5% of French young people believe that they have a better chance of success than their parents. It also says that the proportion of 24-year-old French, who still live at their parents' houses, has doubled to 65%. This is indicative of very significant changes.

Just like in Germany, there is talk of the intern generation—people who are highly skilled, with multiple degrees, who can't find permanent employment—who are happy to do unpaid labour in order to find one of those elusive jobs.

Now, you can be silly about it. You can believe that it's affirmative action. Of course, you are wrong about that. You are so wrong, because you have not bothered to read the Act, hon Rabie, just like the hon Lowe, who has not bothered to read the Act. The Act is abundantly clear.

It says:

> Recognising that as a result of apartheid and other discriminatory laws and practices, there are disparities in employment, occupation and income within the national labour market; and that those disparities create such pronounced disadvantages for certain categories of people that they cannot be redressed simply by repealing discriminatory laws.

The Act is clear. The intent is clear. It isn't even optional; it's a constitutional imperative, so get a life. We will have to do it, because that is what the Constitution requires of us. [Applause.]

In respect of the hon Woods, I was raised by something called "Woods Great Peppermint Cure". Is he still in the House? Perhaps it's part of that. [Laughter.]

The issues of oversight have been well-canvassed by the hon Smith, the hon Mabe and a number of other members. We value that, but let me also say that a lot of the oversight needs to happen in our constituencies where we are. That is going to be the best source of information about what happens. That is the place where Parliament or parliamentarians need to find information against which they can verify the section 32 report.

One of the big changes that we are introducing, and something that Cabinet has already decided on, is to budget for infrastructure differently from what we have done in the past. The new approach will involve budgeting over the cycle of the project. You might find some budgets for infrastructure going beyond the MTEF into five years and so on, to ensure that we don't have these roll-overs; to ensure that departments can better plan; and to ensure that the planning cycle doesn't even need to depend on whether the money is available or not.

These decisions have now been taken by Cabinet and I am sure that by next year there will be another lot of information for Parliament to digest so that we can improve on the quality of spending in respect of infrastructure.

The last point I would like to raise, which is in part a response to the hon Scheemann, is that the Constitution sets out responsibilities; some concurrent powers and some exclusive powers. Whilst we may have the Minister of Education sitting with what the Education Act calls the Council of Education Ministers, the discussions they have are at best recommendations to provincial ExCos who allocate the resources.

So, whilst there may be a commitment, for instance—because I think the hon Ndlovu raised the issue of learning under trees—and whilst there may be an agreement about that, the allocation of resources happens in a different place, and lining this up is a process far more complex than what we frequently understand. Therefore, whilst the Budget Review in table 5 in the Annexures puts all of this together so that we have a sense of what we are spending on education—we can say we are spending R109 billion on education—the spending happens in different places, and so the oversight function needs

to happen in different places as well. That is why what the National Assembly is responsible for is important, and what the NCOP is responsible for is also important, and that goes for the provincial legislatures as well. We need to have an information base that will allow us to take all of these together.

Finally, let me express my appreciation. I think this was a very good debate. Members are far more familiar with the issues. There was far less controversy. Occasionally, yes, there was a bit of silliness, but I think that it is in the nature of the beast. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

Bill read a first time.

The House adjourned at 18:10.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIDAY, 9 MARCH 2007

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. **The Minister in The Presidency**

   (a) Strategic Plan of the International Marketing Council (IMC) for 2007 to 2009.

2. **The Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry**

   (a) Report and Financial Statements of Sedibeng Water for the year ended June 2006, including the Report of the Independent Auditors on the Financial Statements for the year ended June 2006.

   (b) Report and Financial Statements of Bushbuckridge Water for the year ended June 2006, including the Report of the Independent Auditors on the Financial Statements for the year ended June 2006.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. **Report of the Joint Budget Committee on 2007-08 National Budget, dated 9 March 2007:**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Minister of Finance tabled the Budget for 2007-08, including the MTEF for the 2008-09 and 2009-10, on 22 February 2007. The Committee's mandate regarding the Appropriation Bill requires it to consider the allocation of available financial resources against government policy. This mandate is distinct from that of the Portfolio and Select Committees on Finance, which deliberate on the macro-economic, fiscal and intergovernmental dimensions of the Appropriation Bill respectively.

The Committee has interpreted its mandate to mean that it should consider the following:

- The expected impact of expenditure allocations on the effectiveness and efficiency with which departments can respond to government's stated policy priorities; and
- Whether departments are making the tough choices required, tailoring their planned expenditures to priorities, choosing effective strategies and seeking efficiency in implementation.

After studying tabled documents and conducting hearings the Committee also reviewed earlier processes on the Budget, including

the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement during its deliberations on the Appropriation Bill.

2. THE PROCESS

The Joint Budget Committee, the Portfolio and Select Finance Committees held joint hearings on the budget that started with the briefing by the Minister, the Director General and the Commissioner of Revenue Services (SARS). Between 27 February and 5 March 2007 the Committee received further submissions from National Treasury and SARS, economists and a tax specialist, organised labour and business as well as the Department of Transport and Department of Health. Due to changes in parliament's programme the Departments of Sport and Recreation and Public Service and Administration were unfortunately unable to attend. These submissions dealt with the full range of issues raised in the Appropriation Bill 2007-08, as well as other related issues. Specific emphasis was given to issues of expenditure, infrastructure, capacity/skills and human resources as these have been identified as the major focus areas for governmental spending.

- The capital expenditure budget in government has seen a sharp increase over the recent period. Capital expenditure, which is currently directed towards massive infrastructure development, provides government with the opportunity to grow the economy at a higher scale to reduce poverty and create jobs. As such, the 2010 World Cup provides government with a valuable opportunity to invest in development, to address the priority of poverty alleviation.

Having applied the mandate to the Appropriation Bill and after applying its mind, the Committee has made several recommendations.

3. MACRO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

Although macro-economic issues do not fall within the mandate of the Joint Budget Committee, their impact on financial management and expenditure requires the JBC's consideration. Increasing efficiency of revenue collection has caught up with the State's capacity to spend. The present surplus results from revenue collection outstripping projections as reflected in the Budget Review of 2006. This development provides an opportunity for allocating more funds to infrastructure, social services and crime prevention. The committee is of the opinion that the current capacity challenges may constrain the efficient, effective and economical expenditure of these increased funds.

4. SUBMISSIONS TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

Briefing by the National Treasury

The Minister of Finance and the Director-General (DG) of the National Treasury briefed the Committee on the 2007-08 Budget on 22 February 2007.

The minister and his team highlighted the key aspects of the Budget 2007-08. He noted that increased revenues and steadily improving economic growth enabled greater expenditure in key

policy areas, which included investment in social and economic infrastructure, improvement in the education and health services, the modernisation of justice and administration services as well as long-term investment in social security. Critical concerns raised by members included the design of the social security reform, methods to improve the current shortage of skills needed for economic growth and the need to improve export performance. Concerns were also raised over the continued inaccessibility and lack of integration of transport services, despite existing and planned improvements in transport infrastructure.

National Treasury stated that government expenditure had grown by 9% in real terms, due to the steady growth in revenue collection. This led to an improved fiscal position and a recorded surplus for the current financial year. The committee welcomes this improved position resulted in a net tax relief of R12,4 billion and the abolition of retirement fund tax. Greater investments in health and education to improve the skills capacity and improved remuneration of teachers and health workers are also welcomed.

The new reforms would need to include unemployment benefits, disability and death benefits, and savings and pension would be based on a standard payment log of 15 to 18% percent of income of all workers in the formal employment sector. A wage subsidy would be introduced for low-income earners to encourage employment creation and the improvement in the working and living conditions of low-income earners. This would offset the social security contribution of this group. The total cost of this system would be around R20 to R30 billion.

The Impact of the Allocations of the Division of Revenue

The recommendations by the FFC, and the responses thereto by the National Treasury, were considered by the JBC in respect to the Division of Revenue 2007 and taken into account as they related to the Appropriation Bill. The Division of Revenue aim to strike two critical balances: one between executive authorities and administration and the other between executive authorities across spheres. The JBC also noted the recommendations that government did not implement. The JBC believes it is critical that the confusion over the concurrent functions and responsibilities of provincial governments and municipalities should be speedily resolved. There is also a need for greater coordination between spheres of government as well as an improvement in the monitoring and spending of conditional grants.

National Treasury briefed the Committee on the DoR and the 2010 FIFA World Cup Stadiums Development Grant, and the Bulk Infrastructure Grant. Clauses were also refined to facilitate the project registration of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant.

Efficiency Group Briefing

The Efficiency Group's submission focussed on taxation, which is being dealt with by the Portfolio Committee on Finance. The Effi-

the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement during its deliberations on the Appropriation Bill.

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Efficiency Group Briefing

The Efficiency Group's submission focussed on taxation, which is being dealt with by the Portfolio Committee on Finance. The Effi-

ciency Group highlighted that the increase in social expenditure in health, social development, education and housing stood at 43% in real terms in 1994 and has increased to 50% in this budget, which represents a significant increase. it further noted that this increase with the significant reduction in debt has increased funds available for public expenditure.

Bureau for Economic Research (BER) briefing

Bureau for Economic Research stated that there were sound fiscal finances and there were generally stable expenditure and tax ratios, implying that there were no dramatic fiscal effects. Attention was being given to the issue of savings and Government's own savings were positive. There was some evidence of delivery in terms of infrastructure spending, but it needed to be stepped up. On the downside, the combination of a "dovish" monetary policy and a "stable" fiscal policy at this point may not be enough to address macroeconomic imbalances reflected in the current account, which implied risk.

Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) Briefing

The Industrial Development Corporation stated that domestic demand had been a key driver behind the sector's recovery in the past three years, mainly due to buoyant consumer spending and manufacturers had increasingly switched to the lucrative domestic market. The remarkable recovery in South Africa's overall economic performance since 1994 had not translated into significant job creation in the formal non-agricultural sectors of the economy. The economy had become less labour-intensive over the years, although some reversal in this trend had been observed in more recent years.

The Impact of Issues of Taxation

The Portfolio Committee on Finance is dealing with the briefing made by Mallinicks and BUSA due to its focus on macroeconomic issues. In the Committee's opinion the resulting increased revenue arising from economic growth and robust collection will be utilised by government to increase expenditure in prioritised areas.

Department of Transport

The Department stated that the economy is growing and as part of a concerted commitment towards the 2010 World Cup and the expansion of public transport, a sharp increase in capital expenditure has been planned. The department placed an emphasis on the revitalisation, maintenance and expansion of existing and new infrastructure. The committee stressed the importance of ensuring that the infrastructure development creates a lasting legacy beyond 2010. In order to address commodity price concerns, the department has, together with the Department of Trade and Industry put macroeconomic processes in place around the acquisition of materials. Other strategies include improving local manufacturing to circumvent some costs; local assembling; as well as securing upfront commitments where bulk purchases are to be made.

On the issue of the alignment between government departments

to maximise the utilisation of funds, the department confirmed that interdepartmental co-ordination and the cluster system is followed. These measures have brought about much closer co-operation between various departments, although this must be done at an accelerated pace. The committee raised its concern around the low integrated approach between departments in service delivery.

Key policy areas of the Department of Transport regarding infrastructure

- World Cup support: public transport infrastructure
- Scaling up of EPWP in the road sector with a budget
- Improvement of strategic secondary road network
- Regional road infrastructure development
- Passenger rail
- South African National Road Agency

The department expressed its satisfaction with the budget, which shows a 54% increase. Furthermore it raised the issue of the lack of the skills needed in order to implement some of its key priorities.

The JBC considered the following:

- In terms of transfer expenditure the department is doing reasonably well and outcomes are dependent on the implementing agencies such as provinces, municipalities among others
- In this regard JBC is concerned about the lack of capacity of the implementing agencies to spend
- The JBC further observed that the monitoring of implementing agencies by the national departments are minimal
- The pace to meet the deadlines, in particularly the 2010 deadlines, may be hindered by lack of capacity
- The EPWP are indeed labour intensive and as such creates jobs and develops skills

After considering the above observations the JBC believes it is important to monitor the expenditure challenges monthly, where possible and otherwise quarterly and when necessary obtain departmental briefings to assist in the committee's oversight in these areas.

The Department of Health

The committee did not share the Department of Health's optimism in regards to the pattern of accelerated expenditure in the last quarter, which led to a possible problem of fiscal dumping, notwithstanding the department's point that March transfers have been moved to December.

The department stated that though hospital revitalisation has improved in totality, funds allocated to revitalisation are only sufficient to spend on projects that have already been awarded 'tenders. Among the challenges they face, are rollovers that are awarded too late for, as the DG stated, effective expenditure, this includes provincial transfers. Furthermore, the department assumed that the presentation of business plans would lead to the required allocation of

funds; given the emphasis placed on providing business plans in previous years. The committee believes that the increase of funds without the capacity to spend effectively and efficiently is not the solution.

The JBC intends scrutinising the processes that led to these problems raised by the department, in a joint engagement with Department of Health and National Treasury, so that corrective measures can be taken to avoid a recurrence of these problems.

The department noted an increase in a conditional grant allocation for HIV/AIDS that led to more than 245 106 patients being treated in 2006-07 compared to the 28 393 treated in December 2004. The committee welcomed this improvement. The department made it clear that this figure is small, relative to the challenge the country is facing and pointed out that the demand for resources is greater than the supply and noted that the time will come when the system will not cope. The current policy requires that the department provide treatment to all those patients who present themselves and the DG noted the impact that the increasing numbers will have on the department's medium-term expenditure projections. However the department did indicate the role poverty plays and the importance of supporting medication with proper nutrition.

GENDER CONSIDERATIONS IN THE BUDGET

The JBC also considered how far women, who are the greater percentage of poor people, are directly taken into account in department's allocations. In this respect the submission from the Community Agency for Social Enquiry was also considered when deliberating on the budgets. The Committee agrees that there are weaknesses in making linkages between the various steps of the planning, budgeting and monitoring processes.

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development's budget makes no mention of maintenance in the 2007-08 ENE. The sexual offences courts are not mentioned in the 2007-08 ENE apart from a target conviction rate, as in 2006-07, of 70%. The JBC believes that all departments and the EPWP, which is one of government's key programmes to address poverty alleviation, should consider increasing their focus on women. The Department of Health vote in the 2007-08 ENE states that 7 795 caregivers were trained in HCBC in 2005-06, but does not state whether this was done as part of the EPWP. The Department of Social Development, which also supports HCBC as part of the social sector EPWP, provides no budget or performance figures on delivery in this area in the ENE.

The JBC identified two aspects of the 2007-08 budget which are particularly supportive from a gender perspective. Firstly, the increased attention to bursaries and increased salaries for teachers, nurses and social workers will benefit women because these areas of work are female-dominated. To date, the salaries paid to these workers have been far lower than for other jobs that require equivalent education and training. Sec-

ondly, the above-inflation increases in the social security grants will benefit women because it is they, disproportionately who benefit from the grant system. However the JBC remains concerned at the lack of gender disaggregation of targets and indicators in the Estimates of National Expenditure.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations focus on infrastructure and capacitation in its broadest sense.

Infrastructure

- The national departments should strengthen their monitoring strategies on provinces, municipalities and the agencies
- Parliament should prioritise oversight in all departments with significant infrastructure allocations which should furnish parliament with detailed plans with spending projections that are linked directly to timeframes and monitor and evaluate monthly expenditure trends and conduct robust on site oversight function particularly on the major projects

Capacitation

- DPSA should monitor and evaluate the government's current general personnel retention guidelines. It should also identify the existing limitations in addressing the current challenges that exist in obtaining and retaining strategic professional scarce skills
- Departments should adopt innovative approaches within the parameters of the conditions of service
- National Departments must provide uniform norms and standards and service delivery plans to monitor
- Parliament welcomes increased allocations. The critical responsibility is for parliamentary committees to strengthen their oversight with a focus on value for money, sustainability of projects and impact on communities.

BRIEFINGS & SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

National Treasury

Financial Fiscal Commission

Efficiency Group

Bureau for Economic Research

Industrial Development Corporation

Community Agency for Social Enquiry

Report to be considered

National Assembly

1. **Report of the Portfolio Committee on Labour** on the **Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), 1997**, dated 9 March 2007:

   The Portfolio Committee on Labour, having considered the request for approval by Parliament of the **Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)**, referred to it, recommends that the House, in terms of section 231(2) of the Constitution, approve the said Instrument.

Request to be considered

MONDAY, 12 MARCH 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

The Speaker and the Chairperson

1. **Translation of Bill submitted**

   (1) **The Minister of Finance**

   (a) ***Finansiewetsontwerp*** [W 5—2007] (National Assembly—sec 77).

   This is the official translation into Afrikaans of the ***Finance Bill*** [B 5—2007] (National Assembly—sec 77)

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. **The Minister of Public Works**

   (a) Strategic Plan of the Department of Public Works for 2007 to 2009.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. **Report of the Portfolio Committee on Finance on the Appropriation Bill 2007-08, dated 9 March 2007:**

The Portfolio Committee on Finance, having considered and examined the Appropriation Bill [B2—2007] (National Assembly—sec. 77) and its related documents, referred to it, and classified by the Joint Tagging Mechanism as a Section 77 Bill, reports as follows:

1. Introduction

The Minister of Finance tabled the Budget for 2007-08, including the MTEF for the 2008-09 and 2009-10, on 22 February 2007.

On 22 February 2007, the Committee, in a joint sitting with the Joint Budget Committee was briefed on the Budget for 2007-08 and the MTEF forecast by the Minister of Finance, together with the Director-General of National Treasury and the Commissioner of the South African Revenue Services (SARS).

Between 27 February and 2 March 2007 the Committee received further submissions from National Treasury and SARS, economists and a tax specialist, as well as organised labour and business. These submissions dealt with the full range of issues raised in Budget 2007-08, as well as other related issues.

The report is structured around the following main themes that emerged throughout the hearings:

- Macroeconomic framework
- Fiscal Policy, Revenue trends and tax proposals
- Other issues

2. Macroeconomic Framework

There was general agreement amongst the panellists that South Africa is currently enjoying the longest sustained period of economic growth, with the current upswing in the business cycle in its seventh year. The establishment of economic stability and sound macroeconomic management over the last years provided the foundation for this continued upswing.

The Committee commends Government on the fact that the 2007-08 Budget continues to build on the sound and prudent macroeconomic policies reflected in a robust economy, reinforced by the high levels of business optimism. The Budget provides for further channelling of the benefits of economic expansion to increase savings, economic and employment growth, and contributes to transformation and poverty alleviation.

The 2007-08 Budget identifies the need to accelerate growth at a more rapid pace to further reduce poverty, unemployment, to eliminate inequality, modernising service delivery institutions, investing in long-term security, and protecting the vulnerable. It supports the structural development of the economy with increased expenditure in economic and social infrastructure investment, which would have a long-term positive effect on the economy. There was consensus among the panellists that the Budget identified the need for stronger exports performance through the development of a growth orientated trade and industrial policy, as it seeks to address the constraints to a higher economic growth path. Mr Jorge Maia from the Industrial Corporation of South Africa (IDC) highlighted that although we have seen a remarkable recovery of South Africa's overall economic performance since 1994 it did not translate into significant job creation in the formal nonagricultural sectors of the economy, and the economy has become less labour intensive over the years.

The panellists welcomed the fact that the Budget sought to consolidate and expand economic growth through fiscal policy that sought to avoid the "boom and bust" of past business cycles through prudent management of the current economic upturn. Improved Government savings over the last few years, reducing future debt serving obligations further, highlighted the complimentary fiscal and monetary policies stance underlying a steady improvement in macroeconomic stability. Prudent fiscal policy will ensure the sustainability of current economic upswing. The Committee believes that the planned fiscal surplus could be seen as government's contribution to the national savings effort.

The panellists were in agreement that the strong economic outlook is supported by global conditions, that although a slow down in the shortterm is expected, global conditions remain favourable. Global economic trends remain supportive of sustained growth in developing countries, but global imbalance remains source of economic and financial risks. The reliance on short-term capital inflows, the high level of domestic consumption expenditure, and the growing current account deficit are the major risk factors for South Africa in achieving the desired growth projections over the medium term.

All presenters echoed that business and consumer confidence remains high, providing a good indication of their confidence about the performance and prospects of the economy, despite inflationary pressures and high imports. Pieter Laubscher alluded to the fact that the current buoyant economic conditions are cyclical, and a result of favourable global conditions that might change. National Treasury viewed the continued buoyancy of tax revenues as a signed of strong economic growth as tax receipts grew at a faster rate than reported GDP. This would imply a tax multiplier and the average value of the tax multiplier had gone through significant peak and troughs. National Treasury implied that this was due cyclical factors, such as swings in commodity prices, the external value of the currency and shifts in the business cycle.

2.1 Domestic economic outlook

Panellists welcomed South Africa's improving economic growth performance and highlighted the strong dominance by the non-agricultural service related sectors. According to Jorge Maia (IDC) although the pace of growth by the manufacturing sector was below the economic average, it recorded substan-

tial improvement in its growth performance with an average of 3% p.a. versus the 0,5% p.a. in the preceding years. He further argues that the key driver behind the sectors recovery was the strong domestic demand. Recent figures published would indicate an improvement within the sector, with construction, electricity and telecommunication sectors the major drivers. Panellists agreed that the primary sectors contribution to GDP has been substantially reduced, with National Treasury arguing that if one excludes mining and agriculture the economy would be growing at more than 6%, well within the target for 2010.

The growth rate has substantially increased to an average of 5% projected over the MTEF period, marginally better that the ASGI-SA target of 4,5%. Pieter Laubscher, chief economist at the Bureau for Economic Research (BER), concludes that the growth rate is more stable and sustainable and that the growth rate over the last three years was underpin by strong household consumption as well as gross fixed investment of above 9% since 1993.

The panellists highlighted the fact that the demand side has driven the growth, while the supply side had been fairly muted. Net export made a strong negative contribution to economic growth with a sharp increase in domestic demand resulted in the widening of the output gap.

2.2 Inflation

CPIX inflation has remained within the 3-6 % target range for 41 consecutive months averaging at 4,6% in 2006. The rising oil price, along with acceleration in food prices, contributed to the higher inflation rate. The business community welcomed the better coordination between fiscal and monetary policy. The short-term interest rates seemed to have peaked, however, but risks do remain. The panellist agreed that fiscal policy supportive of the need for a higher level of domestic savings would make the implementation of monetary policy easier. The inflation outlook has improved since the end of 2006, and inflationary expectation seems to be well anchored.

2.3 Current Account deficit

The strong expansion of domestic spending and imports over the 2004-06 period, combined with a poor export performance over the 2002-06 period, 3% on average per annum, led to the widening of the current account deficit. Government argued, supported by the panellist that the current account deficit not only reflected the imbalance between investment and savings, but that the country was consuming more than it had produced, with the difference being imported.

Pieter Laubscher (BER) further concluded that the strong currency played an important role in constraining manufacturing exports, stimulated by domestic spending and import demand. Prof Ray Parsons said during the hearings that "South Africa is currently having too much investment chasing to little savings" resulting in the widening of the current account deficit. A concern from the business community was how Government would further stimulate the supply side of the economy to address the current imbalance.

Although the current account deficit had risen from 4,2% of GDP to 5,7% of GDP since last year, stimulated by the increase in import levels, high oil prices and sharp increase in South African Customs Union (SACU) payments, Government and business remained optimistic, as this would be offset by strong capital inflows. Factors underpinning this view were the stable

macroeconomic climate and the improved economic growth position.

The Committee commends Government on its fiscal stance as it helps to sustain growth by improving Government savings and prioritising spending programmes, thus strengthening the economy. The Committee would caution Government on its reliance on portfolio investments, adding that it needs to attract foreign direct investment to address this imbalance. Pieter Laubscher (BER) cautioned against this reliance as the direction of these inflows was globally determined. Government, however, is committed to improving export performance through appropriate industrial policy initiatives.

2.4 Exchange Control

The Budget contained few announcements with respect to further exchange control relaxation, with the gradual approach still in place. The Committee welcomed the announcement that the current shareholding threshold for foreign direct investment outside of Africa is to be lowered from 50% to 25%. This will make it easier for companies to engage in strategic international partnerships.

3. Fiscal Policy

The continued expansionary fiscal stance adopted received widespread endorsement by all commentators, as it supports the growth momentum. Pieter Laubscher (BER) alluded to the fact that as fiscal policy continued on its expansive phase, Government had to guard against stimulating the consumption side of the economy.

The strong fiscal position underpins the medium-term policy objectives of job creation, modernising service delivery institutions, accelerating economic growth and tackling crime. As highlighted in the Budget Review of 2007, the Budget continues to build on the gains of prudent fiscal management to make a further contribution to economic growth and social development.

Expectations are that the economy will to grow 5% a year over the medium term, reaching 5,4 % in 2009 in line with the ASGI-SA target, with inflationary expectations to remain within the target range. The 2007 Budget reflects real growth in noninterest expenditure by an annual average of 7,7% over the medium term.

The Budget reflects quite strong expenditure over the MTEF both in terms of current payment of 11% and wages and salaries of 10%. Dawie Roodt highlighted that Government's spending trajectory was faster than the rate of economic expansion, with social expenditure (education, housing, health and social development) the main beneficiaries.

Gross fixed investment is forecast to increase rapidly with R410 billion Government infrastructure programmes accompanied by higher levels of private sector fixed investment. Jorge Maia from the IDC highlighted in his presentation the positive spin-offs of infrastructure growth, of increased demand inputs, the manufacturing of capital goods and transport equipment, and the crowding in of private sector investment through effective infrastructure. He further argued that in order to achieve the ASGI-SA targets of 6% GDP growth, fixed investment activity for the economy at large had to accelerate by more than 13% per year over the period 2011 to 2014.

3.1 Budget deficits and surplus

The 2006 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) announced a projected surplus of 0,5% of GDP for the fiscal year 2007-08. Due to strong

revenue growth the revised predictions for 2006-07 forecast a budget surplus of 0,3% to GDP and a surplus of 0,6% of GDP forecast for 2007-08.

Jorge Maia (IDC) argued that prudent fiscal policy and continued improvements in tax collections resulted in a shift in Government balance from progressively lower deficits towards a budget surplus, hence enabling a developmental approach to fiscal expenditure going forward. The broadly balance budget over the MTEF period was welcomed by all commentators, as it is positive from both a confidence and credibility point of view. Pieter Laubscher (BER), although welcoming the budget surplus, cautioned that, from a cyclical perspective, this might stimulate the demand side of the economy.

4. Tax Policy

The tax policy framework seeks to broaden the tax base, taking cognisance of societal realities, by minimising the distortionary impact that taxes may have on economic growth and employment creation. The tax reforms support accelerated growth in job creation and poverty alleviation, while at the same time encouraging individual savings. The buoyant tax revenue over the past three years was due to strong economic growth and the broadening of the tax base, coupled with the efficiency of SARS. The broad underpinning principles of the 2007 Budget's tax proposals are:

- Supporting economic growth, investment and job creation, business development and confidence
- Promoting financial security of households and reducing their vulnerability through retirement reforms that encourage savings
- Supporting macroeconomic policy objectives.

The Budget provides for individual tax relief of R8,4 billion, which, according to some commentators provide further stimulus for consumer spending, with total net relief of R12,5 billion.

As the GEAR policy intention was to maintain a ratio of tax-to-GDP of about 25%, the increase from 26,4% to 27,9% of tax revenue as percentage of GDP was met with concern by certain commentators.

4.1 Corporate Income Tax (CIT) and Secondary Tax on Companies (STC)

Robust debate on the global competitiveness of the South African corporate tax structure was evident during the hearings on the Budget. BUSA/ CHAMSA argued that to encourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the CIT should be internationally competitive, as a lower CIT rate would attract investment. Pieter Laubscher argued that CIT had been a major source of the revenue overrun, and that going forward, fiscal policy had to consider the tax burden borne by companies. Tax relief to companies would stimulate the production side of the economy. Government was not convinced that a reduction in CIT would automatically lead to supply side benefits as suggested by business.

The Committee requested that in the debate on the international competitiveness of the tax system, commentators should not be selective in their comparative analysis of international CIT, as information provided by National Treasury and SARS indicated that South Africa compared favourably with other countries. National Treasury was of the view that the current tax system in South Africa is not an impediment to investment and resource

allocation had to be based purely on commercial grounds and not tax decisions only.

In supporting and encouraging business development and confidence the Government announced the phase-out of secondary tax on companies and replace it with a dividend tax. This would be two phased approached as the dividend tax would be applied at a rate of 10% down from 12,5%. The second phase, commencing in 2008, would entail the conversion to a dividend tax on shareholders, with administrative enforcement through a withholding tax at company level. The Committee welcomed this, as it is in line with the international norm, and also would have a stimulatory effect on business.

5. Social Security Reform

Improved economic performance has created the fiscal space that allowed Government to move towards a social security system that provides income security for all. Despite the economic upturn, the Committee recognised that poverty and unemployment remain a major challenge for government. The Committee welcomed the proposal by Government to introduce a broad-based social security framework over the 2001-10 period. This would involve a broadening of social security reform to include an earnings-related contributory system. If the principles mentioned—those of equity, pooling of risks, mandatory participation, and administrative efficiency—are adhered to, it could be a force for greater social stability and increase the levels of personal savings.

The Committee welcomed the commitment by Government that all details on the earning-related social security tax system, the wage subsidy and revision of retirement industry would be tabled, and an all-inclusive consultative process would be undertaken before the new dispensation was finalised.

5.1 Savings and Retirement fund reform

Over the past two years the Committee has provided a platform for the discussion on retirement fund reforms. The Committee welcomed the recent announcement in the Budget of proposed reforms to retirement funds savings as part of the broader social security reform process. Business supports the proposed reforms and will contribute to the debate as a social partner at NEDLAC.

The Committee, business and labour sectors welcomed the abolition of retirement fund tax, urging trustees to be vigilant in ensuring that the benefits accrue to the intended beneficiaries.

6. Concluding comments

South African is experiencing sustained growth, with the management of public finance creating the fiscal space to step up spending in key areas. The previous Budgets had laid the foundation for future sustained economic growth, job creation and alleviating the plight of the poor.

The growth outlook remains positive over the medium term, strongly supported by investment. Investment would continue to grow underpinned by public corporation's and departments capital investment programmes. Export growth is expected to exceed 6% over the MTEF as it benefits from significant investment in new capacity and continued international demand.

The projected softening in consumption expenditure and possible moderation in the exchange rate would ease import volume growth. The continued strong investment expenditure means that capital import growth might re-

main high. This will be good as it contributes to the productive capacity of the economy.

Despite the upward pressure on the CPIX it is expected to remain within the target range. The fiscal stance adopted by Government provides a buffer against economic instability and the fiscal space allows for reforms on the social front.

The proposal to introduce a broad-based social security system will seek to address the legacy of discrimination and inequality, and will work toward the elimination of poverty.

7. Oral submissions

The following people made oral submissions before the Committee, some in their personal capacity. These submissions are available on request from the Committee Section of Parliament.

1. Mr T Manuel, Minister of Finance
2. Mr L Kganyago, Director-General: National Treasury
3. Mr P Gordhan, Commissioner of SARS
4. Mr Pieter Laubscher, BER: Stellenbosch University
5. Mr D Roodt, Chief Economist: Efficiency Group
6. Mr Hennie Bester, Director: Mallinicks
7. Mr J Vilakazi, CEO: BUSA
8. Prof R Parsons, Business Unity South Africa (BUSA)
9. Adv A Meiring, BUSA
10. Mr R Baxter: Chief Economist: CHAMSA
11. Ms Riefdah Ajam, Federation of Unions of South Africa (FEDUSA)

Report to be considered.

TUESDAY, 13 MARCH 2007

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. **The Minister in The Presidency**

   (a) Strategic Plan of the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) for 2007 to 2010.

2. **The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development**

   (a) Draft Amendment of Regulations made in terms of section 92 of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (Act No 2 of 2000).

3. **The Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry**

   (a) Increase in water tariffs for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 by Rand Water, tabled in terms of section 42(4) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

   (b) Increase in water tariffs for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 by Namakwa Water, tabled in terms of section 42(4) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

   (c) Increase in water tariffs for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 by Botshelo Water, tabled in terms of section 42(4) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

   (d) Increase in water tariffs for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 by Lepelle Northern Water, tabled in terms of section 42(4) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

(e) Increase in water tariffs for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 by Bloem Water, tabled in terms of section 42(4) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

(f) Increase in water tariffs for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 by Umgeni Water, tabled in terms of section 42(4) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

(g) Increase in water tariffs for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 by Magalies Water, tabled in terms of section 42(4) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

(h) Increase in water tariffs for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 by Sedibeng Water, tabled in terms of section 42(4) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

(i) Increase in water tariffs for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 by Pelladrift Water, tabled in terms of section 42(4) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

(j) Increase in water tariffs for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 by Mhlatuze Water, tabled in terms of section 42(4) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

(k) Increase in water tariffs for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 by Bushbuckridge Water, tabled in terms of section 42(4) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

(l) Increase in water tariffs for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 by Amatola Water, tabled in terms of section 42(4) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

(m) Increase in water tariffs for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 by Albany Coast Water, tabled in terms of section 42(4) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

(n) Increase in water tariffs for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 by Overberg Water, tabled in terms of section 42(4) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 15:04.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS—see col 1693.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

ECONOMICS

Cluster 3

MINISTERS:

The SPEAKER: Order! Regarding Question 114, which has been posed by the hon Cupido, the Minister of Minerals and Energy, regrettably, is not available to answer questions today, and it was agreed to by the hon member that the question stands over.

Electricity supply to company at Coega industrial port

113. Mr L W Greyling (ID) asked the Minister for Public Enterprises: *(Inter-departmental transfer)*

(a) What are the details of the contract concluded with a certain company (name furnished) that is to be located at the Coega industrial port, (b) at what cost has the electricity per unit been determined for the company and (c)(i) where will the electricity be generated from and (ii) how will this affect the current challenges related to energy supply? N463E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Madam Speaker, this question, in fact, relates to the international company, Alcan. The rate that was agreed to with this customer was based on the principles which have been set out on the DTI's Developmental Electricity Pricing Programme. This rate is determined and based on a globally competitive price for electricity, but with the proviso that the customer should not be subsidised by other customers and that the customer himself should not subsidise other customers as far as is possible.

The contract also includes an annual real price escalation in line with Eskom's projected forward price curve. The agreement and rates have been approved by the National Energy Regulator of SA, Nersa.

The actual rate is a commercial contract which will not be disclosed in this House, other than that it is guided by the principles that I have indicated, which would apply to any potential customer on the same basis. Those of you who are familiar with the pricing system will know that any customer who would use more than 50 megawatts in a year is eligible for the Developmental Electricity Pricing Programme. There are no specific stations that we can identify. The supplier will be from the national grid.

Finally, the project will not affect the current supply conditions in that area, the Nelson Mandela Metropole.

The project will have a demand of approximately 1 355 megawatts after the commissioning of both potlines. The potlines will be built in two phases; a full capacity of 675 megawatts for the first potline will be required in 2011, and a full capacity for the second potline of 680 megawatts will be required in 2014. I must say we are very pleased with this contract, and it shows that South Africa remains highly competitive in the international energy sector.

Mr C H F GREYLING: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, hon Minister, for your reply. I am still trying to put together a few pieces, and obviously it's a bit difficult without knowing exactly what the price is that they will be charged. What I do want to say, though, is that aluminium has often been described as simply electrified energy in that

it is so energy intensive. Also, as you have indicated by your response, it is going to require about 1 500 megawatts.

In response to a question to the Minister of Minerals and Energy in 2005, it was stated that iGas, Eskom and Shell were investigating the feasibility of using imported liquid natural gas, or LNG. Is that still an option, or will we be getting that from normal coal-fired power stations? If we are getting this from liquefied natural gas, I would imagine that that would make the energy costs a lot higher; in which case, who is going to be subsidising the extra cost that goes to Alcan?

If we are not getting it from liquefied natural gas, we will be getting it from coal-fired power stations, which will substantially increase our greenhouse gas emissions. What statement would the Minister like to make in terms of reducing those greenhouse gas emissions? Thank you.

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: I would like to say don't worry about putting the pieces together; I will give you the information. The developmental pricing system will look at the projection of what is not strictly an economic term but at an approximation that is called the average price. This looks at the average price of generation from a whole range of different generating sources, Eskom's existing portfolio and our projected portfolio.

We do this because the charge at the marginal price, if you are familiar with those issues, would be very high indeed. That answers one part of your question. We would not charge at marginal prices. This would have an impact on the economy of charging very high prices for any new investment, and I don't think that's wise. We should benefit from our past investment—it's one of our great strengths—and we should price that forward.

The average price will continue to rise and quite markedly, I am afraid, because of the new Bill. It is an average price curve. So as the new Bill comes in, if we do utilise the opportunity for LNG in Ngqurha, we will do so. That particular price of that system, be it within Eskom or be it within an independent power producer, will have the effect of raising the average price, which is our benchmark price for this contract.

I am sorry about being a bit complex, but really it is very important for this matter to be well understood. I think it is one of our great strengths in South Africa in that we can plan well in advance—into the future. In fact, our ability to sign a contract for 25 years is quite rare in the world today. Therefore, we will not subsidise this particular project no matter what we are putting into that area, be it LNG, be it a pebble bed, or be it a pressurised water reactor. Whatever it might be that we put there eventually, yes, the LNG projects are being considered. But I think it is a very stable pricing system, and what I want to stress as very important is that any project of 50-plus megawatts utilisation can qualify for the developmental pricing initiative.

The processes are quite rigorous; they have to demonstrate that they have knock-on effects. I think we've developed a quite interesting and unique pricing system for our projects, and it would be very unwise for South Africa not to utilise its strength and energy. We are one of the low-cost producers and we will remain, fortunately, into the future, one of the low-cost producers in the world.

Adv H C SCHMIDT: Madam Speaker, an IPP, or independent power producer, such as those recently reported in the media concerning the Ngqurha industrial zone, will clearly have the ability to provide considerable base load capacity, such as the reported approximate 1 600 megawatts of a closed cycle gas turbine which has been considered for the aluminium smelter still to be built.

Would the Minister support the notion of IPPs being independent power producers such as the IPSA, being solely responsible for the provisioning of electricity for, inter

alia, industrial zones such as Ngqurha and other instances in which Eskom, the responsible parastatal for electricity, plays a secondary and, in some instances, no role in the provisioning of electricity? I am referring particularly to the government's policy on the 70-30 split: 70% by Eskom and 30% by IPPs. Thank you.

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Unfortunately, the member's question shows quite a profound misunderstanding of how the system works. I would like to explain it because, as I have just explained to the hon member, this is one of our great strengths.

The system works as a total system. An independent power producer, as the chairperson of Eskom outlined to Parliament, will sell the electricity. In order to facilitate the IPPs, they will sell their electricity to Eskom through what is called a power-purchasing agreement. One of the issues that we are currently debating is how we share the risk of a power-purchasing agreement. Whose responsibility is it to pay or provide the electricity, because the PPA is a take-or-pay agreement whose responsibility is it to pay if that IPP doesn't produce for commercial or other risk factors?

Your question is misplaced. We would never—it makes no sense for the very reasons I have argued in the earlier answer, and it would be very silly indeed—put an IPP into Ngqurha and then supply the users in Ngqurha at that price, because that price is very high. So we price this at the average price: average for those of you who are good economists—which I am sure this whole House is—although this is a slight misuse of the word. Douglas Gibson says he is an economist, so Christmas must be in September. [Laughter.]

We are quite comfortable. The Department of Minerals and Energy has considered the possibility of an IPP into Ngqurha, so what will happen then is it will supply into the total grid. It will not just be for that. By and large, an LNG gas-fired station will be a very high cost for base load capacity. So, generally, we will not consider LNG for base load at this point. For us, coal—and as we have recently announced—pressurised water reactors or pebble bed reactors would have a better base load capacity.

I hope I have clarified this. I think it is an interesting possibility. We would love the private sector to come in, as we have indicated, for 30% of the generation, but they will do so within the economic and regulatory model I have just very briefly described.

Mr S E KHOLWANE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon Minister, I want to start by expressing appreciation that you educated the House in terms of how the national grid works. The question I particularly want to ask you is: Are there any projects which have been embarked upon by Eskom around that particular part of the country, in relation to the generation of electricity? Secondly, what is it that Eskom is doing in terms of ensuring that we are strengthening our national grid because, I think, that is where the problem is?

We must strengthen our national grid so that we are able to have enough capacity to supply electricity. Thank you.

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you, hon member, and thank you for this chance to further educate the House. As we have indicated very clearly—and this is a national priority—the structure of the South African grid is that the base load sits in the north and demand is growing in the south. As we have also graphically experienced, we have problems whenever Koeberg goes down, because it is the only base load station in the south. As we have indicated, we will attempt to increase the base load capacity in the southern part of the grid.

Currently, we have been putting in two closed cycle gas turbine plants. These are

quite expensive forms of generation. This is roughly 1 000 megawatts: one in Mossel Bay and the other in Atlantis. Fortunately, they have both come on stream in the Western Cape and the Eastern Cape before the winter and that, I think, is very important.

The second thing that we will do is light up Danny Oliphant in Atlantis quite shortly . . . [Laughter.] The second thing that we will do is strengthen the grid. We are one of the few countries in the world that are now building 765-megawatt grids. This is moving closer to the Cape each year. Our target is some time in the middle of next year. That helps. Also, for the Ngqurha project we will put in a 765-megawatt grid. There will be redundancy, so it will come in from both sides and that will allow us to supply Alcan and other projects. And, as the questioner indicated, we must consider a further base load project in the south, and, as we have recently indicated, we will probably consider a conventional nuclear reactor in the south to give us more base load capacity.

The grid, as you know, is very important. It has to be balanced across the whole system and this is why base load is very important. Basically, we do have to put a base load plant somewhere in the Nelson Mandela Metropole area.

Mr H B CUPIDO: Hon Speaker, hon Minister, in light of the high unemployment and the need for urgent development in the Eastern Cape, could the Minister give us the assurance that the contract includes specific conditions or programmes relating to skills development within the context of Agisa?

An HON MEMBER: Asgisa!

Mr H B CUPIDO: Sorry. Asgisa.

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: The conditions of a developmental contract have to be internationally competitive. They must meet the needs of major users of electricity. Basically, this works in the following way. Because the size of the project is above 50 megawatts, this means it will have a significant impact on the economy of that area. The Department of Trade and Industry attempts to quantify that impact, and that impact will spread knock-on effects and other industries that can be brought in. Skills, directly, are not a specific component, but we are quite confident that this will be a knock-on effect.

Remember that international investment has many places it can go to, so to think that you can set any condition you want in South Africa and still expect one of the world's biggest aluminium companies to come here is a naive notion.

So, if we want jobs, if we want skills, we really have to have investment in South Africa. In order to do that, we have to have internationally competitive energy pricing, which we have been able to do in this case. But, certainly, between the state-owned enterprises of Transnet, Eskom, Denel and others we are working very actively on developing skills. I think this will be a wonderful opportunity to do so.

By having such a big project at Ngqurha there will be tremendous benefits for that area. I think that this is exceptionally positive for the South African economy. It is really silly to start criticising it when we have conceived of the thing so well. It will create a new area and create a new industrial port. I think this is something we in this House should all back fully.

Legislation to protect farm workers against evictions and abuse

87. Mr B A Radebe (ANC) asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs:

    (1) In light of her recent statement regarding the increase in evictions and abuse of farm workers, what measures have been or will be taken to address this matter;

    (2) whether her department is consid-

ering updating existing legislation or introducing new legislation to protect farm workers; if not, why not; if so, (a) what is the status of the process, (b) what are the stumbling blocks and (c) when will the relevant legislation be tabled?

N434E

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS: Madam Speaker, the Department of Land Affairs is in the process of establishing a land rights management facility that will, *inter alia*, provide legal representation to victims of all forms of land rights infringements, establish a comprehensive eviction-monitoring system that will include a call centre with a toll-free number, and provide for a panel of mediators at provincial and district levels.

The answer to part 2(a) of the question is that the department will develop a policy separating the management of evictions from the provision of security of tenure to farm dwellers. With respect to the latter, new legislation will be drafted in order to provide security of tenure to farm dwellers through a redistributive process. It is now considered that existing legislation for land redistribution can be used to provide security of tenure to farm dwellers and farmworkers.

Concerning the management of evictions, the Prevention of Illegal Eviction From and Unlawful Occupation of Land Act of 1998—that is the PIE—is in terms of Cabinet's decision to be transferred from the Department of Housing to the Department of Land Affairs. We therefore believe that the Extension of Security of Tenure Act—Esta—and the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Act—LTA—of 1996 will be incorporated into the PIE for the purposes of enhancing the management of evictions and creating a universal procedure for dealing with evictions.

Concerning the policy alluded to above, there are no stumbling blocks. However, with regard to the legislative process involving the prevention of illegal eviction Act, the amendment to the PIE driven by the Department of Housing should not be delayed. Assuming that the amendment to the PIE is concluded, including the parliamentary processes and public hearings, the new legislation incorporating provisions of Esta and the LTA for the management of evictions will be included in the 2008-09 legislative programme of the department. I thank you.

Mr B A RADEBE: Comrade Minister, your statement was correct when you stated that there were cases of illegal evictions and abuse on the farms. In my constituency we have people like Reverend Mfuphi, who was shot and killed for trying to hold a night vigil. I have in my constituency a Mr Mokoena, who was shot for refusing to wash the farmer's car; and Mr Mcirha who was born on a farm and lived there until he was around 65 years old. The farmer tried to refuse his burial on that farm. So the statement you made was correct: there were cases of illegal evictions and abuse on the farms. The challenge now is for Transvaal Agricultural Union and AgriSA to isolate those farmers who are abusing the farmworkers.

We know that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white. We appreciate the initiative taken by the department, of creating the land rights management facility so that we can protect the vulnerable farmworkers. The question now, Minister, is: How far is the establishment of that facility and how widespread is the roll-out going to be? Is it going to be at national, provincial or local level? Thank you. [Applause.]

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS: Thank you, hon Radebe. Indeed, we all know that evictions are rife all over the country and we also know that there are serious human rights abuses on some of our farms. It is hoped that the land rights management facility will be finalised in due course. We will finish the first half this year.

We are also confident that we are going to work together with various farmers' unions. We have had our talks recently, with AgriSA, the Transvaal Agricultural Union and the National African Farmers' Union. We have all agreed that together we have the responsibility not just to guard the rights of farmworkers, but also to take responsibility and ensure security and safety in our farming communities, including combating and condemning the killings of farmers in our rural communities. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Order! We now come to Question 76 . . . Oh, I am only now getting the name of the hon Nel.

Mr C M LOWE: Madam Speaker, I can assure you, the hon Nel did push his button some time ago when the first question was called. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Did he want to speak during the first question?

Mr C M LOWE: No, Madam Speaker. The hon Nel pressed his button to speak on this question, but when the question was called I did see him. Thank you very much.

Mr A C NEL: Thank you, Speaker. Firstly, I want to ask the Minister if she based her recent statement regarding abuse and rape of farmworkers on the alleged rape of a farmworker in Rawsonville. Secondly, do you, the Human Rights Commission or Mr Radebe know by name any case of illegal evictions from farms? If you do, you are breaking the law by not giving evidence to the police.

What I cannot understand—and maybe the Minister can tell us—is why is a bad apple in the farming community is an agricultural problem that reflects badly on all farmers? But a bad apple in, say, the ANC is a case for the police and the person is not guilty until a court finds him or her guilty? Thank you. [Applause.]

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS: I thought Mr Nel was dealing with the next question.

Firstly, my statement was not a general statement that referred to all farmers. We have highlighted the positive contributions of farmers in various parts of the country. We have also highlighted the efforts of commercial white farmers who have set up joint ventures with emerging black farmers, who have transferred skills to emerging black farmers and assisted them to begin to realise production and income as new or emerging farmers.

However, the fact of the matter is that there are human rights abuses. There are serious human rights abuses on farms and we cannot deny those abuses. Mr Nel, I have definitely answered your questions in writing, asking for statistics on evictions, asking for reports that have been tabled to the department. I have given you written answers to those questions.

I also want to say that we, as the Department of Agriculture, are not going to apologise for what we are doing to protect farmworkers. We are not going to apologise for telling the truth. Thank you. [Applause.]

Procedural correctness in awarding of new lottery licence

76. Mr L M Green (FD) asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:

(1) Why was a certain company (name furnished) ruled out of contention for the new lottery licence;

(2) whether he was informed of any political office-bearers who have a financial interest in a certain consortium (name furnished) which received the lottery licence; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether all the provisions stipulated in the Lotteries Act, Act 57 of 1997, were followed when the lottery licence was awarded to the said consortium; if not, why not; if

so, what are the relevant details?
N331E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry): Madam Speaker, the response to the first part of the question is as follows. The selection process for the preferred consortium to be the operator for the national lottery involves scoring, using various criteria. Gidani scored higher than the other bidders. It is therefore incorrect to say that Uthingo was ruled out of contention to operate the new lottery licence. They were selected as the second preferred bidder during a process which was regarded as fair and a process that was done with integrity.

The answer to the second part of the question is as follows. As part of the process of evaluating the bidders, the Minister of Trade and Industry was informed in writing that no political office-bearers had a shareholding in Gidani.

Concerning the third part of the same question, the Minister and the National Lottery Board were of the view that all the provisions were followed as required, in terms of the Lotteries Act. Thank you.

Mr L M GREEN: Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the hon Minister for her answer. Minister, I am concerned about the process that has been followed in awarding the licence of the national lottery. The process has revealed the inner wrangling of powerful consortia and politically well-connected individuals. Everyone is striving to have stake in this lucrative business that generates billions of rand every year.

My follow-up question, hon Minister, is: Given the fact that the upkeep of the lottery is largely done by the poor who, with their limited funds, engage in chance practices, hoping with ongoing perseverance to make a quick windfall, resulting in the ongoing cycle of poverty, and given that the Minister of Finance has now strongly promoted a culture of saving amongst all South Africans including the poor, would it not be an opportune time for the Minister to reflect on the great good it would do our nation in terminating the national lottery? I thank you.

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY (on behalf of the Minister for Trade and Industry): I would like to say that the Minister of Trade and Industry is on record as having said and reiterated that the process that was followed for awarding the licence to operate the national lottery was fair; it was rigorous and done with integrity. In this regard, his confidence in the work done by the National Lotteries Board remains. That's as far as the process is concerned.

Regarding the second part of your question, I think those debates on whether or not South Africa should have a lottery, on whether or not South Africa should allow legal gambling, took place and were completed in 1997 when legislation was brought to this House. It was supported by all of you in that South Africa was going to engage in these processes to ensure that illegal gambling was kept out of the country and that you get whatever revenue might be accumulated for developmental processes. So, I don't think that question arises now.

But, not being the Minister of Trade and Industry and just being the acting Minister, I cannot speculate on what the Minister would have said in response to your question. Thank you.

Dr P J RABIE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Minister, from the DA's side we would like to know who is going to pay the legal costs in terms of the ruling of Judge Willie Seriti regarding the investigation and the application of Uthingo and Gidani. From the DA's side we'd like to know who is going to pay the legal costs. Will it be the Department of Trade and Industry, or the National Lotteries Board? Finally, who is going to take responsibility? Is it going to be the Minister, the Department of Trade and Industry or the National Lotteries Board? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry): Hon member, obviously, if the judgment says that the Minister must pay the costs, the department will pay the costs. If it says that it should be the National Lotteries Board . . . I don't know which respondents have been asked to pay the costs, but the people that have been asked by the court to pay the costs will do so.

I am not sure just what you are trying to ascertain with your question.

Could you clarify this? I'm not sure whether you said the Minister must personally pay the costs.

Dr P J RABIE: Yes, I would like to elaborate on that. This is the taxpayers' money, and we would like to know whether we get value for it or whether is it being spent on court cases. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry): Through you, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Minister holds office as a member of the executive on behalf of the South African people. If his department has briefed lawyers, the department will be the one paying the costs of lawyers, unless you are saying in this case that the court ordered specifically that the Minister pay the costs.

Prof E S CHANG: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and thank you, Minister. We do not think that the Minister is 100% wrong, but this is now creating a controversial grey area. Could the Acting Minister of Trade and Industry give this House an assurance that there will be mechanisms in place in the future to avoid confusion in terms of the grey area that this situation created?

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry): Thank you, hon member. I want to avoid talking about what will happen in the future, because a lot of action is going to take place or may take place in this case. So the Minister of Trade and Industry will be guided by the outcome of this case or other cases in terms of how our courts will interpret the legislation. If there are grey areas that are exposed through this process, I'm sure that the Minister will consider taking corrective action. Thank you.

Dr P J RABIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, hon Minister, we from the DA and the general public at large feel that the government's money was misappropriated regarding legal costs. We feel that the hon Minister owes the general public an apology regarding this particular appropriation of public funds. Will he do it or not? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry): Hon member, if I am taken to court to defend the government and its position, I don't understand how you can call that useless or fruitless expenditure. So I do not agree with you that the taxpayers' money was unnecessarily wasted. The Minister had to go to court to answer to an application that called him to answer in court. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, I'm under the impression that we ask questions because we need answers. But if we ask questions because we desire a specific answer, then it becomes very difficult for this exercise.

Withholding tax regime on gross payments to visiting entertainers and sportspersons

88. Mr B A Mnguni (ANC) asked the Minister of Finance:

    (1) With reference to the final withholding tax regime on gross payments to visiting entertainers and sportspersons which was introduced in 2005, (a) what is the SA Revenue Service's (Sars) receipt from this source and (b) what mechanisms are in place to ensure that potential revenue from this source is declared and collected;

(2) whether international entertainers and sportspersons or their local representatives have instituted objections against their assessments; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) what tax concessions can be expected in respect of the 2010 Soccer World Cup tournament?
N435E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and thank you, hon Mnguni, for the question.

The final withholding tax for visiting entertainers and sportspersons was introduced by the Revenue Laws Amendment Bill in 2005, and the President signed the proclamation on 28 July last year, so that this became effective from 1 August 2006.

Since the introduction, the SA Revenue Service has collected about R10 million in withholding taxes for the first seven months of the legislation's operation. The legislation has a compliance mechanism and also associated sanctions built in. For example, a South African resident who is primarily responsible for organising an international event in South Africa must notify Sars of the event within 14 days of concluding an agreement to organise the event.

This also imposes certain obligations on the organiser, including a joint liability for taxes unpaid and so on.

Within the large business unit of Sars there is a small dedicated team who focus on this area, and there is ongoing communication from the team. The commercial banks involved in promotion normally require a promoter to provide a tax clearance certificate so that the issues are timeously dealt with by all parties concerned. There have been no objections to date. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

Mr B A MNGUNI: Ke a leboha, Tonakgolo ka karabo ya hao. [Thank you, hon Minister, for your answer.]

In the event that the organiser does not inform the Sars team in time—and some might like to dodge the tax, and don't publish in the media or on the Internet—what measures are in place to recover or to take care of the tax due?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Deputy Speaker, the chain works. It's unlikely that a promoter will have sufficient cash so that he or she does not need a commercial bank. You have a mechanism in which the banks are directly involved. The banks would require that a tax clearance certificate be shown before they would support a promotion like this.

It deals with a set of relationships, because if the banks fail to act, they will not be acting in the context of the letter and spirit of the law and they know that they would invite detailed enquiries from Sars. So they act, and act correctly. But if the promoter fails to ensure that the sportsperson or the entertainer pays the tax, then it will be recovered from the promoter. I have no doubt about that.

