maar ook by die stemde stad buite.

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD

As South Africa approaches the municipal elections on 4 November, women have the opportunity to shape the future of every town, community and local economy.

A resilient economy begins with resilient leadership. It begins with women who refuse to wait for someone else to speak on their behalf, who stand by their principles and choose leaders that govern with integrity, competence and accountability.

Afrikaans:
Vroue het nog altyd Suid-Afrika opgebou. Nou is die tyd dat hulle Suid-Afrika se koers bepaal. Ek dank u.

Cllr K R PHUKUNTSI (Salga): House Chair, greetings you and to both Ministers that are in the House, members of the NCOP, the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, the Chief Whip, special delegates, ladies and gentlemen, greetings once more. We bring greetings from the SA Local Government Association. Today, as we gather virtually on this significant day, we stand on the shoulders of giants. We honour the memory of more than 20 000 courageous women who marched through the Union Buildings against the extension of pass laws on 9 August 1956, led by

UNREVISED HANSARD

the heroines like Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa and Sophie Williams.

As we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the historic milestone, we do so under the theme: Building Resilient Economics for All Women Leading the Future of Trade. This theme calls on all of us across all spheres of government to place women at the centre of economic reconstruction and development efforts. It challenges us to move beyond celebrating women as beneficiaries of economic development. It calls upon us to rethink who owns controls, participate in the land benefits from our economy.

It is at the local government level where the promise of a resilient economy is either realised or remains a distant dream. Municipalities are the primary sites of service delivery, economic development and community well-being. As the sphere of government closes to the people, local government is uniquely positioned to understand the specific barriers that women face in our towns, cities and rural villages.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ladies and gentlemen, building a resilient economy requires that we build them from the ground up with women as the architects, the builders and the leaders. We cannot build resilient economics if our own institutions are not inclusive. The reality is that women continue to face significant barriers to finance markets, technology, procurement opportunities, business development, support and access to information.

Statistics SA Gender Series XI of 2014 to 2024 shows that in 2024, approximately 76% of female-run businesses were operating in the informal sector. This demonstrates the extent to which women remain in an economic space characterised by vulnerability and limited access to capital and markets. We cannot talk about women leading the future of trade without talking about women who are still struggling to enter the formal economy.

The SA Local Government Association is committed to transforming municipal workplaces to reflect the diversity of our communities. In this regard, the Salga Women’s Commission plays a pivotal role through co-ordinating, promoting and advocating for gender-appropriate strategies and practices

UNREVISED HANSARD

within all 257 member municipalities. Through the Local Government Women's Leadership Development Programme, Salga, in partnership with training institutions equips women councillors and managers with the requisite skills and competences to lead effectively and play a significant role in meeting constitutional development imperatives.

This work and the establishment of multi-party women caucuses at the district and local level aims to move the representation of women beyond a mere number exercise to ensuring that gender-responsive planning and budgeting are embedded in municipal governance. Our municipalities are also creating spaces where women can lead and thrive, and Salga will continue to support these efforts. Ladies and gentlemen, once again, Salga has been instrumental in advocating targeted grant funding from the national fiscus to support municipalities in implementing these programmes.

We have also forged partnerships with international organisations, the private sector and civil society to leverage resources and expertise. The partnership between the Blouberg Local Municipality in Limpopo, De Beers Group and UN Women's Entrepreneurship Programme is a shining example of

UNREVISED HANSARD

what is possible. The programme has trained hundreds of women entrepreneurs in financial management, business planning and market access, creating jobs and driving inclusive growth.

Building a resilient economy for all requires collective action across all spheres of government and society. It requires that we recognise the enormous contribution of women in the informal economy, therefore the task ahead is to enable them to move from vulnerability to sustainability without destroying the livelihoods upon which their households depend. As the voice of local government in the NCOP, Salga calls on the following:

National government to provide adequate funding and policy frameworks that enable municipalities to support women's economic participation. Provincial governments to partner with municipalities in implementing local economic development initiatives, skills programmes and infrastructure projects that benefit women. Private sector to invest in women-owned business, provide mentorship and create inclusive value chain that enable women entrepreneurs to scale their enterprises. Civil society and communities to support women leadership challenges patriarchal norms and stand united against the

UNREVISED HANSARD

gender-based violence. Our municipalities to continue driving the transformation agenda, creating inclusive workplace and putting women at the centre of economic development.

As I conclude, the road ahead is long but we have made significant strides. We have progressive legislation, deliberate policies and growing institutional commitment to gender equality, yet we must move faster. We cannot wait another 40 years to attain gender parity. Let us recommit ourselves to the vision of the women of 1956, a South Africa where all women are free, empowered and able to lead. Let us build resilient economies that leave no women behind. Let us create a future where every woman in every municipality can succeed, lead and prosper. Today we stand with the women of South Africa. We honour their courage, their resilience and their leadership. Together we will build resilient economies for all. Wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo! [You strike a woman; you strike a rock!] Malibongwe! Thank you, House Chair

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Malibongwe!

Sepedi:

Ke a leboga.

UNREVISED HANSARD

English:

Cllr Phukuntsi, thank you for your participation today. Hon delegates, as part of our constitutional role of furthering the interests of provinces, the NCOP actively seeks the inputs from provinces into our debates. That call was answered today by the province of Limpopo, where the MEC for social development is the hon F F Radzilani, who will be the next participant in the debate for the next 10 minutes. Hon Radzilani?

Ms F F RADZILANI (Limpopo): Hon House Chairperson, let me greet hon Minister Chikunga, hon Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams, hon members of the NCOP, my colleague MEC on the platform, the representative of SA Local Government Association, Salga, fellow South Africans, a very good afternoon to you. Let me take this special moment to convey my sincere greetings, carried with deep words of gratitude on behalf of the Limpopo provincial government to the hon members serving in this important House of provinces here in Parliament of our republic.

Allow me to further extend my regards to my fellow counterparts in various provinces representing their

UNREVISED HANSARD

provincial governments. I am ushering these courageous and gratified regards on behalf of approximately 3,5 million female residents - young and old - out of the total provincial population of about 6,6 million people from Limpopo hailing from the beautiful hills of Vhembe district with its rich cultural heritage spanning from the Limpopo River to Mapungubwe, from the district of Waterbeck, renowned with its rich biodiversity, ecotourism and mineral deposits.

I am ushering my unparalleled revolutionary salutations on behalf of the descendants of Matsatsi Nchabeleng, Mme Lydia Komape from the land of the warriors, kings and queens. I talk of the vibrant Sekhukhuneland, from the food basket of Limpopo province, the region that gave birth and nurtured pioneers and trailblazers like in Mme Happy Joyce Mashamba and Dr ... [Interjections.] [Inaudible.] in Mopani region. I am echoing these greetings on behalf of women from the city of stars in Capricorn district.

Hon Chair, I am belabouring in sending these regards deliberately on this important occasion as the country and the nation commemorate the legacy of women in struggle against

UNREVISED HANSARD

repressive sexist and racist acts of segregation, as my counterparts and other hon members have already alluded to.

Actions initiated and executed 70 years ago still resonate and reverberate in our hearts. Those brave and resilient voices in the streets of Pretoria which confronted the headquarters of apartheid are still heard in our ears and continue to guide our actions. The slogan: *Wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo*, remains amongst the weapons that made the colonial and barbaric apartheid regime to its knees 30 years ago.

Hon members, this year's important commemoration of Women's Month will be marched and celebrated under the theme: *Empowered Women Empower the Nation*. A theme dedicated to galvanising us as we remember the gallant and brave women march of 1956 whose actions, conviction, courage and resilience was an important point that empowered women to have the power to shape the destiny of nations - the destiny we are currently witnessing as a result of this courageous generation.

Therefore, as we commemorate the platinum jubilee, the question is no longer whether women can change the course of

UNREVISED HANSARD

history. The women of 1956 circled that question forever. The question is whether we will be bold enough to build upon their legacy. Whether we will transform courage into capital. Whether we will convent resilience into enterprise. Whether we will turn empowerment into economic power. I want to boldly state that significant strides have been made since 1994, democratic breakthrough, despite some pertinent challenges. I am grateful and also want to state that women's empowerment can be expedited by the empowered women in unison with all sectors of the society, irrespective of gender.

In Limpopo, like other places in our country, the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and gender-based violence and femicide continue to haunt women of our province as indicated. Approximately, 45,7% to 51,6% of households in Limpopo are headed by women, placing a heavy caregiver and provider burden on females. Government and statistical reports indicate that a significant percentage of female-headed households face economic vulnerability with many experiencing food insecurities or skipped meals.

The provincial government has noted that women face persistent hurdles in accessing finance, formal markets, technology and

UNREVISED HANSARD

enterprise development tools. Programs under the seventh administration focus heavily on building resilient local economies, expanding public procurement access for women-owned enterprises in agriculture, mining and manufacturing and boosting skills capacity.

As part of continuing with social relief, the Department of Social Development is implementing food nutrition programs across the district to the disadvantaged households that are mainly headed by women through profiling by our dedicated social workers. The Limpopo provincial government in its effort to fight and eliminate the scourge, under Social Development, have allocated R22,5 million to victim empowerment centres that mainly deals with the gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF-related issues.

We have also made a provision to render awareness campaign that intends to prevent for the occurrences of these unwanted cases. These efforts are a continuation of expediting the implementation of the national strategic plan on gender-based violence and femicide. This effort and task should be a multi-sectoral duty and responsibility of all stakeholders. It's not a one-sided gender responsibility, but both men and women must

UNREVISED HANSARD

work in unison. Civil society and private sector must collaborate in accelerating the women's question in this district.

Let me indicate that one day or ten minutes of my debate is simply not enough to honour the impact of women in our country. This entire month is dedicated to amplifying voices that are often quieted. We are here to celebrate resilience, challenge biases, and drive lasting change. The battle to accelerate journey to build empowered nation driven by empowered women continues. We wish you all the best as we embark on this journey of commemorating the 70th anniversary of Women's Month. Thank you so much, hon Chair, for the opportunity afforded to me.

Mr N GOTSELL: Hon Chair, hon Ministers, hon members, and fellow South Africans, good afternoon. There is cruel irony in today’s debate. The ANC has chosen to debate Building Resilient Economies and Women Leading the Future of Trade. Still, before a woman can build a business or partake in our economy, she must make it home alive.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Seventy years after the Women’s March, the ANC celebrates strategies and councils, but strategies do not protect women; proper policing does. And if women cannot sell chicken feet without being extorted for money or run their salon because extortionists threaten to kill them if they don’t pay protection money, this House cannot begin to speak about resilient economies.

Allow me to tell this House about two South African women, each with aspirations to help build a resilient economy. One was a politician and the other a chartered accountant.

Sinovuyo Dyokwe was a courageous community leader in Dunoon who refused to bow to extortionists. She believed her community deserved better. Ahead of a March 2026 by-election, she led a petition asking for something remarkably simple: Bring a SAPS mobile station closer to the people of Dunoon.

Then, just days before the by-election, the ANC Minister of Employment and Labour arrived to campaign. Suddenly, there was a brand-new SAPS mobile unit and extra police officers. For one day, the people of Dunoon received exactly the policing

UNREVISED HANSARD

they had been begging for. But when the campaign ended, the truck disappeared. And so did the police officers.

Three months later, Sinovuyo was murdered. She was shot 10 times. She participated in the first registration weekend so that she too could lead and build. But she did not make it home alive.

The women of Dunoon, Witsand, Delft and Philippi do not need a police truck for one ANC campaign day. They need one every day, so they can run their salons and their ECDs in peace. This is how we help build leaders and a resilient economy, but they need to make it home alive. And while Capetonians continue to plead for help, the ANC and Acting Minister Cachalia keep saying no to the City of Cape Town’s offer to help. Just this past long weekend, 30 people were murdered on the Cape Flats.

The DA’s policy is simple: If government creates an environment wherein citizens can be entrepreneurs and have open businesses, the economy will grow. This means more jobs and fewer hungry mouths. For this to happen, women must make it home alive.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Sasha-Lee Shah’s life lay ahead of her. Her mother, Jessica, tells me that she was a chartered accountant and was passionate about becoming a leader in her profession. Sasha-Lee was shot dead at a shopping centre in KwaZulu-Natal. After being granted an interim protection order against her boyfriend, who had threatened that he would use his firearm on her, a magistrate ordered that SAPS had a legal duty to remove the firearm that he used to threaten her life.

That duty was not carried out. Instead of accountability, Sasha-Lee’s mother, Jessica, got excuses. And the errant officer got a two-month unpaid suspension. That is the SAPS economy built by the so-called mighty ANC over 30 years, where women are a commodity, but their lives are cheap.

Since then, Sasha-Lee’s mother has fought not only the pain of losing her daughter, but the South African Police Service itself. She told me that she would not place a tombstone on her daughter’s grave until she could see that justice had been done.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Sasha-Lee hardly had a chance to make her mark in contributing to society or the economy, let alone lead it, because she did not make it home alive.