I don't think we have encountered difficulties. What we are doing is not unique to South Africa. That is why, whilst we may have only introduced the legislation late and it's only been operational for a few months, there haven't been any complaints or objections to it. The hon Mnguni sits on the committee. He would know how the section of the Revenue Laws Amendment Bill went through, and since its operation, it's operational.

Mr I O DAVIDSON: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. In respect of the question asked, I noticed that the Minister didn't answer the third part with regard to 2010. I wonder if he could enlighten us in that regard?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: In respect of the provisions applicable on the withholding tax, no concessions were sought from Fifa. Of course, for 2010 Fifa has sought a

series of concessions on other issues, such as the importation of goods into the country without trade taxes, the ability to distribute those goods without the imposition of VAT, for instance, and the idea of tax bubbles where merchandise is sold. But those are dealt with under different provisions. For instance, there's no withholding tax that would apply in respect of the players coming in. Fifa did not ask for this issue to be dealt with in the negotiations and agreements struck. Thank you.

Government policy on taxation in relation to GDP

96. Mr I O Davidson (DA) asked the Minister of Finance:

Whether he will make a statement on the Government's policy on taxation as it relates to the level of revenue collected in terms of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)? N445E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon Davidson for the question. On 14 June 1996, in this House, we tabled a macroeconomic reform strategy entitled the Strategy for Growth, Employment and Redistribution. In that document one of the aspirations we set out was a tax-to-GDP ratio of 25%. It was then contained in the document as an aspiration. It is very important because, in the previous year, in 1994-95, the tax-to-GDP ratio was only 22,5%.

Now the 25%, granted, was a kind of rule of thumb, taking account of what government might want to take out of the economy on the one hand and, on the other hand, the developmental needs and how we would have to exercise that position. None of these would be fixed for all time. The 25% is still there, but we are now looking at it from the other side of the 25% compared to where we were when we tabled Gear. So there is one set of issues. I think it is a kind of discussion that we must have in this House and elsewhere from time to time.

The other issue that is important about what we had then and what we have now is the composition of tax. In the 1994-95 year personal income tax made up about 40% of taxes collected. In the current fiscal year we anticipate it will be about 29,2%. That has been kind of constant, depending on how much spending there is in the economy, but in 1994-95 it was 26,1% and now it is kind of 28%.

So there isn't that much movement, but the big change has been in respect of corporate tax, which in the 1994-95 year was as low as 12,1% and now is double that. So the big change has, in fact, been on the corporate side.

Now this is important, because it clearly has been an area where the bulk of base broadening has happened. It is also important, because the administrative efficiency of the SA Revenue Service would be tested right here as there is a battle of wits about these issues. It is indicative of the high levels of profitability, because company income tax is, of course, a tax on profits. But I think that it is also important to understand that that change brings with it a variability that would not be there in the same way if you were more dependent on secondary taxes. It is a tax on profits and so, when profits are in decline or you come to the end of the business cycle, there is then likely to be less company income tax to be collected.

So the cyclical nature of corporate taxes is something we need to understand. Your colleague the hon Stephens is not in the House, but this issue that we were talking about yesterday—about the surplus—is largely a consequence of this issue. So 25% is there; it's not as aspirational as it was when we tabled the strategy in 1996, but it is still some kind of a reference point. I think more important than just that ratio is also the composition of the tax yield. Thank you.

Mr I O DAVIDSON: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, and thank you for that reply, Minister. I take the point that the

Minister has made, but notwithstanding the fact that 25% was an aspirational figure, I think there was a clear indication, particularly to overseas investors, of the type of the level of taxation that would possibly be applicable to them in terms of investing in this country. In other words, there was a figure designated which, give or take, they could relate to in terms of their commitment to South Africa and their tax commitment.

That has now gone out of line and, quite rightly, as you said, corporate tax has now increased quite considerably as a proportion, which just underlines the importance of the question of giving some sort of indication to corporates out there, and more particularly to overseas investors out there, of what your policy in respect of taxation is, because that speaks to their forward planning exercise in terms of where they are going to invest. I know the Minister is somehow sceptical as to exactly what . . . [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time has expired and I still don't get the question.

Mr I O DAVIDSON: Well, I think the Minister gets the gist of the question.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: I should get up and say I don't get the gist. [Laughter.]

Regarding the 12,1% in 1994-95, the corporate tax rate in the budget then was reduced to 40% from 48% and a secondary tax on companies was introduced at the rate of 25%. We have had this argument and there are those who appear before the committee and so on, who are quite ideological about the tax and dividends. Now we are comparing like with like, and we are comparing the 29% corporate tax rate.

I have looked at a number of surveys undertaken by the World Economic Forum and by various universities, at a competitiveness survey undertaken by the World Bank, at a "Doing Business in 2007" survey undertaken by the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank together. None of them raised tax rates as an issue in quite the same way. I think that what they would do—and, of course, business does not like paying tax—is rather deal with an environment that is a lot more certain.

Some of the things that you have seen in some new countries, like some of those formerly of the Russian Federation, are that they have had these flat taxes. They have privatised all kinds of things, and then realised that it is actually not workable, and they have had to retreat. That creates far more uncertainty than what any investors had to deal with in their tax relations in South Africa.

So our communication to all investors is: Steady as she goes. I believe that we have a reasonable relationship. Sometimes businesses complain that they do not like this ease with which somebody from Sars writes, and says, "This is my card, and I am your dedicated representative. If you have any problem, call me 24 hours a day. We are here to render a service." They do not like that; they feel it is too close.

I do not know if tax rates or the tax composition in this country is as much of a problem as some rabid free-marketeers sometimes hold it out to be. [Time expired.]

Reporting of suspicious transactions to Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), and investigation thereof

89. Ms J L Fubbs (ANC) asked the Minister of Finance:

(1) (a) How many suspicious transactions were (i) reported to the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) since its inception and (ii) investigated and (b) how is the money involved in established money-laundering operations treated;

(2) whether any criminal investigations were instituted against any person(s) as a result of suspicious transactions; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether the FIC detected any funds that may have been used for financing terrorist activities; if so, what are the relevant details?
N436E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and my thanks go to the hon Fubbs for the question. In the past financial year, 19 793 reports of suspicious or unusual transactions were received by the centre. Not all of the transactions are criminal in nature. Joan Fubbs may go to the local branch of a bank and suddenly want to draw R100 000 from her account on a particular day. The bank would say, "Hon Fubbs, come back this afternoon," and in the meantime it would say, "This is an unusual transaction."

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, can we ask you to do the same, hon Gibson? [Interjections.] What the Financial Intelligence Centre doesn't do is that it doesn't investigate. It receives these suspicious transactions. In the legislation we thought it more important to have a body that has a set of good relations with a range of financial intermediaries. That is a reference point.

The focus is largely on the eye—it is intelligence rather than evidence. So, in the drafting of the legislation this information, in the form that we receive it in the FIC, can't be used in a court of law either, but first has to be processed by law-enforcement agencies. So there is a very close relationship with the SA Police Service, with the Directorate of Special Operations—the Scorpions—and also with the Asset Forfeiture Unit. That is where these issues are dealt with, so that the FIC exists as a collection point rather than as an enforcement agency in own name and right.

With regard to the third part of the question, if there is a transaction that is deemed to be in violation of the "Pocdatara", or the Protection of Constitutional Democracy Against Terrorist and Related Activities Act, the other agencies will have to deal with it—we would be aware of it. Sometimes, by the way in which they look at information and understand transactions as they flow out of particular points or between particular sets of individuals, they then have to make the inferences and take that issue further.

We also have a responsibility in terms of standing resolutions of the United Nations Security Council to act in a particular way on those matters. Thank you.

Ms J L FUBBS: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you also, Minister Manuel, for what can only be a very enlightening clarification that I know a number of South Africans, if not most, would welcome.

Minister, there is just one area which you may wish to give an opinion on, which would perhaps further reassure people. As you are aware, most of the large banks have been complaining that the current FIC obligations are just so onerous and that that is part of the reason why administration costs are rising. They want to do so much, they will say, for the bulk—the majority—of South Africans to bring them in. But it is this FIC that is making it difficult for them. What is your opinion regarding the continuation of what has just become a kind of mantra of a complaint by the banking community? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Deputy Speaker, even if the banks complain I think we need to say thank you to the banks in South Africa, because they are actually very highly compliant. I think what we are seeing in respect of the banks is that they respect their licences. I know for ordinary individuals that when you arrive at the airport you need $100 to get a taxi on the other side, and they want your electricity bill. There is a sense of red tape about this.

If you look at the issue of administrative

costs in the banks, for a long time the banks had indicated that they did not want individuals with small accounts. But since the very same banks initiated Mzansi, you have seen those numbers take off. So the issue of costs is not so much a problem for them. The way in which the law is structured is that the front desk people—the tellers—would be responsible. So it is for that reason that the tellers actually insist that all of them should be covered. They are the last port of call. They would end up in court if they violated this, and so they are actually enforcers of the law.

On balance, I don't think it works too badly. I also don't think that the banks have excluded people on this basis. It is, in fact, a lot more difficult to enforce with the same intent in respect of some other intermediaries. Estate agents and, just recently, the FIC held workshops with the Estate Agency Affairs Board because, if an estate agent has a sense that somebody has a big suitcase of money and they are transacting in that way, they have a responsibility to report this. Similarly, people dealing in motor vehicle sales and the casinos have that kind of responsibility, and our battle is in fact to hold up the banks as an example and to get the other intermediaries to act in the same spirit.

It is this acting together that will prevent the money-laundering. We must provide no place to hide for crooks and launderers, because laundering always comes after the commission of some other crime. This would either be drugs transacted, taxes evaded or some other way in which people have accumulated money that then results in the laundering. We must ensure that we can deal with laundering within that context, but understand that ahead of it are some other crimes as well. Thank you.

Mr S J F MARAIS: Deputy Speaker, I just want to follow up by asking if there were any investigations and prosecutions as a result of these transactions, and, if so, what was the monetary value attached to those? Secondly, does the success or lack thereof justify the operation costs of the FIC and also the cost to individuals and business in complying with this? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Deputy Speaker, is he still a maiden, the hon Marais? He lost it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: He lost it yesterday, I am told.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Of just the suspicious transactions reported, the amount covered in the reports is about R427 million. But those are just reports; they don't mean anything. My difficulty, hon Marais, is that our enforcement agencies will take these things forward. You will see increasingly that laundering is one of the charges along with other charges brought against individuals. We have to do a lot more work in this area.

Part of what we must ensure is that the law-enforcement agencies actually have a better capability to prosecute in this area. That is work in progress; it is about building the capacity to ensure that the suspicious transactions can be sorted, and those that hint at something else pursued with more vigour. But it is not our responsibly in the FIC.

Your question about the monetary value of business complying and so on: you can't look at life like that. You won't know the value of the FIC until you have discovered some day that there are people who have been amassing money to launch dirty nuclear bombs or something like that. You won't know that.

So, you can't quite argue like that, because the role of intelligence and financial intelligence is one of those areas. It can't actually just be measured narrowly in terms of rands and cents. There is a series of other issues that come into play, and it is very important that we appreciate that in the wider context of law enforcement and the spirit of democracy in this country. Thank you.

Intensification of trade liberalisation and export diversification, and impact thereof on Asgisa

74. Prince N E Zulu (IFP) asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:

(1) Whether trade liberalisation and export diversification have been intensified to counter the volatility in commodity pricing within the economy; if not, why not; if so, what will be the impact on the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (Asgisa);

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N5E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry): Madam Deputy Speaker, the answer to the question is as follows. Yes, indeed, our efforts to diversify our basket of exports are intensifying, although we must recognise that this is also a gradual process. We haven't only now started to look at this, but we can say that it is now being intensified.

Some of the prerequisites that are required for export diversification are, firstly, the international competitiveness of exports, which depends mostly on the underlying competitiveness of the South African economy itself and also on the exchange rate levels; secondly, it is market access that requires participation in the multilateral trade organisations, the ability to negotiate favourable trading terms within those organisations and mutually beneficial trade with bilateral and regional partners; thirdly, resource support in which we could include financial incentives, trade finance and insurance products, all within a basket of government interventions designed to improve the competitiveness of exports.

Regarding trade liberalisation, this will not be intensified as an end in itself, but will be seen rather in support of a multilateral development trade agenda defined by the Doha Round of World Trade Organisation talks, and also where the department itself deems it necessary for strategic purposes. The examples of the latter include where we have signed agreements like our trade and development co-operation agreement with the EU, the SADC Trade Protocol and the recently concluded free trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association.

Obviously, any intensification of the diversification of our exports and trade liberalisation that seeks to improve competitiveness of the domestic economy, and thereby move the economy onto a sustainable growth path, is fully aligned with the objectives of the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa. Thank you.

Prof E S CHANG: I will speak on behalf of Prince Zulu. My question is very simple. It relates to labour liberalisation and free trade. What impact will they have on South Africa's economic growth rate, on job creation and on job losses? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not get . . .

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry): Neither did I, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Prof E S CHANG: Oh, okay. I was asking how trade liberalisation and free trade would impact on the South African economic growth rate. Also, what will the impact be on job creation and job losses?

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry): Well, if you talk about diversification of exports, obviously as we diversify exports we add value. If you look at what we have done in the past few years, we have actually diversified our exports from the primary commodities, which are really your mineral resources, to manufactured goods to the extent that the export of manufactured goods has actually over-

taken that of the primary commodities. As we add value to our products, more jobs are created at home, and obviously that is a good thing.

When it comes to trade liberalisation, I think, as South Africa, we have gone a long way towards liberalising our trade, reducing the tariffs that are there in the economy and the subsidies. What we would look at doing is to keep protection in those areas, industries or those sectors which are sensitive for our economy, particularly in a labour-intensive sector that can create a lot of jobs and where there is clear evidence that there is dumping or it is being threatened by imports from other countries. A government would then, in protecting jobs, try to use trade liberalisation to balance that. So, both of them do have an impact on job creation in the country.

Dr P J RABIE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Acting Minister, you referred to Asgisa and so forth. My question to you is: Will you be able to tell the Assembly when the National Industrial Policy Framework will be released? We believe that it has been before Cabinet, and we would appreciate it if you could give us an indication as to when it will be released to the general public. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry): Thank you, Chairperson. I think that is a new question, because indeed you are looking for a date as to when this policy will be released. All I can say is that the Department of Trade and Industry has worked extensively on the National Industrial Policy Framework for our country, the aim of which it is to create a platform for what I have just spoken about—the competitiveness of our economy and ensuring that we diversify the basket of our exports, as well as that we also look at our niche markets where we can have even more tradable exports. As regards the date, hon member, a thousand apologies. I wouldn't know that.

Mr S J NJIKELANA: One cannot help but appreciate, according to the responses from the Minister, the government's policy and strategy on the question I have asked regarding the macroeconomic reform strategy. The prerequisites that are listed here make reference to that. I would like to emphasise the fact that there is a paradigm shift in terms of export diversification, particularly the beneficiation strategy, and in export incentives.

Obviously, one can also further ask the following question: Minister, are we confident, as South Africa, that export diversification can rebuff the volatility of commodity prices? I say this with special reference to the expected impact on sector investments as found within the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa. Thanks, Chair.

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry): Hon member, I can say, yes, we are confident because the proposed National Industrial Policy Framework is creating a platform to address two key issues on which export diversification rests, which are competitiveness and capacity. This framework will indeed pave the way for South Africa to mitigate the impact of volatile commodity prices.

In terms of the third pillar of export diversification, which is that of market access, hon members know that as we speak our President, accompanied by several Ministers, including our Minister of Trade and Industry, is in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to spearhead South Africa's trade and investment drive into this new high-growth market. As South Africa, we need to target new, dynamic and nontraditional growth markets. And, I think, that is what the DTI's National Industrial Policy Framework seeks to do. Thank you.

Support mechanisms for land claims beneficiaries

84. Ms C Nkuna (ANC) asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs:

What mechanisms will be put in place

to support the land claims beneficiaries in order to ensure that they remain productive? N431E

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS: Thank you, Chair. The Land Claims Commission and the Department of Land Affairs are working jointly on a settlement support implementation strategy. In each regional office of the commission, settlement support staff are involved in the early settlement processes of a land claim to ensure that claimants are involved in the land use planning so as to make informed settlement choices; that project planning is done within the socioeconomic and sustainable requirements; that the drafting of feasible business and land use plans is done; that there are memoranda of agreement with the relevant role-players, such as the Department of Housing, municipalities and the provincial departments of agriculture in the settlement support processes; that a joint proposal is made by the commission with AgriSeta and the Department of Labour for skills development and long-term mentoring of projects; that there is an area-based approach to ensure that all projects are part of the provincial, local and district planning processes to ensure sustainability; to promote sustainable and productive use of agricultural land, ensuring that no arable land lies fallow; and, to facilitate access for communities to the government's agricultural assistance programmes, such as the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme, the Micro-Agricultural Financial Institutional Scheme of SA and Land Bank packages and other schemes. Thank you, Chair.

Ms C NKUNA: Thank you, hon Chairperson. Thank you, hon Minister, for the detailed response you gave to my question. Hon Minister, you mentioned government's agricultural assistance programmes like the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme—Casp—the Micro-Agricultural Financial Institutional Scheme of SA—Mafisa—the Land Bank and others. Hon Minister, what mechanisms do you put in place to ensure that funds provided for these schemes are utilised to the full and not rolled over?

Inkomu Mutshami wa Xitulu. [Thank you, Chairperson.]

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS: Thank you, Chair. That is a very difficult question, because first of all Casp programmes are not managed at national level; they are managed and implemented at provincial level. The major challenge there has been for a long time the lack of skills and capacity. However, the provinces have improved in the past two years or so. They have ensured that they have the required capacity, and we are hoping that there will be a great improvement in terms of roll-overs this year. In terms of Mafisa, we have had three provincial pilot projects in the Eastern Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal.

We have been assessing and evaluating, learning from the lessons that we have learned in these provinces. It is hoped that we will be able to roll out Mafisa to all provinces in the coming year. We have already started to do assessments in those provinces and we believe that we are ready with the roll-out of Mafisa. We have personnel at national level and also in the provinces who are working closely on these projects and who are monitoring them to ensure not only that we have projects that are not going to fail, but also that through those business plans, the monitoring and the evaluation officials we can ensure that these programmes become sustainable. Thank you.

Mr A H NEL: Thank you, Chair. Minister, in terms of the question I asked and the answer I am getting—it hasn't reached me yet—let me just say upfront that we support measures that bring sustainability. Yesterday we asked the Director-General of Land Affairs this specific question. He assured us that they have enough plans and that they are planning and strategising every day. But—and then he

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] question to the Minister for Business [illegible]

The MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (on behalf of the Minister of Transport): I do not believe that there will be upgrading. I think the answer to the member's question is that quite a lot of examples will be known of upgrading without necessarily the SH1 and SH2 designations being changed in the way it previously was. That would lead to a lot of confusion for people. That is the problem with the current system. We will be able to have both—we will be able to have both [illegible] we will be able to [illegible]

Mr C WORAKER: Minister, thank you for answering that question. Could you please refer to the follow-up question I was intending to ask when you mentioned that there would be an upgrading of the roading systems in Canterbury. I mention this with reference to the fatal action that is now underway on State Highway 1 in North Canterbury, which highlights the point that we sometimes do not see eye to eye.

The SPEAKER: Does that question relate to the original question?

Mr C WORAKER: Yes, it does.

The MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (on behalf of the Minister of Transport): I do not believe that there will be upgrading. I think the answer to the member's question is that quite a lot of examples will be known of upgrading without necessarily the SH1 and SH2 designations being changed in the way it previously was. That would lead to a lot of confusion for people. That is the problem with the current system. We will be able to have both—we will be able to have both [illegible] we will be able to [illegible]

Mr C WORAKER: Minister, thank you for answering that question. Could you please refer to the follow-up question I was intending to ask when you mentioned that there would be an upgrading of the roading systems in Canterbury. I mention this with reference to the fatal action that is now underway on State Highway 1 in North Canterbury, which highlights the point that we sometimes do not see eye to eye. This

details at the tips of my fingers relating to the question that the hon member has asked. But I am aware that, yes, there is a comprehensive plan that involves the metros, the municipalities and various levels of government. I'm not aware of the specific numbers to give you, hon member, but I will let the Minister of Transport know about your questions, and you might get more joy from him than you do from me. Thank you very much.

Ms N P KHUNOU: Chairperson, I know that in the past there was a problem with signalling. Upgrading will be highly appreciated as this will help in the reduction of accidents. However, when you do upgrade the stations, will you consider accessibility for people with disabilities as this is a problem with all the stations—there is no accessibility for people with disabilities? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (on behalf of the Minister of Transport): Hon Chair, I am not quite sure when the work will be concluded. What I do know is that one of the priorities of the plans that the Department of Transport has for upgrading transport systems in the country is making these facilities accessible to people with disabilities.

Once again, I'll not be able to tell the hon member where the process is, but I do know that this is part of the plans. This is one of those things that I'll sensitise the Minister about.

Successes and challenges in relation to the Microeconomic Reform Strategy (MERS)

82. Mr S J Njikelana (ANC) asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:

    (a) Which aspects of the Microeconomic Reform Strategy (MERS) have (i) been undoubted successes and (ii) encountered challenges and (b) how is he addressing the challenge posed by the factors that are limiting accelerated and shared growth and development in the economy?
N427E

The MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry): Chairperson, the answer to part "a" of the question is as follows. Since the inception of our Microeconomic Reform Strategy, or Mers, there have been significant successes in areas of sector support, developmental finance, equity and technological advancement.

In the area of sector support the most notable success has been with our Motor Industry Development Programme, MIDP. This programme has effectively secured the survival of the South African automotive industry, helping us to preserve employment in the core automotive sector and generating significant linkages to other sectors such as leather and plastics.

Government support has also significantly contributed to the restructuring of upstream resource-based processing sectors like the steel and chemical industries that were experiencing difficulties in the 1990s. These industries have been successfully restructured and are now globally competitive.

Coming to the leveraging of development finance institutions, or DFI, as agents for socioeconomic change, that is a core objective of Mers. Under the Microeconomic Reform Strategy we have witnessed the increasing capacity of our DFI, Khula, to deliver on its mandate. We have witnessed the roll-out of the SA Microfinance Apex Fund, Samaf, and the improved strategic alignment of the Industrial Development Corporation with government's poverty and employment targets for 2014.

Over recent years, the Industrial Development Corporation has enjoyed success in supporting labour-absorptive sectors and broad-based black economic empowerment initiatives. A promising development is that the Industrial Development Corporation's

most successful investment projects in terms of employment creation have been in the expansion projects. The DTI has driven the mainstreaming of BEE as a fundamental feature of the business environment in South Africa, firstly, through the promulgation of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act and, recently, the gazetting of the triple BEE codes of good practice.

On the technological front, various technological programmes have also functioned well, such as our Support Programme for Industrial Innovation—Spii, for short—and our Technology and Human Resource for Industry Programme, Thrip. Moreover, the national spend on R&D has improved from 0,76% of GDP in 2001-02, to 0,87% of GDP in 2004-05. There is also supplementary evidence to suggest that South Africa is emerging as a regional technology hub, given the country's participation in various cutting-edge projects such as the Square Kilometre Array.

Coming to the next part of the question, the challenges experienced, notwithstanding the above-mentioned successes experienced by the South African economy, Mers has confronted various challenges and constraints as it is implemented. These include a lack of intragovernmental co-ordination.

With regard to those crosscutting initiatives, which I think are being addressed currently through the cluster system and government . . . Thank you. [Time expired.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr G Q M Doidge): Hon members, I want to remind you of an NA Rule—and I would like you to look it up; it is Rule 46—that requires of us not to converse aloud during the business of the House.

During the course of the debates this week I've often had to appeal to you not to raise your voices. You are drowning out those that have the floor to speak and address the House. I would like you to remain in the House. I'm not sending you out to have a cup of tea, but, at the same time, could you please observe the requirements of NA Rule 46, which you adopted. Thank you.

Mr S J NJIKELANA: Ndiyabulela, Mphathisihlalo noMphathiswa obambeleyo ngempendulo yakhe. [Thank you Chairperson, and the acting Minister for his response.]

I once again appreciate the response that was given, suffice to say that what's helpful here is for us to understand that not only should our focus be on the macro strategy, but also on the micro aspects and particularly on seeing it as a composite package in terms of economic transformation. I thought though, hon Minister, that you would also refer to the National Empowerment Fund, particularly since you have made mention of broad-based black economic empowerment.

My follow-up question is around the challenges, particularly the lack of intragovernmental co-ordination with regard to crosscutting initiatives. Could the acting Minister help us as to what exactly is being done to address that challenge? Also, what attempts are being made to respond to the challenges that are limiting the accelerated and shared growth and development in the economy? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry): Thank you, Chairperson, and thank you, hon member. Indeed, I forgot to mention the National Empowerment Fund, which was established to support our initiatives of financing broad-based black economic empowerment.

The hon member is correct in that having focused and attained stability at the macroeconomic level, we asked ourselves as government what we could do to deal with the micro aspect. That is where all these issues are that I have raised, such as SMME support, BEE, etc, which come into play with their supporting mechanisms and initiatives.

I mentioned that, despite the successes, we

have experienced some challenges in this area, one of which is the sheer co-ordination of crosscutting issues amongst government departments that is currently being addressed through the cluster system. In this regard, there is also a lack of monitoring and evaluation, which is required to measure the impact of these programmes for the strategy to respond to an evolving economic landscape and, obviously, insufficient financial and human resource development for there to be implementation.

What are we doing to try to deal with the challenges? In 2006, the government adopted a more robust approach towards identifying and addressing what today are called the "binding constraints" on accelerated and shared growth in South Africa—the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa, or Asgisa—which builds, in fact, on the successes of Mers and which seeks to address all the weaknesses identified.

As we know, Asgisa focuses on improving co-ordination through the cluster system of government. [Time expired.]

Dr P J RABIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Acting hon Minister, I think what you've said here about Asgisa and the small, medium and micro business sector is extremely important. My question to you is that at the moment we have an excessive amount of red tape, which impedes the small to medium business sector. We, from the DA, think that we are propagating a one-stop approach in which entrepreneurs will be able to register small businesses and so forth.

It was mentioned this morning in the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry that you are going to review the excessive red tape regarding the small to medium business sectors. Would you be able to give us, again, a timeline when we'll be able to streamline this particular legislation, because I think it is extremely important? The only way of solving unemployment here is to create jobs and creating jobs is the only means of expanding this sector. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry): Ngiyabonga lunga lelihloniphekile ngalowo mbuzo. [Thank you, hon member, for that question.]

Indeed, over the years the Department of Trade and Industry has been looking at mechanisms of reducing the burden for small and medium enterprises. Various studies have been conducted to look into this matter and several suggestions have been made to government. Just recently, the Presidency and Treasury were looking at how to deal with the regulatory impact on the functioning and success of small businesses. So, indeed, government is engaged in this.

As to when all these processes will come together, I think that's a question we could answer some other time. I'm aware that within the Department of Trade and Industry, within what they call Cipro—the Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office—there is an attempt to ensure that there's decentralisation in terms of which people or companies can go to provinces to register their companies rather than depending on lawyers and consultants in Pretoria.

As far as one-stop shops are concerned, I think a move towards that has been taken through creating Seda—Small Enterprise Development Agency—offices in all nine provinces of our country. As you know, Seda is an institution that we brought about, bringing together Ntsika and bringing together what we call our community participation programmes—looking at co-operatives and the small business support division that was housed in the DTI.

We were trying thereby to bring these one-stop shops closer to the SMMEs so that those that need advice could go there. If they need export advice, they can go there. The writing of business plans, and several other things, they can get there. So, I think, the

department has moved towards bringing one-stop shops closer to small businesses. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Prof E S CHANG: Chairperson, import costs drive competitiveness. Crucial import sectors are transport, energy and telecommunications. Those sectors are under domination by parastatals. How will the Minister of the Department of Trade and Industry effect . . . [Inaudible.] . . . in the microeconomic reform strategy there? The mandates of parastatals will be reviewed to ensure that emphasis is placed on delivery of efficient service, ensuring cost-competitiveness rather than profit-seeking for its own sake, when you consider that parastatals fall under the purview of the Minister for Public Enterprises?

Why will this entrepreneurship only occur in future and not immediately? Also, Minister, you know that we as South Africa claim to be the cheapest electricity producer in the world, but does the Minister know that our industry pays more for electricity in comparison with emerging countries like India and China, or even our friend . . . [Inaudible.] . . . Thank you.

The MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry): Hon Chairperson, I think the question was just too long for me. Regarding the first part of it, I think the hon Minister for Public Enterprises, who is the shareholder within the parastatals, would be able to answer. I would really request the hon member, if she has other questions, to direct them in writing to the hon Minister of Trade and Industry, as I do not have answers at the moment. Thank you.

Current value of total pension fund surplus

90. Ms C B Johnson (ANC) asked the Minister of Finance:

    (1) What is the current value of the total pension fund surplus;

    (2) whether all participating pension funds have completed their actuarial evaluations to determine the value of the surplus; if not, why not; if so, how many participating pension funds have distributed the surplus;

    (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N437E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Hon Deputy Chair . . .

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): No, hon Minister. You are not a Deputy, and neither am I. I am a Chair.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: My apologies, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): Thank you.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Who is this Ms C B Johnson?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): She is your colleague, the hon Carol Johnson. But the supplementary question will be asked by the hon Mr Johnson.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Oh! I wondered about this sex-change stuff. [Laughter.] Let me give a perspective. There are 13 500 pension funds, which together have about R1 trillion under management. But there is a very significant disproportion in the operations because about 80 pension funds account for about 73% of all members.

Arising from the Pension Funds Second Amendment Act, a procedure was laid out for the apportionment of surpluses that accrued when funds converted from defined benefit to defined contribution.

As at 28 February 2007, the surplus apportionment schemes approved for distribution amounted to about R7,6 billion. But it's hard to tell what that is a fraction of, so we don't know what the total apportionment would be once the process is concluded.

The FSB estimates that the majority of registered funds have submitted surplus apportionment schemes but, again, the number is not known. One of the reasons for this is that they have to deal with stand-alone funds—frequently employer or bargaining-council funds. But then there are also the so-called umbrella funds that are made up of a myriad of individual funds. One of the difficulties with the umbrella funds is that the issue of trusteeship is a lot harder, because funds are just combined. There has been a great deal of concern expressed about this. Yet, on the other hand, individual funds require their own administration, and the costs thereof are prohibitively expensive.

As at 28 February this year—and that was all of 14 days ago—581 schemes for surplus apportionment had been received by the registrar. Of these, 244—or 42%—had been approved, while the remaining 335 are pending or not yet completed.

There are also, arising from these funds, just over 15 000 that submitted no returns—either they were established afterwards or established as defined-contribution funds, or established for some other reason.

Now, it is not possible for the registrar to act just on the information received, partly because a lot of information was received very close to the due date. This requires a level of scrutiny which, as you can well imagine given the numbers involved, would require an enormous or mammoth administrative exercise. That is the situation. As of now, there is R7,6 billion in approved schemes for the apportionment of surpluses. Thank you.

Mr M JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Comrade Minister. The answer has been quite profound and very comprehensive. Thanks for that. However, what measures has the Financial Services Board—the FSB—put in place to ensure that fund administrators give beneficiaries a fair value of what is due to them when they approve such applications? Linked to that also is a matter you raised about the minorities, that is those pension funds which were not actually approved. Given the fact that the minority of these pension funds did not submit the surplus apportionment schemes to the FSB for approval, what risks does this situation pose to the beneficiaries?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Madam Chairperson, I think it's very hard in this case to generalise, partly because if one tracks through the history of pension fund legislation in South Africa—the oldest being 51 years old; it's a 1956 piece of legislation—there have been a series of amendments. Some of these have been introduced to effect certain very important principles.

A late addition, for instance, is that the funds in the fund belong to the fund. I don't want to say too much about this, because this legal basis may be tested because there is an instance now where individuals are alleged to have removed large sums of money from funds. This needs to be tested, and I am saying it is being tested in a court of law. The easier instances to deal with is where you've had strong trusteeship, because some of the changes introduced in the Pension Funds Act require 50-50 employer and employee representatives, and if they are all acting correctly with the dignity and fiduciary responsibilities required, you clearly don't have a problem. You invite in the actuaries, you determine how much money was in the fund at the point of conversion, and then that must be allocated. Once you have done that, a series of other issues arise. You must then trace members who were members of the fund prior and contributors who may not be alive or may not be contributors any longer.

So, it's a rather complex issue. It's almost impossible to do this merely by looking at the papers. I am saying that the scale of the task is exceedingly difficult for the FSB. They will report to Parliament through the agency of the portfolio committee from time to time, but the key is just the determination

of how much is available and to ensure that it is correctly apportioned when it is done. Thank you.

Departmental strategy in relation to failed farming operations

108. Mr A H Nel (DA) asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs:

Whether her department has a strategy to solve problems relating to failed farming operations where land restitution or reform took place; if not, why not; if so, what strategy? N458E

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS: Chair, yes, the Department of Land Affairs has a strategy in place in relation to failed land reform projects. These models include a settlement model for beneficiaries who have housing as their primary immediate need, a farming model and a strategic partnership model. Each model carries various options and has financial and human resource implications.

The land reform offices in the different provinces will have to carefully weigh up these options and decide with the affected beneficiaries on the best way forward, including a course of action for beneficiaries who have abandoned projects. The strategy also provides sound guidelines on what should be done when financial institutions want to repossess properties.

The Commission on Restitution of Land Rights also monitors projects where restitution has taken place to ensure sustainability. Should any problem areas be identified, intervention is initiated and facilitated in liaison with other relevant role-players, such as the provincial departments of agriculture and financial institutions, in order to devise appropriate strategies for their projects.

In addition, the commission and the Department of Land Affairs are working jointly on a settlement support implementation strategy to ensure the sustainable projects to which I referred in an earlier question.

Mr A H NEL: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Minister, for the answer. I listened very carefully to your answer because the problem of failed farming operations is a serious one. Apart from the fact that it is a waste of public money, one feels sorry for the people involved.

We have also formulated a plan to deal with the prerequisites for, and the failures of, land reform with help of experts. I will supply you with a copy. Maybe there is something that you can use. My question is whether your department's strategy has been implemented as yet, and whether you can supply us with examples in which some of these failures were reversed. Thank you.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS: Thank you, Chair. For instance, the strategic partnership model has worked very well. In Mamahlola in Limpopo we have had a problem in which communities were unable to sustain their projects because of conflicts within that community. We then formed a partnership between this community and SA Farm Management, which is a company that includes white commercial farmers but also black experts who had formed this joint venture with the community of Mamahlolo.

Today they have already had great success. They are producing papaws, guavas, avocado, citrus and are already in the export industry; and both the company and the community of Mamahlola still have ownership of the land rights in the area and also a shareholding of over 50% of the business conducted on the land. Both parties are very happy and the project is a great success.

Adv Z L MADASA: Madam Chair, I would like to thank the Minister for her reply, as I was listening carefully. I would like to ask her, in view of the nature of this question, whether the problems that have been highlighted are as a result of policy failure or teething problems in the implementation of the policy of land restitution. Are they indicating that the policy itself is problem-

atic or are they indicating that there are problems in the implementation?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS: Chair, it is not about policy. It is about the fact that our people for centuries were denied the opportunity to participate in agriculture. You will remember that when we were schoolgirls, you and me, we were told that the stupid ones must do agriculture and the clever ones must do science—and, of course, everybody did not want to be stupid. There was this view that agriculture is where you work in the mud and work hard in the sun the whole day. Even today most of our youth are not interested in agriculture.

So, it is a huge challenge that we have. It is a legacy of apartheid Bantu education. It is also a legacy of separate development in which blacks were forcefully removed from fertile agricultural land, which is still our pain and the challenge that we have to face today.

It is very important, therefore, that we devise these strategic plans in terms of which those that had the opportunity and privilege to have this fertile agricultural land and to be exposed to agriculture through land banks and various schemes—in which they were given loans of 65 years wherein even your grandson could come over and continue on your bond—that those opportunities now be opened up to those who were disadvantaged. Those that were privileged must also be ready to share their skills and their experience and share the land with all the people of South Africa. [Applause.]

Chief B P BIYELA: Chair, I am worried about the cases of blacks that failed to manage their farms. I think the business of failure is not within the blacks who took over. It is the manner in which funding was given to the people. Is it not a fact, hon Minister, that a white farmer was given a large tract of land and was given funds by the government to employ blacks in order to give labour, and that thereafter all the failures, responsibilities and accountability rested on the shoulders of the white farmer? May I ask . . . [Time expired.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): Hon member, your time has expired, I regret, and so has time for questions in general, hon Minister, which excuses you from replying. The time allocated, as I said, has expired and outstanding replies received will be printed in Hansard.

See also **QUESTIONS AND REPLIES.**

NOTICE OF MOTION

Mr M WATERS: Chair, I hereby give notice that I shall move on the next sitting day of the House:

> That this House debates the senseless and brutal murders of innocent children.

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE WITHDRAWN

Mr H B CUPIDO: Chairperson, I move without notice that the House . . .

The ACTING CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Chair, I beg your pardon, we again have to object. We've received one motion without notice concerning which, I think, we communicated to the party concerned that we had a problem with certain aspects. I don't know if this is a different one, but we're not aware of any other motions without notice.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): Thank you, hon Acting Chief Whip. I know this issue of a notice not having been circulated was raised this morning in the Chief Whips' Forum as a problem. Hon Cupido?

Mr H B CUPIDO: Okay, I shall not move it then.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): Thank you.

The House adjourned at 17:06.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. **The Minister of Finance**

   (a) Regulations issued under section 13 of the Small Business Tax Amnesty and Amendment of Taxation Laws Act, 2006 (Act No 9 of 2006), prescribing the circumstances under which the Commissioner may waive any amount of additional tax, penalty or interest payable by specific persons.

2. **The Acting Minister of Health**

   (a) Strategic Plan of the Department of Health for 2007-08 to 2009-10.

3. **The Minister in The Presidency**

   (a) Strategic Plan of the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) for 2007 to 2010.

4. **The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development**

   (a) Report on the provisional suspension from office of Mr I X Masimini, an additional magistrate at Queenstown, in terms of section 13(3)(b) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act No 90 of 1993).

   (b) Report on vacancies in the offices of magistrates, in terms of section 9(5)(b) of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944 (Act No 32 of 1944).

5. **The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism**

   (a) General Notice No 8 published in Government Gazette No 29528 dated 9 January 2007: Extension of the deadline for public comments on the Draft Subsistence and Small-scale Commercial Fisheries Policies, in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No 18 of 1998).

   (b) General Notice No 1832 published in Government Gazette No 29487 dated 12 January 2007: Publication of National Environmental Management: Waste Management Bill—for general comment: National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998).

   (c) Government Notice No 147 published in Government Gazette No 29647 dated 23 February 2007: Waste tyre Regulations, in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No 73 of 1989).

   (d) Government Notice No R.150 published in Government Gazette No 29657 dated 23 February 2007: Commencement of threatened or protected species Regulations, in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004).

   (e) Government Notice No R.151 published in Government Gazette No 29657 dated 23 February 2007: Publication of lists of critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable and protected species, in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004).

   (f) Government Notice No R.152 published in Government Gazette No 29657 dated 23 February 2007: Threatened or protected species Regulations, in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004).

National Assembly

1. **The Speaker**

   (a) The President of the Republic submitted the following letter dated 2 March 2007 to the Speaker

of the National Assembly informing members of the Assembly of the employment of the South African National Defence Force in the Republic of Mozambique:

EMPLOYMENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE FOR SERVICE IN FULFILMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

This serves to inform the National Assembly that I have authorised the employment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) personnel to the Republic of Mozambique, in fulfilment of the international obligations of the Republic of South Africa towards the Republic of Mozambique, for humanitarian assistance in the preservation of life, health and property resulting from the widespread rains that have caused extensive and serious flooding.

This employment was authorised in accordance with the provisions of section 201(2)(c) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, read with section 93 of the Defence Act, 2002 (Act No 42 of 2002).

A total of one hundred and fifteen (115) SANDF members are employed as from 04 March to 19 April 2007 to provide humanitarian assistance in the preservation of life, health and property resulting from the widespread rains that have caused serious flooding. The Department of Provincial and Local Government (DPLG) will bear the cost of the deployment. The total estimated cost to be borne by the DPLG is R25 019 752,76.

I will communicate this report to the members of the National Council of Provinces and wish to request that you bring the contents hereof to the attention of the National Assembly.

Regards

Signed

T M MBEKI

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. **Report of the Portfolio Committee on Finance** on the ***Finance Bill*** [B 5—2007] (National Assembly—sec 77), dated 14 March 2007:

   The Portfolio Committee on Finance, having considered and examined the ***Finance Bill*** [B 5—2007] (National Assembly—sec 77), referred to it and classified by the Joint Tagging Mechanism as a section 77 Bill, reports that it has agreed to the Bill.

2. **Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health** on ***Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill*** [B 24—2006] (National Assembly—sec 75), dated 13 March 2007:

   The Portfolio Committee on Health, having considered the subject of the ***Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill*** [B 24—2006] (National Assembly—sec 75), referred to it, and classified by the Joint Tagging Mechanism as a section 75 Bill, reports the Bill with amendments [B 24A—2006].

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 14:03.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS—see col 1800

NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr S J F MARAIS: Deputy Speaker, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting day of the House, I shall move:

That the House debates Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment.

Mrs C DUDLEY: Deputy Speaker, on behalf of ACDP I give notice that I shall move on the next sitting day of the House:

That the House—

(1) expresses its sadness and anger at the murder of another two innocent children; 11-year-old Annastacia Wiese of Woodridge, Mitchells Plain, who was found in the ceiling of her home, and Naledi Ndabeli, whose body was discovered under the bush 800 m from where she went missing at a neighbour's house in Brandfort, Bloemfontein;

(2) we extend our heartfelt condolences to their parents, family members and friends, and pray that the Lord comfort and heal their broken hearts;

(3) commends the police and all who worked tirelessly to find Annastacia and Naledi;

(4) condemns these brutal, senseless killings; and

(5) calls on the relevant departments to ensure that the perpetrators are speedily brought to justice.

Thank you. [Applause.]

APPOINTMENT OF DR MIGIRO AS UN DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

(Draft Resolution)

The ACTING CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) notes that on Friday, 5 January 2007, the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, announced the appointment of Dr Asha-Rose Migiro as UN Deputy Secretary-General with effect from 1 February 2007;

(2) further notes that Dr Migiro became the first African woman, and the second woman ever, to hold this position since its inception in 1997;

(3) recognises that Dr Migiro has served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation from 2006 to 2007, and before that also as Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children for five years in the United Republic of Tanzania;

(4) further recognises that Dr Migiro was Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and also President of the United Nations Security Council during its open debate on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region;

(5) recalls that prior to government service Dr Migiro was a member of the Faculty of Law at the University of Dar es Salaam and a Senior Lecturer, and headed the Department of Constitutional and Administrative Law from 1992 to 1994 and the Department of Civil and Criminal Law from 1994 to 1997;

(6) believes that, through her distinguished service in diverse areas, Dr Migiro has displayed outstanding management ability to contribute to the progress of all humanity; and

(7) congratulates Dr Asha-Rose Migiro on her appointment as UN Deputy Secretary-General and wishes her success in her assignment.

Agreed to.

SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE

(Member's Statement)

Mr D J SITHOLE (ANC): Madam Deputy Speaker, the ANC notes with concern the current situation in Zimbabwe, including reports of the alleged assault of opposition leaders while in police custody. We urge all stakeholders in Zimbabwe to respect and uphold the constitution and the laws of the land to work to safeguard the rights of all citizens and to continue to seek a peaceful and inclusive solution.

The ANC trusts that a thorough investigation will be conducted into these allegations and that any necessary action will be taken in accordance with the law. The ANC supports the South African government's initiative to assist the people and leaders of Zimbabwe to address the challenges facing the country, in line with the spirit and position of the African Union and SADC. Thank you. [Applause.]

PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED IN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(Member's Statement)

Mrs S M CAMERER (DA): Madam Deputy Speaker, when the Department of Justice appeared before Scopa this year to explain certain problems identified by the Auditor-General with the department's financial statements, the hearing, scheduled for 31 January, had to be postponed because Mr Alan McKenzie, who, five years ago, was seconded to the Department of Justice as acting CFO to help sort out the department's finances by Business against Crime, was shot five times by intruders at his sister's home in Cape Town the night before.

Happily, Mr McKenzie has now fully recovered. That he did was a medical miracle attributed to the swift action of his sister, who is a retired hospital matron. It's now become fairly clear that the shooting of Mr McKenzie was probably a hit and the police are investigating it as such.

As Mr McKenzie relates the incident, two intruders stormed into the room where he and his family were sitting. The first gunman made straight for Mr McKenzie, a large man, who proceeded to try and wrestle the gun out of his assailant's hand. This proved to be impossible as it was strapped to the assailant's hand in typical assassin fashion.

He was shot in the leg, while the second gunman shot him four times in the back, stomach and chest. The bullets were the kind normally used for hits. The gunmen then fled. They ignored other members of the family and took nothing although the home was filled with valuable objects.

Now that he is back at work, Mr McKenzie is required to wear a bullet-proof vest when he goes out. One can only speculate as to the motive of the attempted hit. While South Africa is rapidly getting an international reputation as the Dodge City of the world, it is a sorry comment on the state of our society and our standards of governance that a top

justice official who is doing his job without fear or favour should be subject to criminal victimisation such as that suffered by Mr McKenzie.

The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development and her colleague, the Minister for Safety and Security, should pull out all the stops to ensure that these criminals are tracked down and brought to book. Thank you. [Applause.]

JOB CREATION AND PROMOTION OF SMMEs

(Member's Statement)

Prof E S CHANG (IFP): Deputy Speaker, job creation and the promotion of small, medium and micro enterprises, SMMEs, are urgent challenges that we are faced with in South Africa.

The government does have several institutions in place to assist SMMEs, including Khula Enterprise Finance Limited, which is mandated to facilitate loan and equity capital to SMMEs through intermediaries. Although Khula guarantees interest rates of 2% under prime to the intermediaries, these intermediaries charge SMMEs anything between 19% and 38% interest. This is stifling the development of SMMEs and is the main reason why we believe that Khula should do away with the "middlemen" and provide financing directly to SMMEs.

Another concern is the lack of risk shown by Khula in their lending practice. This is evidenced by the fact that they have only 4% bad debt at the moment, which is far too low. We believe that Khula should be more aggressive in their lending approach if they want to really promote the interest of small businesses.

The IFP, therefore, calls on Khula to cut out the agents and lend directly to SMMEs at low interest rates, and to do so aggressively, even if it means taking on more risk. SMMEs need all the help that they can get and immediate implementation of these steps will go a long way towards achieving this goal. I thank you.

OPENING THE DOORS OF LEARNING

(Member's Statement)

Mr S B NTULI (ANC): The Leeufontein Primary School is a primary school for farmworkers' children. It has no proper ablution facilities, no recreation facilities, is poorly constructed and has inadequate learning and teaching facilities. During bad weather teaching and learning at this school come to a standstill, whereas just a kilometre away there is the Kameelfontein Primary School, which has good teaching and learning facilities, sufficient ablution facilities, recreation and adequate teaching facilities. This is a school for farm owners' children and property owners' children in the area of Leeufontein and Kameelfontein in Roodeplaat.

Thus, as we are in March, human rights month, equality before the law should prevail. The doors of learning should further be opened for all, including children of Leeufontein Primary School, by integrating the learners to enjoy the existing Kameelfontein Primary School facilities. These disparities between the two schools are not compatible with the spirit of South Africa in its 13th year of democracy and freedom. These social ills must be eradicated.

Hence we, in the ANC, urge the governing body of Kameelfontein Primary School to open their school for admission of Leeufontein Primary School learners so that the children of the same community could attend the same school and share the available resources. I thank you. [Applause.]

LACK OF SABC COVERAGE OF UDM EVENT; GUNNING DOWN OF UDM COUNCILLOR

(Member's Statement)

Ms S N SIGCAU (UDM): The UDM President was at an event to welcome more than

200 new members into the UDM fold in Khayelitsha on 3 March 2007. Many more have since joined and many, many more are still joining.

We, in the UDM, were certainly disappointed by the noncoverage of the above occasion by the SABC, despite having been formally and timeously requested to do so. The UDM will not rest until it has received a satisfactory explanation in this regard.

In the same breath, the UDM has received with shock the news that Mr Ngombane, a former ANC and independent councillor, who had publicly joined the UDM Western Cape structures on 24 February, was gunned down on 7 March 2007.

It would be a sad event if his killing were politically motivated because the country, and certainly the UDM, does not want that. Thank you, Chairperson. [Applause.]

SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE

(Member's Statement)

Dr P W A MULDER (VF Plus): Agb Voorsitter, 'n belangrike deel van president Mbeki se bydrae tot op datum in Afrika was die inisiatiewe wat hy geneem het om die negatiewe en stereotiepe beeld van korrupte en swak demokrasie in Afrika in die oë van die wêreld af te breek. Hy het dit gedoen deur die stigting van die Afrika-unie, deur Nepad en met die instel van instrumente soos die Afrika-portuuroorsigmeganisme.

Al hierdie goeie werk word op die oomblik deur pres Mugabe tot niet gemaak. Pres Mugabe se uitlatings en wat tans in Zimbabwe gebeur, is 'n verleentheid vir Afrika en vir Suid-Afrika, en dit behoort ook 'n verleentheid te wees vir president Mbeki. Pres Mugabe se optredes asook die magsmisbruik van sy polisiemag teenoor die opposisie in Zimbabwe versterk en bevestig al die stereotipes wat oor Afrika en demokrasie in Afrika in die oë van die wêreld bestaan.

Waar die Oscar-bekroonde rolprent oor Idi Amin, *The Last King of Scotland*, nou weer die aandag op Afrika en demokrasie en diktatorskap vestig, kom mnr Mugabe en sy boelie-agtige polisie en bevestig dat niks in Afrika nog verander het nie.

Suid-Afrika kan nie bekostig dat president Mbeki in hierdie tye in die Midde-Ooste betrokke is by oplossings van die Israel-Palestynse krisis, maar nie 'n woord sê oor Zimbabwe en pres Mugabe se vergrype nie. Hierdie Zimbabwe-vergrype het niks met grond of met die koloniale tydperk te doen nie, maar gaan oor demokrasie en die regte van opposisiepartye om normale politiek in Afrika te kan bedryf. President Mbeki moet sy siening hieroor nou openbaar maak. Dankie. *(Translation of Afrikaans member's statement follows.)*

[Dr P W A MULDER (FF Plus): Hon Chairperson, to date an important part of President Mbeki's contribution in Africa has been the initiatives that he took to break down the negative and stereotypical image of corrupt and poor democracy in Africa in the eyes of the world. He did this by establishing the African Union, through Nepad, and by establishing instruments such as the African Peer Review Mechanism.

All this good work is being destroyed at the moment by President Mugabe. President Mugabe's utterances and what is currently happening in Zimbabwe is an embarrassment for Africa and for South Africa, and it should also be an embarrassment for President Mbeki. President Mugabe's actions, as well as the abuse of power by his police force against the opposition in Zimbabwe, reinforce and confirm all the stereotypes that exist about Africa and democracy in Africa in the eyes of the world.

Now that the Oscar-awarded film about Idi Amin, *The Last King of Scotland*, is once again focusing attention on Africa and democracy and dictatorship, Mr Mugabe and his bully-like police are now confirming that nothing has changed in Africa yet.

During times such as these, South Africa cannot afford to have President Mbeki involved with solutions to the Israel-Palestine crisis in the Middle East, while he does not utter a word about Zimbabwe and President Mugabe's transgressions. These transgressions in Zimbabwe have nothing to do with land or the colonial era, but deals with democracy and the rights of opposition parties to practice normal politics in Africa. President Mbeki must now publicly state his view on this. Thank you.]

TWO PRIVATE COMPANIES BUILD IMFEZI PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Member's Statement)

Mr M P SIBANDE (ANC): Chairperson, the democratic government has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that our human resources are developed to the full. Fundamental to the development of our human resources is the creation of the environment that is conducive to learning.

The success in the implementation and realisation of the above-stated goals lies in the partnership between government, the private sector and the general public.

The ANC applauds the initiative taken by two private companies that have decided on their own, seeing the needs of the children and community of Schagen in the Mpumalanga province, to build a school to serve the community.

I-ANC ihalalisela imizamo leyentiwe nguletinkampani letimbili, iBundu Inn inikele ngekwakha indzawo yekuphakelela, yaphindze yatinikela kutsi itawufaka tinsimbi letitawuvimbela kwebiwa kuso sonkhe lesikolwa. Inkampani, iGolden Merc, ifake sandla ngekwakha emagumbi ekufundzela, yafulela lihhovisi, yalungisa nesilingi. Ichubekile lenkampani yatinikela kutsi isetawufaka nemakhabethe kulesikolwa sasepulazini, lesibitwa ngekutsi yiMfezi Primary School.

Simema bonkhe bantfu kutsi balandzele lesibonelo lesihle. Ngiyabonga. [Tandla.]
(Translation of Siswati paragraphs follows.)

[The ANC applauds the efforts of the two companies, the Bundu Inn, who had committed itself to building a dining hall and erecting a security fence around the whole school to prevent the stealing of school property; and the Golden Merc, for lending a hand in building the classrooms, roofing the office and fixing the ceiling. This company has also committed itself to installing built-in cupboards in the whole farm school called the Mfezi Primary School.

We call on all people to emulate these good deeds. I thank you. [Applause.]]

KHUTSONG SITUATION

(Member's Statement)

Mr I S MFUNDISI (UCDP): Chairperson, in 16 days from today the boundaries of some provinces will have changed, some for the good of the residents, but others not, and all this is as a result of the disestablishment of cross-boundary municipalities, which were unnecessary in the first place.

Provincial authorities in Gauteng gleefully made countless visits to parts that will cease to be in the North West come 31 March 2007. Those in the North West visit Khutsong, their only new entrants, with great trepidation as they are not welcome.

The unfortunate situation playing itself out in Khutsong is the result of the proverbial cutting off one's nose to spite one's face. Some people within the ANC had made it their business to label any part in the North West as a place of poverty, backwardness and hardship. It is for that reason that to the people of Khutsong it has come to be known as the province of little hope.

This is the time for leadership to prevail and to rise to the occasion and be seen to be attempting to resolve the impasse. There may be substance in arguing that the problems in the neighbouring Zimbabwe should be left to those people to resolve, but it does

not go down well to read between the lines that the problems of Khutsong are left to the residents of Khutsong to resolve. The national government and the North West provincial government have to do all to quell the situation.

It is unfortunate to have the situation in Khutsong where councillors call themselves "leadership in exile", because they have sought refuge elsewhere and do not live in their homes, let alone their wards.

The people out there say that according to the ruling party they are in the North West, but according to the community they are still in Gauteng. That calls for all concerned to work together in the quest for a solution. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

(Member's Statement)

Mr S SIMMONS (UPSA): Chairperson, I have over the past year on numerous occasions attempted to bring to the government's attention that affirmative action is doing South Africa more harm than good. And I want to repeat it here again.

I have no problem with the replies from various Ministers of the executive who say affirmative action is a policy of the government and that it is here to stay until the imbalances of the past have been addressed. John Kane-Berman in his article in the *Business Day* of today says:

> Given the manner in which affirmative action is being applied, it is likely that imbalances will be with us indefinitely. This is because the objective of redressing them has been largely superseded by the ideology of racial representivity.