When women are not safe, and the state cannot convict rapists because stations have no rape kits, they cannot go to work, they cannot help build a resilient economy, and they cannot lead the future.

The women of 1956 did not march so that 70 years later an ex-Defence Minister and Speaker can spend millions of rand on luxury upgrades while another woman begs for a police van, and another begs for a rape kit.

The Minister spoke about enforcing positive masculinity, but during Jacob Zuma’s tenure as President, the ANC defended his patriarchy, and now it has extended to the EFF and MK. Patriarchy and toxic masculinity are led by the EFF’s commander-in-Cucci and the MK’s accused number one.

We have all seen how the gun-threatening commander-in-Cucci belittled the EFF’s spokesperson on live TV, not to mention MK MP, David Skosana’s aggression towards a female ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms A MATSHOBENI: Leave the EFF alone. Leave the EFF alone.

Mr N GOTSELL: No, no, no, we are not going to leave you alone. I will tell them all. So, MK's David Skosana has this aggression towards Newzroom Africa's journalist, for which he was fined R15 000.

Leadership is measured by how you treat the women who stand beside you. South Africans have seen how criminally convicted populist leaders, of which hon Farmer's leader is one, treat women.

Afrikaans:

En nou baiza [huiwer] daardie behandeling van vroue regdeur die PA, ...

English:

... as its Cape Town mayoral candidate stands accused of assaulting his ex-wife in the Bellville magistrate's court on this very day.

It is no different from the disrespect shown by ANC leaders who refuse local government's help, while a grandmother in Delft cannot sell chicken feet because extortionists control

UNREVISED HANSARD

her community. Seventy years after the Women's March, South African women are still fighting, not for privilege, but for the most basic freedom of all - the freedom to live, work and prosper without fear. However, they must first make it home alive. Thank you.

Ms J S MANANISO: Hon Chairperson, hon members, Ministers on the platform, SA Local Government Association, Salga, representatives and the MEC from Limpopo, all protocol observed. I just want to remind some members on the platform that on Saturday we saw the lack of commitment on gender transformation by the so-called ... where the DA governs ... governs better.

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of women’s rights in dismantling patriarchy and stubborn economic oppression against women, we have those who believe that the status quo must remain because they don’t take South African women seriously. We have seen it and it is visible that for them the gender agenda is not their business or interest.

Advancing opportunities for women and girls in every sphere of government is very important for a healthy and safe society.

UNREVISED HANSARD

As many households are ... [Inaudible.] ... we have been engaging on how to increase quotas. However, there's a need to balance the two — quotas and capacity. So, we create sustainable, capable institutions that will work for our people, not for the few.

When a woman is empowered, her household, community and nation feels it best. Local government is where empowerment becomes service delivery. The role of women in local government is critical, because local government is the coalface where people feel government — as councillors and mayors making bylaws, budgets and ... oversight, as ward committee members bringing community issues to council, as activists monitoring service delivery, water, lights, clinics.

As voters, women are more than men, and we have seen that statistics have increased where 58% of women have registered. We decide on who governs locally. We are not just beneficiaries of local government. We are shapers of it.

Women and the Freedom Charter ... 1955, the Freedom Charter said there shall be houses, security and comfort. All shall be equal before the law. We can see it on a daily basis when

UNREVISED HANSARD

women are given title deeds and they are given the key ... houses, more especially to those who are disadvantaged and previously oppressed and vulnerable.

In 1954, the Women's Charter added gender lenses to this. In 1954, women said ... Hon Matshobeni, you said that you are tired of speeches about 1954. It is unfortunate that we would need to hear ... because this is the charter that we must follow through on, where everything that has been the committed to must happen. No freedom ... [Interjections.]

Hon Matshobeni, women were oppressed in the home and the community, but today women are being invited. Today, local government is where we deliver on those promises of housing, safety, water and dignity.

Hon Matshobeni, women are the most visible victims of failed local government. We are chiefs of the household, so we feel it first. Those who have spoken from the power of privilege or from the corner of privilege where they have everything do not understand why there's a need to ensure that local government must work. We understand the plight of women ... that when there's no water, women must walk to fetch that water. When

UNREVISED HANSARD

there's no lights, the risk of gender-based violence, GBV, increases. Where there are potholes ... [Interjections.] ... and no transport, women ... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.] ... need work and clinics ... [Interjections.] [Inaudible.]

Ms M KENNEDY: [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, please! Hon Kennedy, can I ask you to mute? [Interjections.]

Ms J S MANANISO: Yes, all we need is love ... [Inaudible.]

[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Kennedy!

[Interjections.]

Mr M G MODISE: Hey, member Kennedy! Hola [Hello], member Kennedy!

UNREVISED HANSARD

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you. Alright, after that interesting interlude, hon Mananiso, if you can please continue with your debate.

Ms J S MANANISO: Hon Chairperson, in terms of issues of health, when we have dirty clinics, mothers and children suffer. When there is corruption ... the issues of grant money and housing lists are manipulated, we need to make sure that we put women at the forefront. A failing municipality is a women's issue. That's why we can't afford to stay out of it. How we address the feminisation of poverty and inequality is very important. Most poor people are women and children.

Now, I want to speak to the House by saying what needs to be done by us as hon members, as we belong to this society. ... economic access, support ... women, co-operatives, tenders, and ensure that the Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, and skills centres work. We must ensure that child care plus transport is addressed so that women can work and attend council meetings, regardless of what time they are called.

Land and housing must be the issues that we are forever carrying ... 365 days, to ensure that title deeds are in the

UNREVISED HANSARD

name of women. We must ensure that we advocate for budgets that are gender responsive ... that would speak to issues of women that we are dealing with on a daily basis.

... issues of mentorship, one believes that if they can be dealt with at the local sphere, women would actually ensure that they are all over in all the spaces to ensure that they build society.

We need to ensure that there are women in science and education, and we need to make sure that the rights of women and their wellbeing are being taken care of ... empower women ... things the women can think, the women can lead and solve problems. We need to ensure that we advance programmes that deal with science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM, subjects, so that ... more girls in science. Women must ensure that they fix the water, energy and health systems in our towns.

Indeed, education cannot be isolated from the development of women. We need to make sure that we raise women that are able to ensure that they build strong resilient systems that will ensure that we deliver services in our municipalities.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Women as health workers need to be protected 24-7 ... nurses, and researchers, and we must make sure that our clinics are better than before.

Young women are part of ... bursaries, apprenticeships, mentorships and internships that need to be mainstreamed by these municipalities and institutions. We need to ensure that we create exit opportunities where we have placed these young people. It must not be ... where they come in and go, and we cannot trace their development.

There’s a need to address the needs of rural women, traditional and cultural oppression. It is sensitive but it is an important subject, hon Nonkonyana. We must appreciate the work done on customary laws vis-à-vis constitutional rights, access to land, forced marriages, exclusion from traditional councils.

We need to strengthen the capacity-building programmes for women so that these women can know these laws and protect this particular law. We need to ensure that the Constitution protects the women and the culture thereof where they are being oppressed. Traditional leaders and women forums must

UNREVISED HANSARD

work together to ensure that they dismantle patriarchy and the oppression of these women.

We need to ensure that government programmes reach villages, not just cities. Mobile services and rural development must be funded. We need to ensure that the National Rural Youth Service Corps, Narysec, programmes are sustainable in the Rural Department. Celebrate positive culture while challenging practices that ... [Inaudible.] ... dignity.

We don’t reject culture; we redeem it through justice. Local government will not fix itself. Women must be at the forefront of any service delivery in their wards, during integrated development plan, IDP, participation, in council Chambers and in strategic sessions.

We need to ensure that, indeed, women show up, attend ward meetings, speak up, run, nominate and question when there’s a need. Women must lift up, capacitate and support women who are already serving.

One would need to indicate to hon Gasa that there is a need for hon Gasa to go and read the charters of 1954, 1994 and

UNREVISED HANSARD

2021, so that as a parliamentarian she is able to know how to detail this history, because you can never tell where you are going when you don't know where you come from.

So, it is important that people get to understand the statements and commitments that were made, and that they are not just slogans, but promises that we are now following through on ... that are being delivered, as detailed by hon Chikunga and hon Ndabeni, in terms of the work that we've been doing as government.

One would just want to say to hon Matshobeni that it is important that when you represent those who come from rural areas, you need to ensure that you teach them how important it is that they need to follow through on government's commitments in all the programmes that are being developed in the local sphere. So, it is on us to understand that lobbying and advocacy for women's issues is not only for those who are in Parliament, but for those that are in the rural ...

So, let's strengthen civic education in our rural areas so that our people get to understand what it is that we as

UNREVISED HANSARD

Members of Parliament are doing in terms of igniting Bills, as well as building the South Africa that we all want to live in.

Hon Breedt, I thought you had listened to hon Ndabeni when she gave a detailed report in terms of the work that has been done in responding to your concern of building resilient economies. She has given detailed information in terms of who is benefiting, persons with disabilities and women who are in rural areas.

She has made it clear what it is that they as a department are doing to ensure that there is sustainable development and economies that speak to what needs to be done.

Indeed, the MEC has spoken about why we have this theme of Empowered women, empowered nation. It is on the basis of this not just being a slogan, but a commitment that, indeed, if you empower a woman, you empower a nation.

So, I’m just a little disturbed by the fact that we are debating today but some other hon members do not understand why we chose this particular thematic debate of, Empowered women, empowered nation.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Hon Gotsell, I want to clarify to you that today I was just disturbed by you misleading the country about this debate being an ANC topic. However, you know that this is a thematic topic that everybody wants to celebrate ... 1956 ... as well as the achievements made to date in terms of ensuring that whatever we are working on, we gear it and enhance the integrated work that has been done by different institutions, by different departments, and ensure that we bring public-private partnerships to come and deal with issues that we are facing as a nation, more especially issues that you have raised in terms of gender-based violence and femicide, GVBF.

I don’t think it is good that whenever you speak, you just raise concerns but you don’t raise issues in terms of what needs to be done. So, what needs to be done in this debate ... that one takes as the person representing the ANC, is that there is a need to strengthen our partnerships, our collaboration, and ensure that we have an integrated approach that we would need to work with.

... take note that GBVF has been declared a national disaster and we also need to note after that, that it was announced that we’re going have a council that deals with issues that

UNREVISED HANSARD

have been escalated through the National Dialogue and other nongovernmental organisations, NGOs, that have petitioned the Minister.

So, be rest assured that with you doing your work in terms of oversight and accountability through your committee, you would actually be able to assist the country a great deal in terms of bringing solutions to the table on what needs to be done.

Let’s continue working together, because what women are facing has no gender, no sex, no race, but it actually impedes the work that we do as a government service.

As we close this debate, I want to say the following to all of you. Let’s ensure that everybody understands that they are very important where they are in all spheres to ensure that they build the government that works for them, and that it is only through them that we can build resilient economies. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you very much indeed, hon Mananiso. Hon delegates, as we move towards the end of the debate, I’d just like to take this opportunity to

UNREVISED HANSARD

once again acknowledge our interpreting team that has enabled us to participate effectively in this debate, enabled members to express themselves in their home language and for the rest of us to understand all of the inputs as well. We have limited interpreting facilities when we operate on Zoom, but they are there and have worked very efficiently today. So, we appreciate the inputs from that team that helps to deepen access to democracy for the people of South Africa.

Having said that, hon delegates, I now invoke Rule 70 of the National Council of Provinces, and I therefore invite the Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities back to the podium to conclude the debate. Hon Chikunga, you have five minutes.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Thank you very much, House Chairperson, for the opportunity. We thank you for the opportunity to have this debate. As women of South Africa, we do welcome it. I also want to thank all members who participated in this debate. In the main, they raised real issues that affect women and acknowledge progress where it has happened. Hon Ndlangisa-Nodada stated that from the dawn of democracy, women empowerment has been at the

UNREVISED HANSARD

centre of the democratic government. This is very true, hence this debate today.

Hon Du Plessis acknowledged that progress has been exponential, but of course not enough. Hon Gasa truthfully states that women face internal political parties' dynamics, and I agree with her. If as political parties we are learning from the African National Congress regarding women representation in Parliament, we would not be talking about 43% women parliamentarians, but at least we would be talking about 50% or more of women parliamentarians.

We want to commend His Excellency President Ramaphosa for committing during his address at the National Women's Day to fund gender-based violence and femicide. This commitment talks to the truth that women cannot claim empowerment if they are not safe and secured. Hon Sithole acknowledges that progress has been remarkable. To prove this point, among the Group of Twenty, G20, countries, South Africa is number three after United States of America, USA, and Australia in the chief executive officer, CEO, positions held by women. South Africa is number seven among G20 countries on Women's Empowerment

UNREVISED HANSARD

Progress Index. We are number two after Mexico when it comes to women parliamentarians.

We welcome Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams' announcement that they have created a women tailor-made investment regime, which is collateral light. Cllr Phukuntsi of the SA Local Government Association, Salga, stated that municipalities are already implementing gender responsive budgeting, planning, monitoring, evaluation and auditing framework. We want to commend municipalities for that because we regard this as being very pro-gender equality, but also very progressive.