In practice, this means quotas and numerical targets.

Mr Kane-Berman points out that racial representivity and redressing of the imbalances of the past are not the same thing. He says that representivity and the elimination of the disadvantaged can come together only if it is assumed that once the former has been achieved, all imbalances will ipso facto have been eliminated and all previous disadvantages redressed. This is something that, he says, is false.

Mr Kane-Berman says that apartheid serves as a scapegoat and the continuing focus on race allows too many current ills to be traced to apartheid and previous disadvantage and that in the process the extent to which disadvantage arises from current policies is ignored. [Time expired.]

CRISIS INTERVENTION MANAGEMENT IN HOME AFFAIRS

(Member's Statement)

Mrs S V KALYAN (DA): Chairperson, the very fact that the Minister of Home Affairs had to call on the assistance of a task team to haul her department out of the mess it is in, is confirmation that the citizens of South Africa have lost confidence in the Department of Home Affairs.

The Auditor-General's report perhaps also served as the main catalyst to resort to crisis management intervention. It was interesting to hear that the Minister tried to absolve herself from her responsibilities, saying that she laid the blame for her dysfunctional department at the door of her senior management and that they had let her down.

The reality, Minister, is that you were a Deputy Minister for three years and have been a full Minister in your department since 2004. You must therefore accept the observation made in the report that "leadership was lacking" includes lack of leadership by the political head of the department—lack of leadership in this case is you.

The report found that the management of human resources was the weakest link. It is unconscionable that at least 11 persons were appointed to senior positions despite not meeting the advertised criteria and that financial control is virtually nil.

The DA welcomes the findings of the task team, however the soft stance of the "corrective measures approach" by the Minister is akin to band-aid therapy and we urge the Minister to take decisive action if she is serious about changing the image and service delivery of her department. [Applause.]

HOUSING IN SEA POINT

(Member's Statement)

Ms A VAN WYK (ANC): Chairperson, Sea Point in Cape Town reflects much of the inner city suburbs in many of South Africa's biggest cities. Many people work there on a daily basis, travel long distances in order to reach their workplaces simply because they cannot afford to buy or rent in the area. Some of them have done so for decades and others for generations.

Sea Point has one aspect that differentiates it from other suburbs in our biggest cities. A substantial number of properties in Sea Point are owned by people who use them as holiday accommodation, many of them foreign citizens. As a result thereof many properties are standing empty for extended periods during the year.

Sea Point is a prime example of an area that can benefit from the ANC's policy of integrated housing. There is a clear need and justification for affordable housing to many people who work in that area. The absence and vacancy of much of the accommodation for the greater part of the year result in Sea Point becoming a target for criminal activity. This is especially true on the Main Road, which also forms the major business district.

Developing integrated housing in a suburb such as Sea Point will ensure that people and families who actually live and work in that area can create a vibrant community that can care for that area. Provincially, locally, and even nationally owned land is available, and the ANC government is urged to look at this land and establish whether it is possible to develop it into affordable housing for those many Capetonians from all walks of life working in Sea Point and surrounding areas. [Applause.]

ZIMBABWE

(Member's Statement)

Mr M B SKOSANA (IFP): Chairperson, the IFP is deeply concerned that Zimbabwe is fast becoming a repressive state. The recent violence involving the Zimbabwean police and members of the MDC is indicative of an administration facing a serious breakdown of law and order compounded by massive economic deprivation, high unemployment and extreme poverty.

It is generally an unacceptable political rationale, led by South Africa and others, that the people of Zimbabwe must find a solution to their problems, but it should be borne in mind that no country or people, including South Africa, have ever delivered themselves from repression solely through their own efforts, without any form of external assistance. For this reason, the IFP believes that the defence of the fundamental rights of man must prevail over sovereignty and legal documents.

The IFP therefore appeals to President Thabo Mbeki to insist that Zimbabwe is immediately put permanently on the agenda of SADC, the AU, PAP, the EU and the United Nations. Thank you. [Applause.]

MURDERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

(Member's Statement)

Dr G W KOORNHOF (ANC): Chairperson, the recent spate of murders of young children, including Sheldean Humáń, Annastacia Wiese, Thato Radebe, Marissa Naidoo, Michaela Ganchi, Stephen Sibert, the grandchild of Judge Ngoepe, and many others have shocked our country and all its people.

In many instances these murders were committed by people known to these innocent children. We, as a society, need to question

what has happened to the morality and values of members in the communities who commit such atrocious crimes.

The solidarity of our communities is seen in the widespread demonstrations and outrage against this growing evil in our midst. The importance of family life and respect for all human life in our society are the corner-stones of our young democracy, and should be protected at all costs.

Now is the time to stand together as a nation and rid our society of such brutal and senseless killings of our children. We need to support our police service to successfully arrest the guilty persons and to allow our courts to punish those found guilty of such heinous crimes with the harsh sentences they deserve. I thank you.

VIOLENT CRIME

(Member's Statement)

Me A M DREYER (DA): Mnr die Voorsitter, binne 'n week het daar drie geweldsmisdade naby my gebeur. Op Sondag, 4 Maart, terwyl my 23-jarige seun Emile buite Stellenbosch fietsry, beroof twee welgeklede jong mans hom en steek hom met 'n mes. Op Donderdag, 8 Maart, slaan die tuinwerker van die 70-jarige mev Pop Marais van Krugersdorp in my kiesafdeling, Mogale City, haar met 'n byl oor die kop en laat haar vir dood agter. Op Vrydag, 9 Maart, oorval twee mans van 'n buurland die 53-jarige mev Cheryl Miekle van Lanseria, ook in my kiesafdeling, en skiet haar dood.

Die tragedie is dat duisende burgers daagliks sulke traumatiese ervarings beleef. Omdat mense besef hulle kan nie langer op die staat vir beskerming staatmaak nie, mobiliseer die burgerlike samelewing nou teen misdaad, maar as die regering nie sy kant ook bring nie, kan die land in anargie verval. [Applous.] *(Translation of Afrikaans member's statement follows.)*

[Ms A M DREYER (DA): Mr Chair, within a week three violent crimes took place close to me. On Sunday, 4 March, while my 23-year-old son Emile was cycling outside Stellenbosch, he was robbed and stabbed with a knife by two well-dressed young men. On Thursday, 8 March, the garden worker of the 70-year-old Mrs Pop Marais from Krugersdorp in my constituency, Mogale City, hit her over the head with an axe and left her for dead. On Friday, 9 March, two men from a neighbouring country attacked 53-year-old Mrs Cheryl Miekle of Lanseria, also in my constituency, and shot and killed her.

The tragedy is that thousands of citizens experience traumatic incidents such as these on a daily basis. Because people realise that they can no longer rely on the state for protection, civil society is now mobilising against crime, but if the government does not also do its part, the country could be reduced to anarchy. [Applause.]]

WATER SUPPLY IN UMZUMBE

(Member's Statement)

Mr M E MBILI (ANC): Chairperson, in keeping with the promise the government of the ANC made to our people in the statement of 8 January 2007, we promised that we would intensify the struggle against poverty.

I am delighted to report to this House that Umzumbe Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal has sourced the funding through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant to build a massive dam which will provide water to more than 20 000 households. The work has already begun, and I am told that by December, or Christmas 2007, people in the area will be drinking clean water.

We applaud this ANC-led municipality for understanding our call when we say: A better life for all. We also say that water is one of the most important commodities to address that call. We call upon all the beneficiaries of this project to look after this asset and make sure that it is not vandalised in order to maximise the benefits to this rural commu-

nity of Inyangweni and the surrounding areas. I thank you. [Applause.]

CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE; SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE; HOUSING IN SEA POINT

(Minister's Response)

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Ms S C van der Merwe): Chairperson, I would like to respond to four of the statements. With your permission Chair, three will be dealt with at once because they are on Zimbabwe. The other one I would like to respond to is about the Sea Point problem concerning affordable housing.

Firstly, I would like to say that the South African government cannot and does not condone the use of violence against its citizens or citizens from any other country. We have worked as government over the past 13 years with our neighbours on the continent to entrench democracy and respect for human rights, here at home as well as in Africa, and indeed the rest of the world.

We will continue to do so until we have achieved our objective of a peaceful, prosperous and democratic country and continent.

I would like to respond to the hon member who raised the question of affordable housing in suburbs such as Sea Point. I would like to say how much I appreciate the creative ways in which different communities approach the question of sustainable human development. I am personally involved in a project involving mainly domestic workers in the southern suburbs, where we are looking at a housing project to accommodate them close to their places of work.

I think the more communities embrace this new way of living, the sooner will we have integrated and happy South African communities who see themselves as South Africans before they see themselves as anything else. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION; VIOLENCE IN KHUTSONG; DISPARITIES IN OUR SCHOOLS; EDUCATION IS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY

(Minister's Response)

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Chairperson, I have four responses. Firstly, with regard to the issue of affirmative action, it is not correct selectively to utilise the Constitution. We reflect on its advanced nature, its sophistication and we take pride in the fact that we have a Constitution that we, as a country, could be proud of. Yet, we tend to ignore the imperatives within that Constitution.

Our Constitution is underpinned by the values of equality and human dignity. Section 9 of the Constitution clearly imposes a duty on the state to take legislative and other measures to correct the imbalances of the past, which means that affirmative action is entrenched and embedded in the Constitution.

What we seek to achieve in our Constitution is not only procedural equality but also substantive equality. Now, to suggest that affirmative action or corrective action is not necessarily against the ethos of our Constitution, certainly smacks of selective hypocrisy. [Interjections.] I can quite understand the murmurs and interjections from the other side because they represent a particular, narrow, parochial interest.

With regard to the issue of Khutsong, indeed I do agree that government has a particular responsibility—all spheres of government, national, provincial and local—to ensure that we accelerate service delivery in the area.

However, we should take into account that a lot of the violence and a lot of the instability that is being created in that particular area has been through *agent provocateurs*, who have a particular agenda. The agenda is that they have not been elected as public representatives in the municipality.

There are reports of people being forced out of busses—school children—and being compelled to join the marches. There are reports of people being assaulted and being coerced into taking part in what is termed a solidarity march against the local government.

We do not, however, abdicate our responsibility to ensure that there should be a focused attention in ensuring that Khutsong becomes a better place to live in.

With regard to the issue of Kameelfontein and Bloemfontein Primary, that in fact is a microcosm of the picture in our country. If we compare the huge disparities in our schools and we compare the former model C schools and township schools, you will see the huge differences in terms of infrastructure, laboratories, libraries, etc.

What government is doing is ensuring that through its affirmation programme called Quids Up, it has set aside R10,5 billion to ensure that those underresourced schools are better resourced.

However, in the context of this particular problem, I think a conversation has to take place, where schools that are half full or half empty should become more accommodating to those schools in neighbouring areas that are overfull, where, certainly, quality education cannot take place. This cannot take place arbitrarily, but it should be as a result of interaction between the governing bodies of the two schools to see how they can accommodate each other without compromising the ethos of the school. There are successful practices that have occurred in different areas where this kind of accommodation takes place without infringing on the language policy or the ethos of the school.

I think the approach should be practical, reasonable and rational. I do believe there is a will and good faith on the part of the broader community of all racial groups to ensure that we provide quality education to our people. I would then urge the governing body of that particular school in particular take into account the huge disparities of that underresourced school, the accommodation and the right of access to all learners to appropriate schooling.

With regard to the last aspect, which is in relation to the responsibility of education as being the responsibility, not only of the state, but of all citizens, certainly, education is a task for everybody. It is certainly the fundamental responsibility of government, but I think private citizens as well as private entities should play a role.

Last week I had the privilege of attending the opening of a huge, wonderfully designed, school in Kalkfontein, where there was partnership between the Department of Education in Gauteng as well as Oracle—an IT company—and other donors.

If you look at the way the school is resourced, its mission statement and ethos, one could say that it is a good example of close co-operation between the private sector and government in ensuring that we provide quality education through proper infrastructure and resources. Certainly, we will invite the private sector or citizens to contribute in a smaller or bigger way to ensure that we provide quality education to all our people. Thank you so much. [Applause.]

CRIMINAL VIOLENCE; PROBLEMS IN HOME AFFAIRS; AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

(Minister's Response)

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS: House Chairperson, I wish to respond to three matters. The first matter is about crime; the second one about the hon member who spoke about Home Affairs and the third one is about the issue of affirmative action.

The hon member from the DA did mention to the House that recently her son became a victim of crime and indeed was stabbed. I

would like to express the sympathy of the members of the executive and of the whole government to this member for this unfortunate incident. I don't think anyone of us in this House would not be traumatised by the fact that so many people in this country are indeed being traumatised by criminal violence. We empathise with them.

What is even more necessary is for us to be correctly focused on dealing with this problem of criminal violence in the country. I think that it is indeed correct to note here that a number of citizens in this country are mobilising to draw the attention of society to this problem of crime.

I would like to say, if one analyses the mobilisation that is going on right now, whilst the strategic intent of the mobilisation might be correct in that it wants to draw attention to the escalation of the problem in the country, that I don't think the focus is correct.

If we are serious about doing something about crime, it requires the conjoint efforts of every one of us to act in concert with each other and to give support to the forces in this country that are charged with the responsibility for dealing with crime, and that is the SA Police Service.

What we need is for citizens in this country to mobilise to give support to the SA Police Service in every way possible so that it could actually deal with the escalation of criminal violence in the country. Taking to the streets does not necessarily help to resolve addressing the problem of crime. It might draw attention to it. I think its action is not focused and what we really need to do is to get down to the ground in our communities, build the structures in those communities that work in support of the SA Police Service to deal with fighting off this escalation of violence in the country.

On the matter of the Department of Home Affairs, the hon member stated that the people in this country have lost confidence in the department. And she went on to say that leadership in the department is lacking, and she particularly criticised the Minister.

I think you need to think very carefully about that statement because you need to know that it was this very Minister who, herself, requested that this special investigation be put in place so that we could find the correct strategy to deal with the many problems that have been identified by this Minister and her department within Home Affairs.

If we think that the problems that are currently present in the Department of Home Affairs can be eradicated overnight, then we are seriously misinformed. What we are dealing with here are problems that have been accumulating in this department for well over 13 years. The Minister is accurately seized with the enormity of this responsibility; has demonstrated effective leadership by putting in motion this specific study team; and has completely committed herself to ensuring that she would execute the recommendations of this task team to deal with correcting the current difficulties within the Department of Home Affairs.

I think the statement that leadership is lacking is totally untrue and totally incorrect. [Interjections.]

Mrs S V KALYAN: On a point of order, Chairperson: I was quoting directly from the report. So, for the Minister to say that I was misleading this House is actually wrong. He should read the report, because those words are in the report! [Applause.] [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr K O Bapela): Order! Order! Order! Deputy Minister, order, please. We were trying to listen to a point of order and then there was already clapping and heckling.

Deputy Minister, with regard to the issue of the words used, I'm not sure, we'll just come back to it. Can you just conclude your remark and I will make a ruling.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNI-

CATIONS: I understand the hon member as having said that when she made the statement "leadership is lacking" . . . but she drew it from the report. Well, I thought that she was attacking the Minister for showing a lack of leadership. But now that you in fact accept that that is not what you were saying, then I must therefore say that your understanding of the report is incorrect because that statement in the report . . . [Laughter.] [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr K O Bapela): Order! Order, please!

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS: . . . that statement in the report refers to leadership at the level of officials within the department.

The hon member from the Opposition, in dealing with the affirmative action matter, made a statement which is absolutely, I think, deplorable. The member made a statement to say that the policy of affirmative action is utilising apartheid as a scapegoat. [Interjections.]

Mr J P I BLANCHÉ: On a point of order, Mr Chairman: I wonder if you could just give us a ruling. I understand that the previous speaker—the previous Deputy Minister—addressed this matter of affirmative action. We now have a second Deputy Minister to address that.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS: Hon Chairperson, I withdraw.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr K O Bapela): Order! On the issue that was raised earlier by Ms Kalyan around the issue of misleading, the member was not being unparliamentary because he did not say "deliberately misleading". He did not use that word. Therefore, in that context the Deputy Minister was not out of order. Thank you very much.

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS IN MOBILE EQUIPMENT BILL

(Second Reading debate)

Mr J P CRONIN: Thank you, Chairperson, the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment Bill was adopted—and it happened here in Cape Town—in 2001 and it was signed at the time by some 53 states including, obviously, South Africa. The Cape Town Convention, as it has now become known for short, seeks to provide much greater clarity around legal and ownership rights in regard to mobile equipment like aircraft engines, aircraft frames and helicopters. This is, needless to say, very expensive equipment and, by definition, it is easily moved around the world. Given the expense of the equipment, parties using it typically enter into arrangements with financial institutions for the purchase and or lease of this equipment.

Because of its mobility and because there is a vast range of different local national legislation, financial institutions have often been very reluctant to provide finance where they charge very significant premiums to cover their risks. And this applies particularly to developing countries, especially those in Africa.

The convention seeks to establish an international register of such equipment and uniform protocols for dealing with problems like a default on payment. This is applicable in all states that have signed, ratified and or acceded to the convention. We believe that the convention will greatly assist developing countries, in particular, more easily to access finance for the purchase and/or lease of this kind of aircraft mobile equipment.

The Bill that we have in front of us in the House today gives legal effect to the provisions of the convention and protocol here within South Africa; it determines which courts in South Africa will have the relevant jurisdiction, and the Bill designates the SA Civil Aviation Authority as the entry point through which information required for the registration of this equipment may be transmitted to the international register.

There are no financial implications for our

state as the convention and protocol are basically private law instruments.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr K O Bapela): Hon members, again the level of noise is going up. Continuously, presiding officers have to bring it to our attention that we should preserve the dignity and the decorum of the House so that we can hear people who are debating all the issues that they are raising. Thank you very much.

Mr J P CRONIN: Thank you, Chair. This is a very scintillating piece of legislation, so I'm surprised by the people, and I'm trying to Bolshevirise it, so, hush!

In the course of 2006, the Transport Portfolio Committee received a very full report on the convention and the present Bill was tabled before us, as a committee, in the course of this first parliamentary session of 2007. Having finalised our consideration and being unanimous as a committee on its desirability, the committee recommends to the House that we pass the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment Bill. Thank you. [Applause.]

There was no debate.

Bill read a second time.

FINANCE BILL

(First Reading debate)

Mr N M NENE: Ngiyabonga sihlalo. [Thank you, Chair.] This Finance Bill is meant to approve unauthorised expenditure as a direct charge against the National Revenue Fund. Most of the work on this Bill has already been done by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and the reports have come before this House and they were adopted.

Such unauthorised expenditure is approved subject to the following conditions. It is approved on condition that effective and appropriate disciplinary steps against officials who made or permitted unauthorised expenditure have been dealt with. It is also approved on condition that funds in excess of appropriation were spent in accordance with the programme and descriptions of the department on the essential services which could not be avoided and that implies that we did get value for money, but also that remedial steps have been taken by the accounting officer to prevent further occurrence of unauthorised expenditure, and that funds not spent in accordance with the purpose of the main division or a Vote are related to the objective of the departmental ones, and also, finally, that no fraudulent, corrupt activities were committed in permitting the expenditure.

This has since been dealt with by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and brought before this House and the committee has since also approved this Finance Bill and I therefore present this Finance Bill before this House for adoption. [Applause.]

There was no debate.

Bill read a first time.

FINANCE BILL

(Second Reading debate)

There was no debate.

Bill read a second time.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS—FILLING OF VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL OF ICASA

There was no debate.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr K O Bapela): Thank you, the question before the House is the approval of the recommendation for the appointment of Dr M Sócikwa as councillor to fill the vacancy on the council of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa. Are there any objections to the recommendations?

Mr C M LOWE: Yes, there is an objection from the DA, Mr Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr K O Bapela): Is it an objection?

Mr C M LOWE: It is an objection. I understand that we are going to make a declaration.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr K O Bapela): I will then follow the procedure here. I now put the question. Those in favour will say, "aye" and those against will say "no". I think the ayes have it.

Question put: That the appointment of Dr M Socikwa as councillor to fill a vacancy on the Council of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa be approved.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr K O Bapela): Order, hon members. We will resume. There has been a request for declarations before a division. Parties have agreed that there will be declarations first. I am going to be allowing those declarations. Those parties wishing to participate in the declarations will indicate that.

Declarations of vote:

Mr P S SWART: Thank you, Chairperson. The DA will not support the nomination of Dr Marcia Socikwa. She is a competent person, but there is a conflict of interest, when she is related by marriage and by blood to persons who respectively run and give legal advice on the telecommunications activities of Transtel.

Transnet has a 15% share in Newtel, and Newtel and Transnet are in discussions for Newtel to acquire Transtel.

Currently, Transtel also provides services to Newtel, and in addition, Transtel holds PTN, Private Telecommunications Network, and value-added network services by other network licences, and uses them to participate in the telecommunications sector.

Firstly, although Dr Socikwa is not directly disqualified by the letter of the Icasa Act, her relationship to Transtel is, in our view, too close for comfort. You can imagine a range of licensing amendments and other procedures where she should have to recuse herself just as Icasa embarks on the enormous task of implementing the Electronic Communications Act.

Secondly, it remains our view that the portfolio committee should have taken legal advice on whether it could start a new process to find an economist, and not on whether the filling of a vacancy left by the infrastructure economist Andrew Barendse could be performed from the list agreed upon at the last nomination process.

Ms S C VOS: Thank you, Chairperson. The IFP respects the principle of this matter, which has been raised by the DA. The IFP, however, supported Dr Socikwa being shortlisted, and we do not question her competence and the wide range of skills which she will bring to the Independent Communications Authority of SA in any way whatsoever.

We are in fact confident that she will be mindful of the perils and perceptions that her family connections hold for her and that she will act with the honesty and integrity which will be required from her at all times. Thank you.

Mr G G OLIPHANT: Thank you very much, Chairperson. The DA is full of surprises, but that is fine. The issue here is that there is no question about the credentials of Dr Marcia Socikwa to be a councillor in the Icasa. She has very impressive credentials; she has a PhD in telecommunications and regulatory matters. We could not find anything wrong with her during the interviews and even thereafter.

The DA did raise this matter they said was "too close for comfort" because her brother-in-law had an interest in the ICT sector, and that is the issue that they had with her appointment. We went to the law and checked the disqualification provisions of the Icasa Amendment Act. All of us agreed that the law does not disqualify Dr Marcia Socikwa.

We are not acting on the basis of comfort or anything. So, that was very clear. In this Parliament, we act on the basis of law. Why do we have these laws if we are not going to respect them?

Concerning the legal advice that Mr Swart says we did not sort out, we went to the parliamentary legal advisers to say, "We have a situation of having to fill the vacancy here. What do we do?" They advised us. In the committee we all agreed. In fact, the DA said that it was sound legal advice.

To come here and raise other things, I think, is not being very honest with this Parliament and the process. We urge Parliament to support the nomination of Dr Marcia Socikwa and we are going to request the DA to withdraw this need for a division. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr C M LOWE: Mr Chairperson, could I please address you on a point of order?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr K O Bapela): What is the point of order?

Mr C M LOWE: Mr Chairperson, I seek your guidance. We are seeking to understand, for the appointment to the Icasa board, does Parliament have to vote on that appointment or does it not have to vote?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr K O Bapela): There was a division called and, in terms of the Rules, we have to proceed with that division, unless the division is withdrawn.

But, for now, because there is no withdrawal of such a division, we will proceed. [Interjections.]

I am also informed that it does not require a special majority. A division has been called for, but if there is a withdrawal, we will look at that issue.

Division demanded.

The House divided.

AYES—165: Ainslie, A R; Arendse, J D; Asiya, S E; Benjamin, J; Beukman, F; Bhamjee, Y S; Bhengu, M J; Bici, J; Biyela, B P; Bonhomme, T J; Booi, M S; Burgess, C V; Cachalia, I M; Carrim, Y I; Cele, M A; Chalmers, J; Chang, E S; Chauke, H P; Chohan-Khota, F I; Combrinck, J J; Cronin, J P; Dambuza, B N; Diale, L N; Direko, I W; Dithebe, S L; Dlali, D M; Doidge, G Q M; Fihla, N B; Gabanakgosi, P S; Gaum, A H; Gcwabaza, N E; Gerber, P A; Godi, N T; Greyling, C H F; Gxowa, N B; Hogan, B A; Jeffery, J H; Johnson, C B; Kalako, M U; Kekana, C D; Khoarai, L P; Kholwane, S E; Khumalo, K K; Khumalo, K M; Khunou, N P; Kotwal, Z; Landers, L T; Lekgetho, G; Lekgoro, M M S; Likotsi, M T; Lishivha, T E; Louw, J T; Louw, S K; Ludwabe, C I; Mabe, L L; Mabena, D C; Madasa, Z L; Madella, A F; Madikiza, G T; Madumise, M M; Magau, K R; Mahlaba, T L; Mahlangu-Nkabinde, G L; Mahote, S; Makasi, X C; Maloney, L; Maloyi, P D N; Maluleka, H P; Maluleke, D K; Mars, I; Mashile, B L; Masutha, T M; Mathibela, N F; Matsemela, M L; Matsomela, M J J; Maunye, M M; Mayatula, S M; Mbili, M E; Mbombo, N D; Meruti, M V; Mgabadeli, H C; Mncwango, M A; Moatshe, M S; Mofokeng, T R; Mogase, I D; Mohlaloga, M R; Mokoena, A D; Moloto, K A; Montsitsi, S D; Moonsamy, K; Morobi, D M; Morutoa, M R; Moss, M I; Mpontshane, A M; Mshudulu, S A; Mthembu, B; Mthethwa, E N; Mtshali, E; Mzondeki, M J G; Nawa, Z N; Ndlovu, V B; Nel, A C; Nene, M J; Nene, N M; Ngaleka, E; Ngcobo, E N N; Ngcobo, N W; Ngele, N J; Ngwenya, M L; Nhlengethwa, D G; Njikelana, S J; Njobe, M A A; Nkuna, C; Nogumla, R Z; Ntuli, B M; Ntuli, R S; Ntuli, S B; Nxumalo, M D; Nyambi, A J; Oliphant, G G; Padayachie, R L; Phadagi, M G; Pieterse, R D; Rajbally, S; Ramgobin, M; Ramotsamai, C P M; Roopnarain, U; Schippers, J; Schneemann, G D; Schoeman, E A; Seadimo, M D; Seaton,

S A; Sibande, M P; Sibanyoni, J B; Siboza, S; Sibuyana, M W; Sigcau, S N; Sikakane, M R; Sithole, D J; Skhosana, W M; Skosana, M B; Smith, P F; Smith, V G; Sonto, M R; Sosibo, J E; Sotyu, M M; Surty, M E; Thomson, B; Tinto, B; Tlake, M F; Tolo, L J; Tshivhase, T J; Tshwete, P; Twala, N M; Vadi, I; Van der Merwe, J H; Van der Merwe, S C; Van Wyk, A; Vos, S C; Vundisa, S S; Wang, Y; Zikalala, C N Z; Zita, L; Zulu, B Z; Zulu, N E.

NOES—29: Blanché, J P I; Botha, A J; Botha, C-S; Camerer, S M; Cupido, H B; Doman, W P; Dreyer, A M; Gibson, D H M; Julies, I F; Kalyan, S V; King, R J; Kohler-Barnard, D; Lowe, C M; Marais, S J F; Minnie, K J; Nel, A H; Rabie, P J; Sayedali-Shah, M R; Selfe, J; Semple, J A; Stephens, J J M; Steyn, A C; Swart, P S; Swart, S N; Swathe, M M; Trent, E W; Van Dyk, S M; Waters, M; Weber, H.

ABSTAIN—1: Greyling, L W.

Question agreed to.

Appointment of Dr M Socikwa as councillor to fill a vacancy on the Council of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa accordingly approved.

DEBATE ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION IN THE WORLD WITH THE OVERALL THEME OF GLOBAL WARMING TEN YEARS AFTER KYOTO (IPU TOPIC)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chairperson, hon members, I would like, at the beginning of this important debate—which is a debate that is preparing us for participation in Indonesia on the Kyoto Protocol—to dedicate my speech to Dr Ian Player, one of the strongest environmentalists that we have in the country. He is an environmentalist of note in the world who turns 80 today: Happy birthday to Dr Ian Player. [Applause.]

I had invited him to be in the House when we debate the Kyoto Protocol, something that is very close to his heart, but unfortunately his international duties could not allow for that.

In recent months the climate has changed on the topic of climate change. The climate has changed on climate change. All those people who were in denial that there is climate change now understand that there is climate change. You don't have to be educated to understand that. You don't have to be sophisticated to understand that. When winter comes in summer and summer in autumn, it tells you that there is something wrong. But all this that I am saying is caused by man and can be reversed by man or by human beings, to be gender sensitive. [Interjections.] I didn't say by "a man", I said by "man", which is a human being.

How do we rectify that? Last week during the International Women's Day celebrations in Spain, the first speaker to address that international conference was an environmentalist from Africa, a woman, Wangari Mathai. She set the tone for that international conference, but unless and until we take the environment seriously, we have nobody to blame but ourselves. The worry is: What about the generations to come? We know that we are polluting today, but the consequences are going to be suffered years later by innocent people who are not the polluters today.

At this point, I just want to congratulate one member of this House who has a formula that comes from the experts, and who tells us how much you pollute the air every time you fly between Johannesburg and Cape Town. For you to offset that carbon you need to plant one tree. He has gone to look at the cost of the trees at Trees for Africa and every time he flies, he plants a tree. That member is the hon Lance Greyling. [Applause.]

We hon members who are forever flying, we are the culprits as well. I have been speaking to Trees for Africa to communicate with each one of you through your constituencies and assist you in planting trees. Because if we plant trees, half the problem of the world

shall have been attended to. We are all dedicating our efforts today to say that even if South Africa, in terms of the Kyoto Protocol, is not listed as a polluter compared to the big giants like the US, we still have to take care of the environment.

Indeed, the climate has changed on climate change, starting especially with the Stern report released late last year; the issue of climate change has suddenly appeared brightly on the political radar, perhaps for the first time because the impacts were starkly portrayed in economic terms by an economist Sir Nicholas Stern, being a former Chief Economist at the World Bank. This has nothing to do with the Network on the World Bank that is here today.

Following closely was the release of the Fourth Report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, which, in contrast to its predecessors' very conservative approach, has taken a bold stand on the urgency of the need rapidly to take action. Make no mistake, this eminent, scientific panel of the world's foremost climate scientists is not given to alarmism and does not make statements or take facts lightly. Their findings are based on the very best research results from the world's best climate scientists and institutions. But even they have now considered that all previous estimates of both the extent of global warming, as well as the rate at which it is happening and will happen, have been grossly underestimated and we are now entering the exponential part of the curve.

This is in fact a clarion call, a Mayday warning that we are no longer talking about global warming, but we are talking about global heating. And I don't think there is a member who will dispute that. We are no longer talking about global warming, but global heating.

To date politicians largely, heavily influenced by the pro-carbon lobby, have been content to look at the best-case scenarios and pay lip service to any remedial action. That includes us. Worst-case scenarios have been summarily dismissed as scaremongering by environmental groups. However, if we look back 17 years to 1990 when the need for a Kyoto-type initiative was first mooted, it is apparent that almost every box in the worst-case scenario has now been checked.

Whilst Kyoto was a great first step in the right direction in itself, it will achieve nothing unless it is used as a template for more serious agreements and a springboard to them. What does this mean for South Africa? We are in a classic catch-22 here. An ageing infrastructure which must contend with massive increasing demands to meet socioeconomic imperatives; an arguably the cheapest electricity in the world, but also some 87% of our power comes from coal-fired power stations and we are a per capita amongst the highest emitters of carbon dioxide and thus contributors to climate change in the world.

As a developing country, as I said earlier, South Africa is not yet subject to emission reduction targets, but in the post-Kyoto negotiations these are a certainty. Together with an emissions penalty of some sort, simply put, we will very soon see the real costs of our carbon-intensive power generating heating homes and it is going to become very uncomfortable. For some it is already uncomfortable, eating heavily into our economic growth projections, unless we take the opportunity to change.

As a country we have yet to seriously invest in new and renewable energy technologies and options and some effort has been noted in this direction. For example, with our climate solar energy in all forms is a clear frontrunner, in particular, for solar water heating, the biggest energy user in domestic households; this requires a courageous and aggressive approach to changing building practices.

If we do not take these opportunities now, which offer massive openings for international investment, new business, job creation

and reduction in energy costs in the long term, we will have them forced on us by the global communities. We do not want anything forced on us, because, as South Africa, much as we were a young democracy when Kyoto was introduced, we did what was expected of us as a nation and we ratified the Kyoto Protocol.

We tried by all means even to talk to the big giants in the world to ask them to come to the table. It has been difficult, but Kyoto is now in operation and it can only be us who assist. And why I am participating in this debate is because the environment is my love and my home. And I know very well that, as I urge hon members to join me, I did promise Wangari Mathai that, she must just watch this space, South Africans are going to plant more trees. I think that with the committed hon members of this House that I know, led by Ubaba Gatsha Buthelezi, we will plant trees.

I know very well that we will plant trees and we can be a proud, shining nation saying to everyone that we care about the environment, not because we care about ourselves, but we care about generations to come; those innocent children that will be coming into a messy world because of us. Let us clean up so that they can come and live in a clean environment. Thank you. [Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): Order! Are you rising on a point of order, hon member?

Mr A M MPONTSHANE: Yes, Madam Chairperson. The Deputy Speaker may not have meant anything bad, but I would earnestly request that she doesn't use the name she used to refer to the leader of the IFP. Owing to historical circumstances, I would request that she withdraws that name.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam Chairperson, I would withdraw that name, but the sentiment is something that will be carried because I know that he cares for the environment. I have had a discussion with him about three months ago in Mombasa on the same topic and that is why I accord him the respect that he deserves. But I take the point. [Applause.]

Mr G R MORGAN: Madam House Chair, hon members, climate change poses a large and unfamiliar challenge to the world. The UK chief scientific advisor, David King, has said that climate change is the most severe problem that we are facing today, more serious even than the threat of terrorism.

At their July 2005 meeting in Gleneagles, Scotland, G8 leaders issued a statement acknowledging that climate change is a serious and long-term challenge that has the potential to affect every part of the globe. And former US President Bill Clinton has warned that the climate change is the only problem that has the power to end the march of civilization as we know it.

Hon members, while we as legislators face many problems that require serious and urgent attention in South Africa, most notably poverty, HIV/Aids and crime, it is time that we wake up to our country's contribution to climate change and the likely effects that it will have on our country and our continent over the coming century.

The most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, published on 2 February 2007, concludes that it is now 90% certain that human activities in 1750 have warmed our planet. There are, however, still sceptics that doubt the science behind this report. There are critics that claim that climate change proponents are anti-growth. But opponents must now tell us, if it is not the reasons in the IPCC report that climate changes are human-induced what is causing it? As Senator Kerry told the meeting of legislators from the G8+5 in Washington last month:

> If we are wrong about climate change, what is the worst that can happen? We will have better technology, improved energy security, reduced certification of the

> oceans and cleaner air. What is the worse that can happen if the sceptics are wrong?

Hon members, the precautionary principle must prevail, or to use the creed of doctors, we should do no harm.

Concern is growing that our communities in ecosystems will have little time to adjust to the changing conditions. Economic losses due to extreme weather events are already being experienced and are likely to increase in the future. The World Health Organisation estimates that climate change is already responsible for 150 000 deaths annually. It is the developing world that is expected to endure the worst effects of climate change. Indeed, much of the work of this House in developing legislation that seeks to eradicate poverty is likely to be eroded by the effects of climate change if we do not act.

As legislators, none of us has the luxury of standing by. Indifference by this House will only accentuate the problem. There is a growing consensus among legislators around the world—the Deputy Speaker has alluded to this—particularly in the G8 countries. In our window of opportunity, which is a short one, we will need to act. If the likes of Senator Kerry and Senator Boxer, both Democrats, are to be believed then even the US legislators are moving, albeit slowly, to respond to climate change. We as South African legislators must not be caught unawares though. As the Kyoto Protocol approaches 2012, the year in which it will expire in its current form, countries like India, China, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa will be expected to sign up for commitments, whatever they may be.

Hon members, we will need to embrace this challenge. According to the Stern report of October 2006, the cost of inaction will be greater than the cost of action. However, both the developed and the developing world will need to come to the table under the right conditions. As the legislators at the G8+5 climate dialogue noted last month:

> . . . action on climate change needs to take into account the differing circumstances of the developed, developing and poor economies, recognising the need for economic growth and access to energy to alleviate poverty.

Action must be taken by countries in line with their capabilities and historic responsibilities.

It is now time to start plotting the way forward. The Kyoto Protocol leading up to 2012 will need to be renegotiated. The market approach must remain a key component although we must accept its limitations. This time around we cannot just rely on emissions trading. We will need to go further. Eileen Claussen of the Pew Centre on Global Climate Change recommends five principles on which a future climate framework must be negotiated. Firstly, it must be agreed that we need to find long-term ambitious goals. Secondly, developed countries must take the lead. Thirdly, there can be no solution, due to the global nature of the problem, without the participation of developing countries. Fourthly, incentives need to be established for the developing world, and lastly, and arguably most importantly, there needs to be a fully functioning carbon market that includes a price for carbon.

It is likely that the upcoming G8 presidency, under Chancellor Merkel, will attempt to seek a long-term goal to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. This goal will probably be somewhere between 450 and 550 parts per million of CO_2. Following that, the plan on how to reach this goal will need to be thrashed out.''

Hon members, there are a number of issues that we, in South Africa, will need to address urgently if we are to make our contribution to preventing a climate disaster. It will require new investments, both in the public and private sectors, and in some cases we as legislators will need to create the legislative framework and the incentives to act.

It is likely that coal will remain the dominant source of energy in South Africa for decades to come. But its contribution to electricity generation, currently around 90%, has to be reduced. It is an indictment on this country that renewable energy contributes a negligible proportion on our energy mix. Eskom has yet to move beyond a few renewable energy demonstration models. Poor energy planning over the past decade has meant that under an impending energy crunch in this country, Eskom has once again resorted to taking coal power stations out of mothballs and is likely to continue building new coal stations. In this state of affairs, renewable energy is constantly put on the back burner. This situation simply has to change.

If energy from coal is to remain on our agenda for the foreseeable future, then it would be necessary for us to induce producers into using best practice technology that will provide for cleaner coal. Carbon capture and storage need to be high on the agenda. The IPCC estimated that in 2005 carbon capture and storage can contribute between 15% and 55% of the cumulative mitigation effort worldwide until 2010.

A home-grown company, Anglo American plc, is in fact a world leader in this field. However, it is developing this technology in Australia and not in South Africa. Why? Because Australia has done more to produce a carbon capture and storage regulatory regime. Therefore, South Africa will need to move to provide the funding for a national storage map and will need to introduce the necessary legislation and incentives to attract the likes of Anglo American into the South African market.

Perhaps the area of intervention that South Africa can respond to most quickly is energy efficiency, the most cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The International Energy Agency estimates that worldwide energy efficiency improvements alone can reduce the world's energy demand in 2050 by an amount equivalent to almost half of today's energy consumption. We, as legislators, need to look at initiatives like strict standards for standby time for appliances and fuel efficiency in the transport sector in order to realise efficiency gains.

Mandatory energy efficiency labelling of all machines and appliances must be fast-tracked.

Lastly, with regarding to promoting energy efficiency as well as energy conservation, there is a need for a massive public education programme in this country. Households, individuals and businesses need to have an understanding of what their respective carbon footprints are in order to even begin the process of reducing these footprints.

There is much work ahead. With sensible legislation and regulations we can use the response to climate change to encourage new investments and to create new markets. But let us always be mindful of the narrow window of opportunity in which we need to act.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I certainly support the initiative of offsetting our emissions from flying and I will support you on that.

Climate change is not just an environmental issue; it is an international security issue, a jobs issue and an issue important to our children and grandchildren. It's time to take it seriously. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): Hon member, I will convey your sentiments to the Deputy Speaker.

Mr M J BHENGU: Madam Chair, colleagues, the world, including the economic, political and social situation, is constantly changing and will continue to change at an even faster pace in years to come. It is our ability to adapt to these changing circumstances that will determine how successful we are.

In the ten years since the signing of the Kyoto Protocol, much has changed with regard to these situations around the world.

Globalisation seems to have made the world a much smaller place; competition for resources and customers has intensified and is no longer confined to the boundaries of a particular country.

Climate change and global warming are realities that affect us directly and we are starting to experience their effects at first hand. Unusual or erratic weather conditions, flooding and extreme heat are just some of the warning signs that we must heed. If we continue our current development trends with little or no consideration for the environment and without a significant reduction in greenhouse emissions, then we will eventually suffer the consequences.

The Kyoto Protocol, which aims at curbing the air pollution that is blamed for global warming, came into effect seven years after it was agreed. It required countries to cut emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Although some industrial countries are making progress in decreasing the emissions of their greenhouse gases, many are not, and the progress that has been made has been slow. Some countries fear that by implementing strict targets for pollution and gas emissions they will be sacrificing profits and slowing down economic development. It is also very unfortunate that some industrialized nations, particularly the USA, are not committed to the Kyoto Protocol.

Although the industrialised nations are primarily responsible for the carbon dioxide build-up in the atmosphere, developing countries also have a role to play in managing the situation. By actively trying to curb our greenhouse gas emissions as well as educating and informing the public about climate change and global warming, we can make a difference.

Madam Chair, although we can be proud of the progress and the many economic, political and social developments that have been made globally over the past ten years, it is unfortunate that we have not achieved a similar rate of progress with regard to finding lasting and globally accepted plans and solutions to fight global warming and climate change.

Economic and political developments are very important, but they should not be achieved in isolation with little or no regard for the environment. We are running out of time in our quest to address our environmental problems. We need to start taking these problems more seriously and paying more attention to them if we want to make a meaningful difference. Our efforts in addressing environmental issues have been slow since the Kyoto Protocol was signed ten years ago. We need to speed up this progress.

Mr G T MADIKIZA: Madam Chair and hon members, the scientific evidence for global warming and its effects continue to mount. It is an unfortunate fact that outside of the scientific community, in the mainstream media and in politics especially, there are still those who want to present global warming as just one theory, or even completely dismissing it. This sort of thinking is driven by the short-term and narrow-minded obsession with the pursuit of consumption of resources and energy.

What the world attempted at Kyoto is to acknowledge the long-term consequences of emissions and thus pursue a path of sustainable development. Unfortunately, from the outset, Kyoto was dogged by the disappointment that the biggest polluter, the United States, would not submit to the global long-term view, and chose instead its narrow self-interest.

The emissions debate has further been set back by the preposterousness of trading emissions. On paper, the idea seemed good, but in practice it does not discourage emissions pollution, and only ensures that the pollution ghettos will eventually develop as the rich and developed "export" their pollution. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr L ZITA: Chairperson, comrades and colleagues, two hundred years since the advent of the Industrial Revolution, the biosphere and the human civilisation that has evolved from it is at an abyss. Whilst industrial civilisation has brought about unimaginable human advances and comforts, it is clear that these have been begotten at a price that threatens the very existence of life on our planet.

It is instructive, if not ironic, that on the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Kyoto Protocol, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change the authoritative world scientific body on the study of climate change drew two fundamental conclusions in its February report this year. It said that:

> Warming of the climate system is unequivocal as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air . . .

Furthermore, the report goes on to say:

> Eleven of the last twelve years—1995 to 2006—rank among the 12 warmest years in the instrumental record of global surface temperature.

In a section subtitled "Understanding and attributing climate change", the report notes that:

> Most of the observed increases in global average temperatures since the mid-twentieth century are very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations.

In other words, it is human-made.

The Stern Review of the esteemed economist Sir Nicholas Stern, released in October last year, counsels that doing nothing about climate change could cost us about 5% to 20% of global gross domestic product. Already the heat wave in 2003 in Europe, which killed 35 000 people, resulted in US$15 billion losses in European agriculture.

Climate change is a term that is used to describe the warming and cooling of the climate. It is a process that can take place naturally, like the cooling that took place in the Ice Age. Global warming is a particular variant of climate change, which refers to the increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans, which have been noticed in past decades.

As a result of global warming, there are distinguishable environmental consequences. These include the melting of glaciers, the increasing frequency of floods, a rise in sea levels, increasing occurrence of droughts, scarcity of water, the loss of biodiversity, which takes the form of forest diebacks, and the extinction of some plant and animal species as well as the regularity and severity of weather events such as heat waves and hurricanes.

In an absorbing presentation on the economics of climate change, Sir Nicholas Stern, two days ago here in Cape Town, made the point that as early as 200 years ago, the French mathematician, Fourier, noticed that human activities were having an impact on the environment, which impact was the overall increase of the temperature levels.

Despite these early observations, there have been a number of dismissals of the scientific nature of the claim that there is global warming. The impact of this denial has been to undermine appropriate responses to this challenge.

Since 1987, in Montreal, there have been a number of international agreements and mechanisms which the global community has entered into as part of its response to the challenge of climate change. The Montreal Protocol focused on the detection and management of ozone-depleting substances. In 1989, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was established, whose brief is the scientific assessment of climate change, as well as elaborating the best responses to the problem.

In 1992, the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change was established as the international framework to agree on strategies to stabilise the emission of greenhouse gases.

The Kyoto Protocol was signed in 1997 and came into effect on 16 February 2005. Its import is in the fact that it is a legally binding international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. The second fundamental dimension of the Kyoto Protocol is the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. At the heart of this principle is an attempt to address the fact that not only are the developed countries the most polluting countries, but they are also the ones that have mainly been responsible for global warming. It is therefore these countries that must mostly reduce their gas emissions.

Secondly, the principle seeks to address the fact that developing countries will have to emit greenhouse gases as part of their developing challenge, and therefore, the reduction that the developed countries make should be of such a nature as to give space for the developing countries to develop, within a broad framework of overall reduction of global warming.

Central to the management of global warming has been a global effort to find solutions to the rise in temperatures. We have the strategies that seek to address the fact that this phenomenon is already with us, and is already threatening life systems and livelihoods. How then should the nations of the world adapt to it? How do you address the fact that, as a result of global warming, fish stocks are leaving Saldanha and going to Chile; that hurricanes are destroying cities, and floods are impoverishing Third World villagers who are least able to defend and protect themselves.

The difficult problem of adaptation is that it is essentially a Third World issue and therefore does not have the same profile as the mitigation issues.

Despite this, we welcome and support the establishment of the Least Developed Countries Fund as well as the Special Climate Change Fund, both of which are under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change.

Another initiative worthy of support is one that is based on taxing the volumes of transactions derived from the clean development mechanism, which presages the evolution of a global tax, and dovetails well with the call for a 2% adaptation levy on all flexible mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol.

Adaptation is the prevention and reduction of activities that induce climate change, referred to as the mitigation interventions, and is about the use of clean technologies. The first point to be made in this regard is that some of these technologies already exist, and the challenge is their access and diffusion to the world at large.

The Global Legislatures for a Balanced Environment, Globe, technology working group, whose thesis we discussed in Washington last month, identified the challenge of mitigation in the following ways:

> We propose to focus on five main areas:
>
> First, what scope already exists for deploying available clean technologies globally?
>
> Second, barriers to investing in low carbon and carbon-free technologies in developed and developing countries with examples on how these might be overcome.
>
> Third, policies, emission trends and technology needs of developing economies and economies in transition, and how these relate to decision-making processes in the economic models, including synergies and trade-offs between climate change and other priorities such as job creation and industrial development.

Fourth, how to combine regulatory approaches that can push and market approaches that can 'pull' technology solutions in the most effective ways, able to bring about the range and extent of change needed to develop and deploy clean and more efficient technologies.

Fifth, how the transfer of efficient low-carbon technologies can be promoted, and what roles international institutions should play in this process, with a special focus on how private-public partnerships might act as catalysts in demonstrating scope here.

In essence, the challenge is to ensure access to and comprehensive dissemination of clean technologies across the world, and to ensure that these technologies can talk to both the challenge of industrial development without the risk of maximising global warming.

The challenge of managing climate change is not just a technological and economic one; it is also political. Whilst many of the world's leading economies are signatories to the UNFCC, important players such as the United States of America and Australia are not significant to the Kyoto Protocol. Therefore, they have recused themselves from the legally binding commitments of addressing this challenge.

The US is the leading polluter of the world. There can be no solution to this problem without her playing a central role. It is in this regard that recent acknowledgement of the challenge of global warming in the state of the union address by President Bush is to be welcomed.

The Kyoto Protocol comes to an end in 2012. At this stage, there has not been an appropriate forum and the goodwill to launch negotiations on a post-Kyoto agreement. One of the knots to be undone is the fact that some of the developing countries are increasingly emitting higher levels of greenhouse gases, and are now being pressurised to reduce their emissions. This is the case with China, India and ourselves. This goes against the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

The second challenge would be to bring the US into the post-Kyoto framework. Thirdly, the global community will have to address the competing claims by polluting developed countries, which refuse to commit themselves to clean development as long as developing countries are still emitting. Together, we will have to find a solution to these challenges.

In the light of these challenges, it is difficult to find fault with the stance of our government. As this Parliament, we need to be united in supporting the government in its endeavour to take action on adaptation, in its promotion of clean development mechanisms in Africa and its fight for new thinking on technological transfer as well as the pursuit of a more effective global regime after 2012.

I think I should take this opportunity to inform the House that the environment and tourism committee is planning this year to take a trip to Australia to look at the carbon capture and storage facilities of Anglo-American, which is the leading company that is looking at clean development, and moving to "a cleaner image".

As the ANC, we would like to express our appreciation to the Interparliamentary Union for drawing our attention to this issue, so that we, as the nation in assembly, can profile what is one of the urgent challenges that we face—the sustainable reproduction of life on our planet. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr L W GREYLING: Chairperson, I would like to dedicate this speech today to my six-year-old nephew, Matteo Greyling, and everyone of his generation who will have to deal with the effects of our decisions and actions on this important issue.

Climate change is one of the greatest symbols of inequality in the world, because it is the actions, both past and present, of affluent countries and people that are having a catastrophic impact on the lives of the poor and future generations. We have to secure a post-Kyoto international agreement that would include the mission targets for the world's worst polluters. We only have a few years to breach the current international divide on this issue, if we are to prevent destabilising climate change.

The ID supports some of the progressive work that South Africa has done on the international level to achieve this objective. Back home, however, we can and must do far more to live up to our own responsibility as the 14th biggest emitter of greenhouse gases. Let's stop the rhetoric and talk about real action.

Yesterday the minerals and energy committee, across parties, expressed its collective dismay that the renewable energy sector receives a paltry sum of money, and that we do not have a bold vision for this growing global market. We can lead the world in renewable energy, particularly solar, but it requires government to truly put its money where its mouth is.

Why is Germany building a factory to produce our cutting edge solar panel technology? Why are we not giving substantial tax breaks and subsidies for renewable technology? And why, as Minister Erwin stated yesterday, are we continuing to subsidise the energy costs of hugely energy-intensive companies in South Africa? Why have we stalled the integrated energy planning process and allowed Eskom to simply build five new coal-fired power stations without any thought about how that will push up our emissions? This is old "business as usual" thinking, and what we need is innovative solutions and the belief that we can lead the world in a more sustainable future.

Finally, I believe that we, as MPs, must take personal action, and I congratulate the Deputy Speaker for taking up my plea to make Parliament carbon-neutral by planting trees. As MPs we should also buy trees and do energy audits on our houses to see how we can reduce our own carbon emissions. I have done that and am starting to implement some of those recommendations. I thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr S N SWART: Chairperson, in a recent article Forian Dlamini stated that climate change holds a more serious threat to peace and stability in Africa than political conflicts since the advent of independence. The ACDP agrees that recurring floods in Mozambique and drought in most Southern African states are visible signs of climate change and undoubtedly present a serious threat to peace and stability.

South Africa is very vulnerable to global warming and its consequences, such as rising sea levels, droughts, loss of biodiversity, high incidence of malaria and other tropical diseases, and increased water scarcity.

Regrettably, we are also one of the world's most energy-intensive economies, with very high greenhouse gas emissions. We must be good stewards of our environment, for the sake of our future generations. What we need is tangible commitment to action now, not later. As citizens we need to choose products and services that are energy-efficient and encourage business and government to do the same.

Whilst I haven't planted trees as yet, I trust that Madam Deputy Speaker appreciates the colour of my tie as a sign of support for her concern and for hon Greyling's initiative. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): Thank you, hon Swart. Let me see your tie. [Laughter.]

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Mrs J CHALMERS: Madam Chair, Comrades and colleagues, an amazing film entitled *An Inconvenient Truth* has been

circling the globe. Narrated by Al Gore, it sets out in vivid terms the crisis our planet is facing as global warming escalates on an unprecedented scale. I wish, Madam Chair, that we could show the film here in Parliament for all our members to become better informed on this critical situation.

The most inconvenient truth about global warming is that we cannot stop it. Mitigate it, yes; adapt to its consequences, yes, but clearly global warming is already baked into the earth's future.

It has, in fact, been around a long time, and environmentalists and lawmakers have spent years shouting at one another about whether the grim forecasts are true. But in the past five years or so the debate has quietly ended. Global warming, even the sceptics now agree, is the real deal, and human activity has been courting it.

We thought, however, that time was on our side and that we would have at least decades to sort it out. Clearly, this is no longer the case. Once things start to go wrong, change can happen surprisingly quickly. What few people reckoned on was that global climate systems are booby-trapped, with tipping points and feedback loops.

The slow creep of environmental decay can suddenly give way to self-perpetuating collapse. If you pump enough carbon dioxide into the sky, that last part per million of greenhouse gas behaves like the 100°C that turns a pot of hot water into boiling water and steam. Carbon dioxide is a tiny, but very important, component of our earth's atmosphere. It helps warm the earth to the levels we are used to, but too much of it—and maybe the result of our use of fossil fuels and other CO_2 emissions—does a huge damage as it prevents sunlight from escaping form our atmosphere.

And what happens then? Put bluntly, the temperature of the earth rises. The intergovernmental panel on climate change predicts that by 2100 temperatures will have risen by between 1,1° and 6,4°, and as a result sea levels will rise by 18cm to 59cm. And now, in 2007, this is well on the way to happening.

In particular, damage is being caused to our polar caps, the reason being that the white surface of the polar ice is so bright that it reflects back 90% of sunlight into space. But, as the ice melts and shrinks and water takes its place, it absorbs the sunlight and becomes warmer, melting more and more of the coastal polar ice.

In Greenland the rate at which ice has been steadily melting and dripping into the sea has changed, and now whole glaciers are being dumped into the ocean. By some estimates the entire Greenland ice sheet, if melted, would be enough to raise global sea levels by seven metres, swallowing up large parts of coastal Florida and most of Bangladesh.

The Antarctic holds enough ice to raise sea levels more than 65 metres. Well, I don't need to expand on what that would do to our South African coastline.

So, Madam Chair, how is the heating up of our planet affecting, disrupting and destroying the biological world we inhabit, and the creatures we depend on for survival?

The naturalist and explorer John Muir once said that when one tugs at a single thing in nature, one finds that it is attached to the rest of the world. Never a truer word was spoken.

In South Africa we are extremely fortunate because the huge challenge of escalating global warming has resulted in an even greater concentration of scientific work. An intellectual focus is being dedicated to studying what is happening.