Member of the executive council, MEC, Radzilani, we agree that the women of 1956 did not know that history would remember them. They probably did not even think that their 1956 march would be remembered. They marched because ordinary women decided that extraordinary courage was required. Their action and history rewarded their courage hence the commemorative anniversary, and the 2026 Platinum Jubilee we are celebrating, and in it we honour them.

Hon Gotsell, you forgot to mention that the women of Philippi, Dunoon, Khayelitsha and Kwa Langa need roads, lights, and you,

UNREVISED HANSARD

DA government, is denying them any dignity by allowing sewerage to run on their roads and in front of their homes. In fact, separate development is the policy of DA practiced in the Western Cape and in Cape Town and George. Hon Mananiso, I agree with you that gender agenda is not DA agenda. Just look at the number of women in their leadership of DA here in Parliament and, of course, in municipalities. Therefore, you can't say what you are saying about ANC when you have no clue as to what women empowerment is about or gender equality is about.

Women empowerment needs all of us working together, government, business, academia, civil society, Parliament and women themselves, but, of course, political parties. Therefore, as women, we are determined. Women empowerment will happen because empowered women empower nations. I thank you very much.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Thank you very much, hon Minister, for bringing us to the close of this debate. Hon delegates, I would like to thank the hon Minister and other Ministers that were present in this debate, hon MECs, all special delegates, Salga representatives that

UNREVISED HANSARD

participated, and all permanent delegates for availing themselves and making vital inputs into this very important debate today. Thank you very much once again. That brings us to the close of the debate.

Hon delegates, we shall now move on to the Order Paper. The First Order I am told that has been deferred until further notice. We shall then proceed to the Second Order and that is the Consideration of the Report of the Select Committee on Security and Justice on the oversight visit to the Matlosana Municipality, North West province, from 22 to 23 April 2026, dated 20 May 2026. It was included in the Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, ATC, on 21 May 2026. I now call upon the hon J S Mananiso, the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Security and Justice, to present a report for 10 minutes. Hon Mananiso!

First Order was deferred until further notice.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND JUSTICE ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE MATLOSANA MUNICIPALITY, NORTHWEST PROVINCE FROM 22 – 23 APRIL 2026, REPORT DATED 20 MAY 2026

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms J S MANANISO: Chair, let me start by thanking the collective of the committee, because it is their work that we are bringing this report to the House. The Select Committee on Security and Justice conducted an oversight visit to the Matlosana Local Municipality in the North West province from 22 to 23 April 2026 in preparation for the NCOP Taking Parliament to the People programme.

The oversight focused on policing, infrastructure challenges, community safety, child justice services and interventions to address illegal mining and organised crime in the province. Our first visit started at Haartebeespoortdam Police Station. At Haartebeespoortdam Police Station, the committee identified serious operational and infrastructure challenges affecting effective policing and service delivery.

Key concerns included staff strategies, limited operational vehicles, overcrowded holding cells, nonfunctional cells due to water supply problems, deteriorating infrastructure and increasing incidents of gender-based violence, domestic violence, assaults and housebreaking linked to substance abuse. Community policing forums also highlighted inadequate funding, lack of support and insurance, poor co-operation with

UNREVISED HANSARD

staff members and insufficient resources to carry out community policing functions effectively.

The committee further raised concerns regarding poor maintenance by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, prolonged acting appointments, weak intelligence capacity and the ongoing threat of illegal mining activities in the area.

During the visit to Stilfontein Police Station, the committee assessed the province’s responses to illegal mining and organised crime. Illegal mining was identified as a major national security threat, driven by sophisticated transactional criminal syndicates and linked to violent crime in surrounding communities.

The community raised concerns around resource shortages, poor infrastructure conditions, overcrowded holding cells, limited successful prosecutions and the continued focus on arresting lower-level illegal miners rather than syndicates, leaders and campaigns. Members stress the importance of intelligence-driven policing and co-ordinated interdepartmental responses involving SA Police Service, SA National Defence Force, the

UNREVISED HANSARD

Hawks, the National Prosecuting Authority and other stakeholders.

Our key recommendations included establishing a co-ordinated inter-agency operational task team, strengthening intelligence-led operations, and prioritising investigations and prosecutions of illegal mining cases. Most of the issues that community members raised to the officers were about the ineffectiveness of operations: That every time people are being detained or arrested, it is usually those who are just small-scale zama zamas, while the key figures are left out to be free and they keep on doing these particular crimes.

We have recommended that they should be improving detective training, allocating additional funding for SA National Defence Force deployment and conducti comprehensive investigations in the broader illegal mine supply chain. We then said, as the committee, that overall, the committee acknowledged that the North West province continued to face significant policing, infrastructure and social challenges, particularly relating to gender-based violence, overcrowded detention facilities, and illegal mining activities.

UNREVISED HANSARD

However, the committee also recognised the progress made through interdepartmental co-operation and emphasised the need for strengthened collaboration, improved resource allocation and enhanced community partnership to improve safety, accountability and service delivery in the province. So, this is what has been detailed in this particular report.

Chairperson, the House must note that indeed this particular programme has made us understand the work that has been done by the departments when they are working together and where these assets are kept or being stored. We have recommended that we need to have a proper register that actually captures everything when police are conducting this operation, and where they keep their assets, so that we are able to even identify the actual owners of those particular assets that are being used when this illegal mining is taking place.

So, I am bringing this report for consideration before the House as the work done by the Select Committee on Security and Justice. I thank you.

Debate concluded.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND JUSTICE ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION IN COURT IN TERMS OF THE PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, PAIA, ACT 2 OF 2000, DATED 20 MAY 2026

Ms J S MANANISO: Hon Chairperson and the House, the report by the Select Committee on Security and Justice considered the proposed rules of procedure for court applications under the Promotion of Access to Information Act.

The amendment aims to create uniform court procedures across all South African courts for handling access to information disputes, thereby strengthening the constitutional right of access to information.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Firstly, the committee noted that the revised rules are intended to simplify and standardise PAIA litigation processes, particularly in response to increasing cases of deemed refusals by public bodies.

The amendment relies more heavily on existing Magistrates Courts' rules and informed rules of court to improve consistency, accessibility and compliance with legislative requirements.

Secondly, committee deliberation, a key focus of the committee deliberation was ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all citizens. Members stressed the importance of making information available in braille, sign language and all 12 official South African languages to ensure that marginalised and vulnerable communities are not excluded.

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development confirmed its commitment to public education and awareness campaigns and undertook to translate rules into all official languages, while acknowledging the financial implication associates with braille production.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The committee further observed that extensive consultation had already taken place during the drafting process. The revised rules were approved by the Rules Board of Courts of Law, legally vetted by The Office of the Chief State Law Advisor and approved by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development. Stakeholder consultation included public website publication and direct engagement prior to the rules being tabled in Parliament.

Overall, the committee welcomed the amendment as an important step towards promoting transparency, accountability and public empowerment through improved access to information.

Chairperson, the committee recommended the Select Committee on Security and Justice, having considered the subject of the rules of procedure made in terms of section 79(1) of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, PAIA, Act 2 of 2000, referred to it for consideration and thought, recommends that the National Council of Provinces approves the rules as tabled. I thank you.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

UNREVISED HANSARD

VOTING. [Take in from the Minutes.]

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND ON JOINT OVERSIGHT VISITS TO LOCAL AND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES AFFECTED BY FLOOD DISASTERS IN LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES: DATED 07 MAY 2026

Mr T M KAUNDA: Hon Deputy Chairperson, greetings to the presiding officers of the NCOP and all delegates and members of the public. We present the report on behalf of the collective of the select committee. On 19 January 2026, the Minister of Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Hlabisa, declared the National State of Disaster due to severe flooding caused by heavy rains and strong winds that began in late November 2025. The disaster affected Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Northwest provinces causing multiple deaths, widespread infrastructure damage and community displacements.

UNREVISED HANSARD

On 03-06 February 2026, a multiparty delegation of the Select Committee of Co-operative Governance and Public Administration under the leadership of the chairperson who is speaking and the Portfolio Committee of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs under the leadership of Dr Zweli Mkhize, conducted oversight visit to local and district municipalities affected by floods disasters in Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces. The primary objective of the oversight visit was to monitor government's response to recent disasters and to assess recovery and mitigation plans on the ground.

The secondary objective was to conduct site visits to affected district municipalities and solicit the opinion of representatives of provincial departments of co-operative governance, human settlements, traditional affairs, local and district municipalities, traditional leadership, SA Local Government Association, Salga and affected committee members on the impact of floods disaster intervention support provided and implementation of recovery plans by the three arms of the state.

I will just go straight to the observations. On 03 and 04 of February, the delegation visited the district municipalities

UNREVISED HANSARD

affected by floods disasters. During the period of the oversight visit, delegation interacted with the officials and as part of assessing the impact of floods, government's responses and implementation of recovery plans, the delegation of the select committee conducted such visits to Tshakuma area under the Vhembe District Municipality as well as Matsakali Village in the Collins Chabane Local Municipality under the Vhembe District municipality.

Our observations were as follows: The joint delegation has noted that the Minister and the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs has welcomed a declaration of the National Disaster. The joint delegation has also noted that classification was initiated by the head of the department. The leader of the delegation has also acknowledged and welcomed all the stakeholders who participated. The delegation of the select committee and the portfolio committee have noted with great concern during the oversight visit that the floods disaster have resulted in loss of life, significant damage to infrastructure and property, environment degradation, displacement of communities, disruptions of schooling and agricultural activities.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The joint delegation has also noted the inevitability of climate change and the shift of forecast to long-term sustainable flood management strategies guided by the stormwater master plans to manage stormwater, reduce flooding, improve water quality, restore wetlands, upgrade drainage system and sustainable urban planning to protect informal settlements in the province.

The joint delegation has noted and welcomed the call made by the representative of SA Local Government Association for the need to fast track the processes of reviewing the White Paper on Local Government and the funding, thereof, of local government. The following recommendations were made having conducted oversight visit to Limpopo and interacted with departments and all stakeholders ... The select committee reports are as follows to the NCOP: Number one, the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs should, during the 2026 Parliamentary Second Term, provide updates to the Select Committee on Co-operative Governance and Public Administration and Portfolio Committee on Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs on the review of the White Paper on Local Government as well as the funding.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Number two, that the Department of Human Settlements should, during the 2026 Parliamentary Second Term, provide report to the Select Committee on Co-operative Governance and Public Administration and the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements on timeframes for moving people out of temporary residential units to permanent homes and any developments relating to the department's December 2025 and January 2026 floods intervention since the last meeting held on 27 January.

Number three, that the Department of Small Business Development should, during the 2026 Parliamentary Second Term, provide report to the Portfolio Committee on Small Business Development and funding support provided to small businesses.

Number four, that the Department of Water and Sanitation should, during the 2026 Parliamentary Second Term, provide report to the Select Committee on Co-operative Governance and Public Administration and the portfolio committee on the rehabilitation of bulk water infrastructure in the December 2025 and January 2026 floods aftermath.

Number five, that the Department of Transport and Sanral should, during 2026 Parliamentary Second Term, ensure the

UNREVISED HANSARD

reports on the reprioritisation of budget to fund road repairs and infrastructure damages caused by the December floods.

Number six, that the MEC of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs should, during 2026 Parliamentary Second Term, provide consolidated report on the committee of co-operative governance on the flat impact assessment funding application approval and allocation in respect of December floods.

Number seven, that the national and provincial departments of Social Development should, during 2026 Parliamentary Second Term, report to the Portfolio Committee on Social Development on intervention support provided to December victims.

Number eight, that the national Departments of Agriculture and Land Reform and Rural Development should, during 2026 Parliamentary Second Term, provide report to the Portfolio Committees on Agriculture and Land Reform and Rural Development on the intervention support provided to farmers that were affected by the floods.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Number nine, that the national and provincial Department of Basic Education should provide the report to the NCOP and NA on the education on floods socioeconomic impact assessment intervention support and status of funding applications to minimise the impact of flood disasters on schooling.

Number 10, that other sector departments, provincial governments and district municipalities and SA local governments should work collaboratively with traditional leaders who are often at the forefront of disaster response's initiatives in their communities. All the organs of state should, in the spirit of co-operative governance and intergovernmental relations, embark on committee and household profiling to enhance readiness and preparedness for future disasters.

Lastly, that the parliamentary joint programming should in accordance with the Joint Rule 138 of the Joint Rules of Parliament consider the option of establishment of ad hoc joint committee on flood disaster relief and recovery whose main objective should be to oversee the response and implementation of the relief measures by government in affected provinces.

UNREVISED HANSARD

In Mpumalanga, we have made observations in terms of infrastructure damages which were estimated at R7 billion in terms of agriculture losses. During that engagement, the political administration and local district leadership, the joint committees have noted the affected local municipalities and have conducted preliminary assessments regarding the damages. The district advocates any kind of support to the local municipalities to some of the support identified as follows: installation of boreholes and technical support to conduct technical assessments.