I am indebted to Leonie Joubert for her extremely informative books scoured for some of the facts in my speech. All over the world biodiversity is being affected on a daily basis by changes in our climate. In South Africa, as conditions warm up, species are expected to move higher or eastward.

Our warming and drying is expected to sweep in from the north-west. Those of you in the Northern Cape and the Western Cape have reason to be especially worried.

The largest slice of bio or plant species will occur in the western, central and northern parts of the country. Concern is already being voiced about the survival of some of our fynbos species in the Western Cape.

Most of today's plants and animals have evolved under global temperatures of about 3°C to 5°C cooler than the period in which we currently live. And now conditions are changing faster than most species will be able to adapt.

Changes are happening all around us all the time. As humans, we don't see slow change, so we come to think of the present as normal. But a comparison with the distant past, 20 years or more, will show just how much places have changed. And many of these species shifts have been documented internationally. In the UK 51 species of butterfly have moved to higher altitudes or northwards.

Fishermen in the UK are encountering strange fish in their nets as the sea currents shift and warm up. The Worldwide Fund for Nature reports that a 1°C rise in temperature has pushed certain fish species, such as haddock and cod, 200 miles to 400 miles north.

In Antarctica penguin species are declining in the North, yet thriving in the South. And in the Arctic the sea ice is melting, depriving polar bears of their hunting ground, and without it they starve or drown.

Plants are moving, and this is amazing. Our pine plants are urging uphill, crowding out rare species near mountain suburbs. And our Southern African quiver trees are dying in the North and thriving in the South.

Way down in the southern oceans we possess two small volcanic islands. The larger, Marion Island, has always been a weather sentinel for this country. The other messages of global warming are coming through loud and clear. Scientist Dr Steven Chung first visited Marion Island in 1983, and I quote: "When I first went there it had a glacier, South Africa's only glacier. Now we no longer have a glacier."

Africa's most famous snow-capped peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, will soon have no more ice, no more snow. This icon, bold as the continent on which it rests, will have disappeared. All over the world ice caps and glaciers are melting and disappearing. The annual sorely needed run-off of water from these formerly huge reserves of life-giving water is diminishing, and the knock-on effects of this are being recorded and noted with great anxiety. Here in South Africa the predicted warming and drying will cause the desert to move South. We, human beings, are part of the greatest system of biodiversity. And how will this affect us?

Changes will occur in land cover, and our biodiversity will come under increased pressure. Inevitably, this will have a knock-on effect on our food security.

And here I would really like to make a plea to our Department of Agriculture to consider very seriously before switching large tracts of food-producing land over to the production of biofuels. I think particularly here of the use of maize.

We can ill afford to shrink our production of one of the most basic food items that is heavily relied on by so many, particularly in our rural communities. In addition, it should be remembered that a large amount of energy is required to produce biofuels, and they are certainly not carbon-neutral..

I would hope that more research could go into the production of biogas, which I understand is a far more environmentally friendly process. Global warming is starting to take its toll on human health. So many studies have now linked higher ozone levels to the death rate from heart and lung

ailments that cities are now issuing smog alerts to warn those at risk to stay indoors.

Droughts will occur, but also, as unstable weather patterns increase, there will be an increase in flooding, bringing with it more waterborne diseases as well as the spread of insects that thrive in waterlogged lands, such as mosquitoes.

South Africa's tourism industry contributes as much as 10% to our GDP, a figure that is increasing all the time. Many foreign tourists visit our country to view and marvel at our extraordinary range of wildlife, so well managed by our national parks and on private game farms. We rely heavily on our unique natural resource base to attract tourism.

The likely scenario of a climbing temperature will be increasing drought, drier soils, more fires and, inevitably, a loss of habitat and biodiversity. As our Bushveld slowly but surely turns into arid grasslands, one wonders what this would mean for our Big Five as their habitat changes. So, what now?

The world is starting to wake up to the fact that environmental collapse is happening in so many places at once. A total of 141 nations have now ratified the Kyoto Protocol, but it is extraordinary that the United States, which is home to less than 5% of the world's population, produces 25% of CO_2 emissions, remains intransigent, with Australia refusing to sign.

Finally, Madam Chair, South Africa has, of course, come on board and is a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol. And whilst the picture I have painted in my speech sets out how serious our situation is, the critical challenge now is how we deal with it proactively. Questions need to be asked.

Is our energy strategy the correct one? Are we doing enough in the field of renewable energy? Surely every new house should have solar water heaters and a water tank. Are biofuels the way to go? And how can we begin to contain the large numbers of vehicles on our roads? How can we improve our public transport system and by so doing reduce those numbers?

So many questions are being asked, and it is going to take an extraordinary amount of research, commitment and energy from each and every one of us to come up with answers that can slow down this fearful crisis facing our planet.

We should bear in mind what one journalist said. If life in its current form were to die out, this planet would recover, but we would probably have written ourselves out of the script. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr N T GODI: Chairperson, comrades and hon members, by drafting the Kyoto Protocol the international community was expressing near universal unanimity about the self-evident threat of global warming to humanity. Kyoto was a call for action by all concerned to avert the negative and near catastrophic consequences of global warming.

Whilst global warming will affect all humanity adversely, it is the poor and exploited countries of the south that will suffer the most. Whilst international awareness has been raised about it, concerted action by the biggest polluters has been absent or very slow in coming. This is because measures to combat this threat do not make immediate profit sense to big business and their governments. Ten years after Kyoto there is still much that needs to be done.

We need to reaffirm our commitment to the protocol. Popular education and mobilisation should be the fulcrum of our strategic and tactical line. Whilst acknowledging and encouraging measures adopted by the European Union and Britain recently, we nonetheless still need to insist that more can be done and be done faster and sooner. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms S RAJBALLY: Chairperson, global warming and the changes to weather pat-

terns have raised concerns globally, but not enough awareness has been motivated over the harsh reality, the consequences and preventive measures that can be endorsed to slow down global warming and preserve our planet. The next President to President Bush of the USA, Al Gore, has initiated an effective programme to endorse government into the reality of global warming.

A documentary by Al Gore called *An Inconvenient Truth*, has been playing at the Cinema Nouveau, and to those who have watched this documentary, it is a serious eye-opener and a very scary reality where all our nations are headed if global warming is not slowed down. It would be to no avail if we are striving for liberation, democracy, equality, growth and social development or any other priority on our agenda if in reality we are not driving our planet to avert disaster.

The limitations placed on nations on the emissions by greenhouse gas by Kyoto Protocol are not enough to address the situation. Pollutants and fast developing industries' gas dominates our atmosphere. We need to agenda our reality as a nation with regards to global warming and endorse protocol that needs to be adjudicated in every sector of governance and daily lives.

We need to enforce strong legislation that shall govern the emission of poisonous and harmful gases into our atmosphere. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr I M CACHALIA: Chairperson and hon members of the National Assembly, global climate change, often referred to as global warming, possibly poses a greatest challenge facing mankind this century. It emanates from the build-up of human emissions of heat-trapping gases in the earth's atmosphere, intensifying the greenhouse effect, thus engendering changes in our climate.

This increase in volume of CO_2, methane and other greenhouse gases released by burning fossil fuels, land clearing for agriculture, logging and other human activities are the primary sources of the human-induced component of global warming.

The climate change issue has been growing in seriousness since the middle of the twentieth century and consequently became the focus of international strategies to minimise greenhouse gas emissions in order to prevent warming of the earth's surface.

The Kyoto Protocol, which is the instrument of the United Nations framework on climate change, becomes operational for the first commitment period 2008-2012.

Global warming poses a serious threat to sustainable development in developing countries and could well undermine global poverty alleviation efforts and have serious implications for food security, clean water, energy supply, environmental health and human settlements.

Global warming does not occur by default. Human activity creates the problem and every bit of coal, oil and gas that we burn adds to the load of gases in the atmosphere trapping heat and smothering people and the natural world alike. I raised the issue of climate change in this department's Budget Vote in 2006 and therefore am greatly encouraged that the programming committee has slotted in this debate during this session of Parliament.

International best practice strategies aimed at preventing or the abatement of climate change incorporate action on both mitigation and adaptation strategies. Mitigation refers to reducing greenhouse gas emissions or removing them from the atmosphere and embracing energy efficiency, so that less fuel is used. It embraces sources of energy that emit no greenhouse gases such as renewable energy.

Mitigation initiatives globally would incorporate the following practices: Implementing sustainable development; adopting cleaner energy technologies; promoting and implementing renewable energy technolo-

gies; and promoting and implementing energy-efficient practices. The concrete examples of mitigation initiatives include CDM or the Clean Development Mechanism and carbon emission trading.

The National Climate Change Response Strategy developed by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism puts forward a number of mitigation strategies for South Africa. These initiatives form an integral part of sustainable development and cleaner technology usage such as the Vehicle Emissions Strategy, aimed at reducing emissions from motor vehicles.

The mitigation option project is investigating possible mitigation options that could be implemented, viz, renewable energy sources and energy sources such as nuclear energy.

Successful climate change abatement strategies would use a mix of mitigation and adaptation, as adaptation will become increasingly more difficult and costly, the less mitigation appears on the radar screen. Mitigation measures should remain in focus, receive priority as source-diverse impacts such as loss of rare species and melting of glaciers cannot be reversed. Moreover, mitigation goes to the root of the problem of climate change, viz, emissions from human activities precipitating changes in our climate.

Even if all the greenhouse gas emissions were stopped today, the greenhouse gases that are already in the atmosphere would be enough to cause climate change. Further, CO_2 emissions are likely to rise in the coming decades. The changes in the climate are already happening. The world must therefore be prepared to adapt to the effects of global warming.

Some adaptation strategies would include better flood defences or relocation mechanisms that can be used to deal with rising sea levels; avoiding more vulnerable areas for building houses; agricultural production can adapt to the decreasing availability of water through better water management; urban areas could adapt increasingly to severe storms by increasing rainwater storage through the use of domestic water butts, paved gardens, etc, and increasing capacity of storm water systems so that overflows do not contaminate rivers.

Measures should be enforced to ensure food security in the face of less reliable agricultural yields, particularly in areas where drought take centre stage.

Our Minister, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, stated in 2005:

> If South Africa did not immediately adapt to the effects of climate change, it would cost the country 1,5% of the GDP by 2050, roughly equivalent to the total foreign investment in South Africa at present.

I dare say that there are much more serious consequences for South Africa and the African continent than the rest of the world. Whilst adaptation would appear to be the most useful and least economically disruptive response to climate change variability, this would probably be a very short-sighted approach.

Focusing on adaptation to local impacts of change is not a responsible position for any country to adopt. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that mitigation strategies have additional, extremely valuable, benefits that are often overlooked. These include improvements in local environmental quality, public health and wellbeing and the stimulation of the local economy. Last Friday 27 members of the EU meeting in Brussels signed an agreement which commits EU to, firstly, 20% reduction in carbon emissions from 1990 levels by 2020, and secondly to generate one fifth of its energy needs from renewables.

Greenpeace hailed the initiative as the biggest such decision since the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said at the same meeting: "There is

still time to reduce global warming and by so doing avoid a human calamity."

I hope the United States, Australia, Japan and India are listening and taking note. So far the government has committed a very small amount of its resources to renewable energy for the next decade.

To quote Andre Fourie and Kuzene Dlamini of the National Business Initiative:

South Africa and Africa have played a marginal role in this debate. Yet climate change poses a serious threat to peace and stability in Africa more than political conflicts have done since the advent of independence.

The recurring floods in Mozambique and the drought in most Southern African countries are some of the visible signs of the effect of climate change on the ground. Urgent action is therefore needed now and not later.

It is increasingly becoming a key strategic imperative that businesses, government, civil society and academia collaborate in shaping the global debate on climate change rather than only following or responding, as we often do, to a debate whose parameters are increasingly being set elsewhere.

It is clear that a balanced approach in dealing with climate change is imperative. This implies that both mitigation and adaptation are necessary strategies to deal with this phenomenon. It is incumbent upon all of us to leave no stone unturned in our quest to stem the tide of the dangers that are looming large on our horizon and to take steps to protect this generation and all future generations to come from the catastrophic consequences to humanity if we fail to respond urgently and aggressively to the effects of global warming and climate change. I thank you very much. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTENSIFYING THE STRUGGLE AGAINST POVERTY

Mr G G OLIPHANT: Chairperson, hon members, colleagues, on Wednesday, 21 March 2007, our country will be commemorating the 47th anniversary of the 1960 Sharpeville massacre, in which over 60 unarmed and defenceless people were shot and killed by the apartheid South African police and 180 were wounded.

There were also reports of killings in similar style in Uitenhage and Langa by police who acted in defence of the apartheid state. The root cause of the peaceful demonstrations by our people was the systematic introduction of pass laws against the black majority by the white minority regime; the system that dictated where the large black majority would live, work and die.

These laws have their origins in the Cape colony in 1760, when the movement of slaves between urban and rural areas were regulated. Slaves had to carry passes from their masters. The system was subsequently extended to the whole country and further entrenched in 1945 under the Native Consolidation Act.

In 1952 the abolition of the Passes Act made it compulsory for every male African to carry a reference book. As if that was not enough, in 1960 the apartheid government introduced the Native Amendment Act, which extended the pass laws to African women, our mothers . . . "wathintha abafazi wathintha imbokodo uzokufa". [You strike a woman, you strike a rock; you will die.]

Thanks to the ANC government and the people of South Africa, the United Nations and our friends across the globe. Today South Africa is free, democratic and prosperous. We all carry one single South African identity document. We have a Constitution with a Bill of Rights that guarantees all citizens the right to equality before the law,

human dignity, freedom of expression, the right to peaceful assembly, demonstration, picket and petition, freedom of association, freedom of movement and residence.

As we celebrate this day each year, we must remember the great suffering and loss of lives that accompanied the struggle for human rights. We must therefore redouble our efforts to ensure that people in South Africa will never again be denied these rights. Oliver Tambo laid down his life for these rights, Chris Hani was killed for these rights, Dorothy Nyembe died for these rights, Sam Tambani was killed for these rights and the list is endless.

Many more were killed, maimed, exiled and imprisoned in the struggle to achieve human rights in this country. We pay tribute to all those heroes and heroines who gave all in the struggle to win freedom and democracy.

Comrades and colleagues, we have made impressive progress since 1994 to ensure access to clean water, housing, education and a clean and safe environment for millions of our people.

The challenges ahead still remain on this difficult path of freedom and democracy. We have to redouble our efforts to deal with the big five challenges afflicting our South African society today. They are poverty, unemployment, crime, HIV and Aids and the demon of racism that hounds us from time to time.

Never again should we ever have another Nelson Chisale murder on a farm. No other white farmer should be brutally killed in their homes or on their farms. Trade Union rights are indeed human rights. On the farms and private domestic homes, shops, factories and mines, we must rededicate 21 March 2007 to improve our relationships in society especially for the poor and vulnerable workers.

Let us push back the tide of violence against women and children in our homes, families, neighbourhood, constituencies and places of work. As we intensify our struggle for human rights, we must strengthen the Chapter Nine institutions established to promote democracy and the culture of human rights in our country and elsewhere in the world.

We must welcome the collaboration between our institutions like the Cultural Religious and Linguistic Communities Rights Commission, the Independent Electoral Commission, the Commission on Gender Equality, South African Human Rights Commission and the United Nation Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights to ensure that the Africa Human Rights Day commemoration is observed each year on the 21st of October.

The 21st of October 2007 marks the 21st anniversary of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights adopted there by the Organisation of African Unity in 1981 and came into effect on the 21st of October 1986. We have an opportunity within the framework of the African Union and the United Nations to create a better Africa and a better world.

Our brothers and sisters in Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Palestine and Iraq also deserve to enjoy full democracy and human rights in line with our principles of ubuntu and human solidarity. The ANC is historically, and still remains, an internationalist revolutionary movement.

To quote Fidel Castro: "Being internationalist is paying our debt to humanity". In November 1994 Fidel Castro went on to say:

> We have shown solidarity with the world. It's not our task now to talk about this solidarity. As far as our solidarity is concerned, we should do the most and talk the least. For us solidarity and internationalism are a matter of principle and a sacred one at that.

Let us—that is us as South African citizens and the ANC in particular—allow the armchair critics to do what they do best and we must continue the work tirelessly to achieve

a better Africa and a better world. We have an opportunity as we speak now to do that. The SACP calls upon the country and its leaders to focus on the plight of the poor in the coming period.

In particular, the reds demand the removal of all South Africans from the credit bureau as a once-off amnesty. [Applause.] You are allowed to do that. Millions of our citizens are denied the access to participate meaningfully in the economic life of our country because of this black listing. Viva amabovu! [Viva SACP!]

The central task ahead of the ANC and its cadreship in 2007 and beyond is the alleviation of poverty and its ultimate eradication. The ANC's January statement enjoin us to work tirelessly with our alliance partner and progressive forces to fight poverty, unemployment, crime, HIV and Aids, racism and sexism in the same manner as we fought against apartheid.

Let us all accept this challenge and soldier on. Hon members will be going to their various constituencies in the next few days to participate in human rights activities. And also, in April, when we will be in recess, we will celebrate our freedom and May Day. So, I wish you well in all of these activities. Go there and spread the message of hope for our country. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr A C STEYN: Chairperson and hon members, when the basic services that the government is obligated to provide are not delivered to the poor, it is not just their government policy failure or a waste of taxpayers' money; it is an infringement of their fundamental human rights.

It is so because the Constitution requires the state to promote and fulfil the rights in Chapter 2 thereof, our Bill of Rights. The socioeconomic rights are a special category of rights. They are not full rights, like your political rights or your right to free speech, but rights of access. The state has a duty to realise them progressively. They are justifiable, but they cannot be enforced in the same way that other rights may be enforced.

It is for that reason that the Constitution places a special duty on the SA Human Rights Commission to monitor and assess the progressive realisation of socioeconomic rights.

It is as a result of that task that the SA Human Rights Commission, after concluding its sixth report on economic and social rights, now intends to advise government, especially in the provincial sphere, that its delivery failures constitute an infringement of fundamental rights.

The Constitution requires that the SA Human Rights Commission must ask the relevant government departments, in both the national and provincial spheres, what they have done to realise the rights to housing, health, food, water, social security, education and the environment each year.

The response from government departments, however, has been problematic. At the time of the conclusion of the fifth economic and social rights report, the SAHRC reviewed the low response rate from certain organs of state, the poor quality, and questioned the reliability of certain information. It even went so far as to suggest that perhaps its interaction with departments should be abandoned altogether in favour of fieldwork monitoring.

However, the Constitution says it must ask departments for information, and rightly so. The SAHRC attributes the poor response to lack of capacity, amongst other things. It says that there are no mechanisms and there is little commitment in place within the organs of state together to classify and store information.

The SA Human Rights Commission will now assist the departments to develop appropriate systems to capture and manage information that the SAHRC itself will ultimately request from them. Is it any wonder, therefore, that delivery does not

take place when the departments responsible are not keeping track themselves?

Delivery in the sphere of socioeconomic rights should take place primarily at the provincial level, where Parliament sends the vast bulk of taxpayers' money every year when we vote for the Budget and the division of state revenue.

The SA Human Rights Commission has now decided to bring the unsatisfactory situation to the direct attention of the Premiers, and to advise them that, judged on human rights standards, non-delivery is unacceptable.

In addition to this, it intends to engage directly with the provincial legislatures. This, I believe, is an excellent approach, for it is a fact that our provincial legislatures do not legislate that much, but they do specialise in oversight. This they do very well, judged on the record of the official opposition MPLs at least.

It is a regrettable fact that the National Assembly does not appear to do justice to the SA Human Rights Commission's work in general, and its socioeconomic reports in particular.

The SA Human Rights Commission appears before a number of portfolio committees, which ought to profit greatly from its socio-economic work, but these appearances are said to be haphazard and unco-ordinated from its point of view, while the National Assembly as a whole does not appear to engage the commission's reports at all.

We have at our disposal the work not only of the SA Human Rights Commission, but also that of other Chapter 9 institutions like the Auditor-General. The DA now annually analyses the audits of provincial departments provided by the Auditor-General, and draws public attention to trends and patterns.

Alarmingly, the latest analysis of the nine departments of health, show the large-scale mismanagement of tendering and procurement procedures. In disturbingly many cases, this appeared to swing bids in favour of departmental employees or their associates. In our analysis, there is a crisis of deteriorating financial probity and corruption which, in addition to the poor management we highlighted last year, was causing many provincial hospitals to fail to provide a decent, acceptable service.

All this happens while the SA Human Rights Commission reminds us that the population dependent on public health services is currently estimated at 80% of all South Africans, and growing, and that we would be well advised—economically and in every other respect—to honour our national and international obligations on the right to health.

We must ensure equal access to quality health services and "we", hon members, means us too. If socioeconomic delivery is not taking place, that is a failure, not only of the ANC-led government—as we are so often reminded—but also of the institutions which are supposed to hold government to account. That, hon members, is us. I thank you. [Applause.]

Prince N E ZULU: Mr Chairperson, twelve years since South Africa achieved democracy, the harsh laws that denied so many the right to basic human rights have gone, but many more challenges remain for us today.

The realisation of strong human rights principles, the fight against poverty, including the fight for a safer South Africa, is a fight that we must wage with diligence and vigour, and one that we cannot afford to simply continue fighting half-heartedly.

South Africa has one of the few constitutions in the world that include economic and social rights in its Bill of Rights. Some of these rights are: the right to housing, the right to basic health care, the right to adequate food and the right to education.

Human rights are those basic and fundamental rights to which every person, for the simple reason of being human, is entitled.

Yet, so many people in South Africa are denied these basic rights due to extreme poverty. People who don't have access to the labour market and little or no basic access to services and resources today, nearly 13 years since the dawn of democracy, remain severely disempowered.

A recent report by the United States Department of State Human Rights reported that the magnitude of crime in South Africa should be considered a human rights violation. Among the crimes it notes as human rights violation, are over 23 500 children raped and over 1 000 children murdered. The report states that the number of violations can be laid at government's door because it fails to provide a safe and secure climate.

The SA Human Rights Commission will celebrate Human Rights Day 2007 by embarking on a week-long Human Rights Week campaign, which we all applaud. On its website, the SA Human Rights Commission states:

> This year, the commission has identified the destructive effects of crime on South African society as needing immediate and urgent attention. Due to its cross-cutting nature, the impact of crime is felt across all socioeconomic fields, jeopardising the universal benefits of the Bill of Rights.

Most importantly, it says: "The achievement of equality, eradication of poverty and the deepening of democracy cannot be realised in the context of the high crime rate."

Today, in remembrance and honour of those who lost their lives during the Sharpeville uprising, we must renew all efforts to promote human rights and intensify the struggle against poverty. What we see in Zimbabwe today is what we saw in Sharpeville in 1960. Such inhuman violations must never set foot on African soil again. Otherwise, we will be judged as spectators when our neighbour's house is on fire. I thank you, Sir. [Applause.]

Mr G T MADIKIZA: Chairperson, hon members, promoting human rights and fighting poverty are both very important objectives. Therefore, it is quite ridiculous to suggest that these important matters can be constructively discussed in 60 seconds. What, indeed, is the purpose of the debate and of the parliamentary theme "Let's deepen the debate"?

There is really no point in cramming a few platitudes into one minute and then calling that a proper engagement with the topic. The ANC knows its own views. Why should it get vast portions of each so-called debate in order to listen to itself and to repeat itself? The point of the debate is obviously to hear alternative views, but these can never be properly expressed, or seriously considered, if they are crammed into brief sound bytes.

Indeed, it is insulting to the many people that live in poverty who also happen to represent a sizable portion of our constituency, to pretend that anything useful can be said or changed about their plight or upliftment in the space of one minute. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr L W GREYLING: Chairperson, let me see how I do with my sound byte. Our commitment to human rights is enshrined in our Constitution but for many of the poor and marginalised this commitment rings hollow. This commitment rings hollow for the thousands of fishing families along our coast who have been left destitute without any form of livelihood being provided for by the government.

It rings hollow for the millions of rural people who still do not enjoy the basic services of water, sanitation and electricity. It rings hollow for the one in ten children who needlessly die before their 5th birth day as a result of disease or poverty. It rings hollow for the millions of people who still live in shacks without the hope of housing being provided.

The ID believes that we need to commit ourselves to the social democratic vision

contained in our Constitution and commit substantial resources to bridging the divides between what is in the Constitution and the daily reality that so many South Africans are subjected to. We need to extend the Child Support Grant to 18 years of age, implement a large-scale rural development programme, start building sustainable livelihoods and speak out forcefully against human rights abuse in the world, and then we can truly celebrate Human Rights Day in this country. [Time expired.]

Mme M L MATSEMELA: Modulasetilo, maloko a a tlotlegang a Palamente, bangwe bao ba leng teng kwa ntlo phatlhalatseng ya rona. Ke lebogela go bua mo nakong e ya meriti e seng ka nako ya mampa a kolobe, gonne moAforika ga a nke a di atlhatlha sentle ga e le ka nako ya mampa. Fa ke bua jaana ke batla ke tlisa mo phatlhalatseng gore fa e ka bo e se ka chatara ya batho, eo e kileng ya tlhomamisiwa ka ngwaga wa 1955 kwa Kliptown, re ka bo re sa fitlhelela diphitlhelelo dingwe go akaretsa le ditshwanelo tsa botho.

Ditshwanelo tse, ke tse di ungwetseng mongwe le mongwe. Ga ya ka ya nna motse re feta wa balala, wa baruakgomo re tsena nao jaaka mo nakong e e fetileng. Go ya ka karolo ya bobedi ya Molaotheo wa Aforika Borwa, batho botlhe ba na le tekatekano. *(Translation of Setswana paragraphs follows.)*

[Ms M L MATSEMELA: Chairperson, hon members, as well as those in our public gallery, it is a pleasure to deliver my speech in the afternoon, but not at midday because an African cannot apply his mind well during lunch. Let me bring your attention to the fact that if it was not because of the Freedom Charter, which was adopted in 1995 at Kliptown, we wouldn't have achieved some of the things we have, which include human rights.

These rights benefited everybody, unlike in the past where they were only enjoyed by certain people, and excluded others. According to Chapter 2 of the Constitution of South Africa everyone is equal before the law.]

Speaking on the occasion of the 95th Anniversary of our movement, the ANC, at Emalahleni in Mpumalanga this year, President Mbeki, quoting the resolutions of the 2005 National General Council, had the following to say:

> The central challenge our movement faces in the second decade of freedom is to defeat poverty and substantially reduce the level of unemployment. This means that the ANC government must develop a coherent development strategy, identifying where we need to move to and what strategic leaps we need to get there.

Undoubtedly, today's topic could never have been more relevant. Further, the ANC's draft Strategy and Tactics, which is being workshopped with all our constitutional structures on an ongoing basis, says:

> The National Democratic Revolution, NDR, seeks to ensure that every South African, especially the poor, experiences an improving quality of life. It seeks to bring the best traditions of a developmental state, represented by an efficient state that guides national economic development and mobilises domestic and foreign capital to achieve this goal.

This perspective is indicative of the ANC's long-term commitment to the resolution of the scourge of poverty, unemployment and other social ills guided by people-driven and people-centred principles.

To fight poverty, the ANC-led government is guided by numerous policies and a sound fiscal regime that not only provides for well over 11 million citizens through social grants, 7 million of whom are children supported by a Budget of R62,4 billion, but continues to employ all the wisdom in the world in order to ensure the human rights of all South Africans, especially socioeconomic rights.

This means that grants constitute more than two thirds of the R89 billion budget of social development. Government has already started, through National Treasury, to establish a poverty line that will be used as a measure of the incidence of poverty so that we do not use inappropriate instruments in determining poverty in our society.

Furthermore, more efforts are being made to oil the wheels of economic growth so that there can be development and redistribution at an accelerated pace. Women and children bear the brunt of poverty in our society and it is important closely to monitor the implementation of socioeconomic rights such as water, sanitation, education, health, housing, social security and food.

"While our Constitution says these must be realised progressively, there can be no doubt that government does not seek to hide behind this proviso. Instead, the more the fiscus expands, the more the benefit to the population, especially those that are underprivileged. An example is the nonpayment of tax by all those who earn R3 583 per month, thus giving back R8,4 billion back to the taxpayer.

I am not unmindful of those who have no means of income at all, the majority of whom are women. It is for this reason that I wish to join in with all those in our country who have called for the sustenance of the Extended Public Works Programme and the transfer of skills. The poor must be empowered to take care of their own lives. Nothing is as emancipating as the ability to throw off the yoke of poverty and ignorance.

No doubt that we will take forward our struggle against poverty only if we understand that human rights are indivisible and interrelated.

Incidentally, the Nobel Laureate for Economics, Amartya Sen, defines poverty as: "The lack of certain capabilities, the core of which would include education, food security, water, social security, health and shelter."

We must continue the fight against poverty across all spheres of government, in all the departments and other organs of state. Necessarily the women of our country, who constitute over 50% of the population, must be at the head of this struggle. We believe that women's rights are human rights.

Ke ka moo, ke ratang gore bomma, a re se e tlogeleng go e tshwara ka fa bogaleng, gonne mosadi ke mooka o nyaa le mariga. [I would therefore like to encourage women not to stop intervening, as we usually do, to save the situation.]

In conclusion, six days before the celebration the Human Rights Day, we call on all South Africans to mobilise themselves into a strong battalion that will persistently and consistently push back the frontiers of poverty in order to ensure sustained development of humanity. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr S N SWART: Chairperson, the critical question is whether the state is succeeding in its constitutional obligations towards the progressive realisation of socioeconomic rights, particularly in the fight against poverty.

The ACDP believes that the greatest challenge in delivering services to the poor lays not so much with government policies, but in the implementation of such policies. This was confirmed by the 2002 Taylor report, which stated that: "The barriers to access, especially in regard to the poor, remains administrative and institutional."

The ACDP appreciates that some 12 million citizens now receive social grants and that a comprehensive social welfare pension system is proposed. Presently there are sufficient funds for housing, education and health, yet hugely inadequate capacity to actually deliver services due to corruption, patronage and a shortage of skills.

Home Affairs is a good example as it plays a central role in enabling access to public services. Its services fall far short of basic, acceptable standards. Unless urgent corrective steps are instituted in this and other departments and municipalities, the low level of public service delivery will frustrate the state's attempts to meet its constitutional obligations in the fight to alleviate poverty in our country. Thank you.

Mr M T LIKOTSI: Chairperson, in this 37th anniversary of Sharpeville/Langa Day, the PAC is disgusted that the political parties gathered here are shy to mention that the PAC spearheaded that campaign on that particular day.

The 21st of March 1960 was a day when the PAC of Azania launched the Anti-Pass Campaign in terms of which African people were to leave their passes at home and surrender themselves for arrest at the nearest police station. The slogan for the campaign was, "No bail, no defence, no fine".

Lest we forget, on that fateful day—21 March 1960—Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe and the PAC leaders surrendered themselves to the police for refusing to carry passes. Despite that, Sobukwe had written to the Police Commissioner that the campaign was non-violent, Mr Blanché.

The police responded with brutality, killing 68 people in Sharpeville and 28 people in Langa, here in Cape Town. Lest we forget, the spilling of the blood of those innocent sons and daughters of Africa, the Sharpeville/Langa Massacre was a turning point of our liberation struggle in this country. The blood of those sons and daughters of the soil and the blood of many martyrs of our liberation struggle will never be left unnoticed.

During this Human Rights Day, the PAC of Azania is calling for the release of all members of Apla—Azanian People's Liberation Army—political prisoners.

It will be a great act of human rights by the President, hon Thabo Mbeki, and the ANC-led government to release members of Apla and all other freedom fighters incarcerated in the prisons of South Africa. The PAC has been making this call and we are still repeating this call today. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms S RAJBALLY: Thank you, Chairperson. As a democracy governed by constitutional supremacy, which enshrines human rights and is central to our governance and existence through the Bill of Rights, a duty is incumbent on the government and every citizen to celebrate, enjoy and frolic in the rights that our freedom and liberation has given us.

The MF however finds a realisation of importance each and every individual has to play in this development. Liberation and growth is fundamental to meeting our goals. As democracy, we remember our horrid past of apartheid, as we look at the war-infested countries and human atrocities around the globe, hoping that they too shall have peace, freedom and respect for human life.

We pray that they too shall live in a nation of rainbow colours, cultures, religions, sex, shapes and sizes. We, however, wonder how many South Africans in reality are aware of the rights that we have in South Africa. The levels of crime, which many attribute to poverty, show a clear disrespect for human life.

Over the past few days news has been dominated by reports of murder of little girls, not to mention the growth in statistics of human trafficking.

Liberties are said to allow people to enjoy their lives and to maintain a harmonious state, but the reality is that we have evil people in society who find it right to rob us of this.

I cannot imagine what goes through a victim's mind in those last few breaths. But it is worse when I think of what must constitute the mind of a perpetrator when

committing the crime. The sheer ability to take a life makes me feel so ill. And the punishment that these families have to endure for the rest of their lives makes the sentence we legislate seems a day in the park for the criminals. We have to tackle our crime situation in South Africa. We are a government of the people by the people, and the people have spoken. They do not want crime; they want us to act.

The MF calls for the recognition of the call of the nation an immediate action to stamp out crime; enforce punishment equivalent to the pain and suffering of the victims and the loved ones. Human rights are, and should be, a counterfoil in every sector of our daily lives. But discipline of an unruly person who jeopardise our democracy is unacceptable. Our Constitution certainly cannot shield our doom. The MF celebrates human rights and condemns all forms of atrocity. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr L M GREEN: Chairperson, the FD believes that quiet diplomacy on human rights violations provokes other social ills such as poverty and instability. Because of the human rights violations in Zimbabwe the poor of that society are crossing over to our border despite the possibility of repatriation. There are hundreds of children in their early teens who are running away to South Africa looking for food, employment and a decent home. Poverty is a violation of human rights.

In the dark days of apartheid we did not welcome quiet diplomacy to bring apartheid to its knees. Zimbabwe, once the bread basket of Africa, has now become the pariah state because of its violations of human rights. However, their fighting back for justice and to have food on their table should be our fight as well.

Our fight against oppression has not been achieved through quiet diplomacy, but through the sacrificial will of the people, with the help of international support and to labour for a society built on universal human rights.

The same universal human rights apply to the Zimbabwean people. That includes their politicians. Those rights cannot be applied selectively to only those in power who want to keep the little they now have in the hands of the few. The redistribution of human rights and economic resources is what we called for.

In conclusion, we are calling for human rights for all the citizens of Africa now. Thank you.

Mr B M SOLO: Chairperson and hon members, more than 53 years ago, South Africans from all walks of life resolved in Kliptown that the people shall share in the country's wealth. This resolution was aimed at dealing decisively with the question of poverty, inequality and extreme underdevelopment in some parts of our country, and it becomes more relevant when you address such issues, particularly in rural areas, and its communities.

Soon we will celebrate the Human Rights Day. In our celebrations it will be important to promote human rights as tools to intensify the struggle against poverty, particularly as it affects our rural poor masses, of whom the majority live in conditions and an environment of abject poverty.

Human rights should be used as tools to rescue our people from the burden of poverty they experience in rural areas due to underdevelopment. Lest we forget, our country is ravaged with stark inequality and poverty by design and those who bear the brunt, unfortunately, is the large majority of black South Africans. Most of them live in rural areas, which in the past were referred to as Bantustans or homelands, designed by the arch architect of apartheid, former Prime Minister, Dr H F Verwoerd, who, in his own words said:

> We are giving the Bantu, as our wards, every opportunity in their areas to move along the road of development by which they can progress in accordance with their ability.

These words were said within a context of only having blacks as hewers of wood and drawers of water, as well as in terms of the Group Areas Act. In this new democracy, which many people fought for, and even died for, with others maimed, it is clearly stated in the Constitution that the people will have equal human rights—in terms of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

The challenge we have in our action is whether indeed black people in particular realise these rights in their quest for a better life for all. For, according to Jill Natrass, in a book *Up Against the Fence*:

> The growing special dislocation between capital that was being invested in the economy and the settlement patterns of the population meant that the capital stock became increasingly a source of wealth for those people who were fortunate enough to have access to it and conversely a source of poverty for those who were excluded.

That is my emphasis.

> At the same time, the continued of the black group from the political process rendered them politically unable to force thorough a reallocation either of additional education resources to increase their access to higher paid jobs in the modern sector of factors, inputs specifically designed to upgrade the black rural areas.

I cannot agree more. This is a known fact, but we seem to forget what we have gone through and what we have been subjected to. Of paramount importance is that this challenge should not be limited to government only but to all South Africans, particularly the affluent, economically resourced, section of our society.

Abazalwa benama account emabhange abeke izimali ezinkulu bathi zitshaliwe. Namanje badla baze bakhohlwe ukuthi kukhona abalambileyo. [I mean those who were born with huge wads of cash in bank accounts claim that they are invested. And they spend this money and even forget that there are hungry people out there.]

The business community, banks and internationals have a role to play in the creation of a caring society.

Yini indaba kungabibikho amabhange ezindaweni zasemakhaya kanti amabhange ahlale eqhosha ngenzuzo enkulukazi njalo njalo? Yini kungabibikho zitolo emakhaya kanti izitolo ezikhona zihlale ziqhayisa ngenzuzo enkulu njalo ekupheleni konyaka? Abanye babantu abathola umhlomulo bahleli nathi lapha. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[Why, for instance, are there no banks in rural areas, because the banks are always declaring huge returns? Why are there no shops in rural areas as they always declare huge returns at the end of each year? Some of the people who benefit from all this are with us here.]

Our Constitution dictates, in Chapter 2 of the Bill of Rights that everyone should have equal rights. It becomes imperative to spell out some few rights that would assist us in the creation of a caring society: Equality; human dignity—everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected; the right to life; the right to property; freedom of movement; the right to housing—no one may be evicted from their home or have their home demolished without an order of the court made after considering all the relevant facts.

Sibona abantu bekhishwa ezindlini izinkantolo kodwa ubone ukuthi cha awuhlonishwa lo Somqulu Wamalungelo abantu esinawo, ngoba vele abantu laba esikhathini esiphambili ababekade bengamakhosi, bekugwebela ukuhamba emgwaqweni. Kufanele siyibheke le nto ukuthi singakwenza kanjani ukubeka amakhosi sicabange ukuthi azosilungisela nathi sithole amantshontsho ngoba nawo afuna ukudla la

mantshontsho futhi ningakaqali nina ukudla la mantshontsho. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[We see people evicted from their houses through court orders and that is evident that our Bill of Rights is not respected because these are the very people who were the bosses even during the previous dispensation. They would even punish you just for walking on the road. We have to address this thing and be very careful when we give them certain positions because we cannot expect them to do what we want them to do when they have their own agendas.]

All these rights are an attempt to intensify the struggle against poverty. This is the key objective of the ANC government—working together to fight poverty for a better life for all.

Against this background, in the past we have seen a violent suppression and a violation of basic human rights that led to forced removals in terms of the Group Areas Act, forced cheap labour and job reservation in terms of the Job Reservation Act; inferior segregated education in terms of the Bantu Education Act; creation of certain areas as reserves where surplus labour and undesirable people were dumped and hidden in terrible conditions of poverty, areas where there has been no economic development plan, no infrastructure of any kind in terms of the Influx Control Act—these areas were commonly known as homelands or Bantustans or, some, independent national states.

An unhealthy unsustainable situation was created. Our people, particularly black people, led by the people's organisation, the ANC, struggled against this injustice to an extent, together with their leaders, that they were prepared to sacrifice their lives. Therefore, the Bill of Rights in our Constitution should be used as a tool to intensify our struggle against poverty, particularly in rural areas.

Our task, as South Africans, is to ensure that everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected. This can only be achieved if we ensure, amongst a whole range of other rights, that no one may be subjected to slavery, servitude or forced labour.

All of us need to work together in the spirit of Batho Pele to correct the injustices of the past, particularly business and social service providers. The academics should also have a change of mindset and work towards contributing in the fight against poverty by ensuring that basic human rights are observed.

Uhulumeni emzamweni yakhe uyazama ukulungisela abantu ukuthi bathole konke okufanele bakuthole kodwa siyazi ukuthi amandla kahulumeni awekho kangako. Siyacela kongxiwankulu laba abanezimali ezisemaceleni nezinye ezikwamanye amazwe basondele ukuzosiza ukuthi silwe nobuphofu.

Sesizibekile izakhiwo zomasipala ukwenzela ukuthi abantu bakwazi ukubambisana nathi ngoba ngaphandle kokusebenzisana nabo, ngeke sikwazi ukwenza lo msebenzi ngendlela efanelekile. Siyacela laba bantu babambe iqhaza entuthukweni yabo. Siyilungisile nemithetho ukwenzela ukusebenza ngokubambisana ikakhulukazi ezindaweni zasemakhaya, phakathi kwamakhosi nomasipala.

Siyanxusa nasezisebenzini zikahulumeni ukuthi ake ziyeke ukungabi nanhlonipho, nokungabi nazwelo, nokuphatha kabi abantu bethu. Into abayifundiswa yilowáýa baba engimbize ngegama ukuthi yangena egazini ukuthi baphathe kabi abantu bethu. Benza leziya zinto ezazenziwa ukhomishana.

Abanye bayakhuluma lapha bathi uhulumeni ayikho into ayenzile. Bakhohliwe ukuthi iminyaka engamakhulu amathathu besiphansi kwengcindezelo enzima kodwa kufanele bafundiswe ukuze babone ngoba

banamehlo nje ababoni kunjalo nje bahleli lapha eKapa ezindlini ezinkulu eziphindwe kathathu.

Abake baphume baye ngaphandle baye kobona ukuthi kwenzekani ukuze basize nabo. Shona emakhaya, uzobona ukuthi ugesi sesiwufakile, amanzi ahlanzekile sesiwafakile. Lona umgamu esesiwuhambile, imigwaqo siyayilungisa, imitholampilo siyakhile, izikole sizakhile ngayo le mali encane enye eniyifihlayo ukuze singakwazi nokuthatha intela kuyo.

Kubalulekile ukuthi abafowethu mhlawumbe beze lapha kuKhongolose ngoba ababoni ngale ndlela esibona ngayo ukuze sikwazi ukuthi sihambe nabo bakwazi ukubona. Kodwa-ke futhi abafuni ukubona ngoba bayazi ukuthi uma bengabona ngapha namehlo azovuleka babone nabo ukuthi le nto abayenza ayilungile. Lokhu kungaholela ekutheni bagcine sebebona kufanele bahlephule kulokhu abakuthatha ngendluzula, babele abanye abantu.

Ngiyavumelana nobaba uZulu, ukuthi mhlawumbe intuthuko ihamba kancane, kodwa baba siyayenza imizamo ukuthi intuthuko iqhubeke. Siyacela-ke ikakhulukazi lapho KwaZulu-Natali ukuthi amakhosi nohulumeni wasemakhaya ophethe babambisane nathi ukulungisa le ngxaki.

Abanye bathi uhulumeni akaphumeleli. Angeke-ke size siziphendule lezi zinto ezishiwo yilaba bantu ngoba abanye babo bama ezindaweni zokushumayela emasontweni beshumayeza abantu abalambile, abahluphekayo, abaziniki nesikhathi sokuthi babasize babone ukuthi bayazithola nezinhlelo ezibekwe uhulumeni.

Siyayizwa i-PAC. Sisebenzile nayo kakhulu futhi ngizwile ukuthi ike yaphendulwa leyo nto lapha. Kwakulungiselwa ukuthi simashe sonke ngendlela efanele kodwa nina nabona ukuthi manisheshe niyokwenza lokho. Siyakubonga ngoba lokho kwasiza, kodwa kuseyiwona lowo mzabalazo wokuthi asiqhubeke siye phambili. Bekuyoba kuhle uma beningabuyela ekhaya ukuze mhlawumbe sithole amandla adlula lawa esinawo.

Ubaba uGreyling we-ID ukhala ngabantu abaziphilisa ngokubamba izinhlanzi nangezinye izinto. Sithi-ke thina: abanobuchwepheshe nolwazi mabasize. I-ACDP ikhala ngombiko kaTaylor. Iyakhohlwa ukuthi le khomishana yabekwa yilo hulumeni ukuze isisize ukuthi sibheke kabanzi ukuthi kujule kangakanani ukuhlupheka kwabantu bethu.

Ibekelwe ukuthi sibe nendlela esemqoka necacile kithina ukusiza abantu ngayo. Uyasho ukuthi izinga lokuletha izidingo liphansi. Mhlawumbe uqinisile, kodwa kuhle akhumbule ukuthi ukuthatha kwethu umbuso, sathatha yonke le mfucuza eyayisicindezela, savumelana nani sicabanga ukuthi nineqiniso nizosisiza ukulwa nale mpi kanti ningamaxoki, ningama menemene, nizoyinyathela le nqola ingayi phambili.

Ngicela into eyodwa: Sideleleni sizenzele into yethu futhi sizimisele ukuthi sizoyenza siphumelele noma ikanjani. Ngiyabonga. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[The government, in its efforts, is trying all it can to provide services to the people but we, of course, understand that the government does not have enough resources. We appeal to the capitalists who invested their monies in other countries to join us and help to fight poverty.

We have created municipal structures so that people can work with us because without co-operating with them, we will not be able to do this job properly. We urge people to take part in their development. We have also amended certain pieces of legislation to ease partnerships, particularly in rural areas, between the traditional leaders and municipalities.

We also urge public servants to stop being disrespectful, arrogant and discourteous towards the public. This thing of ill-treating our people was instilled in them by that

gentleman whose name I mentioned earlier on. They are doing those things that were done by the Commissioner. Some people here claim that the government is doing nothing. They have since forgotten that we were under oppression for 300 years, but we must educate them because they have eyes, yet they do not see, and they stay here in Cape Town in huge houses that are three times bigger than some.

These people must go out there to the people and see what is happening there so that they can also help. We have at least installed electricity in remote villages, and we have given people clean water. That is the progress we have made thus far, we are maintaining roads, we have built clinics, and we are building schools with the limited money that we have because the rest of the money you have hidden somewhere so that it cannot be taxed.

It is important for our brothers to join the ANC because they do not seem to see things the same way we do and we will walk with them so that they too can see. Furthermore, they don't want to see because they know that if they can see this side, their eyes will be opened and they will understand that what they did was not good. This can make them see that what they took by force should be brought forward so that it could be shared with other people.

I echo the sentiments of Mr Zulu that the progress, as far as the development is concerned, is slow, but, maybe, sir, we are making efforts so that the development could move a little faster. We appeal, particularly there in KwaZulu-Natal, that the traditional leaders and the local government would work with us in addressing this problem.

Some are saying the government does not succeed. We cannot comment on these things simply because some of the people who say these things stand in pulpits in churches and preach to hungry people and the poor. They don't even have the time to help and see to it that they get programmes to be introduced by the government.

We understand the PAC and we have worked with them before. I have heard that this point was responded to in this House. We were all preparing to have a lawful march, but you decided to do it before us. We appreciate that because it helped, but the struggle continues and we are going forward. It would be good though if you returned home so that we can be more powerful than we are now.

Mr Greyling of the ID is lamenting the conditions of the fishermen and other things. What we are saying is that those who have skills and knowledge should assist. The ACDP is unhappy with the Taylor report. It forgets that this commission was appointed by this government to assist in evaluating the seriousness of poverty amongst our people.

The commission is in place for us so that we can have a clear programme to help the people. It states that the level of service delivery is poor. Maybe it is correct, but remember that when we took over, this government inherited all the bad that was used to oppress us, and we even agreed on certain things with you because we assumed that you are honest, that you will help us in fighting this war, but you are hypocrites, impostors, you stand in the way of progress.

I am pleading for one thing from you: Just simply allow us to do our own thing and we are positive that we will do it successfully no matter what. [Thank you.]]

Debate concluded.

DEBATE ON FIFTIETH CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF GHANA

Mrs M A A NJOBE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I feel honoured to participate, and, in fact, to open this debate on Ghana's 50th independence anniversary, particularly because Ghana was my first country of exile in the late 1950s.

When Dr Nkrumah, who was born in 1912,

which is the same year as the birth of the ANC, returned from abroad to the then Gold Coast colony to take up the responsibility as Secretary-General of an organisation called the United Gold Coast Convention, UGCC, promoted by political giants such as Dr J B Danquah, he brought with him not only his youthful vibrancy but also a considerable wealth of political understanding, experience and leadership—capabilities that proved decisive in propelling the then Gold Coast struggle to achieve independence as Ghana. The UGCC was later to become the CPP—the Convention People's Party—under Dr Nkrumah.

Having stayed in America for ten years and about two to three years in England, partly studying to expand his knowledge, Dr Nkrumah had developed great interest in, and had interacted broadly with ideas of African Pan-Africanism as espoused by Afro-American leaders of political thought on Africa. These included such leaders as Marcus Garvey and Dr W E B du Bois. These and other ideas were propagated with great vigour by the CPP, leading to Ghana's attainment of independence at 12 midnight on 6 May 1957.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Ghana's independence ushered in a new epoch on the continent which was to restore the dignity of the African people, and firmly cut ties with a miserable past, characterised by centuries of slavery, persecution, exploitation, racial discrimination and negative perceptions, all advocated and practiced by colonial masters.

From the start Dr Nkrumah put Ghana positively on the world map as a country of full promise as he stood steadfastly for the overthrowing of colonialism and all its offshoots, not only in Ghana but elsewhere in the world and especially in Africa.

Because of the values Dr Nkrumah believed in and stood for, namely unity and solidarity, almost immediately after independence Ghana organised and hosted the All Africa Conference, the first conference of the then independent states attended by countries such as Egypt and Ethiopia. Delegates from liberation movements in Africa participated, including the ANC, which was led by the late ANC President O R Tambo; the PAC was there, KANU of Kenya, liberation movements from the then Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, and Tanganyika, now Tanzania. The impact of African Pan-Africanism as propagated at that conference became clearly visible in policies subsequently pursued by such African leaders as Mwalimu Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and Dr Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and is actually visible in our own country's foreign policy today.

Carrying out its obligations and fulfilling its promises to the people of Ghana, Dr Nkrumah's government quickly set out to remedy disparities entrenched by centuries of colonial rule. The challenge then was to fight poverty and underdevelopment. Dr Nkrumah had a clear vision as to where he wanted to take Ghana. He always proclaimed that the government wanted to see every Ghanaian liberated, even in the remotest areas of the country.

Thus the government wasted no time putting in place programmes that would not only give political or cultural independence but also economic independence. Putting up infrastructure, such as roads, schools, including tertiary institutions that did not exist before, was made a priority. For example, in colonial days roads connecting the main cities in Ghana were very narrow, a mere strip of tar enabling only one car at a time to pass. Should there be an oncoming car, one of the cars had to give way to allow the other one to pass. Such was the state of road infrastructure passed on to Ghanaians by the British. But by 1960, only three years after independence, the government had succeeded in constructing a network of roads befitting any country proud of its independence.

School buildings of high quality started springing up, ensuring that every village in

the rural area did not just have a primary school, but a high school as well. All high schools were of the same standard; it did not matter where they were located. I remember when we visited one of our friends who was teaching in a new school out in the bush and suddenly we came across this new high school with all the necessary infrastructure, including science laboratories, fully equipped libraries, though at that time there was still only one class, the Form 1 class. But since the school was to develop and go up to the sixth form, everything was already in place. And that is how Nkrumah built the schools, and such was the foresight and emphasis placed on education as the basis for development in Ghana.

In colonial times, there was only one university for the whole of English-speaking West Africa. That was Fouragh Bay located in Sierra Leone. But by 1959/1960 the Lagon University, the first in Ghana, had already been built. It was up and running and operating fully. A modern comprehensive technikon—also a first in Ghana—had been constructed and was located in Kumasi in central Ghana. New vocational training schools, putting emphasis on agricultural production and the fishing industry, were located in various villages throughout the country. This was an elaborate development programme aimed at absorbing the youth who did not make it to institutions of higher learning. In other words, it was also a way of preventing crime by ensuring that the youth were actually occupied, doing something.

Ghana's trade with overseas countries had been limited due to the lack of a deep harbour that could accommodate large ships. But, again, by 1960 the Tema Harbour at Accra was already functional, enabling easier transportation of Ghana's main export and foreign exchange-earning products such as cocoa, timber and gold.

To create more jobs and eradicate poverty, the Volta Dam Project was conceived. This was to be established for the large-scale exploitation and development of aluminium and the hydro-electric power in the Volta River. Through this ambitious project the government hoped that the whole area covering the Accra plains would fall under irrigation to boost agricultural production and that the country would be covered by an electric grid that would foster the development of large-scale industry to a great degree. The consequence of all these economic activities that were planned, as was envisaged, would be an increase in the national revenue. So, you can see a lot of thinking has gone into this planning.

But as we all know this project, in particular the Volta Dam project, was not to see the light of the day, not with the United Kingdom and Canada, as co-financiers, developing cold feet and abandoning the Ghana government. However, the final nail to ensure that the project did not succeed was put in by an American-sponsored coup which deposed Dr Nkrumah in 1966, thus putting Ghana way back, where it had started.

As we celebrate the 50th independence anniversary of Ghana, it is imperative that we emphasise and appreciate Ghana's leadership and efforts to liberate both its people and those of Africa as a whole. Ghana's independence contributed much to sub-Saharan Africa's political struggle for freedom.

Some of these contributions can be summed up as follows: Firstly, Ghana led the way to prove in a concrete manner that colonies in Africa could attain independent statehood. Secondly, Ghana provided valuable stimulation on Pan-African ideas and goals; with Ghana under Dr Nkrumah being the propelling engine of those ideas. Thirdly, it reaffirmed the dignity of the African, giving a boost to his self-confidence and identity. Fourthly, Ghana's independence aroused African political consciousness more wildly and vigorously, with intense inspiration to the struggles for the attainment of freedom

and statehood. Fifthly, Ghana's independence gave an impetus to ideas, concepts and efforts to promote African unity and solidarity. Sixthly, Ghana's independence prepared the way to the founding of the Organisation for African Unity, the OAU, which gave rise to today's African Union.

Today's Ghana, under the leadership of President John Kufuor continues to reclaim its leadership position and its leadership role in Africa. For example, Ghana was the first country to submit itself to the African Peer Review Mechanism, the APRM. They sometimes regard themselves as always the first. I think I agree. I thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

Mr W J SEREMANE: Hon Madam Deputy Speaker and hon Members of Parliament, Ghana is this pioneering country, championing not only her independence, but blazing the lonely trail, so to say, for the emancipation of other African countries that were to follow, for the realisation of the total liberation of the continent of Africa is indeed an historic event never to be rewritten in a different way.

Ghana, formerly known as the Gold Coast, has, like many of us on this African continent, a long and painful litany of colonial history and blatant if not brutal political economic oppression, let alone the degradation of a people by those who are powerful.

In the entire human history, there cannot be any people who would take kindly to their conquest and subjugation, even if they are less ready to retaliate against their victors or enslavers.

The vision and mere yearning for one's freedom is the basic ingredient of a people to claim back their freedom, dignity and humanity seized by stealth or might of conquerors.

Colonialism ignored the foregoing reality of human history or arrogantly thought that their happy captives were incapable of such aspirations as those that beat in the hearts of all and any freedom-loving people and this is a note that we should take when we wield power.

The first spark of conquers for freedom, in my view, was lit in the 1806 Ashanti-Fante War, which led the Fante to abandon their allegiance to the Ashanti in favour of the British; thus the element of colonial divide and rule was brought into play. This of course set in a motion of a long series of wars, in which the Ashanti tried to ward off or minimise European power in their region.

From 1826 to the 1900s, the British fought a series of wars and campaigns against the Ashanti region. By the mid-1940s to the mid-1950s, all the regions in and around the Gold Coast were consolidated, heralding in the 1956 UN plebiscite that they, these territories, become part of Ghana when the Gold Coast achieved independence, the wind of change.

The new constitution of April 29, 1954 established a Cabinet of African Ministers drawn from all African legislatures chosen by direct election. This is when Kwame Nkrumah's Convention People's Party, the CCP, won the majority of seats in the new legislative assembly.

Two years later, Prime Minister Nkrumah's Gold Coast government issued a White Paper categorically proposing for the then Gold Coast's independence. The British government agreed to this proposal. By March 6, 1957, Ghana became independent to inspire a strong flame and desire for freedom on the entire continent. Nkrumah was now hailed as Osagyefo, the victorious leader. Even we, then up and coming and young lovers of freedom and democracy down south, saw Ghana as a star of hope, a clarion call to break the chains of bondage.

This era, like eras of the dawn of freedom, had its good and bad sides. There was a quest to achieve and develop Ghana into a modern, semi-industrialised unitary state. This quest in itself set in motion the seeds of tension

and dissent, not that dissent should be treasonable in democracy. The Convention People's Party's control was challenged and criticised. The outcome of these challenges was the provision of detention without trial for five years and later for 10 years. It all sounds very familiar. Apartheid, the Zanu PF regime in Zimbabwe, Darfur, etc, the abuse of power, politely put, the arrogance of power.

In 1961 a new constitution was adopted transforming the parliamentary system to a republican form of government headed by the powerful President, Dr Kwame Nkrumah.

Like suppression or oppression always breeding resentment and strife, the Ghanaian army and police toppled Nkrumah's regime, it is said, assisted by the CIA. Nkrumah was accused of flagrant abuse of individual rights and liberties, corruption, dictatorial practices, coupled with the deteriorating economy. Sounds very familiar again and very close to us. How and why on earth was the star of hope to fade this way? This fateful day of 24 February 1966 was indeed a blot on the inspiring star of Africa. The rest is history, as they say.

Ghana and Africa as a whole, including the freedom-loving people of the world, have every legitimate right to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the independence of Ghana, if for anything but to rekindle that celestial star of Africa, to rise and shine once more, to pave the way forward to African unity and the overall renewal now manifesting itself as the African Renaissance, with its trust in Nepad and related endeavours, to embrace the entire continent and to take its rightful place among nations of the world.

Those who cannot learn from their own mistakes, selfishly or arrogantly are inviting peril. We congratulate, however, the pioneering spirit of Ghana and the people of Ghana and wish them well.

Last, but not least, an emerging democracy such as ours, South Africa, should avoid the retrogressive tendencies and pitfalls that the star of Africa, Ghana, fell into. I thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Mr M B SKOSANA: Deputy Speaker and hon members, the freedom and independence of Ghana in 1957 inspired the leaders and people of Africa in the noblest ways any African historian can bring to mind.

The Conference of Independent African States called by Kwame Nkrumah had begun to deliberate on the political and the economic future of a free and independent African continent. The conference focused on the contribution of Africa to world peace, the total eradication of colonialism and racism, co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of good relations among free and sovereign nations, the promotion of continental peace and security, and the promotion of the political, cultural and economic wellbeing of all the people of Africa.

These were some of the salient principles that later influenced the establishment of the geo-political African entities, first the Organisation of African Unity, the OAU, and today the African Union, the AU, and its economic arm, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, Nepad.

It was the same spirit that motivated the Nigerian leader Nnamdi Azikiwe to illuminate on the renascent Africa, which must embody the fundamental basis of the philosophy of the new African, characterised by, *inter alia*, spiritual balance, social regeneration, economic determinism,, mental emancipation, and political resurgence.

It is this philosophical base that, among other positive factors, motivated President Thabo Mbeki to re-introduce in this Parliament the debate on the African Renaissance. Regrettably, the debate could neither be deepened nor sustained in this House, including civil society. There were those who perceived that as a clarion call for the rise of

black nationalism, while others feared an endless criticism of the historic failures of foreign ideologies. This attitude is delaying the true psychic, cultural and economic emancipation of the black majority in this country. Without this transformation, and unlike the people of Ghana and other independent African states, the black man in South Africa is in danger of forever remaining a dispensable participant in a process of modern-day enslavement of himself and his children.

President Mbeki summed it up well when he said: "We rarely speak about change or the absence of change in our minds." Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr G T MADIKIZA: Madam Deputy Speaker and hon members, Ghana's independence 50 years ago marked the first important step for Africa to throw off the shackles of colonialism. In that sense, it was a triumphant occasion that still, 50 years on, should fill all of the people of the continent with joy. It marked the beginning of Africans again being in control of their own destiny. At the same time, we must remember that Ghana's initial freedom soon presented many challenges and problems. The military coups that followed, the charges of corruption, the accusations of ethnic preferential treatment in service delivery and the distribution of national resources became setbacks.

As the years of independence progressed in Ghana, many other African states emerged from colonialism and followed a similar path of hope, and disappointment, and renewed hope, but the nations of the continent have refused to bow down and accept the afro-pessimist view of the so-called inevitability of African suffering and underdevelopment. I thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Mr L W GREYLING: President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana once said:

> Africa is a paradox, which illustrates and highlights neo-colonialism. Her earth is rich, yet the products that come from above and below the soil continue to enrich not Africans predominantly, but groups and individuals who operate to Africa's impoverishment.

As we celebrate 50 years of Africa's first independence, let us commit ourselves to ensuring that all Africans are liberated from neo-colonialism, war, poverty and authoritarian regimes so that the ordinary people of this continent gain control of their own destinies and immense natural resources.

Let us also remember the millions of African brothers and sisters who have needlessly died as a result of resource wars on this continent. Let us give a moment of silence to those innocent who died and continue to die in African countries like the Congo, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Burundi. I thank you.

Mr H B CUPIDO: Madam Speaker, the ACDP would like to express its heartfelt congratulations to the people of Ghana with their country's celebration of 50 years of independence. Ghana, being one of the first African countries to obtain independence from colonial rule on the continent, at this stage of the African continent's history, is regarded as one of the most stable countries in the West African region. This is despite the independence history of military interventions from time to time. The country has been well-governed by a multiparty democracy since the early 1990s.

Madam Speaker, the economy of Ghana is fairly stable, being the second-largest producer of cocoa in the world, together with the export of gold. It has boosted the growth of the economy in Ghana, an average of 4% per annum, with 5,8% obtained in 2005. The economic growth is further boosted by strong developments in the agriculture and construction sectors. The ACDP wishes the nation of Ghana God's richest blessings. Thank you.

Dr S E M PHEKO: Madam Deputy Speaker, the uniqueness of Ghana's independence is that it was the product of Pan-Africanism, which triumphed at the fifth Pan-African Congress in Manchester in 1945. That congress took this resilient African political philosophy home to Africa. Pan-Africanism passed the revolutionary test, and gave classical colonialism in Africa a knockout.

Ghana, through Dr Kwame Nkrumah, spearheaded the freedom movement of Africa. He had, on 6 March 1957, declared that Ghana's independence was nothing unless it was linked up to the total liberation of Africa. Nkrumah firmly held that political power is meaningless without economic power. He said: "In planning national development, the constant fundamental principle is the need for economic independence."

When the imperialists and their agents overthrew Nkrumah on 24 February 1966, he had established 68 sprawling state-owned factories producing every need of the Ghanaian people. There was free education, and medical services, which made Ghana the pride of a liberated African country. The treacherous coup against Ghana was aimed at destroying true African independence and economic liberation. The traitors and their masters who overthrew Nkrumah have serious lessons for us: Never again must Africans sell their interests and future for peanuts in order to serve the interests of the former colonial masters. Izwe lethu! [Our land!] [Applause.]

Ms S RAJBALLY: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. We indeed applaud and share in the . . . [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we have a choice of using plan B or going home and coming back tomorrow. We have 17 minutes left of the debate, and I am only going to ask you to please stop laughing at plan B. It is aimed at releasing you to go home.

Business suspended at 17:37 and resumed at 17:39.

Ms S RAJBALLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, we indeed applaud and share in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the independence of Ghana. Ghana, which is certainly one of the most stable democracies in Africa, has come a long way, and like South Africa, however, faces similar challenges such as poverty, unemployment, skills shortages, to name a few.

The realisation that our local supply of qualified persons is shipping off for opportunities in Europe and elsewhere is a harsh reality. We need to ask ourselves why. Why is the continent of Europe or other states a more attractive investment for our graduates? Our growth and development is dependent on our graduates, our skilled artisans and our people. The potential for Africa's greatest needs to be realised is invested in our people so that we may reap the benefits and grow a nation, so that we too can have the destiny of a bright future.

As a democracy, we too were victims of colonialism. We celebrate the freedom and liberty of our people, and congratulate Ghana on this success. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr L M GREEN: In congratulating Ghana on its 50 years of independence, the FD believes we must also extract lessons from their walk of freedom over these years.

Ghana's independence in 1957 ushered in a new wave of change sweeping over sub-Saharan Africa. Being the first country to gain freedom from colonial rule, there was much interest in following the way its new government, under the leadership of Kwame Nkrumah, would perform. For instance, at the time of its independence, Ghana was producing 10% of the world's gold.

The road ahead, based on successful transformation to an independent state, appeared to bring a dawn of new hope to the Ghanaians who were led by their own kind. The leadership and intellectual qualities of

Kwame Nkrumah were well suited for the challenges facing an independent Ghana.

It is sad to say that, after 50 years of independence, Ghanaians have very little to celebrate. We believe that the will to succeed at governing the country was uppermost in the minds of the leadership when they took possession of the land in 1957. However, what Nkrumah and his government were not able to do was to know how to rule over a pluralistic and independent-minded citizenry.

The eventual legacy of the rule of Nkrumah was one of dictatorship, imprisonment of opponents and creating a one-party state. The country's leaders over the subsequent years adopted this leadership style. If Ghana wishes to rid itself of this governing style, they will have to undertake a commission of inquiry into the root causes of their present troubles and deal with legacies left by bad leadership. Even though a country may have huge economic and social obstacles to overcome, we cannot agree with the words expressed in the news article by Gamal Nkrumah, the son of Kwame Nkrumah, who said: "Although we have a viable multi-party democracy in Ghana today, the problem in Africa is that democracy does not feed the people."

Democracy is the better of the creative energies of humanity to work for the good of all. We must ensure that we have the right mechanisms in place to ensure a just and equitable society. I thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Ms S C van der Merwe): Madam Deputy Speaker, hon members, it gives me great pleasure to participate in this debate on the occasion of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of independency in Ghana. It further gives me great pleasure to share this platform with people such as the hon MaNjobe, who had the exhilarating experience of living in Ghana during those exciting times straight after independence.

It was after all this event on 6 March 1957, that changed the face of Africa, and which was a start of the process of reclaiming Africa's birthright and the dignity of the African people. Under the leadership of Dr Nkrumah, this heralded the beginning of the process of African independence in the modern era and this example served to stimulate the process towards ending colonialism across the continent. It was, of course, the beginning of the wave of independence, which swept the continent during the 60s and culminated in our own freedom 13 years ago.

Ghana's independence gave us much hope 50 years ago. And that country continues to give us hope on our new quest for economic emancipation for our economic independence.

In spite of its many post-independence trials and tribulations, modern-day Ghana has managed to straddle the two worlds of underdevelopment and development with much maturity and leadership. In the process, Ghana has become the embodiment of the vision of the African Renaissance. All of us on the continent have learnt many lessons from Ghana. One could say that Ghana has been a vanguard nation in 1957 and now. As one of the first nations on the continent to gain independence, Ghana has led the way as a stable country under democratic rule, and now also serves as an anchor of economic growth and development.

Endowed with great resources, Ghana was historically known, as you all know, as the Gold Coast or "Golden Ghana", partly for its storehouses of gold and partly because it was considered by its neighbours to be shining as bright as gold itself. Such was the attraction of gold that Ghana was of course a hive of economic activity drawing many foreign nations to our continental shores as successive colonial powers sought to secure a place in the booming trade in gold.

While political solidarity has kept us together as a continent through the tough years

of apartheid and colonialism, we recognise that economic development is our current challenge. Political solidarity alone is not enough, but must be supported by strong economic co-operation.

With Ghana we enjoy excellent economic relations and it is a major trading partner of ours; in recent years trade growing tremendously between our two countries. There are, for example, about 35 South African multinational companies and smaller scale companies registered in Ghana. Since 1994, a capital injection of more than US$36 million from South African companies has been invested in Ghana. Also, there are an increasing number of other countries investing in Ghana because it enjoys one of the most sophisticated economies on the continent.

Consider this example from an article published in *The Washington Post* by Carol Pineau, entitled The Africa You Never See, in which she states:

> In the waiting area of a large office complex in Accra, it is standing room only as citizens with bundles of cash line up to buy shares of a mutual fund that has yielded an average of 60% annually over the last seven years. They are entrusting their hard-earned cash to a local company called Databank, which invests in stock markets in Ghana, Nigeria, Botswana and Kenya that consistently rank amongst the world's top growth markets.

These are the things we do not read about in the newspapers. It is also little known, for example, that the Ghana Stock Exchange regularly tops the list of the world's highest-performing markets.

So, South Africa and Ghana continue to have strong ties both politically and economically. Our political relations will be given further impetus this year when in July we launch the Joint Co-operation Commission. Also, on the multilateral level, His Excellency, President Kufuor, chairs the African Union, and the July AU Summit will be held under his chairmanship in the Ghanaian capital of Accra.

Ghana also plays a key role in the Economic Community of West African States, Ecowas, mediating the various crises that have affected the volatile region from Sierra Leone to Cote d'Ivoire.

And under President Kufuor's leadership, Ghana was also the first country—as has been mentioned here before—to undergo the African Peer Review process, with a very positive result.

Both our countries share a common vision for the continent and the world. We both work towards the eradication of conflict on our continent and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

We are now in the early years of this new wave of independence in which we are actively striving to rid our continent of all the negative stereotypes associated with it, such as war, famine and disease, through developing our economies, investing in our infrastructure and people, and working with our partners on the African continent and beyond to build prosperous societies.

Ghana is today a stable democracy—a country admired by its neighbours in West Africa and in the international community. As a country that has contributed so much to the liberation of our continent from colonialism's bonds, Ghana plays a crucial role in contributing to the vision of a better Africa and a better world.

Towards this end, Ghana's foreign policy objectives continue to be directed towards the promotion of a just and equitable international economic and social order. These are ideals for which we stand and which we, too, promote.

As a young nation in democracy, we have learned from Ghana. She has produced a high calibre of leaders whose contribution to the vision of African unity has left a lasting

legacy. Today, as we strive to consolidate African unity, we remember the contribution that Kwame Nkrumah made.

As we celebrate the unstoppable trend towards democratisation, we remember that one of Ghana's greatest sons, Kofi Annan, has been instrumental through his extraordinary personal and professional efforts in elevating the African agenda to global forums.

As we celebrate the milestone African Union decision to strive for gender parity within all structures of organisation, we must not forget the legacy bestowed upon us by the Ashanti who place women as the final arbiter in all decisions in the Ashanti community.

Both our countries' people cherish and celebrate their diversity, so both our people are ready to rekindle the filial ties and kinship that had been suppressed by the artificial restrictions imposed by the apartheid regime.

We are hugely encouraged by the increasing people to people contacts from our respective countries. We also look forward to participating in Ghana in 2008 in the Africa Cup of Nations, and also to hosting the Black Stars at the Fifa World Cup here in 2010. Speaking of learning, we hope that we will learn a lot from the Black Stars in 2008 as our own team prepares for 2010.

We are indeed proud to associate ourselves with the cultural and sporting achievements of Ghana; their display of skill and finesse during the Soccer World Cup in Germany indeed filled many of us with pride and made us proud to be Africans.

Ghana has given us all hope—in 1957 and during this half centenary celebration in 2007. At the colourful and happy ceremony in Ghana's capital last week, President Kufuor said:

> This is a celebration not only for Ghana but also for the whole of Africa. The date 6 March 1957 changed the outlook of Africa.
>
> There is no doubt that Africa and many of its nations are making progress. I urge our young people to resolve to stay at home, use their energy and enthusiasm to serve Africa.
>
> This resonates with us as we pursue our own political and economic objectives. We continued to be inspired by the successes of Ghana and the things they have taught us.

I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people and government of Ghana on 50 years of freedom. I thank you.

Debate concluded.

The House adjourned at 17:53.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

TABLINGS:

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. **The Minister of Finance**

   (a) Report of the Registrar of Short-term Insurance for 2005.

   (b) Report of the Registrar of Long-term Insurance for 2005.

   (c) Government Notice No R.186 published in *Government Gazette* No 29681 dated 1 March 2007: Amendment of Regulations in terms of the Long-term Insurance Act, 1998 (Act No 52 of 1998).

2. **The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development**

   (a) Report on the confirmation of the provisional suspension of Magistrate K Suliman, a magistrate from Durban, in terms of section

13(4)(b) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act No 90 of 1993).

3. **The Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry**

(a) Report and Financial Statements of Magalies Water for the year ended June 2006, including the Report of the Independent Auditors on the Financial Statements for the year ended June 2006.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 14:08.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS—see col 1991

POWER-SHARING AGREEMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

(Draft Resolution)

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, I hereby move without notice:

That the House—

(1) notes—

(a) that Catholic and Protestant parties in Northern Ireland, who were traditionally enemies for decades, have agreed to a new constitutional arrangement in terms of which they will share power; and

(b) that in a world beset by trouble and strife it is greatly encouraging to witness this historic moment; and

(2) wishes Northern Ireland good fortune in all its endeavours.

Agreed to.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BAFANA BAFANA

(Draft Resolution)

Mr M J ELLIS: Deputy Speaker, I hereby move without notice:

That the House—

(1) notes that Bafana Bafana beat Chad 3-0 in an African Cup qualifying match on Saturday, 24 March 2007;

(2) recognises that this was their first official game under new coach Mr Carlos Alberto Parreira;

(3) extends its congratulations to both Mr Parreira and the team; and

(4) wishes them well for the rest of their qualifying matches for next year's African Cup of Nations.

Agreed to.

EXPLOSION IN MOZAMBIQUE

(Draft Resolution)

Ms E NGALEKA: Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Acting Chief Whip of the Majority Party, I hereby move without notice:

That the House—

(1) notes that—

(a) on Thursday, 22 March 2007, an explosion occurred at the military depot in Maputo, Mozambique; and

(b) the explosion claimed the lives of more than one hundred people and that more than five hundred have been injured when debris fell on nearby residential and commercial sites;

(2) wishes the injured a speedy recovery; and

(3) conveys its deep-felt condolences to the government and the people of Mozambique.

Agreed to.

DEATH OF BOB WOOLMER

(Draft Resolution)

Mr T D LEE: Deputy Speaker, I hereby move without notice:

That the House—

(1) notes with profound sadness the death of former Proteas and Paki-

stan cricket coach Bob Woolmer on Sunday, 18 March 2007;

(2) recognises that he was an outstanding coach and one of the fathers of the development of South African cricket;

(3) acknowledges the fundamental role he played in the advancement of previously disadvantaged cricketers;

(4) further acknowledges that he will be sorely missed by the cricket community; and

(5) conveys its condolences to the Woolmer family.

Agreed to.

EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF OPERATIONS

(Draft Resolution)

Ms E NGALEKA: Deputy Speaker, I hereby move on behalf of the Acting Chief Whip of the Majority Party:

That the House concurs that the President by proclamation in the *Gazette* extend the period of operation of sections 51 and 52 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1997 (Act 105 of 1997), in terms of section 53(2) of the said Act for a further period of two years, with effect from 1 May 2007.

Agreed to.

RECONVENING OF COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONS IN THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC PROTECTOR

(Draft Resolution)

Ms E NGALEKA: Deputy Speaker, I hereby move on behalf of the Acting Chief Whip of the Majority Party:

That the House—

(1) notes that—

(a) the Ad Hoc Committee on Operational Problems in the Office of the Public Protector was established by the Speaker in terms of Rule 214 on 31 July 2006 and subsequently ratified by this House on 15 August 2006; and

(b) the House adopted the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on 7 September 2006, which recommended substantive confidence-building measures and the reconvening of the Committee before the end of March 2007 to assess progress made and to determine any further action that may be required to ensure that the office is able to fulfil its constitutional and legislative mandate; and

(2) resolves that the Ad Hoc Committee on Operational Problems in the Office of the Public Protector be reconvened, the committee to—

(a) assess progress made and to determine any further action that may be required to ensure that the office is able to fulfil its constitutional and legislative mandate;

(b) exercise those powers in Rule 138 that may assist it in carrying out its functions; and

(c) submit a report with its findings and recommendations to the House by 2 July 2007.

Agreed to.

FIRST READING DEBATES

(Draft Resolution)

Ms E NGALEKA: Deputy Speaker, I hereby move on behalf of the Acting Chief Whip of the Majority Party:

That the House—

(1) approves, for a trial period until the end of the Second Term, the implementation of the provision in Rule 246(1) for a First Reading debate on bills introduced in the Assembly, except money bills, in accordance with the following guidelines and notwithstanding any Rules to the contrary:

(a) A First Reading debate may be conducted on bills introduced in the Assembly.

(b) There shall be no speakers' list for a First Reading debate.

(c) The member in charge of a bill, be it a Minister, a member or a representative of a portfolio committee, must be allocated fifteen minutes to make an introductory speech on the background to, reasons for and objects of the bill, and to reply to the debate.

(d) In the case of a bill introduced by the Executive, a Deputy Minister may participate in the First Reading debate on behalf of a Minister.

(e) Members may speak on the bill for no longer than three minutes each.

(f) With the exception of the member in charge of the bill, or a Deputy Minister participating on behalf of the Minister, a member granted an opportunity to speak will not be given a second opportunity in the same debate.

(g) Members intending to participate in the debate must press the "to speak" button on their desks.

(h) Decisions regarding the scheduling of First Reading debates are taken by the Programme Committee.

(i) If a bill is introduced in the Assembly during a non-plenary period, it may be scheduled for a First Reading debate as soon as possible upon the resumption of plenaries.

(j) Once the speeches have been made, a bill is regarded as having been read a first time.

(k) No amendment to a bill is allowed on its First Reading and no decisions will be taken by the House after a First Reading debate; and

(2) agrees to an assessment and review of these measures by the Programme Committee after the expiry of the trial period and, if required, the recommendation of specific Rule adjustments to the Rules Committee.

Agreed to.

ASSIST THE POLICE TO FIGHT CRIME

(Member's Statement)

Mong S L DITHEBE (ANC): Motlatsa-Spika, dibekeng tse pedi tse fetileng, eleng ka 10 Hlakubele 2007, baahi ba Ward 10, Masepaleng wa Matjhabeng ba hlahetswe ke koduwa ya ho fenethwa ha batjha ba bararo eleng Nozlilo Moeti le Masechaba Moeti, ba hlabilweng ka thipa le ho thungwa, e ka sita le ho betwa ke mmolai wa bona. Motswala wa bona eleng Teboho o fenethetswe ka thipa sebakeng se seng hoole le lapeng labo. Re tshepa hore le mona, seponesa se tla fumana phunyeletso dipatlisisong tsa sona.

Ka letsatsi le hlahlamang ke ile ka tshetlehela matshwele a baahi puo mmoho le baemedi ba seponesa ha mmoho le baetapele ba bang ba setjhaba. Teng baahi bane ba

tshwere, kapa hona ho phahamisa dipolakathe tse ngotsweng ka tsela ena: "Masechaba, Nozlilo le Teboho ba fenithilwe; Motho e mong le emong o na le tokelo ya ho phela, Ha re aheng metse e bolokehileng—build safer communities". Tse ding di ne di re: "kutlwelobohloko ho diphofu tsa botlokotsebe—solidarity with victims of crime, Thusa seponesa ho fedisa botlokotseba- help the police to fight crime". Kopo ya setjhaba e nngwe ke hore, ba batla ho phela ba sereletsehile mme ba ikemiseditse ho thusa seponesa ho etsa jwalo.

Qetellong ya tshebeletso ya bofifi, seponesa se tlalehile hore ba babedi ba babolai ba se ba tshwere. Setjhaba se thabetse hoo, empa kopo ya bona ke hore, babelaellwa ba se fumantshwe beile ka baka la ketso eo e sehloho.

Ho dima ho le jwalo, emong wa babelaellwa o se a ile a fenetha morwetsana e mong hona woteng ena dilemong tsa ka bang tse pedi tse fetileng. Ke rata hore re theoletse baahi ba ward 10, haholo batjha ka hore ba nke qeto ya hore batla paterola mebila mmoho le seponesa sa rona.

Tsela e tshepehang ya ho thibela dipolao tsena ke ho tsetela hlompho ya ditokelo tsa motho emong le emong dikelellong tsa rona. Motho ke motho ka batho- I am becaue we are and since we are therefore I am. Ebile re rata ho lebisa le matshediso a rona ho lelapa lena la diphofu tsena tse seng di bolokilwe, ebile re leboha le setjhaba ka thuso ya sona ya ho thusa ho pata barwetsana bana ba babedi le motswala wa bona. Ka hoo ra a leboha. *(Translation of Sesotho member's statement follows.)*

[Mr S L DITHEBE (ANC): Deputy Speaker, two weeks ago, on 10 March 2007, Ward 10 residents in the Matjhabeng Municipality experienced a tragedy of the murder of three youths. Nozililo and Masechaba Moeti were raped, stabbed and shot to death by their assailant. Tebogo, the cousin of the deceased, was stabbed to death in a place not far away from his home. We hope even here police will succeed in their investigations.

The following day I addressed community masses, including police representatives and community leaders. Community members had placards on which was written "Masechaba, Nozililo and Tebogo were murdered; Each and every person has a right to live, Let's build safe communities". On others was written: "Solidarity with crime victims, help the police to fight crime". Another plea from the community was that they need to be protected. They are therefore committed to helping the police to do so.

At the end of the memorial service, police reported that two of the suspects had just been arrested. The community was pleased with the report, but made a request that the suspects should not be granted bail, due to the gruesome deed.

In addition to these murders, one of the suspects once murdered a young girl in the same ward about two years ago. I would like to applaud the ward 10 residents, especially the youth, for taking a decision to patrol the streets together with our police.

The credible way of preventing these murders is to instil respect for each and everyone's human rights in our minds. I am, because we are, and since we are, therefore I am. We would also like to convey our condolences to the family of the victims that are already buried. We also thank the community for its support in burying the bodies of these two young girls and their cousin. We are therefore thankful.]

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

(Member's Statement)

Mrs S M CAMERER (DA): Madam Deputy Speaker, while some reassuring sentiments are expressed in the ANC's policy document on the transformation of the judicial system, nevertheless warning lights are flickering around the issue of the rules of court, which is already making waves in the legal frater-

nity. At present the Constitutional Court makes its own rules; judges-president have limited powers to create rules while there is a rules board chaired by a judge, which isn't in charge of rules of court and rule development.

In terms of the package of Bills undermining the independence of the judiciary published by the Minister of Justice two years ago, which caused such a furore, the Minister of Justice assumed responsibility for and control over the rules of court.

There was great relief last year when President Mbeki himself eventually stepped in and withdrew the Bills to be reconsidered in terms of a White Paper on Judicial Transformation. The Minister of Justice has told Parliament that the White Paper is still being prepared. However, the ANC policy document affirms that rule making is a legislative competence and the power of rule making is delegated to the executive.

At the same time, the document states that the Minister of Justice is required to take into consideration the views of the judiciary in relation to matters which have a bearing on the proper functioning of the courts and administration of justice.

What the judiciary said about this in its memorandum to the department on the controversial Bill is as follows:

> In principle, rule-making power should vest in neither the executive nor the legislature. The power of judges to make rules of court is an ancient one and underlies section 173 of the Constitution, which provides that the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court of Appeal and the High Courts have the inherent power to protect and regulate their own processes.

Hopefully, the Minister of Justice will be honest enough to share the views of the judiciary around this and other aspects of judicial transformation with delegates at the ANC's upcoming policy conference. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT

(Member's Statement)

Mrs S A SEATON (IFP): Madam Deputy Speaker, the IFP submitted a question for oral reply to the President of the Republic to Parliament's Questions Office. We wanted to ask the President whether he agrees that as political office-bearers we are elected to serve the electorate and to be accountable to them and if he believed that it is morally and ethically correct that the ANC raises funds by selling membership to an elite group that may get preferential treatment and potentially elicit favours from Ministers, Deputy Ministers and senior civil servants.

The IFP believed, and still does, that this is a legitimate question to ask the President, as members of his executive—the Cabinet which he heads—were doing the fundraising in their official capacities, but we were blocked by the presiding officers. The answer to this could have shed lots of light on the ANC's perception of what is morally correct and defensible in a modern democratic state.

The IFP would like to reiterate that we believe that the funding scheme of the ANC is immoral and it is proof of how they manipulate and misuse their powers. Politicians are elected to serve the people and thus the ANC cannot charge for the service.

Extremely impoverished people, who also fought in the liberation struggle, are supporters of the ANC too. So, what is the ANC now trying to tell its voters? That you can only spend time with the people you elected as their leaders if you have between R3 000 and R60 000 for an ANC progressive business forum membership? It's ridiculous!

The IFP believes it is time for all voters to think seriously about where they place their votes in future. Can South Africa continue

having the country governed by a party that only serves its paying sponsors?

Everyone agrees . . . [Time expired.] [Applause.]

RDP HOUSES

(Member's Statement)

Mr S M RASMENI (ANC): Madam Deputy Speaker, we in this House would like to commend the sterling work done by the ANC, in particular the ANC Youth League in Maquassi Hills. Ha, umavukayibambe! [The ever-shining one!]

They have shown commitment in working together with government to identify service delivery blockages in Tswelelang Extension 10, where RDP houses built by contractors are in a state of collapse. No less than 50 houses have cracked walls. Foundations are not up to standard and some walls are literally collapsing. This in turn undermines the ANC-led government programme of pushing back the frontiers of poverty. It also undermines the principle of creating a better and a caring society. This is tantamount to sabotage. Such corrupt practices must be brought to book as they are damaging the image of the government. Let us name and shame such construction companies and the individuals involved in such contracts.

Inefficient service delivery is no delivery. We call on the government to intensify its monitoring mechanisms, to ensure that specifications and standards are adhered to by contractors and even call on the NHBRC to inspect all RDP houses built thus far. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

CRUELTY IN THE SUDAN

(Member's Statement)

Rev K R J MESHOE (ACDP): Madam Deputy Speaker, the latest reports about the Sudanese government's cruelty and persistent drive in its ethnic cleansing campaign in Darfur deserve strong condemnation. That brutal government and the Janjaweed militia that has burnt and destroyed hundreds of villages, killed and caused the deaths of at least 200 000 and raped and assaulted thousands of women and girls, has now closed off the main supply route to a town that was held by rebels about five months ago. Food assistance, medicine and other vital supplies cannot be delivered by aid groups, as their workers have been targeted by militiamen.

Government forces that have waged a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing against the civilian population who are members of the same ethnic group as the rebels must be ordered by the international community to stop their ethnic cleansing campaign and also be ordered to allow easy access of humanitarian supplies to the sick and most vulnerable civilian population in the south-east of the Jebel Marrah region. Children must be allowed access to education, and clinics that are closed must be opened so that the sick can receive medical treatment and medication. I thank you. [Applause.]

CHILD MAINTENANCE

(Member's Statement)

Ms F BATYI (ID): Chairperson, I have personally made a stand against men who do not pay child maintenance. It was an issue that I took up in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence last year, but I have turned it into the 365 days of action. So far, with the help of members of the Mitchells Plain Police Station, in particular Inspector Eugene Goliath, we have successfully made about 30 arrests.

Our efforts, though, are a last resort and it is a sentiment of those who have to deal with maintenance from the side of the law that the current system is inadequate. This was demonstrated recently when I helped in the arrest of a man who had not paid maintenance for 13 years. The gentleman then made bail.

It is unsatisfactory that he can pay bail and not maintenance. The ID would like to ask for the current system to be re-evaluated and

I ask more Members of Parliament to encourage the men of this country to pay child maintenance. I thank you.

ELECTRICITY INSTALLATION IN SISONKE

(Member's Statement)

Mr T L MAHLABA (ANC): Deputy Speaker, hon members, the ANC-led government has consistently displayed an ability to deliver on its commitment to the people. Yet, we have certain targets that need us as members, as part of our oversight function, to fight what could be stumbling blocks and bureaucracy that could cause a failure to the achievement of the set goals. The issue of electricity is one of the challenges that face the Sisonke District Municipality.

Currently, the power stations around the area cannot cope with the demand for electricity. This affects two district areas—Ugu Municipality and Sisonke. Under Ugu you have Umzumbe and Vulamehlo and under Sisonke you've Ubuhlobezwe and Ingwe Municipalities. Ubuhlobezwe Municipality has less than 50% household connections currently.

The specific request from my community is for the Department of Minerals and Energy to prioritise the building of the Canterton and Corinth power stations. This should be followed by more funding provided to these municipalities. The above will assist in areas like Hluthankungu, eGudwini, Sangcwaba, Mahehle and the broader area of Ubuhlobezwe Municipality. The community has trust in the ANC-led government and are prepared to work with it. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

(Member's Statement)

Dr G G WOODS (NADECO): Madam Deputy Speaker, the greatness of a country is not only found in its economic growth and social development towards political stability, it is found in the way the country is able to advocate and respond to issues affecting the future generation—the country's children.

Presently, there are members of our society whose rights as children are not being adequately accommodated. In particular, our children face a number of serious social challenges as victims of sexual exploitation and other criminal activities.

If we consider, for example, that over 55 000 children are reported to be physically abused annually in South Africa, we start to understand the extent of the situation in the country.

Recent research has also shown that sexual predators are now targeting Third World and developing countries. I think it is also the case of the entertainment media—television, in particular, which exposes children to much deviant and harmful social behaviour of a violent and sexual nature.

As Nadeco, we strongly believe that the sexual exploitation of children is an offence to the dignity of all of us. We urge that this Parliament strongly intervenes to expedite the finalisation and implementation of the Bills such as the Children's Amendment Act, the Sexual Offences Bill and the Child Justice Bill. Thank you.

CORRUPTION

(Member's Statement)

Mr S SIMMONS (UPSA): Deputy Speaker, I think we have consensus across the political spectrum that corruption is one of the most single debilitating harnesses in the way of ensuring a better life for all.

We also agree that government has an important role to play in this fight against corruption.

But it is the opposition that has an especially important role to play in this regard insofar as it fulfils its primary duties of oversight and keeping the government on its toes where these matters are concerned.

It becomes a problem, however, when the very people of all parties claiming to have the corruption moral high ground, have in their own ranks people who apparently occupy themselves with corruption of the highest order.

Die jongste hiervan, agb Adjunk-Speaker, is die bewering dat 'n DA-raadslid van Wyk 17 in die Kaapstad en haar handlanger die behuisinglys manipuleer en mense tot R5 000 laat betaal om kastig te verseker dat hulle voorkeur behandeling sal kry. Dit is 'n ernstige aanklag teen die integriteit van die DA en alles wat dié party tot dusver oor korrupsie te sê gehad het aangesien hierdie raadslid juis in haar vorige termyn gebuk gegaan het onder soortgelyke bewerings. *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.)*

[The latest of these, hon Deputy Speaker, being the allegation that a DA member of Ward 17 in Cape Town, and her henchman, manipulated the housing list and charged people up to R5 000 under the pretence that they would receive preferential treatment. This is a serious allegation reflecting on the DA's integrity and this party's stance on corruption to date, especially as similar allegations were levelled against this member during her previous term of office.]

Madam Speaker, it is we, as the opposition party, who want to step on the government's toes when it is alleged that there is corruption somewhere, and we need to make sure that we aren't culprits ourselves. I thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

(Member's Statement)

Mr C M LOWE (DA): Deputy Speaker, there is nothing wrong with "governing-by-acronyms" if the results are produced and the direction is clear, but not if it serves only as a platform for government from which to issue vague statements that either gloat over insignificant or ineffectual successes, admit that there's a problem but ignore the particulars, or fail to be engaged in possible solutions.

This, however, seems to be exactly what government is doing with the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa, Asgisa, and particularly its skills arm, the Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition, Jipsa.

The Deputy President has just announced ambitiously that the skills shortage is again high on intent, but low on content, and seems to promise little more than to further entangle the ANC government in yet another string of unaccomplished targets. We are not told how government aims to do this.

Ostensibly everyone is also engaged in the departmental "turf wars" that are blamed for Asgisa's woes or perhaps are rather blissfully unaware of and excluded from the process.

The Labour department's strategic plan presented to the portfolio committee this morning also did not contain any word on it.

The Deputy President sought to address the skills development programme a year ago at the launch of Jipsa. We still await her promised skills revolution.

In the meantime the DA is after the barrage of possible solutions where government remains floundering—most notably with the expensive red-tape-driven with scandal-prone state information technology agencies, or Sitas.

South Africa, a lot of people who work in it, deserves better. Thank you. [Applause.]

MULTIPURPOSE COMMÚNITY CENTRE IN ZWIDE

(Member's Statement)

Mr N B FIHLA (ANC): Madam Speaker, this House must note some of the current development initiatives in bringing about a better life for all. In the *Herald* of 12 March 2007, it is reported that about R30 million

has been allocated to build a multipurpose community centre in the Zwide Township of Port Elizabeth.

We should warmly welcome this initiative. The initiative is taking place within the context of the partnership between government and the business sector to build community facilities in order to provide better services for the people and the poor in particular.

We must remember that the Zwide Township is one of the communities that were ravaged by apartheid in our country. As the ANC, it is important to ensure that development does not become a project for the elite section within the historically oppressed communities. Such community facilities should be developed in the interest of the poor.

In the context of the Correctional Services, this multipurpose community centre will help to advance social integration of offenders through counselling services and technological skills training of the ex-prisoners or parolees, it will help to advance community correction and help to implement non-custodial sentences by way of offering different programmes for different needs for different offenders. I thank you.

UNDERAGE DRINKING

(Member's Statement)

Prof E S CHANG (IFP): Deputy Madam Speaker, the IFP welcomes the recent closure of the Refresh Nightclub in Overport, Durban after 57 underage drinkers were caught in a surprise raid. The discovery of the drinking teenagers has caused a huge public outcry about the prevalence of underage drinking and drug abuse in a country in which the rate of crime and sexual abuse is really high.

Alcohol is also seen as a chief factor among the three leading causes of death of young people, namely automobile crashes, homicides and suicides. The recent shooting and wounding of a 16-year-old girl outside the same Refresh Nightclub is a testimony to the ongoing nature of the worst behavioural effects associated with underage and heavy drinking. Sanca in Durban treats hundreds of young victims from the age of 12 to 18 every year as a result of susceptibilities to harmful substances.

The IFP, therefore, calls upon the Liquor Licence Board and the entire law enforcement agencies to get on top of nightclubs and shebeens that sell alcohol to underage drinkers. The IFP is concerned that this kind of lawlessness and the moral decay of the young generation is not only limited to KZN but has serious national dimensions. The law therefore should not only be applied but it must be seen to be applied. I thank you.

WOMEN'S MARCH

(Member's Statement)

Ms D B MBOMBO (ANC): I need protection from my colleagues, Madam Chair. The Cabinet meeting on 7 December 2005 tasked the Department of Arts and Culture to lead the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the women's anti-pass march of August 1956.

Two book launches on 8 and 9 March held respectively in Johannesburg and Cape Town drew the 50th anniversary commemoration to a close. Three books specifically commissioned for the commemoration were launched at these events. The first was a photographic essay executed by a number of South African women photographers, entitled *Women by Women*. The second is a collection of writings by South Africa women dating from the mid-19th century to the present, titled *The Face of the Spirit*, and the third is an anthology titled *Tshimakadzo*, featuring new women poets who have hitherto not been published.

ISebe lezoBugcisa neNkcubeko liqonde ngokukodwa kwiintombi ezikwizikolo zamabanga aphakamileyo, kumakhaya okhuseleko, nakwezihlala kwiindawo ezisaphuhliswayo. [The Department of Arts and Culture is

focused especially on young girls who are at high schools, boarding schools, and on those who stay in developing areas.]

We had three of them coming from informal settlements in the Free State.

Aba ndithetha ngabo bathathe inxaxheba kukhuphiswano lukazwelonke, saze isiphumo soko saba kukuvakalisa amazwi amatsha, kwaze kwabhalwa nencwadi yemibongo . . . [Laphela ixesha.] [Those that I'm referring to participated in the national competition for the development of new terminology which resulted in the writing of a poetry book . . . [Time expired.]]

INDEPENDENT COMPLAINTS DIRECTORATE

(Member's Statement)

Ms D KOHLER-BARNARD (DA): Madam Deputy Speaker, last year the SA Police Service's Commissioner, Jackie Selebi, told the DA that the Independent Complaints Directorate had "outlived its usefulness and could be dissolved", leaving the South African Police Service to police itself.

Yesterday the Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security sat for five hours interrogating the top structure of the ICD and we discovered that there had been a 28% increase in the number of people killed whilst in police custody by the police. This organisation that Commissioner Selebi wants to see the back of had 4 950 cases of police abuse and negligence reported to it just this past year and of those cases 439 referred to murders by the police, with an additional 248 people who died in police custody.

Intentional shootings are up by 200% and being investigated by this independent organisation, despite enormous capacity and budget constraints. Let me point out to this House that if it were not for the ICD there would be nothing to check on excesses by the police and nothing to uphold a very democratic principle, a principle Commissioner Selebi would do very well to attempt to grasp. Strengthen the ICD, don't abolish it. [Applause.]

EDUCATION WHITE PAPER

(Member's Statement)

Mong M J MZONDEKI (ANC): Ke ya leboha Motlatsa-Spikara. Mmuso o etelletsweng pele ke ANC o ile wa nka qeto ya ho fitisa Molawana ho tsa dithutho—The White Paper Number 6. Sepheho sa Molawana ona, ke ho netefatsa hore barutwana ba sa itekanelang ha ba kgethollwe ka hore ba qobeleha ho kana dikolo tse ikgethileng—special schools.

Molawana ona o netefatsa hore barutwana ba sa itekanelang le bona ba amohelwe dikolong tse tlwaelehileng, e leng mainstream schools. Ho netefatsa hore hona ho ya phethahala, tse ding tsa dikolo tse ikgethileng di fetoletswe hoba di-resource centres, e leng dibaka tse tla eletsang dikolo tse qalang ho amohela barutwana ba sa itekanelang.

Se seng sa dikolo tse sebetsang e le resource centre ke Leboneng Special School, mane Welkom, Lejweleputswa District Municipality. Ketelong ya ka sekolong sena ke hlokomedisitswe ka moo mathata a mangata a etsang hore sekolo sena se seke sa sebetsa hantle jwalo ka Resource Centre. A mang a mathata a hlwahilweng ke diphaphosi tse haellang, ho se be teng ha di Therapist, sick bay, hosetele ya bana ba dulang hole le dipalangwa tse haellang.

Mooki wa sekolong eo e leng ena ya thusang dikolong ha ana sepalangwa sa lefapha, o sebedisa koloi ya hae. Maemo ana a ya hlobaetsa, mme a tla etsa hore re se fihlelle sepheho sa rona sa ho lwantsa kgethollo ya barutwana ba sa itekanelang. Ke ya leboha. *(Translation of Sesotho member's statement follows.)*

[Mr M J MZONDEKI (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The ANC-led government took the decision to pass the Bill on educa-

tion, which emanated from White Paper 6. The purpose of this Bill is to ensure that disabled learners are not discriminated against by being forced to attend special schools.

This Bill ensures that disabled learners are also admitted to mainstream schools. In order to make certain that this happens, some special schools have been converted into resource centres, which will be used as centres that give advice to schools that have just started to admit disabled learners.

One of the schools that works as a resource centre is Leboneng Special School in Welkom, Lejweleputswa District Municipality. While visiting the school I was made aware of the many problems that hinder the proper functioning of the school as a resource centre. Some of the problems highlighted were: the shortage of classrooms, no therapist available, no sick bay, no hostel for learners who live far away, and a shortage of transport.

The school nurse who helps around the schools has no transport provided by the department, she uses her own car. This is a worrying state of affairs and will defeat our purpose of fighting discrimination against disabled learners. Thank you.]

INDEPENDENT COMPLAINTS STRUCTURE

(Minister's Response)

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, it is a real pity that in South Africa there are still people who thrive on controversy. I don't understand how anyone could use a statement which is not the official position and want to cast an attitude on the basis of such a statement. The hon Kohler-Barnard is talking about a statement by the National Commissioner.

The fact of the matter is that I spoke in this House and put the official position. In fact, the official position is exactly as she is saying it, because that is exactly what I said in this House. I reiterated this in the NCOP as well and I did not just talk about these things. It is our view that the ICD indeed must be strengthened and we've travelled quite some distance in order for us to be able to do that.

It is not our intention to close down the ICD: that's what I said in this House. I said the ICD was a necessary structure in terms of our democratic dispensation, which I said in the NCOP. That is the official position, and all other positions will be taken up by people who want to continue to be controversial. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

FUNDRAISING BY MEMBERS

(Minister's Response)

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: The hon member from the IFP presented a gross distortion of the ANC's fundraising endeavours. I think it is important for the House to note the following: Firstly, ANC Ministers are community members and they continuously interact with communities. This is a duty and responsibility that we will continue to do. It is our task and our mission!

Secondly, ANC Ministers continue, on a daily basis, to be invited to be speakers and guest speakers by a whole range of organisations—professional organisations, civil organisations and a whole range of NGOs. We do this in a clear endeavour to consult, participate and interact with people. That is what we continue to do and that is what we are going to continue do. [Applause.]

Thirdly, ANC Ministers are also invited to attend the fundraising endeavours of a number of civil society organisations. We do this. We sit at tables and, to a large extent, the ANC Ministers are keynote speakers. Those organisations and NGOs raise funds around those activities and we will continue to do that. It is something that we believe in. [Applause.]

But, what we don't understand is the whole

avalanche of criticism when the ANC used the resources at its disposal, both material and personnel, to raise its own funds legitimately, legally and transparently. And I want the member to tell us: Is there is anything wrong with the ANC organising a fundraiser, inviting its own members to participate in that and raise funds? If that is wrong, then what is right in South Africa? [Applause.]

ASGISA; INDEPENDENT COMPLAINTS STRUCTURE; EDUCATION WHITE PAPER; SITUATION IN DARFUR

(Minister's Response)

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I would advise the hon member, who has made the most unfortunate comments concerning the Deputy President's presentation of her annual reports on both the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa as well as the Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition, to read both reports because then he would have the information available to him which would assist him in not making wild and inaccurate statements about what has been done. Those reports are available and I certainly invite the hon member to go through them.

I think we don't need to repeat what has been done with respect to the skills focus. He could read the annual reports of the Department of Education and he will find in my own strategic plan that in fact there is a key reference to the very programmes that the Deputy President has referred to.

We have indeed completed a great deal of the recapitalisation of FET Colleges; the 11 programmes I referred to last year and modern skills development programmes are in place in the FET Colleges throughout the country; we have admitted 24 700 students to these new programmes; engineering, information technology, media studies, and a whole range of skills areas are being addressed; we will admit 20 000 more students in 2008. Therefore, the objective of 50 000 young people in these new programmes would have been achieved.

With respect to universities, we have made available to the institutions that have engineering faculties additional funding for them to admit expanded numbers of students to pursue degrees in engineering, to improve their engineering workshop facilities, and to improve tutoring to students so that the throughput rate is improved.

With respect to graduate placement, we have been working with engineering societies to ensure that registration of graduates is indeed completed.

With expanding Maths and Science, we continue with our initiatives in schools and at university level. You are aware of the National Youth Service and the expansion of the programmes there. You are also aware of the worth of the Umsobomvu Youth Fund where it seeks to appoint and support young people in entrepreneurship programmes.

As a Member of Parliament, you should be aware, you should be reading the reports and you should be coming here as the hon Mzondeki has done to point out where there might be inadequacies. I will certainly follow up, hon Mzondeki, the Welkom school situation because the resource centres should indeed be adequately supported. But, I would encourage the hon member to look at the reports, both with respect to Asgisa and the economic work that you fully know is being carried out—the infrastructure development, the various programmes in the public sector as well as the state-owned enterprises.

You are aware that we are retaining attention to the core-fundamentals of our economy as we pursue the 6% growth target. You are fully aware that government is intent on ensuring it achieves its objectives of growing the economy and massively eroding the levels of poverty that we see in our society.

So, I would urge you to come to the House with accurate information and perhaps an indication of the steps you will take to ensure that these objectives, which in the interest of all the people of South Africa, are indeed pursued and achieved.

In conclusion, if I could say, one would certainly agree that we must ensure promotion and support for the rights of the people of Darfur and continue the efforts of the AU in finding a solution to the current plight faced by the people of Darfur. So, we would agree with the leader of the ACDP that certainly as Parliament, perhaps at the IPU as we engage with colleagues from other Parliaments, we look at how we as parliamentarians could play a greater role in advancing civil rights and the observance of the International Human Rights Law in the Darfur context—both by the government of Sudan as well as the rebels within the Darfur region.

I certainly would also agree with the hon member from the ID that we must continue as Members of Parliament, and not as women Members of Parliament but all Members of Parliament, to fight for maintenance to be paid for all children who we give life to as adults in our society. So, certainly we would support that approach. [Applause.]

We also would agree with the hon Gavin Woods that the rights of children must be protected and that if there is an instance where the media is perhaps not playing the role that it should, action should be taken, both in law and in statute, to ensure that our children are not abused or presented in a negative fashion through the media. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. [Applause.]

SEXUAL OFFENCES BILL

(Minister's Response)

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Madam Speaker, I think Minister Naledi Pandor has already covered this, because I was going to speak on the Sexual Offences Bill, and with regard to the Sixteen Days of No Violence Against Women and Children, and the 365-day campaign, but it has already been covered.

Thank you.

EKURHULENI DECLARATION ON THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION; THE FORTHCOMING GLOBAL FORUM ON COMBATING CORRUPTION AND SAFEGUARDING INTEGRITY

(Statement)

The MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: Madam Speaker, the South African government, together with the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, hosted the first-ever Africa forum on fighting corruption in Gauteng earlier this month.

This gathering brought together some 450 delegates representing governments, multilateral organisations and structures of civil society from across the African continent, under the theme "Towards a common understanding of corruption".

We all agreed that corruption is a direct impediment to Africa's development. The forum gave us an opportunity to share perceptions and experiences of corruption strategies and best practices, as well as to deliberate on how we work together to create effective structures, policies and programmes to counter corruption.

We also adopted the Ekurhuleni Declaration as a lodestar in the ongoing fight against corruption. The Ekurhuleni Declaration defines corruption as including theft, fraud, bribery, extortion, nepotism, patronage and the laundering of illicit proceeds.

This marks a significant departure from the traditional and narrow and restricted definition which focuses the gaze of attention on

the recipient of the bribe in cases where there is abuse and misuse of public power and public resources for private benefit.

There was and is an agreement that corruption occurs both in the public and private spheres of society, and organs of civil society are also susceptible to acts of corruption. There is a supply side and a demand side to corruption. There is the corruptor and the corrupted.

That corruption was largely seen as a public sector vice is due in part to the use of tools such as the corruption perception index as a measure of corruption. This index, pioneered by Transparency International, surveys the opinions of the private sector on public sector corruption in developing countries, and it is based primarily on the perceptions of business on whether they have to pay bribes to the public sector in different countries. Not only does it not focus on whether companies have actually been asked to pay bribes or have paid bribes, it focuses only on the taker of bribes and imputes no culpability to the payers of bribes.

The recently released report on corruption in the private sector in South Africa, commissioned by the National Anti-Corruption Forum Private Sector Component, highlights the significant incidence of bribery and corruption in the private sector.

It also highlights the low level of awareness of business of the statutory requirements to report corruption to the police. Seventy-nine per cent of companies were unaware of this.

The Africa Forum called for standardised methodologies to measure corruption and for baseline studies to be undertaken so that the effectiveness of policy interventions can be assessed over time. The broader definition of corruption requires that new and more comprehensive measures be implemented to counter corruption. It demands that it is not just the developing countries that need to take action, but that international and cross-border co-operation is vital in halting the tide of unscrupulous behaviour. The African Forum agreed on the kinds of measures that need to be implemented on the continent, and it's now up to us to pressure the developed countries to co-operate with us in prosecuting acts of corruption when committed by their nationals, whether natural or legal entities.

What is very important, however, and which was considered by the Africa Forum, was the centrality of a national integrity system in the bid to combat corruption, and the forum stressed that it must be premised on a sound value system that draws upon traditional, communal, egalitarian and democratic principles.

These national values should permeate the structures of the state and civil society with the principles and practices prevalent in a vibrant democracy, including transparency, freedom of speech, access to information, free and fair elections, a strong judicial system and holding the executive to account.

Our values have been distorted and corroded by colonialism and apartheid. The onus on the leadership echelon in African society, in all sectors, not just political leaders, is to resuscitate our traditional value systems based on the concepts of Ubuntu and Ujamaa, and to marginalise the trend towards possessive individualism, spawned by market fundamentalism, in which the scramble for material possessions takes precedence over the collective good.

It is opportune that today Parliament launches its new emblem with "the people" at its base and with a commitment to an open and inclusive society. The new emblem combines the traditional forms of societal engagement, of people working together, as depicted by the drum with the modern principles of democracy as enunciated in our Constitution. So, we all have a commitment. We all have a responsibility to take it forward. Our commitment is to a people-centred society where justice shall prevail. It

is these very principles that must transform our approach to combating corruption.

The structural component of the national integrity system is based on a set of institutions that provide checks and balances in the execution of state power, as well as law enforcement bodies and organs of civil society. Addressing this House, I must emphasise that this institution lies at the centre of these structures. It is the primary institution that exercises oversight over the government. Other bodies that monitor government report to Parliament, and funding for other state bodies and law enforcement agencies are approved by the legislature.

Parliament has implemented a Register of Members' Interests and promulgated the Executive Members Ethics Act. Both these codes of conduct encompass conflict of interest rules. There are other organs of state that contribute to an integrity system. This includes the judiciary, the Auditor-General, and the Public Protector, amongst others.

The forum itself paid due attention to the issue of training and capacity-building of personnel and institutions to intensify the fight against corruption. It acknowledged and welcomed the role that civil society plays in the fight against corruption and advocated the creation of national compacts between governments, business, the media and civil society to strengthen the campaign. Civil society organs have a crucial role in developing public awareness of corruption and its implications.

We should bear in mind, however, that civil society is not immune to corruption itself, and does not always measure up to the standards of probity and openness that it demands of others.

It was agreed that the media has a responsibility not just to investigate and expose corruption when it occurs, but also to inform and educate the public about corruption generally so as to generally increase awareness about it in our midst.

A properly structured integrity system provides a comprehensive backbone to a democratic system of governance. It knits the various checks and balances into an effective tool against corruption. A national integrity system therefore provides both the institutional and philosophical basis for both enforcement and preventive action against corruption.

The Africa Forum and the Ekurhuleni Declaration acknowledged the steps taken by African states in regional organisations and the African Union to promulgate and implement instruments to tackle corruption, but conceded that a greater harmonisation of legislation and actions was required to ensure that these noble instruments become effective.

There was concern about the costs of ratifying and implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, and the regional protocols that are in place.