Therefore, the committee recommends as follows: Having conducted oversight visit to affected local and district municipalities in Mpumalanga and interacted with the provincial department of co-operative governance, human settlements and traditional affairs, mayors and senior officials of the local government and traditional leadership, recommends that the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs should, during 2026 Parliamentary First Term, provide updated report to the Select Committee on Co-operative Governance and Public Administration and portfolio committee on the review of the White Paper as we have

UNREVISED HANSARD

recommended above. Hon Deputy Chairperson, we submit, thank you. [Time expired.]

Question put.

Debate concluded.

Voting.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, WATER, SANITATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS) ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO GAUTENG PROVINCE TO ASSESS THE STATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE: DATED 5 MAY 2026

Mr T M KAUNDA: Hon Deputy Chair, on 17 April 2026, a multi-party delegation of the Select Committee on Co-operative Governance and Public Administration conducted oversight visit to Gauteng province. The primary objective of the visit was to interact with the Office of the Premier on the public service

UNREVISED HANSARD

and the Public Service Commission, PSC, in the province, and the Premier of Gauteng to assess the state of public service in the province.

The following observations were made. The select committee has noted that the provincial department in Gauteng have not filled the position of the heads of departments to ensure setting of strategic tone for implementation of the department policies and programmes. The select committee has also noted observations of the Gauteng Public Service Commission, PSC, that the recruitment and selection process of filling the top-level posts is taking long.

The select committee has further noted that the Gauteng Public Service Commission, PSC, has impressed upon the Gauteng Premier to ensure the filling of all vacant positions. In terms of the employment of women and senior management, the select committee has noted the report of Public Service Commission, PSC, that with an aggregated percentage of 49%, the underrepresentation of women at senior management level does not inspire any confidence.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Regarding the employment of disabled people at senior management level, the select committee has also noted concerns of the Public Service Commission, PSC, that the Department of Roads and Transport, as well as the provincial Treasury were unable to achieve 2%. In terms of payment of service providers, the select committee has noted the finding emanating from the Gauteng Public Service Commission, PSC, report that the Gauteng Provincial Government, GPG, is still struggling to achieve 100% payment to the service providers within 30 days.

The select committee has noted that the Office of the Gauteng Premier in collaboration with key stakeholders, it has implemented a series of measures aimed at addressing inefficiencies within Gauteng Provincial Government, GPG, departments, particularly in relation to staff establishment, vacancy rates, organisational alignment and the financial sustainability. Concerning the high vacancy rates and the existence of unfunded vacancies, the select committee has also noted that the Office of the Premier has directed the departments to undertake organisational reviews in relation to this, as part of fighting corruption and creating a culture of ethical leadership.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The select committee has further noted that the Premier of Gauteng Province has requested the State security Agency, SSA, to conduct vetting and lifestyle audits for himself and the members of the executive in the Gauteng Provincial Government, GPG, including the senior officials which have been conducted. The select committee has noted that the vetting and lifestyle audit for the Premier and MECs in Gauteng in August 2020 and all the new MECs, the Director-General, HODs and the CEO of entities have been subjected to the same process.

The following recommendations are made. In terms of 2024 audit outcomes, the select committee has noted that the Gauteng Provincial Government, GPG, has put in place remedial steps to improve audit outcomes. These remedial steps include digitisation of Supply Chain Management, SCM, processes, development of SCM capacity development strategy, enhancement of SCM compliance through development and issuing of SCM seculars, to strengthen compliance with prescripts and clearing historical irregular expenditure by requesting the MECs to include the reduction of historic irregular expenditure as a Key Performance Indicator, KPI, in the accounting officer’s delivery agreement performance contracts.

UNREVISED HANSARD

We recommend that the Premier of Gauteng should ensure that all government departments comply with the achievement of 100% payment to service providers within 30 days, and deal with the institutional challenges relating to poor governance practises and lack of accountability, in particular, management of human resources within the departments; that the Premier of Gauteng province should note and act on the concerns raised by the Gauteng and Public Service Commission, PSC.

That the Department of Roads and Transport as well as the provincial Treasury were unable to achieve the 2% target for the employment of persons with disabilities; that the Premier of Gauteng province should respond to the call of the Gauteng Public Service Commission, PSC, to ensure filling of all vacancies at the top level to stabilise leadership and management in the affected departments. We therefore submit, hon Deputy Chairperson.

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

UNREVISED HANSARD

IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon delegates, we now move on to the Sixth Order, and that is the Consideration of the Supplementary Report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament on the Draft 2026/27 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Parliament of the RSA, dated 27 May 2026.

I don’t know if hon Ndhlovu is having a challenge.

Mr T M KAUNDA: Chair, maybe I can proceed with the other reports of Cogta – the Impendle and the last one. Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Okay, just hold on for one moment. Let me ... I have another request for another change in the Order Paper, and that creates some difficulties. Do we have hon Ndhlovu back?

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms S NDHLOVU: Chair, can you please give me just two minutes, because I may have a challenge where I am seated.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Okay, then we shall proceed to ... I am trying to find hon Modise, who wanted to present his report next. Hon Modise, can you guide me in terms of ... What is your vote number?

Mr M G MODISE: Chair, let me check.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: That is the challenge that I also have, because if we are moving from one gadget to the next and we are trying to find the ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): It is order number 17, Deputy Chair.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Is it Vote No 17?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Indeed, and on our papers, it is steps 99 to 104.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: It takes us right to the bottom of the list.

Mr M G MODISE: Chair, if it is allowed, I can ask hon Mabilo to be on standby just in case you are driving, and I am unable to connect. I can ask hon Mabilo to be on standby and deliver both reports if it is allowed.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Okay, if you are delegating hon Mabilo to present your report, I don’t see a problem with that.

Mr M G MODISE: Thank you. Let me speak to hon Mabilo. Thank you so much, Chair.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Okay. Hon Kaunda, are you still with us? Hon Ndhlovu, are you back? Are you sorted? Is somebody assisting hon Ndhlovu with the gadget? Hon members, we do apologise for this, but it is beyond our control. Hon Fienies, are you ready to present your report?

Ms D W FIENIES: Yes, Deputy Chair, I am ready.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Alright. Okay, hon members, we can now proceed to the Seventh Order, and that is Consideration of Report of Select Committee on Social Services on a Study Tour to Switzerland from 27 April to 1 May 2026, dated 03 June 2026.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES ON A STUDY TOUR TO SWITZERLAND 27 APRIL – 01 MAY 2026, DATED 03 JUNE 2026

Ms D W FIENIES: Hon Deputy Chair, hon members, I rise to table the report of the Select Committee on Social Services on its international study tour to Switzerland undertaken from the 27th of April to the 1st of May 2026. The purpose of the visit was to benchmark Switzerland's health and social security systems, including its experience of universal health coverage, and to identify lessons relevant to the South Africa’s ongoing health and social policy reforms.

South Africa and Switzerland are both members of the United Nations and participants in the World Health Organization.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Both countries have committed themselves to international human rights principles, including the right of every person to the highest attainable standard of health and well-being.

Both countries have also committed to the Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 3 calls for healthy lives and well-being for all, while Goal 3.8 calls for universal health coverage, access to quality health services, and essential medicine without financial hardship.

For South Africa, this is also a constitutional obligation. Section 27 of the Constitution recognises everyone's right of access to health care services and requires the states to take reasonable measures within available resources to progressively realise that right.

The study tour took place at a crucial time for South Africa. Parliament passed the National Health Insurance Bill at the end of 2023 as part of the country's journey towards universal health coverage. The committee did not visit Switzerland to copy its model. Switzerland has a different population size, economy, history, and system of government.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Rather, the purpose was to learn from its experience, how it finances health care, regulates insurers, supports vulnerable people, strengthens primary health care, and holds institutions accountable. The central lesson is that universal health coverage is not achieved through one law alone. It requires long-term planning, sustainable financing, skilled health workers, functional facilities, reliable data, and continuous parliamentary oversight.

Switzerland introduced mandatory health insurance in 1994. Every resident must have basic health insurance, and people may choose from approved insurers and, in many cases, their health care providers.

Government regulates the systems by setting the benefit framework, approving premiums, and providing subsidies for people who cannot afford contributions. The basic package aims to provide broad access to essential care while promoting solidarity between healthy and sick people.

However, the system also faces challenges. Health care costs and premiums remain high. The country has an aging population and shortages of health care workers, especially general

UNREVISED HANSARD

practitioners and staff in more remote areas. This shows that even a well-resourced country with universal coverage must constantly manage affordability, workforce planning, and access to care.

South Africa's health challenges are more severe and more unequal. The public sector serves the large majority of the population, but it faces pressures from staff shortages, infrastructure backlogs, overcrowding, long waiting times, and uneven quality of care.

We also face a quadruple burden of diseases, maternal and child health challenges, communicable diseases such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus, HIV and tuberculosis, TB, rising non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and cancer, and injuries caused by violence and accidents.

The committee's engagement reinforces the importance of primary health care. Primary health care is the first level of care close to communities. Clinics, community health services, prevention, screening, treatment, as well as referral.

UNREVISED HANSARD

South Africa must strengthen primary health care, especially in rural and underserved communities. This includes better infrastructure, improved management, adequate medicine and equipment, and the recruitment and retention of health professionals.

The committee also examined Switzerland's social security system, which combines contributory social insurance and tax-funded social assistance. South Africa has a different model with social grants funded mainly through general taxation.

These grants remain essential to protecting dignity and reducing poverty. They support millions of children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and people experiencing severe hardship.

The committee noted that the importance of stronger coordination between social assistance, employment support, disability services, health care, as well as education and skills development, of particular relevance in the need to improve support for persons with disabilities, including rehabilitation, access to training, and opportunities to participate meaningfully in the economy.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The committee also engaged with the Swiss Federal Assembly and its social security and health committees. We observed the importance placed on consultation in the legislative process, as well as the role of parliament in scrutinising government performance and public expenditure.

For South Africa, the lesson is clear. Parliament's work does not end when legislation is passed. Parliament must ensure that laws are implemented, budgets are used effectively, institutions are accountable, and communities experience real improvement in services. Meaningful public participation is equally important.

Health reforms must be informed by patients, health workers, communities, civil society organisations, experts, and all affected stakeholders. The study highlighted several priority areas for continued oversight and engagement. These include strengthening primary health care and prevention, improving health workforce planning and retention, improving health governance, infrastructure, and facility management, strengthening health data and regulatory household surveys, and ensuring sound financing and effective regulation for health reform.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The committee also noted the importance of health promotion measures, including action on tobacco, vaping products, substance use, and unhealthy lifestyle. Hon Chairperson, the committee returned from Switzerland with a clear understanding that universal health coverage and effective social protections are long-term national projects. They require sound laws, credible financing, capable institutions, trained personnel, public trust, and sustained oversight.

We will draw on international experience, but South Africa's reforms must remain rooted in our Constitution and response to the needs of our people.

The committee thanks the South African ambassador to Switzerland, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, the Swiss Embassy, members of the Swiss Federal Assembly, the World Health Organization, and all institutions that contributed to the programme. I also thank members of the select committee as well as our committee support staff for their contribution to this work.

Hon Chairperson, I hereby table the report of the Select Committee on Social Services on its study to Switzerland.

UNREVISED HANSARD

I thank, Deputy Chairperson.

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF PARLIAMENT ON THE DRAFT 2026-27 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN AND BUDGET OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE RSA, DATED 27 MAY 2026

Ms S NDHLOVU: Deputy Chair, can I be allowed to present both reports, please? We can’t hear you Chair. I don’t know if it’s on my side. I can’t hear you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): I am saying do this report first.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms S NDHLOVU: Thank you, Chair. It's the report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament of South Africa for 2024-25 annual report. The Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament, having considered parliamentary report of the Republic of South Africa, the report is divided into three parts: The introduction, section 4 of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 10 of 2009, FMPPLA, provides for the establishment of an oversight mechanism to maintain oversight of the financial management of Parliament.

The Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament was established in terms of the Joint Rules of Parliament. The committee has the powers afforded to parliamentary committees under sections 56 and 69 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, 108 of 1996.

Section 55 of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act requires that the accounting officer must prepare an annual report based on its annual performance plan for purpose of providing a record of the

UNREVISED HANSARD

activity of Parliament administration during the financial year to which the report relates; providing a report on performance of Parliament administration promoting accountability for decisions made by Parliament administration in the year under review.

Also, let me go to Part A because I know that time will not allow me to finish the report. On the mandate: Parliament derives its mandate from Chapter 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, 108 of 1996, which sets out its composition powers and function. The Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act which regulates the institution’s financial management and the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliaments and Provincial Legislatures Act 4 of 2004, which defies and declares the National and Provincial Powers, Privilege and Immunities.

On its vision and mission: The Seventh Parliament has envisioned to be a transformative and activist Parliament that improves the quality of life of South Africans and ensures enduring equality in our society. Its mission is to represent the people, ensure government by the people, and fulfil its

UNREVISED HANSARD

constitutional duties by passing laws and overseeing executive action to improve citizens' lives.

On the Seventh Parliament strategic shift, the institution’s performance in the period under review was guided by six strategy shifts. These are summarized in paragraph 2.4 to 4.6 below infrastructure restoration.

The National Assembly building and much of the Old Assembly building were destroyed in the fire in January 2022. In the period under review, Parliament sought to review infrastructure and facilities destroyed in the fire to ensure the continuity of operation, safe working spaces and the preservation of institution heritage.

On Part B, the performance in the 2024-25 financial year, Parliament achieved 80% of the targeted set for 2024-25. It met eight of its targets set for the financial year. The programme and its administration: Programme 1 provides leadership management and corporate services to Parliament. It comprises of the following sub-programmes: The Executive Authority, the Office of the Secretary, and Corporate and Support Services.

UNREVISED HANSARD

If we go to the restoration Parliament building, the 2024 financial year marked its full year implementation of the restoration and upgrade project. The objective of the project is not merely to repair the heritage structure but to transform Parliament physical infrastructure to meet modern standard of safety, accessibility and functionality.

Allow me to also go to the legislature and oversight. The programme legislation and oversight provide procedure information content and administrative support to the National Assembly and NCOP and their committees. The programme comprises of the following sub-programme: National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, Public Participation and External Relations, Shared Services and Sectoral Parliament and Joint Business. All six targets under these programmes were achieved.

As I conclude, underperforming in respect of Programme 1: The committee notes underperformance in respect of rebuilding of infrastructure destroyed in the 2022 fire and the organisational realignment and culture reset initiative. We have also noted the remedial action taken to address underperformance listed under paragraphs.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The committee welcomes the development and piloting of the committee planning framework which combined with appropriate budget tailored to each committee's needs should improve the overall capacity of committees to perform focus oversight of the executive.

The committee recommends that the work to address the impediments identified during the pilot phase and finalised in 2025-26 in order for the framework to be rolled out to all committees by 2026-27.

Legislative impact assessment framework: The committee welcomes the development and piloting of the legislative impact assessment framework. Reviewing the impact of legislation pass will ensure that the institution is able to identify and address shortcomings in the legislative process which in turn will contribute to Parliament having a positive impact on the daily lives of all South Africans.

The committee recommends that the outcome of pilot phase be shared with all committees and work towards the full roll-out of the framework be expedited. The report to be considered, Chairperson. Thank you very much.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE ON DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION BETWEEN REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DATED 02 JUNE 2026

Ms S NDLOVU: Chairperson, I still have some challenges here. Can you please allow another committee member to present and I will come back to you?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: But this is unacceptable. Your report should have been ready. Earlier, you asked me whether you can present both reports and now you want more time.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms S NDHLOVU: I was talking about the Joint Standing Report.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Okay. Now, this confuses other members also because we do not know whether the next member is ready to present their report. Okay, let me go to the ninth order. Hon Phala are you are you ready to present your report?

Mr P PHALA: Deputy Chairperson, I am ready. Thank you very much.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS AND THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS ON THE JOINT OVERSIGHT VISIT TO DENEL AERONAUTICS IN GAUTENG AS WELL AS SANDOCK AUSTRAL (SA) SHIPYARD, NAVAL BASE DURBAN AND AIR FORCE BASE DURBAN IN KWA-ZULU NATAL, FROM 28 TO 30 APRIL 2026, DATED 5 JUNE 2026

Mr P A PHALA: Hon Deputy Chairperson and hon members., good afternoon. The Joint Standing Committee on Defence and the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans conducted a joint oversight visit from 28 to 30 April 2026 to Denel Aeronautics in Gauteng as well as Sandock Austral Shipyards

UNREVISED HANSARD

naval based in Durban and Air Force Base Durban in KwaZulu-Natal. The visit formed part of the community' broader oversight programme, particularly in relation to the entities and facilities that support the operational capabilities of SA Air Force and the SA Navy. The information obtained will also contribute to the Joint Standing Committee's mid-term report on the status of the SA National Defence Force, Sandf, that must be submitted to this House in the mid-2027 as per the Joint Rules of Parliament.

I would like to begin with the Denel Aeronautics where the committee observed some encouraging developments. Denel Aeronautics remains a strategically important national capability with expertise in aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul, system upgrades, integration and flight testing. Importantly, the entity reported progress in stabilising its operation, recovering from previous backlogs, improving its performance against contractual obligation and exceeding its revenue targets.

The committee also noted improvement in the stakeholder confidence and welcomed efforts to diversify its revenue base through international markets and partnership. There are some

UNREVISED HANSARD

genuine green shoots at the Denel Aeronautics which should be supported. The committee has recommended that this strategic capability be sustained and that funding of the various Denel divisions be appropriately ringfenced particularly where divisions are demonstrating the potential to remain viable and profitable.

At the same time, we remain concerned about the dependence of Denel Aeronautics on underfunded SA Air Force, the aging Air Force fleet and the continued need for critical space and upgrades. The committee has accordingly called for a longer-term view on the helicopter fleet and its associated funding, including the future of Oryx A109 and Denel Rooivalk platforms.

The most concerning issue arising from the visit, however, was Project Hotel at Sandock Austral Shipyards. This is the project for the construction of a new hydrographic survey vessel for SA Navy. The vessel is strategically important as it supports South Africa’s maritime safety responsibilities and international hydrographic obligations, including the production of navigational information for international shipping. The difficulty is that, the project is substantially

UNREVISED HANSARD

behind schedule and has been subject to significant delays, cost concerns and governance questions.

The committees were not satisfied that the information presented by Armaments Corporation of South Africa, Armscor, provided sufficient clarity on the current cost of the project, the expenditure incurred, the remaining funding requirements and the realistic completion timeline on the way forward. Members also questioned why a project execution plan was only produced in March 2025. The committee is particularly concerned about Armscor's management of this project.

Every delay in a major defence acquisition has a consequence for military capability. In this particular case, the delay affects the operational capabilities of SA Navy and potential South Africa's ability to meet its international hydrographic responsibility. The committee has therefore recommended that Armscor provides a detailed account of expenditure, payment percentage completion, projected completion cost and timelines as well as implication of equipment currently in storage.

We have further recommended that the Minister instruct Armscor to undertake a review of Sandf's operational capacity to

UNREVISED HANSARD

complete the project and provide a definitive way forward, including the associated cost and risk. The Auditor-General has also been requested to include Project Hotel among the areas under review. The concern raised about the Project Hotel also points to a broader issue. Members observed that similar procurement and project delivery challenges appear across the defence environment. We therefore need to understand whether what we observed at Project Hotel represent an isolated failure or a symptom of wider systematic problem in defence acquisition, procurement, funding and project management? This is an important question for Parliament because ultimately, they translate into capability gaps for the defence force.

The visit to Naval Base Durban raised a different but related concern. The consequences of prolonged strategic indecision. The condition of infrastructure at the base is clearly not what it should be. The critical system including sewage, water and fuel infrastructure requires urgent intervention while accommodation and other facilities also require attention. At the same time, there has been uncertainty for several years about whether the base should ultimately remain in Durban or be relocated to Richards Bay.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The committee has therefore recommended that the relevant Ministers and stakeholders urgently convene to make a strategic decision on the future of Naval Base Durban and Air Force Base Durban and provide Parliament with a roadmap for that decision. This should allow the necessary infrastructure investment to proceed based on a clear strategic direction.

A similar pattern emerged at the Air Force Base Durban. The committee observed significant infrastructure deterioration, including concerns relating to security, power, water, buildings and other facilities. More importantly, from an operational perspective, the committee was concerned about the availability and maintenance of helicopter fleet. The Oryx and A109 fleets face significant airworthiness and maintenance challenges including shortages of critical space and long delays in obtaining components.

In some instances, aircrafts are being cannibalised for parts to maintain others. Here again, there has been a prolonged uncertainty over the proposed relocation of the helicopter base to King Shaka International Airport. The committee is concerned that strategic uncertainty combined with infrastructure deterioration and maintenance backlog is

UNREVISED HANSARD

ultimately being carried at the operation level. We therefore need decision on the future of this base together with a sustainable long-term plan for helicopter fleet.

Hon members, if there is one overarching message emerging from this oversight visit is the need for strategic direction. The problems identified at the four sides are different but they share a common future. The consequence of insufficient long-term decision, whether it concerns the future of Denel Aeronautics, the management of a mere naval acquisition, the future of Naval Base Durban or the future of Air Force Durban and the helicopter fleet, operational and financial decision cannot be separated from clear policy and long-term planning. For this reason, the committee considers the Cabinet-approved defence policy, including the journey towards defence readiness, to be particularly important.

The Joint Standing Committee on Defence will engage with the Department of Defence and Military Veterans later this month on this policy document. We expect these documents to provide strategic direction that is currently lacking in number of areas and importantly to provide a realistic and adequately funded framework for addressing the structural and long-term

UNREVISED HANSARD

challenges identified throughout the visit. I hereby table the report of the Joint Standing Committee to the House. I thank you.

Debate concluded.

Question put.

Voting.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE ON DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION BETWEEN REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DATED 02 JUNE 2026

Ms S NDLOVU: Deputy Chair, I again will request to not show the camera. The report on the Select Committee on Finance on Development Co-operation between South Africa and the Federal Republic of Germany, dated 02 June 2026.

UNREVISED HANSARD

A co-operation agreement between nations is a formal legally binding treaty that outlines the terms, objectives and conditions of a working partnership. This pact serves as framework for countries to collaborate on mutual interest while preserving their individual national sovereignty. As presented by National Treasury to the committee on 5 May 2026, the Germany Development Co-operation dates to 1994. Core areas of co-operation include peaceful and inclusive society, sustainable economic development training and employment, climate and energy just transition and health with a focus on vaccine production and distribution.

The Development Co-operation between South Africa and Germany, according to National Treasury, is a form of financial and technical agreement following the negotiations in 2024. Germany committed a funding of 276,5 million euros which is approximately R5,2 billion for the period of 2025 to 2026.

An amount of R4 million is committed towards strengthening participation in the Just Energy Transition Project. The aim of the project is to build long-term buy-in and acceptance for energy transition by strengthening communities and citizen participation, engagement and benefits. In South Africa the

UNREVISED HANSARD

development of electricity and energy will implement the project.

On the constitutional requirements for international agreements, in terms of section 231 of the Constitution, the negotiating and signing of all international agreements is the responsibility of the national executive, and an international agreement binds the Republic only after it has been approved by the resolution in both the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, NCOP.

Having considered all exchange of notes between the Republic of South Africa and the Federal Republic of Germany regarding an arrangement concerning the project Just Energy Transition Support Programme was tabled in terms of section 231(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 and an explanatory memorandum to the exchange of notes between the Republic of South Africa and the Federal Republic of Germany regarding an arrangement concerning the project Just Energy Transition Support Programme.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The report from the select committee approved the international agreement between the Republic of South Africa and the Federal Republic of Germany. Thank you.

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

VOTING [Take in from minutes.]

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES ON THE SIXTH CONVENTION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN PERIODIC REPORT, DATED 17 JUNE 2026

Ms D W FIENIES: Hon Deputy Chairperson, the Select Committee on Social Services having considered the SA Periodic Report on the Sixth Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW, presented by the Department of Women Youth and Persons with Disabilities reports as follows: With regard to the background.

UNREVISED HANSARD

[South Africa did not exit CEDAW on 29 January 1993. Instead, the apartheid government signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on that exact date, 29 January 1993, as a transitional gesture. The democratic government later formally ratified the convention on 15 December 1995.]

In fulfilling its international obligations South Africa is required to submit its periodic reports on the measures it has taken to implement the convention. The report is due for submission to the Secretariat of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The purpose of this report is to build upon South Africa's Fifth Periodic Report ... [Inaudible.] ... 29 to 2014 and incorporate recommendations highlighting progress made towards achieving substantive equality between women and men. The adoption of this report would ensure that South Africa has not met its international obligations.

Signing and ratifying the convention strengthen the multilateral and international measures established in Africa to safeguard the interest of women. In addition, it

UNREVISED HANSARD

demonstrates South Africa’s commitment to dismantling discrimination against women in all forms.

The progress in terms of the report is notable gains that have been made including efforts to combat gender-based violence, enhance women’s political representation and promote socioeconomic inclusion.

In accordance with article one and two of the convention section (9) equality clause of the SA Constitution prohibits direct and indirect discrimination by the state, public sector and by the private persons or organisations and the private sector.

The Constitution protects all individuals from discrimination Chapter 2 contained in the Bill of Rights. The SA Constitution establishes equality, human dignity and nonsexism as founding values. Section (9) guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sex, gender, pregnancy, marital status and related grounds.