It was emphasised that greater co-operation in the spheres of money-laundering, cross-border crimes and asset forfeiture was particularly required. The forum generally noted the desire for strong, capable states to meet the needs and aspirations of the African people.

Having forged a consensus on the shape of the fight against corruption on the continent, we now look forward to the Global Forum V meeting in Johannesburg from 2 to 5 April this year. We are proud to host this gathering called "Fulfilling our Commitments: Effective action against Corruption".

This forum will explore the interrelationship between the UN Convention against Corruption, its implementation mechanism, which is the Conference of State Parties, and the Global Forum. The implementation of sub-regional, regional and international instruments is strongly promoted through the Global Forum. Any development and en-

gagement that would strengthen these relationships is welcomed. Through such relationships, the integration and co-ordination of global efforts is strengthened and enhanced.

We will present the Ekurhuleni Declaration to the Global Forum and call upon all states to intensify co-operation and deepen the global onslaught against corruption.

I have referred to the recognition by the forum of the values of *ujamaa* and ubuntu, "I am what I am because of who we all are", which is the essence of our commitment to fighting corruption. It is with this commitment to social cohesion that we call on other sectors of society to increase their participation in this fight that is critical to the strengthening of our democratic society.

The endorsement of the declaration by this House will be a historic milestone in strengthening the battle and the commitment across society to advancing the frontline of this battle. It is in this same spirit that we will be approaching business, in the next month, to support a campaign, both through material resources as well as creative ideas, to embark on a mass communication campaign, a campaign to make the people of our nation aware of the tools that we have to fight corruption; a campaign to publicise the national Anti-Corruption Hotline, 0800 701 701, so that every citizen knows where and how to report corruption; a campaign to make business aware of their legal requirements to report any attempts to engage in corrupt practice, and to promote whistle-blowing as a patriotic act of commitment to a corruption-free society.

We have proclaimed the 21st century as the African Century and we have, together with the broader international community, welcomed the articulation of the Millennium Development Goals. We are continually striving to implement policies and programmes to give effect and substance to these objectives of lifting the African people out of economic and social deprivation. We strive for sustained economic growth in a more egalitarian global economic order, despite the bumpy road we have thus far travelled. We have raised the bar for our continent and our people deserve no less.

The developed countries need to ensure that that bar will be set for them as well, because we will not fail our people or the people of the world. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr I F JULIES: Madam Speaker, the DA has long held that a clear and strong message must be sent by government that corruption, whether in the private or in public sector, will not be tolerated. To this effect, we last year in this House called for a debate on fraud.

Specifically, we were interested to hear the ANC take on the impact of the public support shown by government officials for fallen comrades convicted of crime on the seriousness with which fraud and corruption were viewed in our society. But unfortunately, courtesy of the ANC-dominated programme committee, that was not to be.

Corruption and economic crime are a big problem in our government departments as well as in our public entities. My colleague, Mark Lowe, is fond of referring to the problems besetting the Sector Education and Training Authorities. Members serving on the Communication Portfolio Committee may have noticed from the front page of today's edition of a leading business newspaper that the problems in this regard with respect to the Post Office have also not yet been resolved.

Not even this House has escaped without being tainted, as even two members of Cabinet were recently found to have made use of travel privileges to which they were not entitled, without as much as a beat being skipped by the powers that be.

The Germans say that the fish rots from the head down. It would seem that in South Africa the situation is no different. Judging by the extent to which corruption and

economic crime have taken root in our private sector, it would seem that the bad apples in the business fraternity have done excellently in emulating their counterparts in government.

Transparency International's own corruption perception index, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Global Economic Crime Survey and KPMG's African Fraud and Misconduct Survey have found that fraud and corruption are a severe problem in South Africa, and in terms of how South Africa is viewed internationally.

As such, the DA supports the Ekurhuleni Declaration on fighting corruption, in particular Resolution 10 that entails capacitation of national legislatures to provide oversight and ensure accountability. We hope that in this process government and particularly the members on my right will do their part. I thank you. [Applause.]

Dr U ROOPNARAIN: Madam Speaker and hon members, the IFP welcomes a statement by the Minister. Hon members, it was Seneca who wrote so brilliantly, almost twenty centuries ago, that corruption is not a problem of times but of man. The debilitating effects of corruption are only too well known, deepening poverty, undermining political and economic systems, also the high levels of corruption scandals, the inequities and the blatant greed have pushed corruption to the top of the political agenda.

It is well known that many corruption schemes originate at the public-private interface where public officials can be tempted to accept or solicit bribes. The key to any anticorruption measures is building integrity institutions. It is about injecting ubuntu and ethics into all facets of life, both personal and public. It is about right living, as Aristotle would say.

The second key is effective law-enforcement agencies. Efforts to combat corruption are never easy, neither is detection, but confront it we must. We must raise an onslaught against corruption, not just because it is morally wrong, but because it exerts a heavy toll on the nation's social, political and moral wellbeing. In short, corruption poses a threat to the functioning and credibility of our democracy, dangerously weakening the system.

Let us not forget that democracy does not automatically mean a level playing field. Corruption is a symbiotic relationship, when one exercises public power for private benefit. When tolerated long enough, it leads to the decay of the system and thereby its demise.

To defend the legitimacy of the democratic state, transparency and accountability are the answer. Coupled with this is the value of public opinion and a vigilant media. Hume once wrote that concerning any system of government, it must be known that man is a scoundrel lacking in any other purpose but his own private interest.

Let us not forget that ethics and good governance are conjoined twins. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr H B CUPIDO: Madam Speaker, fighting corruption is the biggest challenge facing South Africa and the African continent. Corruption is destroying the very fibre of our society. The ACDP fully supports the fight against corruption and we give support to any organisation in its fight to save our nation from being robbed of its destiny.

We welcome every effort to combat this cancer in society, in business and in governments. Civil society needs to be mobilised much more strongly. Television, radio and the print media should become the media to educate people against crime and corruption. Awareness is of the utmost importance.

The ACDP especially supports the recommendations to empower the South African courts and oversight bodies to increase their capacities to combat crime by way of the swift judgment of offenders.

We also support the adoption of the plan of action as proposed by the African Forum on Fighting Corruption on 2 March 2007. Thank you.

Mnr P J GROENEWALD: Agb Speaker, ons kan hoeveel planne op die tafel sit, ons kan in soveel woorde sê dat ons teen korrupsie is—natuurlik is almal teen korrupsie, die Vryheidsfront Plus is ook teen korrupsie, maar solank as wat ons nie ons woorde in dade omskep nie, vorder ons nie 'n enkele millimeter nie. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Hoekom moet ons in die media lees van fluitjieblasers wat hulle werk verloor omdat hulle korrupsie ontbloot het? Hoekom gebeur dit dat byvoorbeeld 'n munisipale bestuurder van Klerksdorp korrupsie gepleeg het maar hy word net deur die ANC-beheerde stadsraad by 'n ander stadsraad aangestel?

Agb Minister, tree op. Ek het 'n vraag in hierdie Parlement vyf jaar gelede gevra oor 'n persoon wat oumense se geld gevat het en korrupsie gepleeg het. Hoekom word daar nie teen hom opgetree nie? Want hy sê net: Ek het 'n lidmaatskapkaart van die ANC. Hou op om te praat, agb Minister. Laat ons ophou om planne te maak. Kom ons voer dit deur, dan kan ons vorder en korrupsie bestry. [Tussenwerpsels.] *(Translation of Afrikaans speech follows.)*

[Mr P J GROENEWALD: Hon Speaker, we can lay however many plans on the table, we can in so many words say that we are against corruption—of course, everyone is against corruption—the FF Plus is also against corruption, but as long as we don't transform our words into deeds, we will not advance a single millimetre. [Interjections.]

Why must we read in the media of whistle-blowers who lost their jobs because they exposed corruption? Why is it that, for example, a municipal manager of Klerksdorp committed corruption, but he is then just appointed to another city council by the ANC-led city council?

Hon Minister, you have to act. Five years ago I asked a question in this Parliament about a person who stole money from the elderly and committed corruption. Why has no action been taken against him? Because he merely says: I have an ANC membership card. Stop paying lip-service, hon Minister. Let us stop making plans. Let us rather follow it through, then we can progress and combat corruption. [Interjections.]]

Mr M T LIKOTSI: Madam Speaker, the PAC is in support of the Ekurhuleni Declaration of 2 March 2007, aimed at fighting corruption, made by the African governments, intergovernmental organisations and civil society organisations.

Corruption by its nature is like a cancer. If not prevented it may ultimately result in the destruction of mankind. Corruption manifests itself in many forms: nepotism, land dispossession, tenders and other government favours for friends and associates.

Corruption hampers development and destroys the economy of countries. In Kant's categorical imperative studies we learn to "act as if the maxim of thy action were to become by thy will a universal law of nature". It teaches us to be immune from corruption, and that is what all government and nations should master to create corruption-free societies.

The Ekurhuleni Declaration supplements other declarations of its nature made by the African Union in preventing and combating corruption and the united convention against corruption is most welcome as an endeavour in fighting and preventing corruptjon wherever it emerges at all times. I thank you.

Ms S RAJBALLY: Madam Speaker, the MF strongly agrees that corruption is a serious problem, if not epidemic, eating away at society and robbing our people of a better life. We stand committed to poverty alleviation, socioeconomic development and succeeding in attaining the millennium goals.

However, corruption seriously hinders our progress and retards these commitments.

The MF agrees that corruption needs to be stopped by apprehending the offender, but crucial to the fight against corruption is educating the nation on corrupt activities and the hazardous impact they have on our country.

As Parliament, we have a duty incumbent upon us to stamp out corruption. A system of integrity is supported in managing checks and balances of the process. The law needs to enforce severe punishment of corruption perpetrators to deter them from committing this offence.

We need to take this anticorruption campaign to our constituencies so that we may intensify the fight against corruption. The MF supports the Ekurhuleni declaration and denounces corruption. I thank you.

Mr L M GREEN: Madam Speaker, the FD welcomes the Minister's statement on corruption. We believe that any attempt to combat corruption must be lauded. But we also believe that without the political will to rule democratically and justly, the strong and powerful who bribe and exploit will always win the battle of influence over the politically corrupt. South Africa's people deserve much better. Steve Biko said: "The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed."

If we apply his thinking on the issue of corruption we can equally state that the most potent weapon in the hands of the perpetrators of corruption is when a weak political will nullifies the good laws of a country. The FD welcomes the statement and we believe that corruption is a human rights violation and must be opposed by everyone, and we have practical methods of opposing corruption. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M R BALOYI: Madam Speaker, the Ekurhuleni Declaration includes a detailed programme of action to give priority attention in the fight against corruption. We have no reason to doubt that Africa will rise to the challenge to see to the implementation of all recommendations contained in the declaration.

The forum was an encouraging step ahead for Africa. More so as it provided an opportunity for stakeholders to do an assessment of themselves and reflect on the prevalence, the manifestations and the impact of corruption on the continent and in the world, as well as how such problems may be tackled.

The declaration raises a concern among other things about negative perceptions of corruption in African states and of the ability of such states to control it. In analysing this observation by the forum, it becomes clear that whereas we may be tempted to say this of those who are portrayed as bad examples of clean governance, the forum noted—and that may be what reality is—that we may not say that all that glitters is gold, as half of their stories may not have been told.

Similarly, the analysis will also caution all of us not to be hypocritical as we speak of those than whom we may choose to portray ourselves as being cleaner, because in the same vein we may only be fooling ourselves.

The truth is that the negative perceptions suggest a negative rating by the nations of the world and they have to be managed as they define a nation's competitive stance with the rest of the world. As Parliament and stakeholders, we have a major role to play and the declaration assesses the importance of strengthening the integrity and independence of oversight bodies such as this institution.

Accordingly, we ourselves have to engage in introspection in the face of the challenges that are confronting us in the fight against the scourge of corruption. Having developed legislation and policies and set up structures to deal with corruption, it is perhaps time we assessed the impact thereof in the fight against corruption.

Having adopted and ratified conventions and treaties to deal with corruption at the global level, we need to make sure that we do oversight work on the implementation of such international instruments, as that is what defines their worth.

The Ekurhuleni Declaration, the fifth Global Forum conference will come and pass, leaving footprints in the declaration that will also guide us as to how we see nations of the world developing a common understanding on corruption.

Let us learn from that conference. In fighting corruption we say: Each one alerts one.

Ti tlhomana mincila. Ku hlula eka nyimpi ya vungungundzwana I ku fikelela xiyimo xa le henhla xa leswaku munhu i munhu hi van'wana vanhu. Hi ta fanela ku tidyondzisa ku chava ku tsongola swa van'wana leswaku Afrika Dzonga ya hina, Afrika ya hina na misava hinkwayo ya hina swi ta hluvuka swi ndlandlamuka ni ku humelela eka swikongomelo swa swona.

Hi ri ANC hi tixaxameta na ku hlambanya ko hlula vungungundzwana lebyi nga endliwa Ekurhuleni. *(Translation of Xitsonga paragraphs follows.)*

[Each one alerts one. We will overcome the war against corruption if we adopt a higher position that no man is an island. We will have to teach ourselves to refrain from any form of wrongdoing so that South Africa, Africa and the entire world may develop and realise their objectives.

As the ANC, we align ourselves with the declaration made in Ekurhuleni against corruption.]

As we say that, Minister, we want to quote what you said at the forum:

> Corruption hurts the many and benefits the few. It inhibits the ability of government to respond to citizens' needs and to utilise scarce resources in the most efficient and effective manner. It takes away resources from priority areas such as health, social development and education. It also hampers the continent's efforts to instil sound political, socioeconomic and corporate governance.

I hope that Mr Julies was listening, as it would seem that he is still bent on understanding what he understood as corruption. He is not keeping pace with developments with regard to how we approach and deal with corruption.

As the ANC we say halala, Ekurhuleni Declaration, halala! [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

The ACTING CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Madam Speaker, we move the motion as it stands on the Order Paper.

That the House—

(1) recognises that the fight against corruption is one that involves all sectors of society;

(2) recognises that it is only through an integrated, co-ordinated response from these sectors as well as across our region, the continent and globe that progress will be achieved in this battle;

(3) believes that elected representatives have a central leadership role to play in fighting this scourge that undermines development, weakens democracy and takes its greatest toll on the most vulnerable of society;

(4) endorses the Ekurhuleni Declaration on Fighting Corruption which was adopted on 2 March by the Africa Forum Against Corruption with the participation of Members of this House; and

(5) commits itself to supporting the implementation of the recommen-

dations of the Declaration and the Programme of Action attached to the Declaration.

Agreed to.

The SPEAKER: That concludes the business for the day. I would like to remind members that Extended Public Committees will commence in five minutes in the Old Assembly Chamber and Committee Room E249.

The House adjourned at 15:20.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Members of the Extended Public Committee met in the Old Assembly Chamber at 15:27.

House Chairperson, Ms C-S Botha, as Chairperson, took the Chair.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Debate on Vote No 20—Defence:

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Madam Chair, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Defence and of the Portfolio Committee on Defence, Secretary for Defence, senior officers, generals and admirals, members of the SA National Defence Force, ladies and gentlemen, may I draw the attention of the House to our 12 women generals present here today. [Applause.]

May I ask the 12 women generals to please rise so that they can be acknowledged? [Applause.] Thank you very much.

Madam Chair, this year's budget speech takes place against the backdrop of the most diverse deployment of the South African troops since the birth of our democracy. As we speak, the sons and daughters of our nation are staffing missions in theatres of conflict in Africa and beyond.

They willingly face risks and dangers of varying degrees in order to advance our national, continental and universal objectives of building a peaceful future for humankind.

Our troops are guardians of peace in Ethiopia and Eritrea; they nurture the burgeoning democracies of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; they ensured free and fair elections in the Comoros, Madagascar and Lesotho.

Alongside sister African forces they monitor and enforce compliance with the humanitarian ceasefire agreement in the sweltering heat of the Darfur in the Sudan; they are providing much-needed support to the Central African Republic and repulsing waves of attack by northern rebels intent on overthrowing a democratically elected government. As we speak, they are supporting the Nepalese government in the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration processes preparatory for the elections.

The SA National Defence Force is indeed the mainstay of most of these operations. Not only has it distinguished itself in these areas, but alongside the work our nation is doing on the diplomatic front, it is contributing in no small measure to the rise in profile of our country. Indeed, its performance is not only acknowledged in all these countries, but the SA National Defence Force is now in demand everywhere.

For this we must take off our hats in salute of the troops and leaders of the SA National Defence Force; the best of the youth of our country, who serve without compulsion, but out of love and loyalty to their people.

Peacekeepers who are placed in conflict areas must provide security and protection for the civilian populations. They must stop the ongoing fighting, and then redirect the energies of the people into reconstruction activities. They must be able to pursue integrated approaches to repatriation, resettlement, reintegration and rehabilitation of refugees, the internally displaced and excombatants and their families, paying particular attention to women and children who are victims of violence.

They must plan and implement comprehensive and well-blended disarmament, demobilisation, rehabilitation and reintegration, DDRR, processes as a basis of consolidating safety and security.

Central to making our interventions sustainable and in line with the principles of the security reform sector, we have to ensure that the thinking of the leaders of new

democracies is founded on respect and loyalty to their constitutions.

Peacekeeping interventions, therefore, do not end with elections, nor indeed with the termination of fighting. The alarming number of conflict-prone countries underscores the need for a broader approach to conflict prevention, one that avoids an artificial divide between preconflict, crisis and postconflict.

It also indicates the need for an appropriate mix of political, security, humanitarian and developmental responses. Securing just and sustainable peace in a conflict-prone situation means building strong, transparent states with professional, civilian-led military and police.

It means developing a democratic framework that tolerates diversity. It means building an open civil society that promotes democratic governance and personal security. And it means instilling in all state institutions, but especially the security forces, a culture of democracy rooted in respect for the rule of law and individual rights and dignity.

The concept of security sector reform, SSR, encompasses democratic oversight, civil society, defence reform, intelligence and security services, border management, policing, justice, prisons and private security companies. The object of the SSR is to create a secure and safe environment for the affected state and its population through the re-establishment of architecture and the structure of the state.

By its nature, it includes all services of the security sector. The activities in the security sector are based on the concept of human security as stipulated and defined in the African Union's peace and security committee's mandate, the Common African Defence and Security Policy.

Whilst the concept of security sector reform encompasses the transformation and stabilisation of the whole of the security sector on our continent, it deals predominantly with defence institutions. It is a political process, and to be successful, it must be participatory.

It must involve ownership by the local populace, and because it has to pay attention to non-state actors and security and justice institutions, its approach must encompass the whole of government. But it is more than governance. It is also about operational effectiveness. In other words, when the strengthening of new democracies becomes a priority, the security organs of the state must be transformed and secured.

Defence policy is classically regarded as a subset of foreign policy. And our approach is that defence is politics by other means. In the current period the defence force must be seen as an instrument of politics, therefore an instrument through which political and diplomatic decisions are given effect to.

Defence strategy, therefore, is the art and science of employing the defence forces of a nation to secure the objectives of national policy. The Department of Defence will continue to contribute to African unity by focusing in on our common political objectives. This will require a lot of political work to ensure that other African countries understand unity as we do, both at the level of political leadership and of military leadership.

We continue, therefore, to increase our diplomatic defence missions abroad. We now have defence representation in 31 countries, 17 of which are in Africa. And there is a dire need for South Africa to make her presence in increasing numbers in Africa, particularly because that is the theatre in which we do most our work. This requires careful calculation to place people with the necessary know-how in strategic positions.

The appearance of nonstate actors in different shapes and forms, including private security firms and private military companies, needs to be reckoned with. Private military or security companies are able to

intervene in conflicts today in many of the African countries, tilting the balance of power in favour of their paymasters. They have the potential to undermine legitimate, constitutional democracies.

Whilst terrorism has been identified by the developed world as the biggest threat, we maintain that poverty and underdevelopment are the biggest threats to democracy in the developing world, because it exposes our people to manipulation by those of wealthier countries.

Competition for scarce resources is another source of insecurity across the continent. It is in this context that we can understand the situation in Somalia and even the attempt to overthrow the government of Guinea.

Our strategic capabilities are weighed against our threat analysis and our national security plans. Consequently, we encourage and are in support of all those initiatives, which are intended to restructure our defence-related industries such that most of the home-grown industries survive far into the future. When it comes to acquisition, therefore, we will prioritise commodities which are either domestically developed or those in which South African industries have a stake. The South African defence industry is now under the microscope with a view to its own growth and development.

Emphasis is placed on an integrated approach to the transformation of the defence industry. It is a key industry in the South African economy and all role-players must participate in this transformation. This includes, of course, various government departments, the defence industry itself, and the private sector. The Minister of Public Enterprises and I, working in consultation with the Minister of Science and Technology, have set up several working groups to rationalise Armscor and Denel activities.

The recommendations of the work groups are in the final stages of discussion. Denel, under the political direction of Minister Erwin, has been restructured and reorganised. Armscor, under the political direction of myself, is being streamlined as an acquisition division of the Department of Defence. The research agencies and divisions of both Denel and Armscor will reside in a new body called the Defence Evaluation and Research Institute, Deri for short.

Madam Chair, the Republic of South Africa is currently the 10th largest contributor to UN peacekeeping operations. Our list of accomplishments is impressive. Apart from what I have already said at the opening of my speech, the SA National Defence Force is also deployed in Mozambique providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief due to the floods. We have yet another contingent in Mozambique to support efforts after the explosion at their ammunition depot recently.

Until December 2006, about 49 members of the SANDF were deployed in support of the implementation of demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration processes in the Ivory Coast. Our involvement contributed to the successful negotiations, which had taken place there in recent months, and the Côte d'Ivoire is well on its way to the elections before the deadline of October, as we speak.

Last but not least, we have responded to a request from the Cricket World Cup to provide assistance with security in the West Indies at the present moment. I say again that the SA National Defence Force is in demand everywhere.

The African Standby Force was conceived by the African Union as a rapid reaction force. It consisted of five regional brigades. The SADC brigade is being launched in August this year in Tanzania. It will have all the features of the rapid reaction force. It is very important that all the countries of our region participate in developing and sustaining peace and stability on the continent.

The participation by all SADC member countries must increase interoperability and

commonality. This in turn will strengthen our capacity to meet our challenges, whatever they may be. We must put in place a system or a process by which all requests from the AU, or from wherever else, are processed at the SADC level so that the SADC brigade can be deployed rather than troops of individual countries. At the present time, continuously, South Africa alone is being charged with these responsibilities, and unless we correct that at the level of SADC, our country will continue singlehandedly to carry this burden.

It has been very distressing, if I may say, for the leadership of the Ministry and the department that we once more received a qualified audit in the financial year 2005-06. The slight improvement shown from the previous year does not provide much comfort.

At this point, I do want to say that the department has already tabled impressive corrective measures before a committee of Parliament. The ministerial work session last week also scrutinised the situation and charted a way forward to eliminate the main source of the problem leading these qualified audits. I am now in a position to say that I feel confident that very soon the qualified audits will be history.

The priorities I have set out for the forthcoming financial year are as follows: Firstly, with regard to infrastructure, many of the Department of Defence's facilities are in urgent need of renovation. This is the result of insufficient resources allocated for repair and maintenance. We will be creating a works brigade, ensuring an in-house capacity to attend to all our facilities. In addition, we will be drawing up a master plan to deal with our infrastructure. This plan will include priorities, cost and the development of a phased approach.

Secondly, concerning the revitalisation of the reserved force, progress continues to be made with the transformation and the revitalisation of this force so that it can fulfil its primary role of providing the majority of the conventional landward capability of the SANDF whilst at the same time supplementing the peace support missions currently conducted by the regular force.

On any one day, the equivalent of two and a half battalions of reserves is deployed on external operation on our borders in guiding key installations and on administrative duties. The initiative to revitalise the army conventional reserves, the largest component of the SA National Defence Force reserve force, has resulted in a strength of some 11 000 members of whom 66% are from previously disadvantaged backgrounds, representing a 20% improvement over the past three years.

Thirdly, with regards to information technology, like all other government departments, we are working with National Treasury on the integrated financial management system. This will greatly facilitate our administrative processes and upgrade our level of accountability.

Fourthly, concerning the modernisation of the army, I should say that the modernisation of the Air Force and the SA Navy is well underway. It is now the turn of the SA Army to be modernised. This shall be our main focus in the coming period. This will take place sequentially and in phases. First off is the necessity to align army vision 2015 with our Medium-Term Expenditure Framework priorities.

And fifthly, when it comes to the operationalisation of the Defence Review, the defence update provides a cogent argument on the levels of defence required to respond to the strategic environment and the requirements posed by the foreign and the security policy of this government to meet the three strategic defence objectives of defending the Republic, promoting regional and continental security, supporting our people and continually improving defence capabilities.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I have devoted most of the budget speech to issues relating to the primary mandate of the SANDF. This must not create an impression that we have divested ourselves from the secondary task of providing support to the other departments. On the contrary, we are forever seized with discharging our responsibilities in this regard. Firstly, we continuously maintain capabilities and are ready to provide all of the necessary support to the Department of Provincial and Local Government whenever disasters occur at home and in the region. It is in this light that our involvement in Mozambique recently has to be seen.

Secondly, we are similarly forever available to respond to any invitations from the SA Police Services whenever called upon to do so. And, on a daily basis, we are involved with them in the battle against crime. This is particularly top priority this year when government has declared crime a priority task. Thirdly, the rest of the government departments are equally welcome to call on the Department of Defence for support whenever the need arises.

I thank the Deputy Minister who has shared the burden of work with me this year. I would like to thank the Defence Secretary and the Chief of the SANDF who are co-chairs of the Plenary Defence Staff Council.

I must also add that gratitude goes to all of the men and women of the SANDF, including the civilian section, for the work that they are doing, working under the most trying conditions when sometimes, in fact, the atmosphere leaves them with the sense of being busy with a thankless task. My thanks also should be given to the team in the Defence Secretariat, the Generals, Admirals, and all the men and women of the SANDF, and last but not least, to my team in the Ministry. I thank you. [Applause.]

Ms T V TOBIAS: Chairperson, hon Minister Lekota, Comrade Mluleki George, hon members, the ladies in the gallery from the uMkhonto weSizwe Veterans Association, specifically, Ms Elizabeth Cloete, Comrade Zambia and the women generally, we salute you!

A month ago, the Minister of Finance, Comrade Trevor Manuel, tabled the Appropriation Bill before this House, to give pieces of the South African cake to all government departments. I paid attention to all this, whether the Department of Defence—DOD—will get more than just the inflation-related increase as stipulated in the estimates of the national expenditure over the MTEF budget circle.

Of course, we all know that the budget priority of this government is social spending. So, it was not a surprise that our cake was a little bit smaller.

I also wish that the clever Minister of Finance had been here today to hear what committee members were going to say when pleading with him to augment the budget of the Department of Defence in the near future. Unfortunately, he is not here. But I hope the Minister would take our messages to him.

As projected in the Estimates of National Expenditure, Budget Vote No 20, which is Defence, is at R29,5 billion and it will grow to R28,6 billion over the MTEF Budget period. This shows also that our budget, through the Special Defence Account, is expansionary due to the improvement or strategic airlift capability and the foreign exchange rate adjustments, which is at an annual rate of 6,2% as stipulated in the estimates and will grow to 11,9% over the MTEF period. This reflects a decrease as compared to the 2006-07 budget as it used to be 7,8%. Now we've got a difference of 1,6%. So, it has slightly gone down and I hope that it will not raise any unnecessary debates today because this is really an error.

But what I want to congratulate the depart-

ment for is that we did not incur any arrears on foreign exchange rate.

The South African government spent 1,3% of its total budget on defence as South Africa has committed itself to maintaining regional peace and dealing with issues of disaster management. That is not adequate in achieving the latter, hon Minister. It is therefore important for us to align ourselves with the United Nations and the World Bank in terms of how they gauge. I have read inputs made by many analysts of late, including Mr David Williams, in the *Financial Mail*, where he compared our budget with that of Denmark. Although South Africa is ten times bigger in population compared to Denmark, we rank number 34 in terms of the World Bank.

Mr Richard Gueli and Sybert Liebenberg, wrote in the journal of the South African Institute for International Affairs as follows: "Peace missions cannot simply place military peacekeepers on the ground."

The Minister said today: "The rules of contemporary armed conflict, especially in Africa, are too complex to be addressed by security forces alone."

Indeed, these two gentlemen are correct. But peacekeeping missions should be intertwined with building long-lasting peace and security and also shaping a mindset that is peaceful. We need a stable growing economy and an educated society, a healthy generation of youth, a society based on the principle of respect for human life, unity, gender equity and prosperity.

Therefore, the role of the South African government and its counterparts is not only the literal deployment of troops but also a contribution to rebuild the economies of African countries. That is what our Minister also reiterated today. All the above-mentioned factors that form part of social motive forces for a sober society will be achieved over a period of time.

The policy of the ANC on peace and stability has been reiterated before but would continue to be reiterated until we arrive at a juncture where we can claim victory of implementation of this policy position.

As we also recognise the ANC Manifesto, the Freedom Charter, and the Ten-Year Review Process, we also recognise that the budget through the current macroeconomic strategy is expansionary and would continue to expand as our budget is growing into trillions. I think we all heard what the Minister said that we are going to trillions. So, South Africa is basically a rich country.

The ANC-led government continues to be developmental a state that pursues a developmental agenda, hence it is clearly stated in the Freedom Charter that "there shall be peace and security", and South continues to pursue peace and stability in the region and the continent as a whole.

The recent election of South Africa to be part of the United Nations Security Council is indicative of our endeavour to pursue global peace. Thus, the Portfolio Committee on Defence continues to play its oversight role—that of holding the Department of Defence accountable to Parliament through continuous engagements on all the important aspects, for example, the strategic plans, presentations, annual reports and the budget. All these are tabled in front of us for scrutiny and approval. Indeed, we will play that important role.

It the same breath, we plead with our government that in the calendar of South African holidays, we recognise the role that Umkhonto we Sizwe, the people's liberation army, has played in liberating our people and celebrating the establishment of this glorious army for our people by rewarding the world deserving veterans of our struggle with the necessary awards and respect. Therefore, the fast-tracking of the Special Pensions Amendment Act, Act 21 of 2003 and the implementation of the under 35 clause as per resolutions of the ANC's National General Council, NGC, is of vital importance.

The Department of Defence has a responsibility, also through the department and both Department of Intelligence and our own military intelligence, to ensure that our troops' security is not compromised in all missions and that the morale of our soldiers is also not lowered by inconsistent payments by both the United Nations and the AU in remunerations.

Therefore, we need to maximise the roles of African stand-by forces and also ensure that the African Union takes responsibility of the majority of peacekeeping missions and more funding should be allocated for this. The Minister has said that not only one country should take responsibility of passing this case, South Africa carries the burden.

We should also congratulate the *SAS Mendi* corvette we just received a week ago as part of the last contingency of the strategic defence packages. But in my view, the defence package is not complete if we do not buy the landing ship. There would be a need for us to request the Minister of Finance to allocate more for us to complete the pride of South Africa. [Applause.]

We, therefore, plead with Comrade Trevor Manuel, to assist and expand our budget a little bit.

Tshelete tlhe, Monghadi Trevor. [Money please, Mr Trevor.]

There is also a need for the portfolio committee to see to it that the National Conventional Arms Control Committee is passed to the Portfolio Committee on Defence and is accountable to the DOD and all other outstanding matters, including the establishment of the very independent ombudsperson, should be implemented. So, we are awaiting the Bill.

There has been a salient suggestion in the public off late that young people should be placed under military conscription. And as we all know that South Africa has a professional military system instead of conscripting youth like in the apartheid era, we encourage young people to volunteer as "Amavolontia KaCongolose" in the national youth service programme to ensure that individuals develop statesmanship and become patriots of their own country, and not only to militarise their socialisation but ensure that we build a highly multiskilled society to address its own social ills, like poverty, unemployment, disasters, and so forth.

Military sciences should coexist with professional skills so that we are able to implement the military doctrine but also to implement professionals skilled by fundamental doctrine.

Die gebruik van miljoene rande om die kantore van die SA Vloot in Simonstad te herstel, is nog 'n bewys dat die ANC-regering positief is en dit bevestig dat die lewe en die toekoms van ons soldate vir ons belangrik is en dit bou voort op die moraal van ons krygers. Lank lewe die krygers van ons land! Lank lewe hulle! Laat hulle aangaan met die goeie werk en hul ontplooiing in vredestyd. *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.)*

[The use of millions of rands to repair the offices of the SA Navy in Simon's Town, is more proof that the ANC government is positive and it confirms that the life and future of our soldiers are important to us and that it continues to build on the morale of our warriors. Long live the warriors of our country! A long life to them! Let them continue with the good work and their deployment in this time of peace.]

We also want to congratulate the department for trying so hard . . . [Interjections.]

Let me also salute our fallen hero, Comrade General Binda, and let me say that hon members would take up where I left off.

I want to congratulate the department, the Minister, my colleagues in the committee and the defence industry, and lastly, my

fiancé, Fezile, sitting over there for supporting me. The ANC supports the budget. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr A B BOTHA: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, the SA National Defence Force recently received international recognition for overall performance in its peacekeeping mandate in some of the deployments on the African continent and for this it deserves to be congratulated by Parliament and the people of South Africa.

It particularly deserves this accolade when it is considered that ours, in fact, is a brand new force welded together in the last 12 years out of the SA Defence Force, the various so-called homeland defence forces, the armed forces of MK and Apla, and these had until quite recently been at war with each other.

I tender my congratulations well aware that some of the very serious accusations of human rights abuses that have been levelled at members of our forces, as well as highly publicised shortcomings in the material management may well have included corruption. Until the opposite is in evidence, we must however trust that the necessary disciplinary action would continue to weed out many of the remaining rot, bringing these shortcomings to a close quite soon.

That these armed forces integrated as well as they did into the SA National Defence Force without any threat to the stability of the state or disloyalty to the force, is comparable to our political miracle and reflects very well on every single one inside and outside the Department of Defence who worked very hard towards this outcome and who made it possible and is in fact still doing so.

Hierdie trotse prestasie sal egter soos kaf in die wind wees indien ons as beleidmakers nie die vele opofferinge wat so baie mense aan al die kante van die skeidslyn moes maak erken en onderskraag met 'n millitêre beleid wat doelgerig, haalbaar en regverdig is nie.

Die beleidmaking sal baie van ons verg want dit moet voorsiening maak vir die regstelling van onregte van die verlede sonder om op sy beurt weer 'n nuwe onreg te skep vir die hede en vir die toekoms. Dit moet uitvoering gee aan die voorsiening wat gemaak word in die Grondwet vir hierdie doel, sonder dat dit opnuut die grondwetlike menseregte van individue of die breë bevolking ondermyn.

Die transformasiebeleid wat onder President Mbeki se bewind tot sulke obsessionele uiterstes gedryf is dat dit soos 'n wilde veldbrand die sosiale weefsel van ons gemeenskap aftakel, terwyl dit die vermoë van die staat om sy diensmandaat te volbring vernietig het, beantwoord seer sekerlik allermins aan hierdie vereistes. *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.)*

[This proud accomplishment will however be like chaff before the wind if we, as policy-makers, do not recognise and support the many sacrifices that were made by so many people on both sides of the boundary, with a military policy that is purposeful, attainable and justifiable.

The policy-making will demand a lot from us, because it must make provision for the rectification of the injustices of the past without in turn creating a new injustice for the present and the future. It must give effect to the provision made in the Constitution for this purpose, without once again undermining the constitutional human rights of the individual or the broader population.

The transformation policy that was driven to such obsessional extremes, during President Mbeki's time in office, that it dismantled the social fibre of our community like wildfire, while at the same time destroying the ability of the state to fulfil its service mandate, most certainly least of all meets these requirements.]

In fact, this transformation policy fails particularly to satisfy the provisions and the dictates, but especially the spirit of the Constitution, where it declares that any form

of discrimination would be unfair, also in pursuit of corrective actions, unless it is established that this discrimination is in fact fair.

The results of the present transformation policy insofar as it affects the Department of Defence and as reflected in the reports of the department, the audit reports which the Minister referred to, the strategic plan as well as various submissions, most decidedly do not satisfy the fairness tenets of the Constitution in a number of respects.

In the first place, it does not measure up, because the main thrust of the present policy is to compensate individuals for past injustices and not the group or indeed the majority who suffered injustices. In this respect the eminent legal scholar Ronald Dworkin correctly maintains that such compensation for the individual clearly cannot also compensate the group or indeed the generations who suffered injustices in the past.

The Department of Defence's admission to the public accounts committee that a critical shortage of skills was the major challenge preventing the required level of financial management therefore clearly demonstrates that not only the previously disadvantaged group, but in fact all citizens, as well as the economy, suffers for the sake of unfair discrimination in favour of unfair individual compensation.

Dworkin, on the other hand, goes on to postulate that a forward-looking goal to achieve demographic balance, especially in positions of prestige and influence, would benefit the community as a whole and in the process, obviously also the majority of those who suffered injustices recently as well as in the distant past and in this respect we then give effect to the true spirit of the Constitution.

The hon Mosiuoa Lekota who, as Minister of Defence, is responsible for maintaining the territorial integrity of the Republic, together with others in positions of power such as Mr Marius Fransman of the Western Cape, have recognised the need to temper the worst excesses of the current transformation regime, but their opinions clearly cut very little ice in the present climate against ludicrous opinions such as those of Minister Mdladlana who dreams of a 1 000-year privilege for him and his cronies, reminiscent of Ian Smith's 1 000-year Rhodesia. Under these circumstances it is regrettable that Minister Manuel, of all people, inappropriately claimed that we will have to lump this destructive nonsense, "finish en klaar".

The international recognition of our soldiers serving on the peacekeeping missions indicates that we have officers of calibre, as we have here today, and troops of excellent fitness and training who could and should be the microcosm of our whole and newly representative defence force should the defence force be given the wherewithal to do so and a fair shot at rewarding competence and not political connectedness or servitude.

The admission that we cannot muster much more than the 3 000 troops currently deployed in peacekeeping operations is underlying of the greater malaise that would not be so if we would only get our house in order, and we can get our house in order if we are prepared to do a few simple things such as: Recognise that our projected defence budget as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product is at 1,2%, well below the international norm of 2%; find ways of minimising the albatross effect of the notorious arms deal on the defence budget, hon Booi; and realise the truth in the old German saying that you will always have an army on your soil, either your own army or somebody else's, and that the choice is yours. The choice will not remain ours in the distant future if the present trend, as reflected in the military strategy business plan, continues.

Under the heading "services to be scaled down, suspended or abolished", we learn that the air force, once again, is compelled to

reduce the one single issue that defines an air force, and that is flying training hours. Incredible as it may sound, only for the actual combat section of the air force is this reduction mandated, not for the diplomatic missions, which should in any case be funded by foreign affairs or the Presidency. The actual words in the strategic plan read as follows:

> This means that according to present strategic priorities, basic flying training and air mobility for diplomatic missions are fully funded, while the output of other air capabilities have again been reduced to fit within the available budget. The reduction in flying hour output affects the extent to which the air force can satisfy the air capabilities required by joint operations and other clients, affecting in turn their ability to meet force preparation objectives.

As if it is not bad enough that the Department of Defence admits that training of personnel is also affected by deteriorating aircraft systems, the cuts in maintenance activities have led to the reduction of dependability and noncompliance with the Health and Safety Act. While it is accepted that a career in the military implies added risk, surely this state of affairs is taking matters a bit too far?

No wonder 70 air force pilots and 350 highly skilled technicians have recently left the air force, especially when long serving and loyal uniformed members are informed by senior officers, some of whom can at best be described as uniformed civil servants, that they will never again be considered for promotion, because the transformation numbers game is the most important policy directive.

It is not pleasant to recount these embarrassments, but this glaring example of stupid political meddling is also to be found in other arms of the service where the navy, for instance, fears that it will not be able to keep its ships at sea if it cannot retain its skilled personnel, but it is directed to increase the use of contract workers in messes when loyal service personnel are stagnating in the ranks.

If we do not do something drastic and do it soon, more and more services, in the Defence Force's own words, will be scaled down, suspended or, horror of horrors, abolished and then indeed we would have exposed ourselves to the dangers of somebody else's army on our soil.

The DA will, most decidedly, not support this Budget Vote, and no member of this House that has the integrity of our armed forces or the dignity of our soldiers at heart will do so either. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr V B NDLOVU: Sihlalo neNdlu yakho ehloniphekile, mhlonishwa Ngqongqoshe, mhlonishwa ujenene ophethe ezamasosha, nobhala woMnyango . . . [Chairperson and august House, hon Minister, hon Chief of the South African National Defence Force and the Secretary for Defence . . .]

. . . with the budget going over the medium term to R28,6 billion for 2009-10, we can certainly look forward to a better financed and equipped Defence Force in future. The mere fact that much of the additional allocations will go towards the equipment of the air force, with the strategic airlift capability, bears out this fact.

When the SA National Defence Force was created in 1994, very few people could have foreseen that it would be deployed outside the borders of our country in any type of role. As such, the Force created then was structured to deal predominantly with territorial defence. Yet, by the time of last year's defence update, the country's role in African peacekeeping missions had grown greatly with more than 3 000 soldiers deployed in the DRC, Burundi and Sudan at any one time. This financial year, R850 million will be spent on peacekeeping efforts in Africa.

Many would argue that this level of commitment in South Africa contributes to peace

and security on the African continent, and for the creation of conditions on the ground that are suitable for the establishment of stable and, hopefully, democratic governments. But what this budget does not tell us is what financial contribution the United Nations and the African Union are making to our peacekeeping missions on the continent. We have to ask the question to the hon Minister: How much is the UN paying for our peacekeeping and how much is the African Union paying for our peacekeeping in all these areas?

This financial year, the SA Army receives a total budget allocation of R4,2 billion which is substantially up from last year. The IFP especially welcomes the 41,6% increase in the general training capability subprogramme as the increased funding will be used for the reserve training and increased numbers of military skills development system for members.

The latter programme is especially important to rejuvenate the army's personnel corps, and the IFP supports the fact that 4 518 new healthy recruits joined the MSDS in January this year. The plan appears to be working, with 43% of all regular force privates now in the age bracket of 18 to 24 years, whereas five years ago the figure was merely 7%.

We also support the long-term intention to increase the annual MSDS intake to about 10 000 recruits to supply the army with a continuous stream of fresh soldier material that is young enough and healthy enough to serve this country both locally and abroad. That is, however, where I will end with nice words, Madam Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): Thank you.

Mr V B NDLOVU: The numerous embarrassing revelations of poor discipline and lack of proper command and control of the SANDF over the past year points to a growing crisis in the Defence Force. Some of the more revealing facts that came to light were the following. At least 80 South African soldiers serving in peacekeeping missions are facing 117 charges, some of them criminal in nature. Well, how can that happen?

Between April 2005 and September 2006, 1 106 cases of theft, 391 house burglaries and 272 cases of assault were reported to the military police. The United Nations announced that South African soldiers were responsible for 26% of all sex-related offences in the DRC.

Buka nje ukuthi babathanda kanjani abantu besifazane! [Just look at how much they love women!]

The newly-appointed director of military prosecutions had to be quickly dismissed when it came to light that he had previous criminal convictions.

Wasebenza-ke, mhlonishwa Ngqongqoshe, ngokuthi umxoshe. [You did a good job, hon Minister, by firing him.]

A soldier with criminal convictions was given a medal by the Defence Force—and that's something which was wrong. The inspector-general found that the 5th SA Infantry Battalion at Ladysmith was ungovernable, with soldiers looting state property at will. That shows the indiscipline of the army.

These are, of course, just a few examples of the growing crisis in the SANDF. Add to this the substantial stock losses, five qualified audit reports in a row, shortages of equipment and technical personnel, and the picture is pretty bleak. To add insult to injury, the Department of Defence last year chartered a plane for the Deputy President without proper authorisation by . . . [Interjections.]

Leli lungu malithule. Thula ngoba kade ngingasho lutho ngenkathi ukhuluma. [The

member must be quiet. Just keep quiet because I did not say anything when you were speaking.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): Order, please!

Mr V B NDLOVU: That was done without your authorisation, Minister. How embarrassing was it for you as the Minister to be asked by the press regarding something that you were supposed to have authorised and to be told that that thing had already happened?

Abantu bavele bone nje benze into abayithandayo kwesinye isikhathi. Ukudelela nje lokho. [Sometimes people simply do wrong things, and do whatever they like. That is sheer contempt.]

This and other examples of poor control and management clearly show that you, as the political head, are not in control. Why they are doing this, I don't know, because they are supposed to respect you as the political head of the department. But if people who do the job don't respect you as the political head of the department, those people are supposed to be fired so that they would respect you as the Minister and political head of the department. You mustn't be embarrassed by people who are working for you, as the political head of the department.

As much as the Minister tries to explain away the problems and simply tries to ignore some of them, the reality is that the SANDF is, in many respects, out of control sometimes. No self-respecting armed forces anywhere in the world would allow the same level of poor discipline displayed by its soldiers, or the extent of mismanagement by its commanders.

What is urgently needed is to make sure that you take control, Minister. You must be in charge. What is also needed from you, Mr Minister, is to ensure that the Secretary for Defence takes control or else he is not fit for the job. The most important part is that we, both of us, that is, the committee, yourself and the Secretary to Defence must make sure that the department works properly and adheres to the audit requirements.

Mhlonishwa Ngqongoshe, angifuni mina ukuthi, njengomuntu wakithi e-Afrika, kuthi uma ngabe kuyithi esiphethe lo mbuso, njengabantu abampisholo, bese kuqhamuka izingane nje zakomunye umuzi zidlale ngathi kube kuyithi esiphethe umbuso. Ngakho-ke uma uphethe umbuso, njengomuntu wakithi ompisholo, ukuthi wena ungowakwaLekota kanti mina ngingowakwaNdlovu akusho lutho lokho. Indaba enkulu ukuthi umbuso kufuneka uphatheke kahle. Laba bantu abaphatha izibhamu kufuneka baziphathe kahle, kugculise ukuziphatha kwabo ukuze bakwazi ukusebenza.

Ngeke ngivume mina Velaphi Ndlovu, njengoba ngiyilungu laleli komidi lezokuvikela, ukuthi kube uwena ocekelwa phansi ngokwepolitiki, lokho kube kwenziwa abasebenzi bakho. Qina-ke Ngqongqoshe. Abuqine ubuwena ukuze umsebenzi uqhubeke. Ngiyathokoza. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[Hon Minister, I would not like a situation in which children from a certain homestead would come to us as black Africans heading the government and fool around with us. It is us who are in power. Therefore if you, as a fellow black person, are in power, it is good for me. The fact that you are Lekota and I am Ndlovu doesn't mean anything. What matters the most is that there must be good governance. Those people who carry firearms must behave. Their conduct must be satisfactory so that they would carry out their duties.

I, as Velaphi Ndlovu and as a member of this Portfolio Committee on Defence, would not allow members of your department, Minister, to politically assassinate your character. Be tough, Minister. Your presence must be felt so that the duties can be carried out accordingly. I thank you.]

Ms S RAJBALLY: Madam Chair, our Constitution makes provision for an efficient and

effective Defence Force of South Africa. That commitment has been expanded into legislation that leaves South Africa with a larger responsibility on the continent of Africa.

It is estimated that we have 3 000 members of the Defence Force deployed in neighbouring states to assist our brothers and sisters concerning stability and democracy. An extension of this deployment has been affirmed by the Cabinet officials and SANDF personnel assigned to Sudan under the African Union Mission in Sudan, Amis; assigned to the DRC under the UN mission; and assigned to Ethiopia and Eritrea under the UN and AU.

We are also set to sign a memorandum of understanding with the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations to regulate our role in the UN political mission in Nepal. The MF finds it wonderful that we are able to assist in Africa as well as abroad. But, we agree with our hon Minister of Defence that South Africa deserves to have more personnel in the United Nation's Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in view of our contributions.

Regarding the budget, the MF has a number of concerns. It is felt that the department's budget is not being given the priority it deserves. Whether we are faced by a threat of attack or not, the MF believes that South Africa deserves a well-equipped, effective and ready defence force.

It certainly must be a daunting task to provide an effective defence force with minimal funding, resources and personnel. The priorities on the department's agenda are certainly in line with the MF's expectations, but a closer look at the programme allocations causes much anxiety.

In view of landward defence, as a result of material readiness of the army's main product systems, the issue of limited available resources need to be addressed with urgency. As for the Air Defence programme, more funds need to be made available to make operations and training more possible. The maritime programme is also compromised by funding, in view of the qualifications needed to accept the strategic defence packages, SDPs, and lifecycle costs of new equipment and its use.

The challenges experienced in Programme 6 concerning the need for skills and personnel need to be addressed urgently. Great concern is expressed over the continued risk related to unsafe and unstable ammunition. The process for containing this situation needs to be boosted.

The MF has greatest confidence in the department's potential to provide us with a superb and effective Defence Force. However, we, once again, reiterate that we are not giving this department enough priority. If we are to fall victim to an incident such as the 9/11 attack on the USA, would we at present be able to defend ourselves? We need to maintain and equip a strong and always ready Defence Force.

The MF, however, voices its strong desire that the department should endorse strategies to ensure greater visibility of women in positions of authority in order to bring it in line with its constitutional commitments. We are also pleased with the department's initiatives concerning skills development and endorsement of the youth. The MF supports Budget Vote No 20. I thank you.

Mr G T MADIKIZA: Chairperson, hon Minister and Deputy Minister, hon members and guests, the Budget Vote for Defence amounts to a total of just shy of R26 billion. That is a staggering amount of money. Indeed, there is a constitutional imperative to protect the people and the territorial integrity of South Africa against external threats. Whilst we acknowledge this vital role, as well as the crucial peacekeeping duties performed elsewhere on the African continent, we must not lose sight of the fact that we are a nation at peace with its

neighbours and without overt military enemies anywhere on the planet.

In that context the amount of R26 billion is a massive amount of taxpayers' money that could have made a significant difference to other far bigger domestic challenges on health, education or unemployment funds. It is in this light that we must unwaveringly ask whether the Budget Vote before us and the management of the department and the force is adequate. Unfortunately, we cannot answer that question with an unreserved: yes. Major questions about priorities and planning remain and these have major impacts on what that R26 billion is being allocated for. By far the single biggest item is programme 9: Special Defence account, which accounts for R9 billion of the R26 billion budgeted for and half of that goes towards servicing the debt of the procurement undertaken in the arms deal.

That government has committed the taxpayer to this vastly expensive arms deal remains questionable, especially since neither the complete set of equipment nor all the promised offsets have been delivered—nearly a decade after we paid for it and whilst we continue to spend billions on servicing the debt. Even at the time of the arms deals being signed, questions were asked about the appropriateness of the equipment chosen. Since then it has become apparent even to champions of that procurement that our peacekeeping and general defence requirements will require other equipment. This equipment and capacity like airlift capacity must now also be developed and paid for, so the taxpayer forks out again.

To add insult to injury, the equipment that we have acquired cannot all be used fully because the people, who said that we needed exactly this capacity, seem not to have planned to use and maintain this capacity. For instance, the air force is suggesting further downscaling the amount of time that the new equipment will be used, supposedly due to an outflow of specialised skills. The department claims that an intensive scheme has been introduced to mitigate the loss of skills but simultaneously it is being proposed that flight times will be reduced. What incentive is there for a pilot that is told every year that he or she will fly less and less or for a specialised aircraft engineer to hear that he would sit around and do nothing. Thank you, Madam Chair. We do support the Budget Vote. [Time expired.]

Mr S N SWART: Thank you, Madam Chair. The ACDP shares the view of other speakers that there is a large gap between the Department of Defence's commitments in terms of the Constitution, foreign policy and military doctrine and the resources allocated to building and maintaining its capacity to meet them. At present we spend just over 1,2% of GDP on defence, almost the lowest ratio of most countries whose significant defence forces are required to perform roles beyond territorial defence.

As was stated in last week's *Financial Mail* we spend the same on defence as Denmark, yet have nearly 10 times its population and far greater regional and continental commitments. Clearly a political decision needs to be made, either the expectations of what the Defence Force must do need to be scaled down severely or it must be properly funded. In terms of the department's constitutional and other commitments the former is not an option. Therefore the only option is more funds.

Across the board, hon Minister, the department is faced with the challenge of retaining persons with scarce skills. Our specialised members must be fairly and reasonably compensated to prevent them being lured away to the private sector.

The navy's decision to spend 40% of its allocation on operating costs and 60% on personnel to retain skilled personnel should be supported. There is no doubt a need to implement incentive schemes to reduce the loss of skilled technical personnel and engi-

neers. However, operating budgets should not be used to fund such incentive schemes.

We too were horrified to learn that flying hours for the air force were to be scaled down over the next three years, apparently as there was no conventional threat to South Africa. The question was correctly posed in the portfolio committee as to how the air force could be kept properly skilled and operationally ready if flying time was to be scaled down.

Whilst we appreciate that the air force is suffering due to underfunding and loss of skilled personnel, the department needs to reprioritise budget items urgently to ensure that as far as possible its aircraft and particularly the newly acquired Gripen and Hawk aircraft are used at optimum levels. It is regrettable that the department did not receive a greater increase in its budget, particularly in view of the national budget surplus of R1 billion for the past financial year and R5 billion for this financial year.

It is a pity that Minister Manuel is not here to address this issue. Clearly, what is required is an urgent intervention by the National Treasury and the Department for Public Service and Administration to find a solution for the severe budgetary constraints facing the Defence Force.

In conclusion, the ACDP wishes to pay tribute to all the brave members of the Defence Force who are prepared to risk their lives in protecting us domestically, providing humanitarian assistance and aid and providing peacekeeping missions on the continent. We salute you. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mnr P J GROENEWALD: Agb Voorsitter, agb Minister ek wil begin om vir u te sê: die Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Weermag is besig om uitmekaar uit te val. Die grootste rede is omdat die weermag op politieke en ideologiese gronde bestuur en bedryf word en nie op professionele en militêre beginsels nie. Hoekom sê ek so? Ek sal vir u voorbeelde gee.

Die eerste politieke besluit het gekom met die sluiting van die kommando's. Dit was 'n suiwer politieke besluit en nie 'n besluit wat gebaseer is op militêre beginsels van goeie ondersteunende kundigheid veral in noodsituasies nie. Moenie u hande soos 'n Pontius Pilatus in onskuld gaan was en sê dit is die polisie se probleem. Sektorpolisiëring bestaan nie en daar is 'n leemte in veral landelike beveiliging.

'n Verdere voorbeeld is die beheptheid met regstellende aksie. Dit is 'n politieke besluit. Regstellende aksie veroorsaak dat kundigheid die weermag verlaat. Daar moet nou selfs tenders van oorsese maatskappye gevra word vir 'n behoorlike logistieke stelsel vir die weermag. Dit is 'n sekerheidsrisiko, want as buitelanders presies weet wat die toerusting van ons weermag is, sal hulle ook presies weet waartoe ons in staat is.

'n Verdere voorbeeld is transformasie en dit is ook 'n politieke prioriteit en nie 'n militêre beginsel van voldoening aan vereistes en standaarde nie. 'n Voorbeeld hiervan is toe 'n vlieënier met sy vliegtuig in die grond vasgevlieg het in Lichtenburg. Die betrokke vlieënier het verdwaal, maar as ons gaan kyk na sy opleiding dan sien ons dat hy ook in terme van sy navigasie, sy toetse gedruip het en na herhaling kon hy dit eers geslaag het. Dit was die antwoord wat u as agb Minister amptelik verskaf het. As daar nie behoorlike opleiding is nie, dan sê ek vir u: ons neem menselewens en ons verwoes toerusting. *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.)*

[Mr P J GROENEWALD: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, I want to start by saying: the South African National Defence Force is falling apart. The biggest reason for this is that the defence force operates and is managed on political and ideological grounds and not in accordance with professional military principles. Why am I saying this? Let me give you examples.

The first political decision was taken in conjunction with the closure of the commandoes. This was purely a political decision and not a decision based on military principles of good supportive expertise, especially in emergency situations. Do not wash your hands in innocence as Pontius Pilate and say that this is a problem for the police. Sector policing does not exist and there is a vacuum, especially in rural safeguarding.

A further problem is the obsession with affirmative action. This is a political decision. Affirmative action leads to a loss of expertise in the Defence Force. Foreign companies now have to be asked for tenders for a proper logistical system for the Defence Force. This poses a security risk, because if foreigners know precisely what equipment our Defence Force have, they will also know exactly what we are capable of.

Transformation is another example and this also is a political priority and not a military principle of adhering to norms and standards. An example of this would be the pilot who nosedived his aircraft in Lichtenburg. The pilot concerned lost his way, but when we look at his training, we also see that he had failed his tests with regard to navigation and could only pass after having repeated it. That was the reply that you, as the hon Minister, officially gave. If there is inadequate training then I am saying: we are taking peoples lives and we are destroying equipment.]

The national Defence Force is falling apart and the reason why I say so is that if we look for further examples, we see that the Department of Defence's own strategic business plan for 2007 states as follows:

> Limited available resources will once result in the reduction of the material readiness of the SA Army's main combat systems. This curtails the SA Army's liability to prepare its forces according to set norms and standards, negatively affecting the combat readiness state of forces required to participate in operations.

Dit is wat u eie dokument sê. As ons gaan kyk na die lugmag het al die vorige sprekers hier verwys na die finansiële beperkings, omdat daar nie behoorlike opleiding kan plaasvind en genoeg vliegure uitgevoer word nie.

Hoekom het ons dan van die duurste en die mees gesofistikeerde vegvliegtuie, naamlik die Gripens, gaan aankoop met die geld van die belastingbetaler, as ons nie eens genoeg geld het om ons vlieëniers behoorlike opleiding te gee nie? Hierdie politieke besluite vernietig die Nasionale Weermag. Die weermag is op die punt waar hy 'n konvensionele—en u moet mooi luister—bedreiging nie sal kan weerstaan nie. Ek wil u aanhaal wat u so pas gesê het: *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.)*

[That is what your own document is stating. If we look at the air force . . . all the previous speakers here referred to financial constraints, adequate training that did not take place and sufficient flying hours that were not executed.

Why did we then purchase the most expensive and the most sophisticated fighter airplanes, ie the Gripens, with the taxpayers' money if we do not even have sufficient funds to train pilots adequately? These political decisions are destroying the National Defence Force. The Defence Force is at that point where it would not be able to—and you must listen carefully—withstand a conventional threat. I would like to quote what you have just mentioned:]

> In the current period the Defence Force must be seen as an instrument of politics.

There is a difference when a Defence Force is an instrument of politics. You cannot operate and manage a Defence Force on political principles because that would be disastrous.

U is die verantwoordbare Minister vir Verdediging en dit is u taak en dit rus op u skouers. As ons gaan kyk na die Begroting, is dit u taak om u kollegas in die Kabinet te oorreed en te vra: Wil julle 'n weermag hê of nie? As ons so aangaan, agb Minister, en ek het dit al vir u gesê, dan word ons inderdaad 'n flentergat-weermag. Ons kan dit nie toelaat nie. Ek dank u. *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.)*

[You are the accountable Minister of Defence and it is your responsibility, and it rests on your shoulders. If we look at the budget, it is your task to persuade your colleagues in the Cabinet and to ask them: Do you or don't you want a Defence Force? If we continue like this, hon Minister, and I have told you this already, then we will indeed become a tattered Defence Force. We cannot allow this. I thank you.]

Mr M S MOATSHE: Chairperson, hon members, members of the SANDF here, South Africans under the leadership of the ANC have been striving for unity of all the people throughout their lives. They met on 26 June 1956 in Kliptown to outline on how they envisage the unity they yearned for so much so that peace and security could be achieved. The outcome was the Freedom Charter that spelled out clearly the wishes of all the peace-loving people of this country. This struggle for peace and security was not only about South Africa but the African continent and the world at large. On this basis a department of defence requires a larger budget for challenges around peace and stability. There is the necessity for new equipment in order for our Department of Defence, through the SANDF, to be able to carry out its mandate. Its mandate carries both internal and external obligations. This calls for a technologically equipped SANDF and involves the following key areas: Maritime, air force and submarines.

Our maritime responsibilities stretch from Maputo to Namibia and demand more human resources and more material resources. According to the White Paper on Defence, the SANDF has to be equipped with the latest technological capacities. This refers to the SA Air Force and the SA Navy. The relevance of maritime defence includes the provision of support locally, regionally and on the continent. Advanced sophisticated maritime protection is relevant to the current challenges in the world. The world is increasingly requiring strong support systems among the nations due to common problems involving the environment, poverty, conflict and disaster. As a consequence of the increasing global problems around peace and stability, there is a need for more humanitarism, solidarity among nations and the rule of law.

The budget on the maritime defence programme tends to be inadequate to fulfil the above challenges. The programme lacks enough resources in order to accomplish its work. A lack of resources refers to infrastructure, personnel shortage, the need to strengthen logistic support and financial support.

South Africa is better placed geographically due to access to the sea coast. Maritime air guidance needs to be strengthened. This relates to coastal patrols and zones that stretch from Maputo to Namibia. It is through readiness and equipped maritime programmes that multipurpose roles can be achieved. This involves the following: sea fishery protection, search and rescue of persons, the combating of pollution and the strengthening of diplomatic relations. No doubt, the relevance of the maritime equipped programme is beyond doubt. It is of developmental importance in line with strengthening peace and stability and development in our country, region and continent.

The establishment of the SANDF was therefore to restore peace and security in South Africa, which was violated since 1652. Today as we celebrate Human Rights Week, we look at the humanitarian achievement of our hardworking army.

The dehumanised people of Wallmansthal, who were forcefully removed from their ancestral land, will now get their land back through the intensive negotiations by the portfolio committee. The only remaining issue is the access road and that is about to be resolved.

The Lohatla land, which the battle school field was built on, became dangerous for occupation, because of the very difficult situation of clearing explosives. While we sympathise with the people of Lohatla, we appeal to them to accept the compensation given to them by the government as the only solution. We also call on the department to ensure that it clears all explosives before this land is occupied.

Re lebelela gape botho, kutlwelo-botlhoko le lerato le le bontshitsweng ke sesole sa rona kwa nageng ya Mozambique motlha o baneng ba wetswe ke leru, ka dipula tsa matla ka dibe, e bile ba gaeletswe ba tlhoka dijo le go ka falosiwa mo gare ga metsi. Thuso e nngwe ya botlhokwa e nnile kagiso ya kwa DRC, moo masole a rona a thusitseng ka tiriso ya difofane go rwala batlhankedi, bathusi le di diriswa tsa ditlhopo (voting materials) go ralala khutlo tsotlhe tsa DRC. Re lebogela boithapo le go direla Setšhaba sa Aforika Borwa ka bonontlhotlho le botswa-pelo ba sesole sa rona. *(Translation of Setswana paragraph follows.)*

[Once again, we look at humanity, empathy and the love that was shown by our Defence Force in Mozambique when a dark cloud befell that country, where people were marooned in the floods without food and needed to be rescued from their villages. Another significant aid was peacekeeping in the DRC, where our soldiers used helicopters to transport voting materials, officials and assistants to different parts of the country. We would like to thank our soldiers for volunteering, and for serving the people of South Africa with brilliance and diligence.]

I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Madam Chairperson, hon members, the Department of Defence has been grappling with the challenges of transformation since 1994, especially with regard to representivity among its uniformed staff. However, it is encouraging that we can today state that the issue of representivity is steadily, but surely, getting resolved. Since 1994 general representivity has changed remarkably.

Presently, female soldiers make up 18% of the total of the South African National Defence Force's strength, which is higher than most developed and developing countries. The number of female brigadier-generals has also increased considerably, even though it has not reached the level that we would want.

The present gender composition of the Military Skills Development System personnel gives us some encouragement for the future. Of the total strength of the 5 166 MSDS soldiers, 1 536 or 30% are women. If this trend continues, by 2009 we shall be close to achieving our target.

The challenge that we need to deal with as far as representivity is concerned among MSDS personnel is to attract and recruit a sizable number of white young men and women. White representation is at present unacceptably low at 6%. Our recruitment division is busy devising strategies to overcome this challenge.

Chairperson, let me take this opportunity to call on all of South African youth, both black and white, to join the SANDF. This will ensure that the future SANDF does not become an all-black affair, but reflect the demographics of the country at all levels.

The challenge that existed over the years with regard to the middle management in the military, unfortunately, still exists. The majority of members in the ranks of lieutenant colonel and colonel are mostly white and, of course, male.

The Department of Defence hopes that

through the introduction of the member exit mechanism and the fast-tracking of targeted individuals within the SANDF, we will eventually overcome this challenge. This mechanism, which is voluntary, allows the department to exercise discretion to retain personnel who possess essential skills and experience.

In line with our celebration of the 50th anniversary of the women's march to Pretoria, we approached Cabinet with the names of South African women who made a contribution to the development of the country. The Cabinet then approved the naming of the ships after Charlotte Maxeke, Chieftainess Manthatisi and Queen Modjadji.

On 15 March 2007, the *SAS Charlotte Maxeke* left Emden in Germany, accompanied by the *SAS Drakensberg*, on her maiden voyage to Simon's Town. She is scheduled to arrive at Simon's Town in Cape Town at the end of April 2007; and will join her sistership, *SAS Manthatisi*, in South African waters. The *SAS Queen Modjadji* is expected into our waters at about the same time next year.

I am pleased to inform you that a member of this House Mrs Rita Ndzanga travelled with me to Germany to name the ship. Mrs Ndzanga is also part of the women who made a contribution to the development of the country and still serves the people at her age.

As we acquire this new equipment, we train young people to be in a position to operate them. A large number of blacks have since been trained. One of the developments of this training is the ascendancy of Captain Bubele Kitie Mhlana, known as "Bravo" to the captaincy of *SAS Isandlwana*.

The process of qualifying as a naval commander of a frigate is long and arduous and it demands both considerable intellectual growth and development. The command of a frigate is limited to those who truly excel. Bravo Mhlana passed the tests and became the first African commander. We are proud with these strides that we are making in the transformation of the SANDF.

Whilst the SA Navy has concentrated largely on its capital renewal programmes during the past number of years, the renewal of its human resource component has not lagged behind. Through the MSDS the SA Navy has provided, on average, 600 young men and women per year, the opportunity to complete the two-year military skills development programme.

Nearly 60% of these youngsters were subsequently afforded the opportunity to migrate into the core career service system and are serving today. The remaining 40% are being incorporated into the SA Navy reserves.

The MSDS has to some extent started to improve our representivity in the SANDF, especially among young junior officers. It has contributed immensely to improving the age profile of the regular force, privates and noncommissioned officers.

The SA Air Force has in the past few years embarked on improving representivity among its ranks by recruiting more trainers and trainees. This is producing good results at the Langebaanweg Central Flying School.

In addition, we have devised a strategy to counter the exodus of our pilots and technicians by introducing an incentive scheme to retain them. This will be implemented this month. So, Mr Groenewald, things are not as bad as you think. [Interjections.]

Mr P J GROENEWALD: Is there enough money?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DÉFENCE: Chairperson, the Ministry has engaged the CEO and the President of the SA Airways to explore ways of encouraging SAA pilots to join the reserve force. This will mean that we do not completely lose the expertise of those who leave the air force to join SAA as they will still be useful to the national Defence Force.

In my Budget Vote address last year, I reported that the department had launched a reskilling project for military veterans, together with the South African Security Sector Education and Training Authority, Sasseta. Since we started the programme a number of veterans were provided with various skills to make it easier for them to find employment.

We started by updating and populating the database for military veterans, as there were a number of bona fide veterans from the nonstatutory forces whose names did not appear on the certified personnel register. The database helped us to gauge the challenge that we are faced with and also eliminate the danger of enrolling in our programmes individuals who do not qualify, thus reserving the limited resources for those whom they are meant. The process to verify others continues.

The Sasseta project has already trained about 800 veterans, which is 17% of the target. A number of these veterans have been placed in jobs. I am happy to report that some provincial governments have come on board and have started programmes to assist veterans in their respective provinces.

I want to mention the Impophoma project in Gauteng. On a large scale learnerships were offered to veterans who have received training. Impophoma is planning to spread their project nationally.

Some metropolitan municipalities, notably Ekurhuleni, have also embarked on programmes to train and place military veterans. Other metros have also undertaken to do the same.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's Working for Water project employs veterans to cut down alien vegetation and continues to provide employment and to impart entrepreneurial skills to military veterans in a number of provinces.

This department and some of the provincial governments understand that the challenge of assisting veterans is not the preserve of Defence, but is the responsibility of all departments and tiers of government. I once again make an appeal to my colleagues in other departments to come on board and assist these destitute veterans who have done so much for our country so that they too, can be able to lead decent lives.

During the new financial year, we intend to finalise the inclusion for medical assistance to those veterans and their dependants whose status were verified and appear on the database. While this may add an extra strain on the budget, it will go a long way to assisting all those veterans who are old or sickly and cannot benefit from the skills programmes.

We get continuous reports of how these veterans die in miserable conditions. We have learned from experience in working with the veterans that they may need psychological counselling to cope with civilian life.

Chairperson, I would like to mention the payments of national skills funds pension. While the payments of these pensions is a National Treasury responsibility, the Department of Defence plays a role in providing information to Treasury and in tracing some of the members who have separated from the SANDF.

At present, 9 280 members have exited the system and therefore qualify to receive an NSF pension. Some of the difficulties that contribute to delays include the tracing of members whose present whereabouts are not known. Other applicants dispute the dates stated as the time when they had joined the NSF.

Measures have been taken to try to resolve the situation and the Department of Defence's officials meet with National Treasury regularly to try to improve this situation. The department, through the chaplaincy, has embarked on an HIV and Aids awareness programme of changing behaviour and attitudes on two fronts. Firstly, it is helping our

people to make decisions on grounds of values and ethics enhancing their own moral fibre; and secondly, helping our people to make value-based decisions on all relationships.

More than 10 000 members of the department went through the programme in the past four years. At present the department is concentrating on equipping all MSD members with these skills within the first two months after entering the department.

The department has also reached out with this programme to train our fellow chaplains of SADC as well as those in the SAPS.

The Department Of Defence, through the chaplaincy, took the lead in hosting a moral regeneration conference where, for the first time ever, all religious bodies and faith groups in our country collectively pronounced and committed themselves to moral rejuvenation.

They also participated with other stakeholders on a broader concept plan on how to address moral regeneration issues in line with the programmes of government. The outcome of the conference was not only helpful to us as a department, but also to faith groups, NGOs and education institutions to update their own programmes.

Before I end, I want to say that the department is aware of the challenges it is faced with, and we are dealing with them. But, I also want to warn South Africans that whilst we understand our problems it will also, to a certain extent, be irresponsible, especially in a department like Defence, to exaggerate our problems.

We should not give the impression that this country and the Department of Defence will not be able to defend this country in the event of any situation that might arise. As the Minister did, I also want to thank the Secretary for Defence, the Chief of the SANDF and the Plenary Defence Staff Council, and all the officials in the department who work positively to realise the mandate of the department. I thank you. [Applause.]

Adv Z L MADASA: Chairperson, as we debate this budget, we need to answer the critical question: In view of the changed strategic environment, not only because of the demise of apartheid but the gradual integration of South Africa into the continent to the AU process, what is the role of the SA National Defence Force in the new circumstances?

The ANC has since inception been an internationalist liberation movement that understood the interconnectedness of all the struggles for political freedom and economic justice all over the world, in particular on the African continent. International human solidarity therefore is one of the fundamental principles upon which the ANC has been founded—ubuntu.

In the January 8 statement of 2007, the ANC restated its commitment to the principles of human solidarity by stating:

> Our fortunes as a nation are intimately interconnected with the fortunes of our neighbours, our continent and indeed all humanity. It is therefore on the basis both of moral responsibility and collective self-interest that we continue to be actively engaged in the effort for a better Africa and the world.

The January 8 statement goes on to say that the ANC must continue to contribute to the functioning and successful operation of the African Union in order to ensure economic advance of our continent and help to ensure that it takes its rightful place in the world. This is the essence of the vision of the African Renaissance—that Africa must be reawakened to contribute uniquely as an equal partner with other regions of the world towards a better world. Importantly, Africa itself has asked us in South Africa to play a leading role in the consolidation of the African agenda.

The Constitution of South Africa if interpreted purposefully, as we ought to do, states in section 200, read with section 201, that the primary and not the exclusive responsibility of the SANDF is to defend the Republic and at the same time, by the authority of the President, help to maintain peace on the continent. Peace-keeping, hon members, is not done for its sake but it is a conscious defence of the peoples of Africa and the resources to ensure development and prosperity for all. This is what the ANC in the January 8 Statement refers to as collective self-interest.

There is therefore no contradiction when the ANC-led government expands resources through the SANDF to maintain peace on the continent in defence of our collective self-interest whilst simultaneously fighting to eradicate poverty inside our country. It is a multi-pronged approach in the fight against the man-made evil of underdevelopment. If the battle to eradicate poverty is not forward from all fronts, we will continue to receive economic refugees in our country and continue to expand resources in managing the crisis instead of dealing with the causes. Conflict and instability in the continent is an anathema in our effort and quest for collective development and prosperity.

Therefore, any narrow interpretation that confines the role of the SANDF to merely protecting the borders of the Republic would not only be naïve of the realities of the 21st century, but also in conflict with the spirit of the Constitution on our international obligation and the negation of government policies and the betrayal of our historical responsibilities.

The White Paper on Defence clearly enjoins the Ministry to develop its policies in line with the government policies and in particular the foreign policy whose call is the consolidation of the African Agenda.

The question we, as Parliament, should ask the department is whether in its vision, the policies, the strategies and plans for the consolidation of the African agenda has been encapsulated towards an African common defence policy? The question we must ask the department is whether it is ready to play its expanded role in the 21st century defending both the peoples of South Africa in the continent against continued plunder of African resources in support of the fight against poverty and the protection of our collective self-interest.

Is the force design, the training, the equipment and the budget sufficient to support this African agenda of which we are a critical part? With regard to training in particular, are the values that underpin the establishment of the African Union, including ubuntu inculcated in the minds of our soldiers? If the training is done in this way, I believe this would go a long way to our having a disciplined force and the professional force the law requires.

To be ready, the SANDF must visualise a plan to be part of the core of the future united African defence force. In this context, I believe, our government must give serious attention to the speedy and serious development of a sustainable and competitive defence industry to ensure that South Africa retains its leading role on the continent.

We salute the department for the work that is being done already towards the consolidation of the African agenda. In particular, we congratulate the region for the pending launch in August, as the Minister stated, of the rational stand-by force. We salute our soldiers for a sterling work they are doing in difficult conditions all over the continent to advance the cause of human solidarity. But we strongly call on the government to increase the budget of the department commensurate with its new expanded mandate so that we, as a country, do not fail in our historical task to lead the continent towards a better life for all. As the ANC said in the 8 January statement, we cannot separate our domestic fight to eradicate poverty with the fight against poverty on the continent and the

world. South Africa is not just in Africa, but of Africa. Therefore, the SANDF has a central role to play in the defence of our collective self-interest on the continent. This is the context in which, Mr Groenewald, the Minister referred to the Defence Force being used as a political tool.

In conclusion, I would like to end by remembering my personal friends who fell during the armed struggle against apartheid forces. They were members of MK—Welile Saalman from East London, Andile Gwintsa from Alice, Zolile Sangoni from Butterworth and many others. I thank you. [Applause.]

Dr S E M PHEKO: Madam Chair, my time is limited. I simply want to say that the PAC supports this Defence Budget Vote. The deployment of our army in peace-keeping missions in Africa requires a satisfactory budget. Of course, the PAC hopes that sooner than later there will be no need for peace-keeping missions on our continent. Africa needs lasting peace and political stability for her rapid economic development and technological advancement. The PAC however reiterates the position that peace-keeping missions in Africa must be by a pan-African army under the African Union. This army must contribute in proportion to the capacity of each African nation.

It is not prudent politically and economically for Africa's peacekeeping missions to be the monopoly of certain African states, especially where resources are involved and one country sends its own businesspeople to go and enrich themselves, creating the perception of a new form of colonial domination and therefore invites resentment by other African states.

The free training of the air force must also be looked into. Large sums of money are paid for this important training, but after the training the cadets are not restricted to work for the air force. They can leave and join civilian airways. They can even seek greener pastures in the dollar, euro or pound sterling areas in western countries. Salaries there, compared to the rand, are more attractive.

There is a need for a law or contracts requiring these cadets to serve the Air Force for a reasonable, fixed number of years, otherwise sooner rather than later, it will be economically unwise to give free training to air force cadets that keep on leaving that air force.

Madam Chair, for this Defence Budget to augment services by our army, the Department of Defence must urgently consider deploying some soldiers to combat crime. Some of the crime waves in the country may be the work of hostile forces intended to derail the 2010 Soccer World Cup games in this country, to damage the image of the country and show that Africa cannot handle events of international importance.

I want to conclude by saying that we indeed salute the high level of patriotism of our armed forces—those people who are prepared to pay the very supreme sacrifice for their motherland. Of course, I would also like to remember those who died in the struggle for the liberation of this country. We in the PAC have women who fell in battles defending the liberation of this country. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr L N DIALE: Madam Chairperson, hon Minister of Defence, hon Deputy Minister of Defence, hon chairperson of the committee, hon members and comrades, I also salute the department that is here, led by General Matanzima, Vice-Admiral Mudimu and the Secretary for Defence.

This debate takes place shortly after the people of South Africa paid tribute to those heroes and heroines of our land who laid down their lives so that we could be free. I am talking about all those who died on 21 March 1960 at the hands of the apartheid police. I am talking about Vuyisile Mini, Griffith Mxenge, Solomon Mahlangu, Peter Nchabeleng and many other freedom fight-

ers whose blood nourished the seeds of freedom and democracy we enjoy today. [Applause.]

Without any doubt, democracy and its manifestations constitute a universal value and history shows that democracy is critically important in the creation and the building of a peaceful society which is based on human dignity.

In democratic societies, the ultimate and primary responsibility of the state should be the provision of security to its citizens, which responsibility is best expressed in the role of the state in ensuring protection of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country. Therefore, it is the primary function of our national Defence Force to protect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our country. Hence, budgetary allocations in our country should reflect these priorities.

As a democratic Parliament which is based on the desires and aspirations of the people of South Africa, black and white, we are expected and required to ensure that favourable conditions are created for our national Defence Force to be able fully to discharge its primary functions.

Because ours is a society founded on basic human principles, we respect the principle of sanctity of human life. Therefore, as citizens of South Africa, we must ensure that there is provision of proper nutrition and adequate healthcare to the members of our defence force.

While our Defence Force continues to fulfil its core functions of protecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of South Africa and peacekeeping on the continent, we must do everything necessary to keep the momentum, among other things, to ensure healthy conditions for the members of the Defence Force becomes critical.

The healthy state and fitness of the Defence Force depends on the extent to which our democratic government prioritises nutrition and health care of the Defence Force in budgetary processes. In this area of health care, of particular importance is the allocation of resources to deal with the issue of HIV and Aids and its potential impact on the preparedness of our force to discharge its responsibilities.

Comrade Minister, we must deal decisively with these issues—in particular the issue of the provision of medical services to ex-combatants of the former non-statutory forces through the SA Military Health Services.

This brings me to another equally important issue, that of special pensions, which requires our intervention. The Constitution of our Republic provides that special pensions should be paid to those persons who made sacrifices or served the public interest in the process of establishing the democratic and constitutional order in our country. Some ex-combatants were able to supplement their demobilisation gratuities with the pensions they received in terms of the Special Pension Act. But, we know that members of the former non-statutory forces under 35 years of age at the time of accession of the Act were not illegible.

Let me emphasise that Parliament would be happy if the Comrade Minister and his department were to review the age limit of 35 for special pension and explore the possibility of extending the closing date of applications for special pensions.

I am saying this, hon Minister, being mindful of the fact that our democratic government has the political will to address the plight of demobilised and unemployed ex-combatants in our country. However, we must understand that special pensions cannot be a comprehensive solution to the challenges and problems which continue to face these ex-combatants.

Given the challenges of lack of education and skills among many of the ex-combatants of the non-statutory forces, the government

needs to ensure that the reserve forces absorb the majority of these ex-combatants. In particular, we expect our democratic government to explore the possibilities of deploying unemployed ex-combatants in active services such as border police, metro police, crime intelligence and uniformed police.

Comrade Minister, the ANC supports this Budget Vote.

Šikiša dira le molapo, mphago wa dira ke meetse. Ge o ka di sepetša lesehleng, di tla bolawa ke lenyora. Thobela. [Legofsi.] [People should be offered incentives to boost their morale and to help them achieve better results in their jobs. If there is none, people tend not to put extra effort into what they do. Thank you. [Applause.]]

Mr S SIMMONS: Madam Chair, hon Minister and members, the primary aim of the SANDF is to defend the Republic of South Africa, its territorial integrity and its people.

The UPSA acknowledges the importance of regional stability and the defence force's role in achieving exactly that. However, the UPSA is not convinced that the proportional emphasis on foreign peace missions is justified against the backdrop of the internal security threats spurred by crime in our country.

One of the department's strategic objectives, after all, is to support the people of South Africa. The UPSA therefore believes that in the absence of immediate foreign threat, more of the department's resources should be utilised to assist the Department of Safety and Security as well as the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in their fight against crime.

It is particularly the Landward Defence Programme as well as the intelligence programme that could make valuable contributions in the fight against crime. These two areas of the department should be utilised to improve the effectiveness of specialised units in the police force and to provide better quality intelligence, especially with regard to organised crime.

Finally, the UPSA wishes to encourage the Minister and his department to consider intensifying recruitment programmes to encourage school leavers and the youth in general to undergo basic training, which we believe will assist in the much needed revitalisation of higher values and disciplined standards, for "Charity begins at home".

These proposals could easily be financed by re-evaluating the extent of current foreign missions. The UPSA supports the Budget Vote.

Ms P DANIELS: Madam Chair, Minister, Deputy Minister, hon members and guests, as we debate the Defence budget let us pay tribute to the late Lieutenant-General Sipho Binda, who passed away last week. We must remember his legacy in the context of peace and stability, particularly on the African continent.

This debate is taking place when global peace, safety and security and economic development have become more relevant than ever before. In the same breath, world peace relations are already in place, taking some form in terms of multilateral relations.

The Department of Defence and the SA National Defence Force are part of multilateral relations. Such relations are between countries, regions and continents. It is here that the Defence budget should be commensurate with this big picture. Currently, these relations are not about the military per se, but about strengthening peace and development, entrenching national pride and building sovereignty.

The 2007 state of the nation address suggested that government would work with the rest of the continent's partners to accelerate the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. In this regard, it is noticeable that the SANDF peace-support

operations are of primary importance, as is evidenced in the following stabilising partners, namely the Great Lakes region, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi. Also, as pointed out by the President, there are remaining areas of conflict such as Darfur, the Sudan, and Somalia.

Clearly, the commitment to restoring peace and stability will translate into development and productivity to create conducive conditions for economic growth in the region and on the continent. The need for job creation to fight poverty and underdevelopment is in accordance with the 2005 ANC national general council's resolutions.

This position converges with one of government's economic programmes called the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa, Asgisa. Asgisa is meant to reduce the levels of poverty and inequalities in our countries. In this context it is important for the Department of Defence budget to be expanded. The SANDF has to maintain certain capabilities in the light of the available budget and resources. The state of the nation address also reflected on issues around Asgisa, with specific attention being paid to the youth skills development.

The Military Skills Development System, the MSDS, seeks to ensure a continual intake of young persons into the SANDF. The idea is to rejuvenate the regular force and the conventional reserve force. The MSDS is not just providing young people with military skills, but is also contributing to their social upliftment. This is to ensure that the skills are relevant to their civilian lives after finishing their military service.

Since 2003 the department has recruited a significant number of young people across gender lines and race. There has been a rapid increase in recent years. In this current year, there is a further significant commitment under the Youth Foundation Training programme in the following areas: the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy, and the SA Military Health Service. Though challenging, it is important to popularise voluntary military service amongst young people.

Gender equity remains a challenge in the SANDF. Gender representation in the decision-making structures of the SANDF amounts to zero with regard to women compared to their male counterparts.

South Africa is a male-dominated society, and the SANDF is not free from that reality. Defence connotes masculinity and power, so most women may not see it as relevant to them despite structural conditions. Gender transformation is required in the SANDF to promote gender equality. Gender inequalities should not be taken for granted, and therefore there is a need for more women in the SANDF to contribute to peace and stability in our country, in the region, on the continent and in the world. A woman can carry a child on her back, stir a pot, answer a phone and kick a dog at the same time. [Applause.]

In conclusion, after 13 years the composition of the middle management of Defence does not reflect the demographics of the country. How many more years are needed for this goal to be realised? I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr L M GREEN: Chairperson, my speech is dedicated to the many young men and women who are deployed in certain African states on peacekeeping missions. We must remind ourselves that those who have unfortunately died in the line of duty did so, so that others in time would have peace. The challenges still remain in the DRC, the Sudan, Burundi and in other regions; and being called upon to be makers of peace, the integrity and respectful conduct of the SANDF must, at all times, be maintained.

We all know that peacekeeping at times requires more vigilance and specialised skills than conventional warfare. Establishing peace requires painstaking monitoring of circumstances and appropriate intervention measures that will not jeopardise the peace

process. The SA Defence Force must therefore be equipped with the right equipment and, if necessary, it must acquire more stock, as well as widen its skilled personnel base, especially in the communication intelligence sectors, if it wishes to remain competent as a valuable partner in African affairs.

Our young men and women are called upon increasingly to do peacekeeping work in environments, work that is different from normal conflict methods. They will have to be adequately trained and equipped to deal with urban conflict methodologies and to go on foot in strenuous terrain such as mountains and huge forests.

As a result of these potential challenges that face our peacekeeping forces, the FD would agree that an additional budget of R4,2 billion spent on defence is reasonably acceptable. It is reasonably acceptable that the SANDF develops into an organ trustworthy in its operations and that it demands the respect of its peers at national, regional and global levels. The increase in the Defence budget of 8% over our national inflation figures should increase the real potential of the SANDF to fulfil its peacekeeping mandate.

Hon Minister, let me now turn to a matter which is closer to home, and this is the issue relating to the integration process. I know this has been a very difficult process. It's been a process which you had to handle very carefully, but, of course, over the many years there have been lots of delegations coming to Parliament to complain and to raise issues with regard to the integration process.

You have in the past, hon Minister, attempted to address issues concerning groups like the Cape Corps, and several groups of them have come to Parliament to raise concerns with the integration progress. You have tried to respond; you have tried to resolve it; you have tried to address concerns. But I think, Minister, that there are still groups, that there are still members of the former SACC or the Cape Corps, that have concerns and that would like to raise these issues. I think we should create a channel, a measure in order to address this. With these words, the FD supports the Budget Vote. I thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Dr G W KOORNHOF: Madam Chairperson, Minister and Deputy Minister of Defence, comrades and members, it's a privilege to participate in the Budget Vote debate on Defence, currently ranked as the fourth largest budget according to expenditure by national Budget Vote. In this regard it is appropriate to applaud the leadership of the Department of Defence and the SANDF for their loyalty and commitment to continuously strive to build a combat-ready SA National Defence Force. Much has been achieved since the integration of various statutory and nonstatutory forces 13 years ago, and many challenges lie ahead which must be tackled to make the SANDF a world-class national defence force.

One of these challenges is to expand and enhance the conventional reserve force, widely regarded as a national defence asset. Of such importance was the reserve force already in 1998 that in the Defence Review, which determined the appropriate size, structure and force design of the SANDF, a complete chapter was devoted to the reserves. The 2007 strategic business plan of the department states that the reserves: ". . . is regarded as a primary tool to achieve affordable and sustainable defence capabilities." When lieutenant general Rinus van Rensburg addressed the reserve force symposium on behalf of Gen Ngwenya, the Chief of the SANDF, on 13 March 2007, he stated, referring to the reserve, that it must be ensured that: ". . . the end result is a professional, representative and guaranteed force."

Reality emphasises the economic benefits of a conventional reserve force. Firstly, the cost of maintaining a functioning reserve force unit is a fraction of the cost to maintain a

similar regular force unit. Secondly, conventional reserve force units have the ability to attract multiskilled, highly qualified members without the personnel retention cost required to maintain such personnel in the regular force.

The strategy and policy of the Department of Defence envisage a prominent role for the conventional reserve force. The problem, however, is threefold: Financial allocations to the conventional reserve force have not supported these policy intentions; employers have shown little support for the conventional reserve force system, and, thirdly, the conventional reserve force has been awarded a lower priority, despite the fact that the conventional reserve force will make up the bulk of the landward conventional capability.

We can have long discussions here in Parliament on the road ahead for the conventional reserve force. Without fear of contradiction, I can say that the parliamentary committees on Defence will support the following five steps in establishing a transformed and viable conventional reserve force system: Firstly, step one is implementing a decentralised recruitment strategy comprising excellent citizens as volunteers, with proper and appropriate career planning within the conventional volunteer reserve force system so that volunteers can be retained in the reserve system. The highly successful military skills development system to rejuvenate the force will simply not rejuvenate the conventional reserve force to the required levels in the short to medium term.

Step two concerns the sufficient annual funding of an active voluntary conventional reserve force system, including appropriate training and efficient administration. In this regard it should be considered to establish a separate budget line item for the conventional reserve force, voted for separately by Parliament and administered by the Chief of the SANDF or the Secretary of Defence. This budget line item should represent—I'm depending on the research done by the department—anything between 1% and 5% of the annual Defence budget.

Step three is encouragement of and assistance to employers of volunteer conventional reserve force members for the implementation and support of a voluntary reserve force system. Issues such as military leave policy, extra leave, unpaid leave, etc, must be addressed. If required, amendments to the Act must be considered to provide for successful call-ups for reserves.

Step four is the creation of a motivated and well-trained core leadership group within the conventional reserve force, both through university training programmes as well as practical training at unit level.

Lastly, step five is the utilisation of appropriate structures wherein a conventional voluntary reserve force system can operate to promote and enhance cohesion, morale, discipline and tradition.

In short, the issue of the neglect of the conventional reserve force must now be given priority attention, with the current policy towards the conventional reserves adequately funded. If you look at the annual report of the department you will find all the policies do support it, but every time they are qualified subject to the availability of funding.

A special word is needed regarding the Special Defence Account. The measurable objective of the Special Defence Account is to meet the department's needs by acquiring and maintaining appropriate defence equipment and associated services. The single most important risk identified by the department is the inability of the industry to realise 100% cash flow due to a lack of manufacturing capacity and competent personnel. We welcome the initiatives by the Department of Defence and other departments, as indicated by the Minister in his budget speech, to review our acquisition policy to support our

local defence-related industry, to develop a defence industry sector strategy—hopefully we will see a defence sector White Paper shortly—and to increase investment into the retention and maintenance of a strategic industrial technology base.

The decision to group the research capacity of Denel in the Department of Public Enterprises and Armscor—the acquisition division of the Department of Defence—into the newly formed Defence Evaluation and Research Institute, Deri, to which the Minister has referred, with the Department of Science and Technology assisting in the shape and organisation of the Deri, must be welcomed and supported. It also opens the way for Armscor to migrate into the Department of Defence.

The Strategic Defence Procurement for the SA Army is urgently needed to replace or modernise its prime mission equipment. I'm extremely happy that the Minister referred to this in his speech on the modernisation of the army and that the main focus will be on this for the coming period. Currently the army is concentrating its limited funds available on the maintenance and sustainment of prime mission equipment, and in the process is cannibalising its prime mission equipment to reduce maintenance costs. We will therefore support the modernisation of our army, because most types of vehicles and equipment and systems are already 35 years and older.

In conclusion, the Department of Defence has, in the 2005-06 financial year, received its fourth consecutive qualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General. We are also, however, happy to note that the Department has embarked on what they call "Operation Clean Audit". We assume that this clean audit initiative will comprise various objectives. Such objectives must, however, in future be incorporated into the strategic business plan of the department, with measurable key performance measures. Also, on the agenda of all command and management bodies in the Department of Defence should be an agenda item on the progress made with meeting the objectives of this clean audit. The parliamentary committees on Defence can also assist in monitoring the corrective actions by discussing them together with the department on a continuous basis and in a spirit of co-operation and good relationships.

We have full confidence in the Department of Defence and the SANDF to succeed in their vision, namely "an effective defence for a democratic South Africa".

I have a few moments, hopefully, to spare, and let me respond to two remarks that were made in the Chamber today. I think we must really be careful before we generalise with respect to any issue in an important department such as Defence. If we made statements that reflect a personal opinion, I think, that is fine, but you must remember that it is a personal opinion that you express here. On the other hand, we must remember that there are men in uniform who are placing their lives on the line, both inside and outside this country, who are fighting for freedom and peace and stability. If we are not careful with the remarks we make it will demotivate and serve as a detraction for many of the soldiers who are offering their lives as professional people to serve this country.

Secondly, I think it's the democratic right of any political party to vote against the budget, and it's fine; it's the way we operate. But I think, maybe if there's a political objection to voting against the budget, we should discuss that and come to the table and say what the issues are, what the challenges are and what the solutions are that we seek here, because if you say no to a budget, you're effectively saying the officers sitting over here and over there are not going to be paid in the next financial year. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): Order! Order, members! [Interjections.] Order, please! Order! [Interjections.]

Dr G W KOORNHOF: To say that you're going to vote against the budget is making a personal statement, but maybe there are other ways . . . [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): Hon members, let's listen to what the hon Koornhof has to say. [Interjections.] That is his prerogative.

Dr G W KOORNHOF: Instead of voting against the budget and preventing money from flowing to the department, let's rather sit around the table with the department and say what the challenges are that are facing us.

At the end of the day we support the Department of Defence, we support the Budget Vote and we will support the vision of the SANDF and the quality leadership we have under the effective guidance of this Minister who is in control. [Applause.]

Adv H C SCHMIDT: Madam Chair, it's just such a pity that the hon Koornhof ruined such a good speech, because it was about a few proposals the DA would have liked to have supported, *inter alia*, the one about conventional reserve forces, but unfortunately his speech ended much worse than it started. [Interjections.]

May I return to my speech by saying recent events in the DRC and elsewhere have shown the importance of the development of a well-equipped African stand-by force as well as the establishment of regional early-warning centres. These requirements translate into not only the political will to be involved in African regional matters, but also necessitates the establishment of a well-equipped, sharp, mobile and ready SA National Defence Force.

The fact that approximately 11 000 personnel in the SA Army cannot be deployed for health and age reasons is incompatible with the above objective. Maintenance of prime mission equipment is being neglected due to limited funds, whilst the state of facilities, which requires approximately R1,6 billion, and has been provided with a mere R20,6 million for day-to-day maintenance and R24 million, as I understand it, for larger projects to alleviate major backlogs, is totally insufficient.

The SA Air Force has recently experienced a large-scale outflow of highly skilled personnel, impacting negatively on operational readiness by admission of the SANDF itself. In this regard the deterioration of the Boeing 707 system and the Astra basic training aircraft is deplorable, faced especially with the departure of not only pilots from the Air Force, but also a reduction in the number of flying hours—a situation causing a detrimentally negative perception amongst air force personnel. I can't understand that it is allowed to prevail.

Problems being experienced by the integration of the strategic defence packages—better known as the arms deal—as well as the lack of funds pertaining to the integration of these weapons systems, in particular in the light of the fact that the SA Navy is experiencing an outflow of technical skills and expertise of personnel, is extremely disconcerting. [Interjections.] I think you'd do well to listen rather than to talk.

Issues relating to the nonstatutory force pension have after all these years—about five years, if I understand it correctly—not yet been resolved, with approximately 2 400 disputes having been lodged against determinations, which still need to be finalised. Manpower shortages, technical problems, outstanding documentation as well as delays in processing of payments also need to be resolved urgently.

Lastly, the issue of operability of the Rooivalk attack helicopter is still an issue and needs to be resolved urgently, particularly in the light of the possible Turkish deal to provide a number of helicopters to that country. Billions, literally billions of rands, of taxpayers' money have been spent on an aircraft which is still not deployable in terms

of its intended role. It is a question of reprioritisation, hon Minister.

It is therefore clear that this department and the SANDF, under the leadership of the hon Minister Lekota, is still not functioning as effectively and efficiently as it should. An enormous display of political will and courage by the leadership of this department and the SANDF can revitalise it into a functional defence force which we could all be proud of. I thank you.

Mr O E MONARENG: Chairperson, hon Minister, hon Deputy Minister, Defence Secretariat and the team, General Matanzima and his team, I just want to start off by making a general point: You see, there are certain things I wanted to respond to, but I don't want to deviate from my speech.

The general point I want to raise is just a quotation on military expenditure in sub-Saharan Africa: "Why do guns cost more than butter?" Military expenditure differs from most other forms of government expenditure. This can be illustrated by considering government expenditure on education, which results in a stream of returns to society as a result of enhanced productivity over the subsequent working life of the learners.

A similar argument can be mounted for much of government's expenditure. By contrast, military expenditure has the potential to provide an immediate benefit in the form of greater perceived security. This might encourage investment spending in the country under consideration, but in itself such spending is a consumption item—it has no social rate of return. I am now speaking economics, not solely defence.

In addition, military expenditure is a noncontributory activity, as Durmas so eloquently argues:

> The purpose of the economy as a social system is to provide for the material wellbeing of the population. Any activity that results in the production and distribution of goods and services which add to material wellbeing contributes to that purpose. It is the quantity, quality and availability of the products of such contribution activity that measures the true size and state of the development of the economy. At the same time, activities that result in the production and distribution of goods and services that do not add to material wellbeing are noncontributory. Military activity is one of the most important types of economically noncontributory activity in modern world. Whatever else can be said about it, military activity does not grow food, produce clothing, build housing and keep people amused. Military activity may have other kinds of value but it has no economic value because it does not contribute to material wellbeing.

Be that as it may, my point is to pay tribute to the manner in which the Department of Defence has conducted itself in the fulfilment of the country's mandate, constitutional imperatives and Cabinet's directives.

My mission is to appreciate the manner in which our boys and girls in brown uniform have made us proud. Mine is to appreciate the sterling work that these men and women continue to do and their sacrifices in Burundi, the DRC, the Comoros and everywhere they are deployed.

In this instance I want to recall the great name of Commander Mandla Jwarha or General Sipho Binda, whose sterling work and brave exploits have made us proud. I wish to remember him as a son of the soil groomed by uMkhonto weSizwe, the people's glorious army and a disciplined soldier and officer groomed by the liberation movement. Because he was a soldier with a mission, he represented his people well—first liberating them; secondly defending them; and lastly acting as an ambassador in foreign lands. It is a pity, hon members, that General Sipho Binda is no more. May his soul rest in peace!

Comrade Sipho's tribute is therefore a tribute to the SANDF. This tribute is a tribute to all those in the SANDF who continue to endure mosquito bites in Burundi, the DRC, Darfur, Comoros and Côte d'Ivoire and all over where our service is appreciated.

This tribute goes to the acquisition and procurement of corvettes and frigates by the name *SAS Mendi*, *SAS Spioenkop*, *SAS Manthatise*, etc.

The following are the Department of Defence's modal points outlined in the strategic business plan: Firstly, ensuring that the defence update is presented to Parliament and implementation takes place within the MTEF period. Secondly, intensifying engagement with regional counterparts in Africa by focusing on security-related objectives of the AU and NEPAD and thirdly, the designing of the SADC Mutual Defence Pact, the African Standby Force and the establishment of Continental Early Warning Centres and Regional Early Warning Centres are in process.

Fourthly, there is the continuation in the participation in peace support operation in the DRC, Burundi, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Sudan; fifthly, the deployment of more than 300 members in external peace support missions; sixthly, the implementation of Human Resource Strategy 2010 and the review thereof as a decisive intervention in youth empowerment and scarce skills development in line with the objectives of Asgisa.

The seventh point refers to a new facility for the training of fighter pilots that has been opened in Air Force Base Makhado—the issues around flying hours, etc. There is a facility which is open to ensure training. The question of reducing flying hours is an issue which we have raised with the delegation from the Department of Defence. Lastly, there is the conceptualisation and implementation of the works regiment. This works regiment is going to be formed and it is not yet been budgeted for. We have confidence in our discussion with the Department of Defence that this works regiment will work well in making sure that aged soldiers will be trained and retrained so that they can be of assistance in the Defence Force.

In line with its strategic objectives, the Department of Defence seeks the following: The execution of defence commitments as ordered and funded by government so that all decisions that the department takes are actually political because the defence commitments come from government and they adhere to directives; the provision of contingency-ready and cost-effective defence capabilities as specified by approved policy and the sound management of the department. These are the issues that the department seeks to achieve as its immediate objectives—to correct these maladies; the administration of the department within the prescripts of the law, regulatory framework and government policy; the assurance of sustainability, continuous improvement of output quality and the reduction of the cost of the department's process, as well as the accounting thereof; the assurance of continuous quality improvement of people in the department; the assurance of quality command and the management formation in the department; and the assurance of continuous quality improvement on the department's equipment and facility. These objectives are a continuation of attempts and efforts to transform the Department of Defence and particularly the SANDF.

Looking back into the murky history of the racial deprivation and discrimination, the Department of Defence has made tremendous strides to do better and compete not only in the region, but in the world as a whole. All issues around administration and financial defects are but hiccups, which the Department of Defence is determined to address and thereby alleviate.

What our country has achieved in the past 12 years is a learning testimony that we can compete with the world equally, for our values in terms of transparency and profes-

sionalism cannot be challenges anywhere; hence a befitting tribute to our forces deployed all over the world.

As peacemakers, we have offered harmony and stability in Burundi. As peacelovers, we have created smooth governance in the DRC. As champions of democratic values, we have created hope in Africa. As a nation with pride and identity, we have placed Africa amongst the nations proud of their own destiny.

In conclusion, we can pride ourselves on the following successes: Firstly, the successful deployments in peace support operations assistance in humanitarian relief such as their current ammunition disaster in Mozambique; secondly, the successful championing of the new legislation to reform the defence establishment—these being the White Paper on Defence and the Defence Review, the significantly revised Defence Act, as well as compliance with the rest of government legislation in various fields; thirdly, we took delivery of the strategic defence packages in the South African Navy and the South African Air Force with the last equipment to be delivered in the new financial year; fourthly, we have improved equity status within the Department of Defence with an increase in the number of women appointed as well as fit and young members coming in through the Military Skill Development System, MSDS; fifthly, deployed Reserve Force units, as part of our entire contingent, are brought in and we continue to like them increasingly and allocate resources to them too.

Lastly, we have successfully created employment through the utilisation of the MSDS and thereby, at the same time, changed the age profile of the SANDF in a positive manner.

These are the points which I raised in paying tribute to the heroic commanders-general of our glorious Defence Force. I thank you. [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Chairperson, that was the note I was going to start on—saying that I think I should thank the members for, probably, one of the most constructive debates in a long time. I think there has been an attempt to focus on the issues, and very little shouting at each other.

First of all, there are two CDs which the Defence department, with the little budget that it has, has put together. [Laughter.]

An HON MEMBER: It's expenditure!

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE: One is Operation Teutonic. It gives some sense of what our troops are doing on the ground in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The other is the African Union Mission for Support to the Elections in the Comoros, known as Amisec—Paradise not lost. It shows the work that our people did in the Comoros in supporting the elections there earlier on. So, if the members can keep up with that, it might be helpful to give some insight into those situations.

I would like to start off by responding to the issues that were raised by hon Groenewald. I had said earlier on that defence is an instrument of the political work and decisions that our country takes. I hope that my meaning was clear.

What I was saying was that if a decision was taken by our country to go and support peace operations in the DRC, the SA National Defence Force is an instrument in the hands of the nation, available to go and make sure that that which has been decided upon by the political leadership of the country, which essentially means Parliament through the executive, that that must be done.

If we took a decision to support Mozambique, in a disaster situation, that would be a decision taken at political level, and that is what our nation wants, then the Defence Force would be available for that, or to support free and fair elections in any country. That's what I meant. Not anything

more than that. I hope I wasn't heard to mean something beyond that. [Interjections.]

Thank you very much, if we are at one with regard to that.

I think, given the manner in which our Constitution is structured, and the reason why the administrative head or the Minister who is appointed is a civilian, civil authority is about somebody from Parliament who must go and lead the Defence Force, making sure that they comply with the policy and the decisions that are taken by the nation through Parliament and so on, and implementing that.

The problem that has been referred to in this debate relating to the issue of transformation also touches on this issue. Quite apart from dealing with statutory and non-statutory forces, and trying to integrate those, we have another challenge built into the problems of the Department of Defence. It is a fact that, in 1966, the SA Defence Force had ceased to have a defence secretariat. Therefore, the military had not operated as an instrument under civilian control, whereas those who came from the non-statutory forces came from formations that continued to be controlled by the principle of civilian control.

I have observed, over time, that even in the engagements in the leadership of the SA National Defence Force, you could see, from time to time, the clashes of these two cultures. That is something that is not always clear in the minds of many other people. People just think about transformation as getting a black guy in some white position, or a woman in that position. The most critical thing has been this question of making sure that the military culture respects civilian control, and therefore, understanding that Parliament prescribes to the military, and that the military must operate and respond to the commands that are given by our Parliament. That continues to be a problem, but is no longer as big a problem now as what it was in the beginning, but now and then, I do come across it.

There is another problem of transformation, which is to bring the SANDF into this principle of civil control. This meant that the structure of the SANDF is dramatically different from the structure that the SA Defence Force had.

Now you have a defence secretary responsible for policy and all of that, and the chief of the SANDF who is responsible for the military. Both of them are at the same level, but one of them was prior to the other. You have to have those two establishments, not competing with each other, but those two establishments should complement each other.

When military decisions have to be taken—what needs to be done, how it needs to be done in order to effectively defend the country and protect South Africa—that military advice must come from the Chief of the SANDF. When it comes to issues of policy and so on, the Defence Secretary—and the Defence Secretary is prior—as a civilian must represent and must make sure that policy decisions taken, starting with the law of the Constitution and all of that, comply with that all the time.

To bring that culture in, when it was no longer there, and when the conventional unit that came in had come in without that at all, because many of the men and women that remained in the SA Defence Force, and therefore came into the SA National Defence Force, very many of them did not come prior to 1966. They came from the period after 1966 that never operated in an atmosphere in which there was a defence secretary, and therefore, in which that civilian principle was there.

We have grappled with that. Only last week, at the work session, I had to take a very firm decision that a certain direction would be taken, and if there is anybody who is not

going to take it, I need to be told who is not prepared to do that, in order to get them to do what is required.

So we continue to grapple with that, and that is why I can say now with confidence that the basic problem that was producing these qualified reports will soon be history, because I am quite determined that no one is not going to act along the lines that we have decided upon, and that I directed last week.

So, we are overcoming these problems and therefore there is ongoing transformation, including the transformation of the military culture in institutions, which is going apace. We are doing quite well, I think.

Let me just say, with regard to the point that the hon Madikiza made . . . Sorry, before I move to that, I want to say this. In spite of the difficulty that I went into that we had to overcome, I have to say this, because it is not always that I speak when the leadership of the Defence Force is here. I have to say that one of the things that members of the House must understand is that in spite of those difficulties, the leadership of the Defence Force and the department as a whole have done exceptionally well. Sometimes when I reflect on that, I am amazed at how it has happened.

There is no decision to cut off this, to scale down that and so on, taken by individuals. The Plenary Defence Staff Council sits and considers all of the issues that everybody brings there. When these decisions are taken, they are taken by the SA National Defence Force leadership as a whole. Therefore, none of the leadership of the Defence Force can distance themselves from a decision, because a decision is taken—we have a certain amount of money, and either we use this money to do the one thing or another, or we have to scale down some programme or another, or delay it. Those decisions are taken within that body, and when they are implemented, even if they may be implemented in one service or another, it is a decision of the whole body, and is recorded as such, and implemented in this way.

Now, I want to make that point because, in spite of the difficulties, that level of unity and cohesion remained and made it possible for us to make the progress we have made.

This scaling down of the flying hours is a very sore point for the Ministry and the department. You can't have an air force that's walking on the ground. If there is an air force, it must be there in the skies. Why have we moved to say that we have to cut down on the hours? This is simply because the nation's priorities have made it impossible for the amount of money at the present time. We still hope. The Deputy Minister and I are still working on a plan to reverse some of these things that will make it possible for us to access that. We know that the decision, recommended to us by the leadership of the Defence Force, is simply because there was no alternative but that they had to go that way.

Yet, as I say, and as members have already said, you can't have an air force that's walking the ground with the rest of our defence force. Then, of course, everybody forms part of the army, and then there is no air force to talk about. [Interjections.] So, we need to be able to correct that, and we intend to do that.

The hon Madikiza, and perhaps to a lesser extent the hon Simmons, made the point that we are spending too much money on defence. Well, Madikiza said that it is a massive amount. We shouldn't be doing that, because we don't have—at the present time—threats and so on.

I think, in a lesser way, the hon Simmons was saying that we should leave the situation out there, and concentrate our energies on these issues all the time. Actually, I think it is important for members of the House, and all of us, to reflect on the current problems that confront the whole world.

Many people have not observed or perhaps

have not taken very seriously that the world saw similar conditions, in globalised conditions, when the First World War started. It was a small confrontation or conflict—something like what we see happening in . . . Actually, it was in Serbia in the Balkans, with small formations there, and then the whole thing just escalated and went out of control. At that time, I dare say, the struggle for resources in those areas was nothing compared to the volume of resources that are being competed for in Africa.

There are so many interests. If you look at the Democratic Republic of the Congo, you will see what resources there are, and every one of the various parties is wanting to get hold of those resources. Those of us who are close to the situation there understand what is going on. We see what is going on. In fact, we see that even South Africa's role is not quite welcome, because we are insisting on stabilising, on bringing peace, on prioritising the interests of the development of the people of the DRC as part of the development of the people of the continent. There are others who want their own interests advanced there.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): Hon Minister, I will give you two extra minutes since it's so interesting. Then we conclude.

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much! [Laughter.]

So, therefore, I want to say this: First of all, this amount of money is not much. You know, if there is maybe not war today, but if a war starts, and there are indications that it will start in three months' time, and you start to order ships today, you will receive them 15 years from now, and the war will be long over! [Laughter.] So, you have to have them now, before the time.

The second and final point is that countries like Japan, who actually would not go into peacekeeping at all, have now recently taken the decision that it's so crucial to keep the peace that they are moving their own men and women into theatres of conflict to put it out, because of the dangers around the world at the moment. Threats and the likelihood of conflagrations are higher now than in the Cold War period. Think about it. You'll find that it is so.

Madam Chair, I can't deal with all the issues, but let me just say that I have been instructed by my bosses to please inform the House that there will be a cocktail function at the Iziko Museum at the Planetarium. I don't know exactly where that is, but they said: "Please follow the human chain made up of the members of the military skills development personnel to the venue in Queen Victoria Street."