Parliament launched the Women’s Charter for Accelerated Development in 2021. The National Framework set a 25-year

UNREVISED HANSARD

vision to improve the lives of women in South Africa is meant to guide government's planning, budgeting and legislation so that women's needs are fully included as in the Women's Charter for Accelerated Development 2021 some of the key issues for priority action hence include: Effecting specific gender sensitive amendments to a development policy design, budget policy and legislative framework design, including all the government strategic development programmes which are key for anchoring mandatory gender sensitive state actions as well as processes. Gender legislation and frameworks were introduced during the current reporting period to help address the scourge of gender-based violence and reinforce the existing national policy framework.

These includes the Gender-Responsive, Planning, Budgeting Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing Framework. The National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. The National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Act of 2024. The National Gender Machinery serves as a co-ordination mechanism for implementing CEDAW. It comprises of the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, the Commission for Gender Equality, CGE, the gender focal points across all government departments as well as municipalities.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The SA Local Government Association, Women's Commission, Parliament, independent bodies as well as civil society.

However, South Africa notes the challenges that continue to hinder the full relations of the rights including high levels of gender-based violence, economic inequalities and limited access to resources for rural and marginalised women and gaps in effective implementation and accountability.

So, as the committee we table the report for consideration. I thank you, hon Deputy Chairperson.

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

In favour: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

UNREVISED HANSARD

CONSIDERATION OF JOINT REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY AND SELECT COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, ON THE JOINT OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE CITY OF MATLOSANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE FROM 22 TO 23 APRIL 2026, DATED 7 MAY 2026

Mr F J BADENHORST: Chair, I will skip the pleasantries, and I will just go straight into the report. The purpose of this visit was straightforward: It was to move beyond presentations and reports and assess on the ground whether government interventions are actually improving infrastructure, governance and service delivery. Matlosana is currently subject to a Mandatory Financial Recovery Plan in terms of section 139(5) of the Constitution.

There are indications of administrative stabilisation; financial disciplines are being strengthened; policies are reviewed; and engagements are taking place with major creditors such as Eskom and Rand Water. However, the central finding of this report is equally clear: The administrative stabilisation is not yet translated into sufficient visible and sustainable improvements in the lives of residents.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Water and sanitation remain among the most serious concerns. The municipality faces ageing infrastructure, sewage pillages, vandalism, inadequate maintenance and serious deficiencies at its wastewater treatment works in Klerksdorp, Harpiesfontein, Orkney, and Stilfontein. This is not merely a municipal inconvenience; some of these systems discharge into rivers that ultimately feed the Vaal River. The consequences therefore extend beyond Matlosana.

The Department of Water and Sanitation has issued multiple noncompliance notices, yet at the time of our visit, the municipality had still not submitted the required corrective action plans. The report consequently recommends a firm deadline of 31 August 2026 for these plans.

Financial management presents another major concern. Conditional grants are intended to address infrastructure backlogs, yet Matlosana has struggled to spend these funds effectively. The Municipality Infrastructure Grant expenditures, Mig expenditures, stood at only 38% at the end of December 2025, resulting in the National Treasury withholding portions of allocations.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Although expenditures subsequently improved, this demonstrates the cost of weak project preparation and implementation capacity. Governance weaknesses compound these problems. The municipality did not have a functional financial misconduct disciplinary board. The Municipal Public Accounts Committee, MPAC, was not fully performing its statutory oversight responsibilities. There was political interference in appointments and procurement was repeatedly raised, while the municipal council itself remains deeply divided.

The committee’s message is therefore simple: The financial recovery plan cannot succeed if consequence management remains weak. Our visit to the MXN Human Settlements Project in the Jacaranda section demonstrated precisely what happens when planning, contracting and oversight fail. Approximately 1 600 housing units were effectively placed in the hands of a single contractor despite capacity limitations.

Only 263 units have been fully implemented or fully completed. The original completion target of March 2026 was missed, and the contractor had reportedly abandoned the site for extended periods. The residents showed us incomplete houses, leaking roofs, sewer spillages, open trenches and housing without

UNREVISED HANSARD

properly synchronised water and electricity infrastructure. Some structures had remained incomplete for years. Perhaps the most concerning is that questions remain regarding the utilisation of nearly R1 billion associated with the project and related infrastructure investment.

The report therefore recommends an immediate performance review, termination of nonperforming contracts, referral of defaulting contracts to the National Treasury's Register of Tender Defaulters, subdivision of large contracts to reduce risk, a comprehensive financial audit and strict revised completion deadlines with completion timelines. It further requires the municipality to address open trenches and sewer leaks immediately, and to hold a public meeting with affected residents within 14 days of adoption of this report.

Our oversight of the Klerksdorp Correctional Centre refurbishment raised a different but equally important concern. The original contract value was approximately R94,4 million, increased to a projected R118,9 million. At the time of reporting, approximately R88,5 million had already been certified for payment, which is more than 93% of the

UNREVISED HANSARD

original contract value, while physical completion stood at only 74%.

The project has also exceeded its approved construction period, with time elapsed at approximately 115% and anticipated completion moved to 30 October 2026. While the committee observed good quality complete work in several areas, these figures demonstrate why Parliament must interrogate the relationship between expenditure, physical progress and value for money.

Chair, there were also positive developments. Road rehabilitation projects have been completed. Sanral has projects at planning and design stages. Improvements were observed in parts of the wastewater system, and the financial recovery plan has introduced greater financial discipline. However, optimism must be based on measurable outcomes and not on intentions only.

The district development model illustrates this challenge. Political co-ordination structures were described as moderately functional, but technical co-ordination remains weak, and funding continues to be sector-driven. Without

UNREVISED HANSARD

measurable outcomes and integrated budgets, the DDM risks becoming another planning exercise rather than an instrument of delivery.

The report therefore places specific responsibilities and deadlines on the municipality, the province and the national government. These include strengthening impact, establishing the financial misconduct board, referring defaulting contractors, improving front-loaded project planning and reporting back to the committees on implementation.

The real test of this report will not be whether the NCOP adopted it today. The real test will be whether, when Parliament returns to Matlosana, the sewage is working; houses are completed; roads are maintained; public money can be accounted for; and officials and contractors who fail face consequences. Oversight cannot end with identifying failure. It must follow the money, enforce deadlines and demand results. I therefore commend this report to the House for consideration and adoption. I thank you, Chair.

Debate concluded.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM, AND MINERAL RESOURCES ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO MADIBENG IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE FROM 10TH TO 13TH OF MARCH 2026, DATED THE 23RD OF JUNE 2026, AND ATC ON THE 24TH OF JUNE 2026

Mr M G MODISE: Chair, good evening to the leadership on the platform and the protocol is observed. Chair, because the report was indeed ATC, I want to believe that Members of Parliament have taken time and opportunity to go through the report. Therefore, I will not rehearse the report, but I will just go straight to the matters that should be considered by the House that we as the committee are very concerned about, and that there are about four or five of those matters that I will present, and I hope I will not even take 10 minutes.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Firstly, Chair, is that the discussion did not include the responsibilities of Sogima Mining in relation to the relocation process as to who would be responsible for the cost. According to the literature reviewed, there appears to be a reference for a mining house also having to pay a cost if a community has to be relocated in favour of mining, but at the same time, the municipality and the Department of Human Settlement apportioned part of the blame for the delays in finalising the relocation to the lack of funds. Specifically, they refer to what is presumed to be the revitalisation of the stress mining towns programme, which appears to be tempering off in terms of activity after the interministerial committee specifically formed for this programme was reported as abolished in 2019.

What is also vital to clarify is when during the process of establishing the MOU and following up on the facility study paid for by Sogima Mines, did the relocation process collapse? It is unlikely that the process will reach a final costing phase as it will have been raised in the meeting and as the reasons for the delay.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Secondly, when studying the map of Sogima Mines operation, it was noticed that the settlement close to the mine that the local municipalities are in the process of formalising is not just encompassing the blasting radius of 500 metres from Sogima operations, but extends into the same distance away from Samancor operations, which two issues need to be clarified. Why did the municipality decide to settle community members into an area where Samancor and Sogima had mining rights and the knowledge of future blasting operations should have influenced the placement of the settlement? ... [Inaudible.] ... the committee was shown during the site visit earthworks of Samancor Mine close to the area affected by blasting.

If there is more than one mine operating in close proximity, the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources needs to clarify how it was determined that only Sogima Mining activity was responsible for the damage reported.

Thirdly, the committee posed a series of questions to the individuals present in the meeting to clarify which role-players were responsible for the collapse of the relocation process and why the instructions of the then Minister of Human

UNREVISED HANSARD

Settlement were never executed. The responses the community received were not satisfactory; instead, directing the committee back to the executive of the department being questioned.

To date, the committee secretariat has not received any feedback on questions posed to the Department of Human Settlement after the initial oversight. Multiple requests and reminders were sent.

Fourthly, why did the National or Regional Office of the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources not send any representative to the meeting? And lastly, Chair, the community received a written response from the Department of Minerals and Petroleum Resources regarding the reason for the cancellation of the blasting permit but did not receive a copy of the official report emanating from the initial complaints received from the community.

It is clear from the response from the department that the matter revolves around Sogima blasting within a 500-metre radius to the settlement in question. No further details have been made available to the committee after numerous

UNREVISED HANSARD

communications. Therefore, we request that this report be adopted, Chair. I thank you.

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND MINERAL RESOURCES, ON THE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE WORKSHOP CO-HOSTED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM, AND MINERAL RESOURCES AND THE GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE, REPORT DATED 23 JUNE 2026.

Mr M G MODISE: Chairperson, once again, because the report was indeed ATC'd, I will only concentrate on committee recommendations, whilst also thanking all hon members and the support staff led by Mr Bouwer for this report. First, the

UNREVISED HANSARD

delegation strongly advises the rapid development of an institutionalised, structured reporting process on provincial vaccination rollout, disease incidence and disease prevention measures to ensure alignment with national targets.

To assist farmers and local government alike, it is proposed that the NCOP investigate the possibility of developing a province-by-province vaccination progress dashboard to strengthen co-ordinated oversight between spheres of government. Data recorded should include provincial surveillance data and laboratory performance to ensure that provincial reporting continues to inform national biosecurity risk classification updates and to strengthen early warning systems to government and farmers alike.

As part of provincial engagements during the roll-out of the foot-and-mouth disease vaccination drive, the delegation strongly advises local and provincial government level reporting on the deployment of provincial veterinary capacity in order for the NCOP to monitor that the effort will be sufficient to administer the number of vaccines planned within required timeframes.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The delegation proposes engagement with the relevant committee within the NCOP responsible for law enforcement to ensure that the control of animal movement and other animal control enforcement required at provincial level supports the national biosecurity framework.

Fifth, for the committee to track biosecurity responsibilities related to Schedule 4 responsibilities in each province, the delegation recommends measurable provincial preparedness benchmarks to give practical effect to Schedule 4 biosecurity responsibilities.

Sixth, the NCOP should encourage provinces to formally integrate authorised private veterinarians into provincial outbreak plans to enhance capacity without weakening oversight. Keeping in mind any national legislation.

Seventh, the delegation noted with concern the figures related to the number of state veterinarians available and the number of vaccines per day that must be administered to bring the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak under control. It is recommended that provincial departments seriously consider developing a standardised framework for private veterinarian

UNREVISED HANSARD

authorisation to ensure uniformity across provinces and speed up assistance from the private sector in administering foot-and-mouth diseases vaccines in areas where their assistance is critical to the success of the programme.

Lastly, the delegation proposes a six-month follow-up review of provincial capacity to be conducted to measure progress against commitments made in this workshop, and that the monitoring and of capacity and performance of control measures across all provinces become standardised monthly to affect the creation of intervention capacity. We propose that the Report be adopted. Thank you, Chair.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP(Mr L Govender): Hon Modise, I know that you are having extreme challenges there but thank you for presenting your reports.

Question Put.

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

UNREVISED HANSARD

In Favour: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE ON PRESIDENTIAL LETTER OF DEPLOYMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE IN SUPPORT OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE, DATED 9 JULY 2026

Mr P A PHALA: The report before this House is about the employment of members of the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, in support of the SA Police Service, the SAPS. following the President’s letter dated the 30th of June 2026, which was tabled in Parliament on the 3rd of July 2026.

In terms of Joint Rule 156(1), the Joint Standing Committee on Defence is required to report to both Houses on the employment of the SANDF by the President in fulfilment of the international obligation in defence of the Republic or in co-operation with the SAPS.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The presidential letter was submitted in accordance with section 201(3) of the Constitution and section 18(2)(e) of the Defence Act.

The deployment comprised 3 405 members of the SANDF who were placed on standby to assist the SAPS in maintaining law and order during the planned countrywide marches against illegal immigration. The deployment was for the period 28 June to 31 July 2026, with an expected expenditure of R54,6 million.

The Joint Standing Committee on Defence considered the President’s letter at its meeting on the 9th of July 2026 and received high-level briefings on the deployment.

In its engagement, the committee noted the deployment and sought assurance that the SANDF members were appropriately prepared and equipped should they be required to deploy.

The committee also emphasised that, consistent with the constitutional framework, the internal deployment of the SANDF should remain an exception. Members further stressed the importance of Parliament being informed promptly and comprehensively should there be any extension of the

UNREVISED HANSARD

deployment or any related deployment. This has been a problem identified in the past, with delayed submission of deployment letters to Parliament. The matter has been raised with the presiding officers to address with the Office of the President. We therefore trust that late submissions will not recur in the future.

It is important to clarify the committee's position. The Joint Standing Committee on Defence did not oppose the deployment. Having considered the presidential letter and having received the briefings, the committee did not recommend that the deployment be amended, substituted or terminated.

Consequently, there was no proposed termination or amendment of the deployment for the NCOP to consider. The report was accordingly submitted to both Houses in fulfilment of the committee's reporting obligation, with the recommendation that the report be noted.

I hereby support that the report be noted, hon Chair. Thank you very much.

Debate concluded.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PETITIONS AND EXECUTIVE UNDERTAKINGS ON THE EXECUTIVE UNDERTAKINGS MADE BY THE MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION DURING THE HOUSE SITTING, AS ADOPTED ON 23 JUNE 2026

Mr O J MOKAE: Hon House Chairperson, good evening also to colleagues on the platform, hon members, all the stakeholders, support staff who are with us this evening. Hon House Chairperson, as you have rightfully said these were the undertakings that were made by the Minister of Basic Education in her Budget Vote debate on 8 July last year. I am just going to quote the executive undertakings as we received them from the Office of the Chairperson of the Council who has referred them to us.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The first executive undertaking verbatim the Minister said and I quote:

> We have set ourselves a bold target to register 10 000 Early Childhood Development, ECD, centres in the current financial year.

The second executive undertaking in addition the national catalogue for Grades 1 to 3 is being updated to ensure learners receive higher quality curriculum aligned materials.

Hon members, we anticipate this new national catalogue being in place by 2026 for procurement for the 2027 school year.

The third executive undertaking I read verbatim and I quote:

> We are reviewing the public-school infrastructure regulations to strengthen oversight and enforcement. The review schedule for completion in the next financial year will include public and stakeholder inputs.

The fourth undertaking is and I quote:

UNREVISED HANSARD

We have also initiated a development of disaster management guidelines to assist our schools. This is especially important in line of ... [Inaudible.] ... Mthatha Natural Disasters where sadly leaners lost their lives, hon members, and hundreds of schools were damaged.

The fifth one is and I quote:

We are reviewing the models used by provinces to implement the National School Nutrition Programme to improve efficiency, financial management and accountability in how the programme is implemented.

The sixth executive undertaking is and I quote:

A R162 million undertaking is set aside for ECD infrastructure focusing on the upgrading and formalisation of centres especially in poorer areas.

The seventh executive undertaking is and I quote:

We are increasing efforts to support learners whose home language differs from the language they are taught in.

UNREVISED HANSARD

> Therefore, a further R57 million is allocated over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF, for the Mother Tongue-based Bilingual Education.

The last undertaking from the Minister, she said and I quote:

> The Funza Lushaka Bursaries Scheme will support just over 9 000 students in the financial year focusing on maths, science and foundation phase.

Now hon House Chairperson, these undertakings were referred to us and as such we had the Basic Education Minister coming to our committee and we interrogated her progress report on these executive undertakings. I now table the report with the committee's observations that in response of undertaking one, the department stated that the Bana Pele Mass registration Drive receive 19 376 registration applications exceeding the target of 10 000. Of these 14 442 were completed and 11 347 were approved at the bronze level.

The department was currently preparing for the silver and gold levels.

UNREVISED HANSARD

On executive number two the department reported that the review for the national catalogue has been finalised. Procurement will take place in 2026, with implementation plan for 2027.

On executive number three the department reported that the review process was supported by a dedicated task team and that external stakeholder engagement was underway.

On the executive undertaking number four the department reported that these guidelines were under consultation where driven stakeholders and once approved they would be published for public comment.

On number five, the department stated that a reformed process had been initiated to standardise the National Schools Feeding Scheme across all provinces.

The project planned focused on procurement reforms and digital monitoring system would be finalised by the end of the 2025-2026 financial year.

UNREVISED HANSARD

On executive undertaking number six the department submitted that the funding was used to carry out minor infrastructure upgrades and conditionally registered ECD centres to construct new facilities in high demand areas and to provide health and safety support.

On number seven the department reported that the teacher training and capacity building, the medium-term focus was to extend teacher orientation to Grades 5, 6 and 7, and to implement continuous professional development via digital platforms.

Regarding assessment and learning outcomes bilingual Grade 4 assessments were completed and preparatory work for Grade 5 assessment was underway.

On the last one, hon House Chairperson, the department reported that 8 397 bursaries were awarded in quarter one. This figure rose to 8 647 in quarter two. The bursaries were awarded to the foundation, intermediate and senior phases of the Bachelor of Education degree.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Hon House Chairperson, if you allow me, I am now going to our observations and key findings. In noting the progress report provided by the Department of Basic Education on the implementation of the executive undertakings and the review the committee made the following observation and key findings that despite operating in a constrained physical environment the Department of Basic Education made meaningful progress across several of the undertakings regarding ECD, the Bana Pele Mass Registration Drive generated more than 19 000 applications and more than 11 000 centres were approved at bronze level.

The committee was informed that the National Schools Nutrition Programme was being reformed to introduce a standardised procurement process, enhanced monitoring systems and improved co-ordination across all levels of implementation.

Lastly, the committee was assured that the teacher training for the Mother Tongue-based Bilingual Education was complete across all provinces and that bilingual learning materials had been distributed. These efforts supported by a targeted funding we essential to improve illiteracy and learning outcomes particularly in the foundation phase.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Hon House Chairperson, having noted the progress made from the Department of Basic Education on the executive undertakings under the review the committee observed that these undertakings have been adequately implemented and therefore recommends their closure. Therefore, hon House Chairperson I table this report for your consideration and adoption of the House. I thank you.

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

In favour: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PETITIONS AND EXECUTIVE UNDERTAKINGS ON THE HEARINGS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN EXPRESS AIRWAYS PETITION HELD ON 04 DECEMBER 2025, 24 FEBRUARY 2026, AND 26 MAY 2026 ON A VIRTUAL PLATFORM, AS ADOPTED ON 23 JUNE 2026

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr O J MOKAE: Hon House Chairperson and to the hon members and all stakeholders on the platform, our support staff, I'm just going to give a brief background, it's quite a lengthy report this one. The Select Committee on Public Petitions and Executive Undertakings having considered a SA Express Airways petition which was received by the Office of the Chair of the NCOP and referred to the Select Committee on Public Petitions and Executive Undertakings reports as follows:

The petition was submitted by Mr Hlubani Kassim, the petitioner, on behalf of former employees of the SA Express Airways. The petitioner inter alia seeks the following relief from government. One, that government should and must own up and disburse to reserving and qualifying employees all the monies due to them, the salaries they worked for before the liquidation in question, all monies from the liquidation proceeds be paid as they are also creditors by virtue of the salaries in question, all the outstanding amounts from both the pension and provident funds, full payment of retrenchment packages which the government finally announced in Parliament back in June 2020. And lastly, compensation in monetary value for the immeasurable pain and suffering, the affected

UNREVISED HANSARD

employees continue to be subjected by government, as they said.

We had a number of sessions with this petition, as you've stated. So, I'm just going to go to our key observations and then our recommendations of this committee report. With your indulgence, I'm moving to our observations. We had a number of observations.

The committee went back and forth to amend and strengthen our argument. But the first observation that we found and that the committee found, is that the petitioner appealed to the committee requesting that the government pay all amounts owed to deserving and qualifying employees.

Secondly, SA Airways and SA Express were victims of the alleged state capture, and there's a need to follow up on the Zondo Commission's findings regarding the issues that were raised by the petitioner.

The third observation and finding is that the SA Express traded whilst insolvent and could not pay its employees, which exacerbated entity's financial crisis. As such, it traded

UNREVISED HANSARD

recklessly, which ought to have rendered the creditors of the time liable for the consequences caused to the entity and its employees.

Fourthly, that past strategic misjudgement and operational errors together with persistent operational inefficiencies and lack of financial controls, significantly contributed to the demise of the SA Express. As well as that the business rescue practitioners on the 6th of February 2020 tried to intervene to save the entity. In this regard, at the commencement of the business rescue, the SA Express deducted employee-related taxes such as pay as you earn and contributions on the provident funds and so forth, which not consistently remitted to SA Revenue Service, Sars, for almost 18 months.

Sixthly, that in March 2020, the rescuers instituted an application to discontinue the business rescue. As a result, the Gauteng High Court granted a provisional order to discontinue the business rescue and place the company under provisional liquidation, calling upon all affected parties to show cause on 9 June 2020 and why the company should not be placed under final liquidation.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Seventhly, the above intervention was not successful to save the entity, as it faced liquidation proceedings initiated by creditors. This led to the business rescue practitioners to institute a voluntary liquidation, which was successful at the Johannesburg High Court. The provisions of the Insolvency Act 24 of 1936 became applicable.

Eighthly, that the joint liquidators were appointed under the leadership of Mr Ndyamara and the liquidator submitted a report, stating that the SA Express traded under insolvent circumstances for many years and that there is no evidence that the company's directors were held responsible for this, which led to workers losing their jobs and some benefits.

The joint liquidators found that 55 employees of the company were still being owed dividends from the proceeds of the estate as preferred creditors and the process of tracking those affected employees is continuing.

Tenthly, the employees and other stakeholders were consulted and the liquidators during this period in question.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Eleventhly, the Department of Employment and Labour confirmed that the former SA Express employee submitted Unemployment Insurance Fund, UIF, claims to it and paid 1,239 claims from 1994 up until 2020. However, during SA Express 2020 liquidation, it approved and paid claims for about 525 employees. The precautionary legal services of the findings from the committee was that the payment for a former SA Express employer risk is governed by section 98(a) of the Insolvency Act 1936 and each employee will receive a flat preferential dividend from the remaining total of about approximately R248,520.29.

The recommendations from the committee are as follows. It is against the observations and key findings made by the committee that it recommends as follows:

That the Department of Transport, the Department of Employment and Labour and the Office of the Pension Funds Adjudicator, Liquidators and the Financial Sector Conduct Authority should collaborate to review all ambiguous areas, such as severance packages, total pension fund benefits and the Prescription Act related to this issue. They must ensure that any identified

UNREVISED HANSARD

ambiguities do not harm employees and instead benefit the petitioners.

Secondly, that immediate relief is sought for the pensioners. The Department of Employment and Labour must ensure compliance with the relevant provisions, particularly section 16 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, which requires that benefits be paid out to the petitioners.

Thirdly, the committee requests that the Office of the Pension Funds Adjudicator and the Financial Services Sector Conduct Authority, as explicitly tasked with investigating pension fund matters, investigate the eligibility of former SA Express employees' name to the petition, their contributions to other funds, and their eligibility for other benefits. The committee requests that the liquidators finalise the winding up of the SA Express as soon as possible and pay the former employees what is due to them.

Fifthly, the recommendation of the Commission on State Capture pertaining to the SA Express be expedited and the committee at an appropriate time may want to request for the President to issue a formal proclamation on this matter.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Sixthly, on the recommendations from the committee. That the Financial Sector Authority, together with the appointed liquidator of the pension and province funds, must provide guidance or advice regarding any remaining monies or funds owed and follow the required procedures.

And lastly, the investigation contemplated in this report, must be finalised within six months of the House adoption of this report. And upon completion, the effective stakeholders are to appear before the committee and report on the outcomes and propose a way forward.

This all is done to make sure that the petitioner and the former employees of SA Express, they find the necessary recourse that they have appealed Parliament to intervene.

I want to take this opportunity, to thank all members of the committee for their continued participation and dedication to this petition. It was one petition that really required us to sit around the table, thoroughly deal with the issues pertaining to this petition. And I can proudly say that we came to an agreement, and we agreed for this report to be

UNREVISED HANSARD

tabled with all those recommendations to this House. And I hereby table this report for consideration of the House.

I thank you.

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

Voting [TAKE IN MINUTE]

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

17th Order – withdrawn- deferred until further notice

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, WATER, SANITATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS) ON OVERSIGHT VISIT CONDUCTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 139(1)(B) OF THE CONSTITUTION IN IMPENDLE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY: DATED 5 AUGUST 2026

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr T M KAUNDA: House Chair, on behalf of the committee, firstly, we would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the Chairperson of the Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Portfolio Committee in Gauteng provincial legislature, hon Mzi Khumalo, and we also wish to express our heartfelt condolences to eThekwini ward councillor of Ward 17, Councillor Khwela. May their departed souls rest in eternal peace. Thank you, hon Chair. On the observations, the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for the Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, tabled on 20 June 2026, the Notice of Invocation of Intervention in terms of section 139(1)(b).

The reasons for invocation of intervention include failure to comply with statutory obligations; failure to appoint a suitable qualified person as acting chief financial officer, CFO, during the prolonged absence of the substantive CFO; the failure to institute and implement consequence management in terms of section 32 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, MFMA, for unauthorised, irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure; allegations of fraud, corruption, and maladministration against management of the municipality; failure to implement constitutional obligations to ensure a transparent and accountable governance through effective

UNREVISED HANSARD

oversight over administration; financial management which resulted in persistent mismanagement, maladministration and financial distress.

Then, the other reasons for invocation of intervention include failure to ensure the financial sustainability of the municipality through effective use of implementation of conditional grants, collection of revenue, credit and debt control, implementation of sound internal financial controls, risk management and compliance with MFMA and Municipal Standard Chart of Accounts, MSCOA.

In accordance with Rule 218, the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces on 30 June, forwarded the notice for the select committee to process. On the 16th, the Minister of Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs approved the invocation of intervention in accordance with provision of section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution in Impendle Municipality, that the Minister at the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs has advised the KwaZulu-Natal MEC of the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs that if there is failure to bring stability and improved governance in the municipality through

UNREVISED HANSARD

implementation of section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution, the executive council should consider invoking section 139(4) of the Constitution to ensure approval of funded budget or, if the governance institutional or service delivery provision situation deteriorates.

Let me just shoot straight to the recommendations. Firstly, that the National Council of Provinces approved the invocation of intervention in terms of section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution in Mpendle Local Municipality; that the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs should, while implementing section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution, also provide support in terms of section 154; that the appointed administrator should develop a municipal turnaround plan alignment in terms of reference in implementing the invocation of section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution.

That the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs should encourage the provincial intervention task team and the representatives of the executive council assigned to the municipality to collaborate with the Department of Co-operative Governance and

UNREVISED HANSARD

Traditional Affairs and the sector department's organs of state and Salga to ensure comprehensive and sustainable planning, funding and implementation of intervention measures in the municipality.

That, the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs should provide National Council of Provinces with quarterly progress reports on the intervention. Lastly, that the Select Committee on Co-operative Governance and Public Administration should, during 2027 parliamentary second term, conduct post-intervention impact assessment on Impendle local municipality to monitor and evaluate progress made in respect of the implementation of Section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution in the local municipality of Impendle.

We, therefore, wish to table this report for consideration. Thank you, House Chair.

Declaration of vote:

Mr F J BADENHORST: Hon Chairperson, the growing number of section 139 interventions across South Africa should concern every single member of this House. The question we must ask is

UNREVISED HANSARD

simple: How do municipalities reach the point of collapse before provincial governments act?

Impendle, again demonstrates what happens when government’s failures, financial mismanagement, weak consequence management and service delivery failures are allowed to accumulate until provincial intervention becomes the last remaining option. However, section 139 cannot become a substitute for provincial governments failing to perform their and legislative oversight responsibilities. The early warning mechanisms already exist.

Section 46 and 47 of the Municipal Systems Act require municipalities to report on performance and require MEC’s responsible for local government to assess municipal performance, identify underperforming municipalities and propose remedial action. Section 105 of the Municipal Systems Act goes further. It requires MECs to establish mechanisms, processes and procedures to monitor municipalities, assess their capacity and determine what support is required.

The MFMA provides another warning system. Sections 135 to 140 establish mechanisms for identifying serious financial problems, assessing financial distress, developing recovery

UNREVISED HANSARD

measures and where statutory thresholds are reached, implementing provincial intervention. These provisions were designed so that governments do not wake up only when the patient is already in the intensive care unit, ICU.

Section 139 should, therefore, not become the first meaningful intervention after provincial oversight has failed. Provincial governments must explain what happened to the section 46 and 47 reports. What action was taken under section 105? When were the financial warning signs identified under the MFMA? What support was provided and who was held accountable when municipalities ignored legislation? This is not merely an administrative deficiency, it is a political deficiency.

For years, communities have watched water systems collapse, roads deteriorate, sewage flow through neighbourhoods and municipal finances deteriorate while political leaders ignore the warning signs. So, on 4 November, voters will have the opportunity to implement the most important intervention of all, democratic accountability. Vote out governments that have failed you. Reject corruption, patronage and self-enrichment. Vote for a government with a proven record of clean, transparent and accountable governance.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Vote democratic alliance and vote to rescue local government before there is nothing left to rescue. I thank you, Chair.

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF ONE-STOP BORDER POST BILL [B 12B – 2024] (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – SECTION 75) AND REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND JUSTICE THEREON

Ms J S MANANISO: Hon Chairperson and hon members on the call, the Select Committee on Security and Justice, having deliberated on and considered the subject of the One-Stop Border Post Bill, [B 12B – 2024] (National Assembly – section 75), referred to it on the 4th of November 2025, reports that

UNREVISED HANSARD

it has agreed to the Bill without proposed amendments, and then reports as follows.

In terms of the report, the One-Stop Border Post Bill [B12B-2024] seeks to regulate the establishment of one-stop border posts through international agreements; to provide for the establishment of common control zones in the territory of an adjoining state; to provide for one-stop border processing arrangements; to authorise the application of the laws of the Republic and the adjoining state in the one-stop border post; and to provide for matters connected therewith. The committee was briefed on the Bill by the Minister of Home Affairs on 18 February 2026.

On issues of public participation process on One-Stop Border Post Bill, [B 12B – 2024] (National Assembly – section 75), the select committee invited stakeholders and interested persons to submit written comments on the One-Stop Border Post Bill. Notices were published in all official languages on Parliament’s electronic platforms from 13 April-07 May 2026, for a period of three weeks, as you know that it’s legislated.

UNREVISED HANSARD

However, the delays by the service provider in publishing these notices led the Committee to extend the submission deadline from 04-26 May 2026. Further delays in the process between supply chain management and the service provider resulted in a second extension, setting the final closing date for department for submissions to 12 June 2026.

The notices were also published in two national newspapers and nine provincial newspapers, covering all official languages. The committee received six written submissions from the following four individuals and two organizations. Individuals, Bhekani Thabede, Nkosikhona Ngozo, Tshepo Phalatse and Anele Sigcau were the one that submitted. The organisations were a joint submission from the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town and the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office, and a separate submission from AgriSA.

A summary of some of the inputs broadly includes the following: The One-Stop Border Post, OSPB can improve trade and movement efficiency, effective implementation, and require strong institutional co-ordination. Border security must not be weakened in pursuit of efficiency. Better record keeping and information sharing are necessary. Accountability and

UNREVISED HANSARD

oversight mechanisms should be strengthened. Regulations will be critical to the success of the Bill. Corruption risk in border posts require greater attention.

On 17 June 2026, the committee content advisor briefed the committee on the written submissions. On 24 June 2026, the committee held oral hearings as follows: Individuals, as I said, it was Bhekani Thabede, Nkosikhona Ngozo, Tshepo Phalatse and Anele Sigcau. Then organisations as well was a joint submission from the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town, the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office, and a separate submission from AgriSA.

The Department of Home Affairs provided responses to written and oral submissions. The department noted that some of the issues raised in the written submissions will be considered in further development of the draft Citizens Immigration and Refugee Protection Bill, which Bill seeks to give effect to the approved revised White Paper on Citizenship, Immigration, and Refugee Protection. On 26 March 2026, the revised White Paper was then developed.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The department is in the process of developing the draft ... [Inaudible] ... Bill, and the annual performance target is to publish the Bill for public comments by the end of March 2027. The department noted that the submissions did not materially affect the clauses in the Bill. The department further confirmed the extension consultation on the Bill from the Green Paper to the White Paper stage, during which all stakeholders were consulted.

The committee was satisfied with the department's responses to the written and oral submissions and encouraged the department to integrate the recommendations where relevant and in the delivery services of the border. The committee believes that the Bill will go a long way in ensuring effective management of borders, and that the implementation of the legislations, together with the Border Management Authority Act of 2020, will ensure greater protection and promote more robust economic opportunities in South Africa.

The Bill will also ensure greater co-operation with neighbouring states through the conclusion of bilateral agreements at the borders. The committee continues to encourage the Border Management Authority, BMA to work co-

UNREVISED HANSARD

operatively with all the departments in border management, and to continue to acquire the necessary technology to improve border management.

The committee wishes to thank the commentators for their written and oral submissions on the Bill, which will be taken forward by the department in the development of the White Paper on Citizenship, Immigration and Refugee Protection. On the committee's consideration of the One-Stop Border Post Bill, [B 12B – 2024] (National Assembly – section 75), on 05 August 2026, the committee considered and adopted One-Stop Border Post Bill, [B 12B – 2024] (National Assembly – section 75), without proposed amendments.

The committee considered and adopted the Committee Report on the One-Stop Border Post Bill, [B 12B – 2024] (National Assembly – section 75), with the following recommendations, that the Select Committee on Security and Justice, having considered National Assembly section 75, referred to it on 4 November 2025, and classified by the Joint Tagging Mechanism, JTM as a section 75 Bill, recommends the Council pass the Bill without proposed amendments.

UNREVISED HANSARD

I herewith want to affirm that the report be considered by the National Council of Provinces as it meets the constitutional requirements. Thank you.

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Bill be agreed to.

Bill agreed to in accordance with section 75 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND JUSTICE ON THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT'S REPORT ON THE DETERMINATION TO WITHHOLD REMUNERATION OF MR IB BLOSE, AN ADDITIONAL DISTRICT COURT MAGISTRATE AT KWADUKUZA, KWAZULU-NATAL, SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 13(4A)(B) OF THE MAGISTRATES ACT, 1993 (ACT NO. 90 OF 1993) AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON 2 FEBRUARY 2026, DATED 5 AUGUST 2026

Ms J S MANANISO: Thank you, hon Chairperson and hon members on the call. Let me start by thanking members of the Select Committee on Security and Justice. The committee received a

UNREVISED HANSARD

briefing from the Magistrate Commission on the suspension and withholding of remuneration on 25 March 2026. The committee was informed that the commission received a complaint from Ms. Bukeka Ndamande, who alleged that she was a client of Mr. Blose when he was in private practice.

Ms. Ndamande alleges that Mr. Blose failed to pay trust money to her as a client. As the commission investigated the matter further, misconduct was uncovered and the commission resolved to lay charges related to the failure to disclose information when he applied for an acting position, as well as the interdict to practice as a legal practitioner by the High Court.

The commission considered the following factors: Mr. Blose is only doing partly heard matters, which is a precautionary measure due to the seriousness of the allegations against him. Mr. Blose was interdicted by the High Court for practice as a legal practitioner and the funding has a bearing on his suitability to be an official officer. The allegations against Mr. Blose are of such a serious nature that it is not in the interest of the judiciary nor the public that he should continue to serve as a judicial officer.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The commission served documents on Mr. Blose on 21 July 2025. On 4 Augus 2025, Mr. Blose responded. On 7 October 2025, the matter served before Executive Committee, Exco, where it was resolved that the disciplinary matter should proceed and to recommend to the Minister that Mr. Blose be professionally suspended.

On 4 November 2025, the Minister professionally suspended Mr. Blose and made the determination to withhold his remuneration. The NCOP confirmed Magistrate Blose's provisional suspension on 2 June 2026. Withholding of remuneration on 4 March 2026, Mr. Blose brought an urgent application to the court for an interim interdict to direct the Minister and the commission to pay him fourth with all amounts of salary that have been withheld and to continue paying him pending the determination of his suspension.

Parliament was not cited in the papers and therefore did not participate in this litigation. On 26 March 2026, the court delivered a judgment in terms of which the Minister and the commission were interdicted and restrained from withholding Mr. Blose's salary or remuneration during the period of his provisional suspension. The committee process unfolded where

UNREVISED HANSARD

we considered the court interdict. The committee sought a legal opinion from the Parliamentary Legal Services in respect of the withholding Magistrate Blose's remuneration.

On 17 June 2026, the committee received a briefing from the legal advisor on the written legal opinion. The legal opinion stated as follows: In terms of the principle of separation of powers, Parliament must respect and uphold the decisions of the courts.

It is our advice that the judgment does not impose a duty on Parliament to act or refrain from acting in particular manner. However, the Minister and the commission are interdicted from withholding Mr. Blose's salary during the period of his provisional suspension. It means that the withholding of Mr. Blose's salary is unlawful until the suspension has been dealt with.

The committee therefore cannot adopt a resolution that will be against a court. The committee deliberated on the matter and agreed to adhere to the legal advice in respect of withholding the remuneration of Magistrate Blose. The committee further

UNREVISED HANSARD

encouraged the Minister and the Magistrate Commission to abide by the court order.

The committee requested the Magistrate Commission to keep the committee abreast of the court proceedings in Magistrate Blose's matter. The recommendation of the committee is that the NCOP resolve to confirm the determination to withhold Ms. Blose's remuneration in accordance with Section 134 (a) (c) of the Act. We want to call for the House to consider this report. I thank you.

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

In favour: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape. Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

The Council adjourned at 19:53.

UNREVISED HANSARD