Let me close off by simply saying one sentence. I am very, very grateful to the members for the observations they have made. I can assure you that a fair amount of what has been said here will be taken up with the executive by me and the Deputy Minister. I hope that we will be able to remedy some of the difficulties that have been indicated. Thank you. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

The Committee rose at 18:11.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMITTEE—COMMITTEE ROOM E249

Members of the Extended Public Committee met in Committee Room E249 at 15:31.

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

APPROPRIATION BILL

Debate on Vote No 33—Transport.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT: Deputy Speaker, hon members, the 2007 Budget Vote has turned into a solemn occasion with the passing away of my special advisor, Dr Ian Phillips. He was a former and inaugural member of the first democratic Parliament.

Dr Phillips was admitted to the Christiaan Barnard Memorial Hospital, here in Cape Town, on 26 February 2007, suffering from cytomegalovirus induced pneumonia, a complication of his reduced immune status caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. He passed away in the early evening of last night, 26 March 2007.

His demise is a serious loss to me personally. Ian has served me with loyalty, humility and dedication. His small frame belies the great stature and contribution he made to the liberation of our people. He was not only a genuine friend and a dependable comrade but a brother to me. We fought many hard battles together.

His departure leaves a glaring void in academia, the intelligentsia, the broader progressive forces and the democratic movement. His resourcefulness was best demonstrated when he placed resources available to him as an academic at the disposal of our movement at a very difficult time.

He was more than an intellectual, making practical interventions in the course of our struggle. He understood that knowledge could have value and be a material force of change to the quality of life of our people. He was highly regarded amongst his peers in academia and government for his consistency, righteousness and principles. His research and teachings bear testimony to his deep commitment to fundamental transformation of South African society.

We shall always remember him as the humble servant of our people; he's been aptly described as the flower of the South African nation, a rare gem, a great patriot, an internationalist and a revolutionary. His special quality was putting others first, Batho Pele, and himself last. In his humility and conviction, he lived by the principle of being my brother's keeper and my sister's keeper, and in this way he touched the lives of many.

I hope, Deputy Speaker, you will join me in extending our heartfelt condolences to his family who are here, to his friends and comrades. We wish them strength in this difficult time.

May I ask that we rise and observe a moment of silence in memory of Dr Phillips. I thank you.

Today, hon members, I dedicate this speech to the memory of Dr Phillips, himself a user of the public transport system and an author of many of my speeches over the years. The spirit of Dr Phillips should help us to strengthen our people's victorious march to freedom and continuous efforts to transform the unthinkable devastating effects of apartheid to the restoration of the dignity of all our people, the integrated society that thinks of no colour, no creed and no religion but just humanity.

Our ANC-led government's objective of accelerated economic growth underpins our goals to develop strategies to modernise our public transport services and infrastructure

to fight poverty and unemployment. Through our interventions in the transport sector we have facilitated the economic and social transformation of South Africa. We targeted programmes aimed at providing access to work opportunities in cities, integrating our human settlements and business districts and provided rural access roads to our poor and marginalised communities.

The World Bank recently pointed out that South Africa has experienced an impressive acceleration of economic growth. On the heels of strong macro fundamentals, South African growth accelerated in 2005 to 4,9% from 4,5% a year earlier. Our economy has registered its highest growth in 21 years and this bodes well for achieving our government's objectives in respect of Asgisa's 6% target by 2010.

Despite the size of our economy and the recent improvements, South Africa continues to face major social challenges such as unemployment and poverty.

It gives me pleasure to indicate that the Cabinet, last week, approved our Public Transport Strategy and Action Plan through which we will really create a lasting legacy and a better life for all and will continue to focus on the marginalised rural communities and the urban poor.

This action plan aims to translate the Public Transport Strategy into a phase 1—which is from this year, 2007, to 2010—programme that targets 12 cities and six districts for initial implementation of integrated rapid public transport networks.

Our strategic approach for 2007 to 2020 will be the transformation from basic commuter operations to accelerated modal upgrading and integrated rapid public transport networks. These will be characterised, amongst others, by upgraded modal fleet facilities, stops and stations; extended hours of operation to between 16 to 24 hours; peak frequencies of 5 to 10 minutes; off-peak frequencies of between 10 and 30 minutes; and an hourly night service.

We want to target 85% of all residents in urban areas to be within one kilometre of a rapid public transport network by 2020, with safe and secure operation and monitoring by intelligent transport system control centres.

These will comprise the Metrorail Priority Corridors, the Gauteng Rapid Rail Link as well as the Bus Rapid Transit Corridors, recapitalised and regulated taxi services, including mini and midibus taxis, as well as metered taxis.

We envisage that the three spheres of government will work closely together through intergovernmental task teams to ensure that the speedy identification and implementation of these corridors becomes a speedy reality. In most of the metropolitan areas the planning process is already advanced and we shall be witnessing implementation very soon.

As has been highlighted by our President in his state of the nation address, the bus rapid transit system provides a very exciting and innovative mechanism for implementing high quality public transport networks that operate on exclusive right of way, which will incorporate current bus and minibus operators into a high-quality transport system with no loss of income or jobs.

The department has been engaging the metropolitan cities and related provinces in this regard and the Bus Rapid Transport, BRT, phase 1 scoping plans have been completed and are under way in Johannesburg, Tshwane, Cape Town and Nelson Mandela Metro. We envisage that detailed planning will be completed by September this year so that implementation can commence.

The road to a better life for all has been paved through the Integrated Rural Mobility and Access Project, the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme, the Roads Infrastructure Programme, the consolidation of Metrorail

into the South African Rail Commuter Corporation, SARCC, the Public Transport Infrastructure Fund, and financing of Public Transport Project over the past two financial years.

Our road-based public transport subsidy should benefit the commuters through a more equitable subsidy system for buses, taxes and rail by integrating transport networks suitable for specific commuter needs.

The physical roll-out and implementation of the Taxi Recapitalisation Project started in earnest in October 2006 at Botshabelo Stadium in the Free State. Since that launch, scrapping facilities have been built in all provinces, with the most recent being in the North West, which will be followed by Gauteng on Saturday.

To date over 2 224 applications for scrapping of old taxis have been processed by the scrapping agencies on behalf of government. Of these, no less than 1 940 old taxis have been deregistered from the National Traffic Information System, Natis, with owners thereof paid out a R50 000 scrapping allowance and 1 823 vehicles physically scrapped.

Since the initiation of the scrapping process about R97 million has been paid out as scrapping allowances to qualifying operators, and we are very confident that scrapping figures will see a dramatic increase as the scrapping process gains momentum.

As part of our preparations for 2010 Fifa World Cup we have developed a Transport Action Plan that aims to provide a lasting legacy for public transport. This plan now supplements the Public Transport Action Plan and focuses on all hosting cities.

Our planning for the 2010 World Cup and public transport were rewarded by an allocation of R9 billion over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF, period that will be spent by various host cities and state-owned entities for the preparation of this big event.

For the current MTEF period, the following allocations will benefit public transport: A total of R8,5 billion for passenger rail infrastructure; R8,2 billion for public transport infrastructure, excluding rail; R5,5 billion for national roads infrastructure and R19,2 billion for airports infrastructure.

Outside of these votes, an additional R3 billion has been allocated through the Provincial Infrastructure Grant for the Expanded Public Works Programme, focusing on rural access roads.

The implementation of this 2010 transport plan is well on track, while last year most of the host cities were busy with detailed planning and designing. We have already started with the implementation of physical projects, and some of these projects are funded through the Public Transport Infrastructure and Systems Grant. Amongst the categories that we are funding are transport links and facilities, intermodal facilities, nonmotorised transport infrastructure, the travel demand management system and bus rapid transit systems.

The aviation sector has witnessed spectacular growth of 14% over the past few years and the emergence of rapid growth of the low-cost carriers has significantly changed the character of domestic air transport services, for which we have planned to develop appropriate infrastructure.

With the increased volume of air passengers that has been predicted, the Airports Company SA, ACSA, has already started implementation of a five-year investment programme in all the major airports in our country. As I have indicated, a total amount of R19,2 billion will be spent on airports infrastructure over five years to accommodate the 2010 Soccer World Cup and our growth into the future.

Whilst our plans are achievable, the constant challenges of capacity in the Department of Transport, various provincial departments and transport agencies remain, which re-

quire bold action to fill the current 41% vacancies by December 2007.

The additional allocation of R15 million in the current financial year, 2007-08, for organisational establishment will assist in addressing this challenge. I also call upon the manufacturing sector to make clear their commitment to increasing their capacity to meet the requirements of this ambitious investment programme through the manufacture of buses, taxis, rail tracks and signalling systems, and the refurbishment of rail coaches.

The Department of Labour and the Department of Transport will ensure that the Transport Sector Education and Training Authority is not left loitering with funds, best kept with asset managers, as we have seen with Fidentia.

We shall prioritise training in areas of scarce skills such as engineering, technical skills, traffic policewomen and men, and public transport operators. A monitoring and evaluation framework with a dedicated multinational enterprise, MNE, team has been put in place, and this function will be expanded to incorporate more focused and detailed project management. For this function, the department has been allocated an additional R20 million in the 2007-08 financial year.

The SA Rail Commuter Corporation, SARCC, and Metrorail have concluded their first phase of consolidation, which saw Metrorail being part of the SARCC. The once-off cost of this consolidation amounted to some R800 million. The second phase of merging Metrorail with Shosholoza Meyl is currently under way, with completion by April of 2008.

In order to move towards five-minute frequencies, improved reliability and availability of commuter rail services, an accelerated rolling stock investment programme has been successfully implemented during the past year. Earlier implications of the programme are that the numbers of coaches refurbished have increased from 264 during 2005-06, at a cost of R688 million, to 330 coaches, at a cost of R834 million.

Our plan increases the number of coaches going through refurbishment to 515 and 700 over the 2007-08 to 2008-09 financial years, totalling 2 000 coaches by the end of the MTEF period.

This is supplemented by a further investment of R680 million per annum in infrastructure and development in the form of signalling and station upgrades. An additional R1,1 billion has been allocated over the MTEF period Budget cycle for upgrading signalling and telecommunications and to support the accelerated rolling stock programme.

Special attention is being given to improving security measures within the railway environment. This strategy includes a cooperative agreement with the police to invest in security-related infrastructure required for the establishment of a roll-out and dedicated railway police unit.

To date, the construction of police stations in Cape Town, Retreat, Bellville and Phillipi has been completed. Construction of new police stations has started in Durban, Reunion, Cavendish, KwaMashu, Tshwane, Denneboom, Mabopane, Germiston, New Canada and Johannesburg.

The Cape Town network has already seen a 31,6% reduction in crime-related incidents and fare evasion has been reduced from 9% to 4%. More than 5 000 railway police will be in place by 2010. The Rail Safety Regulator has further strengthened its compliance and monitoring function. By the end of December 2006 the number of safety permits issued increased to 233 from 197 issued at the end of March 2006.

The increased movement of freight among our towns is an indication that we need to invest more on freight logistics and corridor development. Our department will continue to focus on the Durban/Gauteng Corridor

and its development projects. We aim to develop the Dube Trade Port, the La Mercy Airport and the eThekwini Freight Plan to unlock and streamline goods transportation in and through the city of Durban. This will lead to the decommissioning of the current Durban International Airport in 2009.

In line with our National Freight Logistics Strategy, the first draft of our branch-line strategy has been developed to articulate our vision and strategic approach. By revitalising places such as Nkwalini in KwaZulu-Natal, Belmont-Douglas in Northern Cape and the Kei Rail in the Eastern Cape, we can ensure that our vision and strategic approach in these areas are implemented as speedily as possible.

For transport to be a driving force for economic growth and social development, the requisite road infrastructure must be in place for efficient transportation. In this regard, the main objectives of the South African National Road Agency Limited, Sanral, are the financing, management, control, planning, development, rehabilitation and maintenance of our national road network.

Over the MTEF period, transfers are expected to increase owing to additional allocations, as I indicated, amounting to over R5 billion. At the end of September 2006 Sanral launched the Intelligent Transport System, ITS, on the N1 Ben Schoeman Highway. This includes closed circuit television cameras, variable message signs and the utilisation of the shoulder lane between Allendale and Buccleuch interchanges in peak hours.

During the same period we piloted high-occupancy-vehicle-dedicated lanes, which was a huge success. We are now gearing up schemes fully across our national road network.

Since its inception, the ITS has reduced travel time in peak periods and provided accurate traffic information to road users to make informed decisions, and assisted emergency services with improved incident information. The estimated cost to date for this project amounts to R80 million.

Last year we approved the new Road Safety Strategy, which we will be implementing with vigour in this financial year. And central to this is the enhanced role of the Road Traffic Management Corporation, RTMC, which has been established to oversee traffic law enforcement.

Traffic law enforcement officers have a key role to play in encouraging improved road user behaviour.

The finalisation of the National Road Traffic Enforcement Code and subsequent agreements in respect of key performance indicators and service level agreements between the corporation and the traffic authorities will ensure that authorities are capacitated, empowered and supported in the planning, execution and reviewing of their road traffic strategies, programmes and campaigns.

The establishment of a national training academy and the integrated management model, and engaging current traffic training colleges in standardised, integrated, aligned and co-ordinated training facilities, materials and standards is a very important strategic priority for the RTMC.

The training and development of all traffic officials remain some of the RTMC's highest priorities. In addition, the implementation of certain elements of the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Act through the RTMC will facilitate the pilot project in Tshwane for the merit and demerit system for driving licences.

The RTMC's effectiveness will enhance positive contribution to the Road Accident Fund, RAF, and fewer accidents on our roads will result in a reduced number of claims. This year has been a stabilisation period for the RAF. It has set a tone for a more secure organisation prior to it moving into the next phase of sustainable develop-

ment. It has embarked on the implementation of a new business model that will improve information collection and management to ensure proactive claims, origination, risk management and fraud management.

The short-term solvency of the RAF has improved with the RAF having been able to meet its short-term obligations. The longer-term solvency of the RAF is currently being addressed with the National Treasury and the Department of Transport in order to return the RAF to financial health.

This budget reflects our collective effort as a nation to transform our transport system to a more efficient and sustainable medium that supports growth, equitable access to opportunities and development.

As you are aware, practice is the only criterion of truth. It is through practical action that transport will become the heartbeat of economic and social development, and deliver jobs and shared growth.

We have begun to take the necessary and real steps towards a lasting legacy in transport, not just for the benefit of 2010 but also for that of our society beyond 2010. I think of Dr Ian Phillips as I speak these words. He would remind all of us that although words have meaning, they do not by themselves change the world.

He would again refer us to Karl Marx's famous words about revolutionary change, that, and I quote: "The philosophers have interpreted the world in various ways; the point, however, is to change it." Unity in action for better transport is the lasting legacy we could give Dr Phillips and all of our fallen heroes and heroines. May his soul rest in peace! Ke a leboga. [Thank you.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister and members, on behalf of the Speaker and the presiding officers I would like to extend our condolences to the Ministry, the department and the family of Dr Ian Phillips. We are indeed sad to hear about his untimely death.

We not only remember his valuable and intelligent contributions as a member of the first democratic Parliament, but also his sense of humour. He will be sorely missed and we regret that he will no longer be able to serve the country in this important portfolio. May he rest in peace.

Mr J P CRONIN: Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the ANC transport study group and also the portfolio committee that I chair, I would also like to express our collective sadness, great sadness, at the death of Dr Ian Phillips.

Comrade Ian was an ANC MP, as others have said, in the first 1994 democratic Parliament. He has served as Minister Radebe's special adviser since 1999, first in the Ministry of Public Enterprises and then latterly in the Ministry of Transport. Throughout this period, both while he was in the Ministry of Public Enterprises and now more recently in Transport, we got to know Comrade Ian extremely well.

In the previous Parliament we dealt jointly, as Public Enterprises and as Transport, with the transformation of Transnet, the ports' transformation and rail restructuring, and, Minister, I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say that those were monster tasks, particularly dealing with the legislation affecting this transformation. In this Parliament we dealt with another small matter, the Road Accident Fund, and the legislation seeking to amend and transform that reality. All of these issues were extremely challenging.

Now Ian, as we knew him, was quite a private person, quite a retiring personality, but he was always extremely accessible to us through these complicated processes. He served, I think, as a special adviser with great integrity, skill, intelligence and loyalty. I think the Minister would be well aware of that.

On behalf of the committee and the ANC study group we would like to convey our deep-felt condolences to his family—his two sisters are here, his niece is also here, as is his brother-in-law—and also to his friends and colleagues in the Ministry and in the department, and above all to the Minister. We know that this is not only the loss of a very senior and long-serving staff member, but very much a personal loss. As you yourself said, Minister, it's the loss of a brother for you.

He will certainly be very sorely missed by all of us in the transport fraternity. I'm quite sure that the many positive developments that you were announcing today in the budget and that we are now beginning to register practically on the ground will constitute a living testimony to the often somewhat back room, often invisible, but immensely important and incalculable contribution that Dr Ian Phillips has made. Hamba kahle, Comrade Ian.

Minister Jeff Radebe, MECs from the provinces, director-general, Transport staffers, colleagues from the broad transport family and fellow members, it's no longer possible in transport to say, "Asinamali", or, "We don't have money." The main expenditure trends speak for themselves. In 2003-04 expenditure was some R6,2 billion. By 2009-10 it's expected to reach R21,4 billion. That's an average annual rate of increase of nearly 23%, so we can no longer say, "Asinamali"! [We have no money!]

But for many years, both before 1994 and after, transport, generally speaking, has been on a starvation diet, and starvation diets tend to breed a survivalist mindset, focusing on a repair job over here and an upgrade over there at best. The trouble with a survivalist mindset of this kind is that it becomes very difficult then to break out of a vicious cycle of simply patching up a reality that continuously reproduces the very problems that you are trying to address.

This is particularly problematic in a country like our own, in which we are battling, not to bring about a few changes here and there, but a thorough, radical transformation of the apartheid colonial legacy, riddled as it is with gross inequalities, racialised inequalities, class inequalities, gender inequalities and spatial inequalities of all kinds.

As the ANC's draft strategy and tactics document warns us, it's possible in national liberation processes to mark time, tinkering with social relations under the veneer of formal political democracy. Yet, as with all major historical phenomena, which is surely what we're embarked upon, to mark time is to move in reverse. We need no longer to say, "Asinamali", and we need no longer to mark time.

So what has contributed to the change in attitude towards transport? In part, of course, it's the reality of a growing budget resource and notable successes, particularly in revenue collection over the past period. In fact, we notice now that we have a budget surplus and I'm sure the Minister and the department will be pushing harder into that surplus in coming years.

But there are also other important factors. Government's Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa, Asgisa, has played a really important role in focusing our collective attention as a country onto the real economy and the constraints, amongst other things, that are hampering the acceleration, the sustaining and the sharing of the growth that is beginning to come into our economy.

A central constraint that Asgisa has noted has been our transport and logistics infrastructure. There're bottlenecks in container handling at ports, for instance; there are inefficiencies in the rail system; there's an overdependence, as a result of that, on road freight, and many other things. I think, generally, these challenges are now well appreciated by government and indeed broadly in our country and many measures are now under way to address them.

But the danger is that we might become exclusively focused on the logistics needs of the major corporations, the mining houses, for instance, to get their coal from Mpumalanga to Richards Bay. They certainly have legitimate concerns. But in our race to achieve higher and sustained growth, we must also not forget the "s" in Asgisa—shared growth—and we would like therefore to commend the department for the emphasis it has placed, not just on the major logistics corridors but also on branch lines, understanding their critical importance for rural economies in many poorer parts of our country.

The department has also correctly argued the hard-nosed economic case for public transport. Public transport is not some charitable service to the poor; it's a critical driver of spatial transformation, of development and of ensuring a productive workforce. We often hear a lot about the so-called inflexibilities of the labour market.

In my view those inflexibilities, in so far as they exist, have very little to do with legislation that guarantees workers' basic rights but have a lot to do with the fact that very often public transport is unreliable, expensive, uncomfortable, and in some cases simply not available, for instance to nightshift workers, because it doesn't operate 24 hours. Poor public transport is as much a constraint on growth as ineffective container terminal operations, for instance.

It might seem paradoxical and even hypocritical to single out another important factor in beginning to change the mindset, namely, the R23 billion Gautrain project. It's been an important driver in driving a paradigm shift with regard to transport. It's fairly well known, I think, that the portfolio committee in 2005 raised some serious concerns about the Gautrain project, in particular with regard to its costs, its seeming lack of interconnectivity with existing and planned public transport in Gauteng in general and above all, we raised concerns about its longer-term operational sustainability.

Some colleagues in Parliament have said to me we lost the Gautrain debate and they say this is apparently another example of how the executive runs roughshod over Parliament.

I actually take a somewhat different view. For a start, the executive actually welcomed the report of the committee on Gautrain. It acknowledged the validity of many of the points that were raised and it has set about seeking to ensure that there is much greater interconnectivity with other public transport modes in Gauteng.

Whether this actually happens or not and the degree to which it's successful is something that we will all have to collectively monitor very carefully. But let's note that the project is going ahead and we wish it well as a committee. In fact, it's the second-largest by far on this year's transport budget.

But the importance of the Gautrain project is much broader than these matters. The public debate around it, triggered, I think, in part by the debate that we opened up here in Parliament as a result of our hearings, has raised a much broader public discussion around the importance of public transport, around the priorities that we need to address and around what are the most appropriate modes and infrastructure for a largely Third World situation like our own.

The Gautrain team, in other words, has done us an invaluable service by driving with a single-minded sense of purpose this megaproject. Instead of lamenting over a shortage of funds, they simply drove this project with passion and persuaded National Treasury, which is no easy matter, to part with R23 billion worth of public money.

If they can do it, why should dozens of much less costly but important public transport systems that will service millions of poor South Africans not also receive adequate funding? That was the question that was asked implicitly by the department's recent public transport strategy and action plan, and

was answered. This plan has now, as we've learnt, received Cabinet approval last week.

But perhaps the critical tipping point in receiving our increased transport budget has been the 2010 World Cup. Transport will be receiving an extra R9 billion for 2010. This is actually more than the amount going to stadiums. And here again, I would like to salute the role of the Department of Transport and the Minister. From very early on the Minister has understood that 2010 presents us with an important catalyst for action on transport.

The Minister has consistently advanced exactly the right message. He's been saying, let us use 2010 to do the things that we have to do in any case, so let's think about 2009 and 2011 as we proceed with 2010.

Well, we can no longer say, "Asinamali," but that does not mean to say we can be complacent. Spending money effectively, strategically and transformationally can be as difficult as not having enough money. There are at least two major challenges.

Number one is capacity. Maybe that's also number two and number three; capacity, capacity, capacity! As a committee, Minister, we are as concerned as you are—you expressed this concern this afternoon—about the 41% vacancy rate in the department. We know that some of this relates to approved but unfunded positions in the department and we're assured that at least 50% of those unfilled positions are in the process, as we speak, of being filled, but 50%, I suppose, is still a half measure, and we look forward to rapid movement, as you are promising.

We're also concerned about what we think are quite high rapid turnover rates amongst senior staff in the department. We know the department is not alone in this. I think many departments suffer from this, but it's a big challenge.

The second issue that we would like to flag in terms of big challenges that we've got is the escalating infrastructure costs. When the SA National Road Agency Ltd, Sanral, came to speak to us they said that their input costs—they excluded from those input costs bitumen, which is oil-driven in terms of its price escalation—in the past several months had risen by 30%. The principal causes of this are cement, steel and skills; project managers, construction engineers, and so on. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Mr S B FARROW: Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you for agreeing to the indulgence of giving a few minutes in this debate to offer condolences on the death of Dr Ian Phillips, the advisor to the hon Minister for many years who suddenly passed away last night.

Ian was a professional in every sense of the word. His political background, coupled with his intimate knowledge of his subject matter, be it in public enterprises or transport, will be sorely missed by all that dealt with him.

I know I can speak on behalf of the many members of the minority parties in the portfolio committee who, over the years, had dealings with him, of his passion and dedication to make things happen in his quiet way. He was an intellect of note, and no request for advice and assistance, be it big or small, went unanswered.

He will be greatly missed, particularly by you Minister, as I am fully aware of the confidence you placed in him as an advisor in all the portfolios in which you have served with him as Minister. Even more so, he will leave a void difficult to fill in the Ministry of Transport, the Department of Transport, the management structure and the country as a whole.

I take this opportunity of offering our sympathies and prayers to his immediate family that are here, his friends and colleagues in the knowledge that he served his country well and his memories will continue into the future with the legacy of work and policies that we have seen and that are still to be

implemented in this budget before us today. We will miss him. May his soul rest in peace.

Speaker, Minister and colleagues, at last year's budget debate on 30 May, I started with a positive note indicating that there appeared to be some light appearing at the end of what has been a long, dark funnel or tunnel. I also expressed the need for the department's ambitious policy developments to have exceptional resolve and political leadership; otherwise the challenges outlined in their strategic plan would again come to naught.

Although I am still positive as I stand here today about various aspects of this Budget Vote, I have some concerns. Despite assurances that the new departmental structure was approved on 16 May and that some 15 posts out of the 26 positions in the top structure would be advertised in full, little progress seems to have been made. My colleague referred to that as well. At present, the department is sitting with a 41% vacancy rate, and the increase in money spent on consultants is a reflection of this anomaly.

It also reflects poorly on delivery, and the dearth of skills and capacity has a direct bearing on the department's ability to spend its budget, monitor its expenditure and implement some of its key priorities effectively.

We need your assurance to this House, Minister, that, in particular, the transport logistical expertise required for the Fifa World Cup is in place right upfront, and that the necessary planning will keep pace with the envisaged infrastructural and commuter transport proposals put forward.

For the second year in a row, the financial position of the department could not be accurately confirmed by the Auditor-General, because the department again produced statements of transactions related to the production of the credit card-format driving licences. We have all seen in the press, in this regard, the whole aspect of the alleged corrupt dealings of former Minister of Transport Mac Maharaj. This needs your urgent attention and intervention, and I appeal to you here today.

These allegations of bribery have been around for some time, and it is important to get to the bottom of them. It is even more important to ensure that South Africa has a secure and rigid licensing system in place to prevent improperly trained drivers from exacerbating the carnage that you mentioned exists on our roads.

It is therefore imperative, Minister, that you initiate a full independent performance audit of the credit card licence system from inception to implementation, focusing particularly on the process leading to the involvement of Mr Schabir Shaik and his company, Prodiba. The performance audit must, amongst other things, provide a full account of all funds spent on the implementation of the credit card licence system and the production of the licences; investigate whether all tender and accounting procedures were adhered to; and establish the comparative advantages and drawbacks of the credit card licence system over the previous ID-book drivers' licensing system.

The DA believes that such an audit would only be constructive, Minister—I say this in sincerity—since it reveals major flaws in the system. At least these flaws could then be properly addressed and any loopholes covered. Should the audit reveal that the taxpayer did indeed receive value for money, then traffic regulation and road safety strategies could be adapted accordingly.

With respect to the former Minister of Transport, confirmation that the credit card-type licence system was indeed beyond reproach would strengthen any evidence that Mr Maharaj could offer to refute the allegations that have been put against him and his wife.

The Department of Transport is a key service delivery department. It is the department that

is keeping South Africa and its economy moving. Failure by the department to manage its internal affairs properly will mean failure in properly delivering services such as building roads and regulating transport.

One just has to look at the SA National Roads Agency Ltd, Sanral. Over the past number of years road maintenance has been underfunded by what the South African Road Federation estimates to be R10 billion per annum over and above the existing expenditure. Although the Sanral budget has increased threefold over the past 10 years, so has its national road network to the effect that at its establishment in 1998, it had only 6 748 km compared to the 16 710 km that it has today.

Coupled with this is an overall increase which was mentioned here by my colleague, Mr Cronin, of about a 30% increase in the cost. Now, when you take this into consideration, and particularly in light of the continual decline in engineering and construction skills facing our country, Sanral at present has a staff complement of 127, but does not have the construction or maintenance capacity or capability and relies almost entirely on the private sector to do this function.

Taking into account that about 1 300 engineers graduate each year, when nearly 13 000 are required to meet the current and expected demand for our infrastructural needs, then things don't bode well for our roads. Until we come up with some innovative ideas restricting the flow of more funds to Sanral, it is not going to solve the road maintenance problems which are deteriorating daily.

I therefore call on you, Minister, to institute some sort of investigation into how small, medium and micro enterprises on the one hand and the private sector on the other hand, or the use of foreign construction companies, can assist in meeting this backlog, with a view to substantially increasing the funding levels to Sanral over the medium to short term. Although it would be a short-term remedy, it could result in long-term benefits for South Africa, particularly if local schools are developed and protected.

Let me now turn to some other aspects of the budget. The first relates to the increase in funds for public transport. It is pleasing to note that the funds for integrated mass rapid public transport networks is finally becoming a buzzword in our metros, particularly where congestion and pollution are part of our daily lives.

Mass rapid public transport networks have been used successfully in many developed and undeveloped countries, but their success has been linked to a number of factors, namely, they must move away from the current commuter-based model to a customer-based public transport model which embraces quality, affordability, safety, security, speed and frequency. You mentioned that in your speech.

However, above all, it must run in dedicated corridors—not painted lines, Minister, but curbs. More importantly, it must be totally integrated with other available services such as taxis, buses and trains. Ideally, the hierarchy of movement must enable commuters to easily walk or cycle to a taxi or bus rank, whilst a bus or train takes them to their place of work and back.

For this to be effective, the taxi operators must become partners in the network and act primarily as the feeder system whilst also benefiting from the rapid bus service where it affects their routes and sustainability. The cake is only so big, and the time has come to see the recapitalised taxis as an opportunity to increase shareholding in the service, rather than as a potential loss of income or routes.

The Minister will need to consider this option in each metro if he wants a public transport operation of this nature to be in place before 2010. More importantly, the roles of national, provincial and national

governments in the co-ordination, expenditure and monitoring of the sizeable funds allocated in the budget for mass public transport infrastructure and systems need to be clearly defined and properly structured. I think you mentioned that too, Minister.

The ongoing Metro bus strike needs urgent resolution. I appeal to the Minister to consult with his counterparts in trying to find a compromise with the parties concerned. It is disrupting the lives of commuter citizens in Johannesburg and not doing the image of workable public transport operations any good. Surely there must be a solution.

I cannot conclude this debate without raising the issue of the Gautrain. Although it appears to be water under the bridge, it is not too late to reinvestigate the whole aspect of its gauge that is being proposed by the Mbombela Consortium. The Minister is on record as saying that he wants to see the Gautrain more integrated with Metrorail. If this were so, then the first step would be to ensure some sort of compatibility.

I am sure that standardising the gauge to the union gauge currently used in South Africa would not impact on the performance or safety of the train. I would therefore appeal to the Minister to investigate this proposal more thoroughly and report back to the portfolio committee accordingly. In so doing, it could avoid the project becoming isolated within the current rail network if the Gautrain ridership levels are not met.

Generally, great strides are being made in the department's strategic plans. The budget is slowly but surely moving towards reaching some of its goals. We have a long and challenging road ahead, and a lot will depend on political will and commitment.

We can't let the lack of capacity and skills get in our way; we need to collectively find ways of ensuring a sound and well-managed transport infrastructure that we can be proud of. The framework is there; we just need to make it work by bold and innovative thinking, as was said by the chairperson of our portfolio committee. I thank you, Chairperson. [Applause.]

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Chairperson, the IFP wishes to thank all people who during the year did their best to improve the transport system in this country. We also extend our sympathies and condolences to the family of the late Dr Phillips.

This year we wish to concentrate on road safety. The number of deaths on South Africa's roads every year amounts to nothing less than a national disaster. Each year about 13 000 people die in road accidents while many thousands more are seriously maimed and injured, often for life. What is more, the tragic figure is steadily climbing every year.

Between 1 December last year and 10 January 2007—that is 40 days—a total of 1 645 people died in road accidents. The number of seriously injured and maimed people runs into the thousands. Road deaths and injuries cost our country more than R43 billion every year in direct and indirect costs—that is three times the national Budget.

We should therefore ask ourselves very seriously what we should do to identify the main causes of the carnage on our roads and how to address them.

I wish to firstly deal with speeding, which is the cause of most accidents on our roads. This warning was issued by the Minister of Transport to road users on 5 December last year when he addressed a road safety meeting at Cullinan near Pretoria. I agree with the Minister and I am sure we all agree with him: "Speed kills."

Exceeding the speed limit is of course a criminal offence. Speeding causes thousands of deaths, misery, maiming, serious injuries and financial losses of billions of rands. Therefore a warning should be issued to speeders that Parliament is not prepared to allow the carnage on our roads to continue.

It is against this ominous background that I wish to refer to an article in Beeld of 7 December last year. The journalist heard the Minister of Transport speaking at Cullinan, warning motorists not to speed. He said 75% of accidents were caused by speeding.

Immediately after the Minister issued the warning, his cavalcade allegedly sped back to Pretoria at a speed far higher than 150 km/h. [Interjections.] Can you believe this? I have the clipping here of the newspaper. [Laughter.] It reads, "'n Konvooi van padvarke . . ." [Interjections.]

Jy's ook een, ja! [You are also one!]

A convoy of road hogs caused by the hon Minister—what a shame! To add insult to injury, the Minister's spokesperson is quoted as saying to the media that senior government leaders may travel faster than the speed limit and that qualified members of the police VIP unit are authorised by law to ignore traffic rules. This person is of course talking unqualified nonsense, as will appear from a statement by the Automobile Association, AA, to which I will refer a little later.

I have laid charges with the Public Protector against the Minister of Transport because of the allegations against him of disobeying traffic laws, causing a serious danger to other road users and setting a bad example to road users. The Public Protector . . . [Interjections.] . . . and you too!

The Public Protector is currently investigating my complaint and we are awaiting the outcome of the investigation. The Minister may be assured that if the Public Protector finds that he was a party to the contravention of the country's traffic laws, criminal charges will be laid against the Minister and his driver. He may smile today when I say this, but he won't smile when the police take him to court for speeding. [Interjections.] [Laughter.]

It is of course not only this Minister who is accused of disobeying our traffic laws, but it is many other so-called VIPs doing the same. I am sure members have all experienced the cars passing you on the left across the yellow lines, speeding up to 180 km/h, contravening traffic laws and endangering lives. I have personally seen them doing that on roads between Cape Town and the airport, and between Johannesburg and Pretoria. Sakkie has also seen them. They cross solid white lines, they push motorists off the road, and the Minister sits there laughing at this—he should be ashamed! [Laughter.]

The Automobile Association has come out strongly in criticising this lawlessness, saying that Ministers, Premiers and other officials are not above the law. The AA confirmed that Ministers are allowed to use blue lights to warn other motorists if they are experiencing an emergency situation, but they added that the problem lies with the speed at which these ministerial cars travel when they are not in an emergency situation.

The Ministers' alleged contravention of traffic laws, and the other so-called VIPs doing the same, is not going to end if we don't stop them.

In conclusion, I hereby challenge the hon Minister to motivate why he and other VIPs think that they are empowered to endanger the lives of other road users by speeding as I have illustrated. I challenge the hon Minister to announce that he and the government will put a stop to this reckless and dangerous practice of endangering the lives of our people by driving 150 km/h . . . [Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr D A A Olifant): Order! Order, Mr Van der Merwe, there seems to be a point of order.

Mr M I MOSS: Chairperson, will the member accept a question?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr D A A Olifant): Will you accept a question?

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Provided it's a difficult one. [Laughter.]

Mr M I MOSS: Chairperson, this member has never attended a portfolio committee meeting.

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: It is not a point of order, Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr D A A Olifant): Just a minute, just give him a chance, please.

Mr M I MOSS: Chairperson, he is talking about things that are definitely not of relevance to this portfolio committee. Can he please . . . [Interjections.]

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Chairperson, he is talking nonsense.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr D A A Olifant): That is definitely not a point of order.

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: The hon member who tried to take a point of order was also talking unqualified nonsense. It was not a point of order . . . [Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr D A A Olifant): Please continue, hon Van der Merwe. [Interjections.]

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: I will continue, Sir. [Interjections.]

Mr J P CRONIN: Chairperson, let me ask the hon member whether he's prepared to take a breathalyser test! [Laughter.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr D A A Olifant): Please, let's not have that. Please continue, hon member.

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Jeremy, that is not done in this House. [Laughter.] You should be ashamed of yourself. [Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr D A A Olifant): Hon Van der Merwe, please complete your speech. [Interjections.]

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: May I now continue?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr D A A Olifant): Your time has expired. On that note your time has expired! [Applause.]

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: No, on my watch I have 41 seconds left. [Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr D A A Olifant): Your time has definitely expired, hon member.

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: No! I have got 41 seconds left . . . [Interjections.] Marina's watch is out of order . . . [Laughter.]

Ms S N SIGCAU: Chairperson and hon members, transport is the life blood and arteries of the economic body. Therefore, any constrictions or blockages can become critical. Therefore, we should not hesitate to allocate significant amounts of taxpayers' money to ensure that our transport systems are in good order.

In the light of this Budget Vote I would like to briefly highlight three major areas of current transport policy and governance. Firstly, the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme, which falls under Programme 6—Public transport. The much maligned recapitalisation process has been delayed numerous times and, despite apparently progressing, continues to be questioned and resisted by members of the industry.

It should be remembered that the owners and drivers of taxis built a massive industry in the absence of government support. In the process they have for decades been the single biggest provider of transport in the country and they are a largely black-owned and operated industry servicing a largely black customer base. It is true that BEE grew in spite of the restrictions and persecutions of apartheid.

The second policy issue I would like to raise in relation to this Budget Vote is the question of road safety, which falls under Programme 3—Transport regulation and accident and incident investigation. Fatalities on our

roads continue to exceed many thousands every year, with an economic cost of billions of rands annually.

The social and emotional costs are immeasurable. Is it not time to switch to year-round awareness and law enforcement campaigns, as opposed to the current seasonal holiday efforts? It is, for instance, a fact that many more people die and are injured on our roads outside the holiday seasons.

The current periodic approach might unintentionally create the impression among road users that road safety and legality are only important during those periods of the year, whilst the other 10 months are a free for all.

Thirdly, with regard to an item under Programme 4—Integrated planning and inter-sphere co-ordination, the department is facing a major challenge with regard to the upcoming 2010 Fifa World Cup. With less than three years remaining, transport infrastructure in general, but around stadiums and venues in particular, is still sorely in need of expansion or improvement. Anybody who has recently attended a sporting or other event at any of the stadiums earmarked for the 2010 World Cup will tell you that even with moderate crowds of spectators, there are significant problems with traffic congestion, parking facilities as well as the availability and reliability of public transport.

In this regard the UDM supports the targeted grants that will assist host cities to address these transport infrastructure concerns. We are nonetheless concerned because three years is a very short time. Once we start talking about road works and infrastructure projects, are we on track? It would be embarrassing and unacceptable if we finished beautiful, new and refurbished stadiums on time to host the games but failed to provide supporters with the means to reach these facilities. Thank you. [Applause.]

Rre O M MOGALE: Modulasetilo, ke a leboga. Ke tlile go tsamaya ka lebelo le le kwa godimo thata gonne puo ya ka e rulagantswe ka loleme le ke kgonang go le tlhaloganya la Setswana. Ke ne ke re ke tlhalose gore ba ba ratang go tsamaya le nna ka lebelo la 180, e bile ke sa tsenya le lebone le le tala, ba tsenye dilo tse, mo ditsebeng ba kgone go nkutloa.

Modulasetilo, maloko a kokoano peomolao, ga mmogo le Letona la Dipalangwa, ke lebogela gore ke be ke na le t shono ya go nna le puo mo tekanyetsong kabo eno ya dipalangwa mo ngwageng ono wa ditshelete. Ke kopa gore ke ise tlotlo mo go yo ikileng ya bo e le mokwaledi kakaretso wa mokgatlho wa bokomonisi jwa Aforika Borwa, Rre Chris Hani, yo ileng a kgemethiwa ka setlhogo ke majela thoko a kwa mojeng, yo e leng gore re kgona go mo gopola mo pakeng eno ya ngwaga. Ke dumela gore . . . [Interjections.] *(Translation of Setswana paragraphs follows.)*

[Mr O M MOGALE: Thank you, Chairperson. I am going to be very fast because my speech is written in a language that I can understand, which is Setswana. I just wanted to make it clear that those who would like to accompany me at a speed of 180 km/h, without me signalling the green light, should use their earphones to be able to understand what I am going to say.

Chairperson, members of the House as well as the Minister of Transport, I am grateful to have this opportunity to present my speech during this Budget Vote of the Department of Transport in this financial year. May I pay my tribute to Mr Chris Hani, who was once the general secretary of the South African Communist Party and was assassinated by the right-wing movement. This time of the year reminds us of him.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr D A A Olifant): There seems to be a problem with the interpretation, there is no service. Someone just organise that, please. Just a minute, hon member. Can we continue? Please continue.

Rre O M MOGALE: Modulasetilo, ke ne ke re go na le thanolo ya maleme a ka nna lesome le bongwe, jaanong ke kopa gore ba e leng gore ba sa ntse ba tla kgona go tsamaya le nna ka lebelo le la 180, ba tsenye mo tsebeng, mme ba reetse.

Ke ne ke re ke dumela gore mogaka yono ga a ne a le gona mo pakeng eno ya ngwaga, o ne a tla kgala ka bogale ditshwanelo tsa botho tse di gatakelwang kwa Zimbabwe. Seno, e bile ke matlhabisa ditlhong gore re le mokgatlho wa ANC, e bile re ne re beetse kwa thoko ngwaga ono go keteka dingwaga di le lesome le bone tsa Wankie le Sipuli Campaign, mo neng mokgatlho wa uUmkhonto weSizwe ga mmogo le Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army-Zipra, mo kgaratlhong ya ntwa e e neng e le matlho mahibidu ya Rhodesia wa maloba.

E bile gape, mogaka yono o ne a tla kgala ka bogale tseo di diragalang kwa Iraq, moo e leng gore kgwedi e nngwe le e nngwe go kgemethiwa motho go twe o ne a na le Saddam. Le gape tseo di diragalang kwa DRC o ne a tla di kgala ka bogale jo bogolo thata.

Ke kopa gore ke tsene fela mo ntlheng ya ka, ntlha e ke tlileng go bua ka yona ke mabapi le ikemisetso ya 2010. E rile mo bekeng e e fetileng fa re ne re na le dipuisano mmogo le lefapha mo ditheetsong tsa baagi tsa mo phatlalatseng, lefapha le ile la bontsha fa le ikemiseditse thata e bile le tlhalosa fa le le kwa pele thata mo ipaakanyetsong ya mabapi le 2010.

Mokaedi kakaretso o ile a tlhalosa gore bone jaaka lefapha, ba lemoga ba le kwa pele thata ka go itshiamisetsa kgwele ya dinao le gore ba tlile go tlogela letlotlo la leruri-lasting legacy.

Re ne ra kgona go tsenela le go botsolotsa dipotso, mme ya re fa ba re araba, ba tlhalosa gore ga go ka bo go ya ka bona, e tlare go setse nakonyana fela gore go konosediwe, e leng mo nakong ya 2009 ba bo ba ikemiseditse sentle. Seo se ile sa ntemogisa gore boammaruri lefapha le ikemiseditse tota.

Ka ngwaga wa 1975, mo dingwageng di le some a matlhano tse di fetileng fa go ne go na le batho ba kwa Alexandra, jaaka Rre Cronin a setse a tlhalositse a re, ba ne ba re ga ba na madi, ka tsela eo ba ka se kgone go duelela dituelo tse di oketsegileng tsa dipalangwa. Jaanong ke tlhalosa gore, jaaka Rre Cronin a ne a setse a tlhalositse, gore madi a teng, fela seo se tlhokegang ke dipalangwa tse e leng gore di siame di mo maemong a a siameng, e bile go na le tshireletsego mo dipalangweng tseo. Mme re lebelela gore e tlare fa ngwaga wa 2010 o fela ra bo re na le dipalangwa tse e leng gore ka nnete di na le tshireletso ga mmogo le go fitlhisetsa batho sentle kwa ditirong.

Ka kgwedi ya Motsheganong 2004, fa mokgatlho wa lefatshe wa kgwele ya dinao Fifa o ne o neela tshono gore re nne barulaganyi ba sejana sa lefatshe sa 2010, ba ne ba itse gore ke nako ya Aforika Borwa ga mmogo le nako ya Aforika. Ka jalo re na le tshono ya go dira gore mafaratlhatlha a ditsela ga mmogo le dipalangwa e nne tse di kgonegang go duelelwa e bile di sireletsegile.

Ke tsena ka gangwe fela mo ipaakanyetsong ya ditoropo ga mmogo le mafaratlhatlha a tsona. Fa re lebelela mafaratlhatlha a ditoropo ka pa a maemelafofo jalo, re fitlhela e le gore mo O R Tambo go na le tsweletsopele e e bonagalang e setse e dirilwe. Mang le mang fa a ya kwa teng, o kgona go bona gore ammaruri Lefapha la Dipalangwa le kwa pele mo go ipaakanyetseng metshameko ya kgwele ya dinao.

Mme jaaka re itse gore boemalafofo jwa O R Tambo ke jona jo bogolo thata mo nageng ya rona, nako e ntsi thata go feta maemelofofo a mangwe ka ipaakanyetso, mme ga mmogo le dipalangwa tse di tla kgonang go dirisiwa, e tla nna tse di botlhokwa go itse gore di kgone go fitlhisa batho ka nako kwa ba tswanetseng go ya teng.

Mo ipaakanyetsong ya maemelofofo a kwa Durban e leng e ya Kgosi Shaka Airport e e katologileng toropo jalo go ya ka dikilometara di ka nna some a mararo le boraro go tloga mo toropong go ntse go le jaaka e kare ke motsi wa kgwele ya dinao. Mafaratlhatlha a baakantswe thata, e bile go na le tsela e e leng gore ga o lebelela mo di polaneng tse di bidiwang di IT plan e bontsha gore mafaratlhatlha a, a kwa pele thata.

E re ke bua ka Kapa ke lemoge gore go na le ipaakanyetso le teng e e tlhokegang thata gore go tle go thibele jalo pherekanyo ga mmogo le pitlagano e e leng teng gona jaanong, e e leng gore fa o dirisa tsela ya N2 e le mo mosong kgotsa fa e le mo thapameng o lemoga thata gore go na le pitlagano mo ditseleng.

Ntlha e nngwe e ke ratang go e tlhalosa ke gore ke tlhalose jalo gore mo ntlheng eno ya ipaakanyetso ya 2010, go tla kgonagala gore go nne le bothata mabapi le bokgoni mo dikarolong tsotlhe tsa puso ga mmogo le kitso e e tlhokegang e bile e le matshwanedi go tsaya ntlha eo tsia.

Mekgwa ya go thusa ditoropo tse di nang le tshono ya go tshwara metshameko bogolo-segolo mo dipalangweng-go tsepamisa ga mmogo le go sekaseka gore diporojeke tsotlhe di seka tsa salela kwa morago. Tomaganyo ya dipolane tsotlhe tsa dise-kethara, e leng tse di dirang jalo ka dipalangwa, tshireletso, kamogelo e leng hospitality jalo le jalo.

Ke batla gore ke tlhalose gore ga go tle go nna bonolo segolo thata re lebeletse maemo a ikonomi a a tlhatlhogang gangwe le gape. Ke lopa gape gore le ba ba dirang, e leng jaaka borradikonteraka ka pa bo mmadi-konteraka ba tlhokomele gore ga ba goge dinao, gonne ikonomi e ya kwa pele gangwe le gape.

Letona la lefapha, ke kopa gore gape ke tseye tshono eno, go kopa bakhuduthamaga botlhe ba ba leng fano, gore re kopa le diriseng madi, tsweetswee borra le bomma, ga ke itse gore ba ntse kwa kae. Re kopa le diriseng madi le seka la nna ka madi le tshwere madi, go bo go sa nne le botlhokwa ba gore le dirise madi. Go na le diporofense tse di nang le bothata ba go dirisa madi mo Lefapheng la Dipalangwa.

Bothata bo, ke gore madi fa a sa dirisiwe ga go kitla go nna le ditirelo, e bile go tla nna le mathata. Mo bokhutlong, ke rata go leboga mokaedi kakaretso, ga mmogo le ba ba mo potapotileng. ANC e tsholeletsa tekanye-tsokabo e. Ke a leboga. *(Translation of Setswana paragraphs follows.)*

[Mr O M MOGALE: Chairperson, I would like to remind everybody that there is an interpretation service in eleven languages. May I now ask all those who are able to move with me at a speed of 180km/h to put their headphones on and listen.

I believe that if this hero was still here with us this time of the year, he would have strongly condemned the violation of human rights that is happening in Zimbabwe. This is a disgrace to us as it is not in line with what the ANC has set aside this year, to celebrate 14 years of the Wankie and Sipolilo cam-paigns, where Umkhonto weSizwe and the Zimbabwean People's Revolutionary Army, Zipra, fought in the bloody struggle in the then Rhodesia.

Once again, this hero would have strongly condemned what is happening in Iraq, wherein each and every month someone is brutally murdered for being pro-Saddam. This hero could have also strongly con-demned what is happening in the DRC.

Let me now focus on the point I would like to make, which is the preparations for 2010. Last week, when we had discussions with the department during the public hearings, it emerged that it was prepared, and the depart-ment explained that it was far ahead of schedule with the preparations for 2010.

The Director-General explained that as the department, they were far ahead of schedule

regarding the preparations for this football tournament and promised to leave a lasting legacy.

We went into detail and thereafter we asked them questions. In their response they explained that their intention was to have everything completed by 2009. This convinced me that indeed the department is ready.

In 1975, over 30 years ago, Alexandra residents, as Mr Cronin has already explained, were against the increase of fare fees because they complained that the fare was too much for them. Here I am now confirming that there is money; all we need is a reliable and safe transport system. We hope that by the end of 2010 we will have a safe and reliable transport system that will ferry people to work on time.

In May 2004, when the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, Fifa, gave us an opportunity to host the 2010 soccer world cup, they knew it was a turn for South Africa as well as for Africa. Therefore we have an opportunity to ensure that proper infrastructure is put in place and the transport system is affordable and safe.

Let me talk about the upgrading of cities' infrastructure. The O R Tambo International Airport convinced us when we realised that it showed a noticeable development. There is a clear indication that the Department of Transport is indeed at an advanced stage in its preparations for the Soccer World Cup.

As we know, the O R Tambo International Airport is the largest in our country; it is way ahead with preparations as compared to the other airports. Together with other means of transport it will be of critical importance to ensure that people are ferried to their destinations on time.

In Durban, the preparations at King Shaka Airport, which is about 33 kilometres from the city, made it appear like the soccer tournament had already started. The infrastructural development is at an advanced stage. The way in which you look at the IT plans shows that it is among the best.

In the Cape Peninsula, I have realised that measures have already been put in place to prevent traffic congestion which is currently experienced. The traffic congestion experienced on the N2 road in the morning and afternoon confirms this.

Another point that I would like to highlight in relation to the preparations for 2010 is the skills shortage in many parts of the government sphere, which I forewarned should be given attention, otherwise it would be a hindrance to our preparations.

We need to assist the host cities particularly with the transport system and other areas to ensure that projects do not lag behind. We need to integrate all related sectors in the areas of transport, security and hospitality and so on.

I want to make it clear that it is not going to be easy, especially looking at the economy that is increasing at a fast rate. I am also appealing to those who are working as contractors to ensure that they do not lag behind.

Furthermore, Minister of Transport, I would like to take this opportunity to request all MECs here today to use their budget. Don't keep the money until there is no need to use it. The provincial departments of transport have a problem in using their budgets. They do not use their money, which eventually affects the delivery of services and causes trouble. Lastly, I would like to thank the Director-General together with his team. The ANC supports this Budget Vote. [Thank you.]]

Mr H B CUPIDO: Chairperson, on behalf of the ACDP, although not a member of the committee, I'd also like to express our condolences to the family of Dr Ian Phillips, to the Minister, the department and all those who are close to him. May God console him.

In the light of South Africa's fast-growing

economy and the need to move products from point A to point B over the shortest route and in the shortest time, our roads and road infrastructure must be in an excellent condition. I travel the roads of South Africa very often, and I must say at this stage that I find and experience an improvement on many of the roads, especially the national highways.

We therefore welcome the plans and strategies by the department to address the safety and affordability of public transport and to better the transport infrastructure.

I'd like to continue where Mr Van der Merwe left off, but not on the issue that he raised with the Minister regarding speeding. [Laughter.] I want to talk most probably about a project on preventing deaths on our roads.

In the light of the Arrive Alive project that we have during December and January every year, I'd like to make the inquiry as to whether it cannot be made compulsory for motorists travelling on national highways to have their lights on at all times. This would secure longer distance visibility as some vehicles on our roads blend in with the roads and even with the background, which hampers visibility. And I'm sure this could be considered under the new road safety strategy to prevent accidents on our roads.

I'd like to take the idea a little bit further by proposing that in future new vehicles be manufactured in such a way that headlights are switched on when the ignition is turned on. The ACDP is sure that in this way many accidents could be prevented and many lives could be saved.

The ACDP would further like to know whether the SOS telephones along the highways of our country are still relevant and effective. Are these telephones still maintained? Seeing that almost every person in South Africa has a cellphone, I think that these SOS phones might not be necessary on our highways any more.

The ACDP also understands the urgent need for the Department of Transport to upgrade and build new roads in preparation for the 2010 Soccer World Cup event. Therefore we will support the budget of the Department of Transport. [Applause.]

Mr B E PULE: Chairperson, transport is the heartbeat of the South African economy. The department has been allocated R15,9 billion, which represents an increase of 15,4%. This is most welcome, taking into account the limited resources of our country. It is gratifying to note that the increased expenditure of the department is due to the infrastructural challenges that face the transport system in South Africa. Hopefully, the department will achieve its objectives.

Furthermore, the condition of roads in our country leaves much to be desired. It is hoped that the 2010 Fifa World Cup event, which is used as a catalyst to improve road infrastructure, will bring some changes. It is surprising that national government gives money to other spheres of government but does not seem to have any monitoring mechanisms in place. This is really disappointing.

The purpose of Programme 4, known as Integrated Planning and Intersphere Co-ordination, has to really work hard if roads are to be used by 2010.

On taxi recapitalisation, the decline of 37% in funding, that is from R530 million in 2006-07 to R332 million in 2007-08, will impact negatively on the viability of the Taxi Recapitalisation Project. This will obviously impact negatively on transporting commuters in 2010.

Sengwe se se tshwenyang mo mafapheng ke go tlhoka bokgoni jwa go dirisa matlotlo. Ga go thuse sepe go ngongorega, jaaka modulasetulo wa komiti a ne a bua, re ntse re re "asinamali", mme re sa itse go a dirisa.

Ke na le tumelo ya gore bokgoni bo teng mo mafapheng ka gore ga go na motho yo o ka kgonang go loga maano a go dirisa madi

botlhaswa a se botlhale. Batho botlhe ba ba mo mafapheng ba go thweng ga ba kgone, baa kgona. Ga ba kake ba nna le botlhale jwa go senya madi mme ba sena botlhale jwa go a dirisa sentle. Jaanong re ikuela thata mo mafapheng gore a leke go tlhokomela dintlha tse. [Nako e fedile.] *(Translation of Setswana paragraphs follows.)*

[Another problem facing the departments is the lack of capacity to utilise funds. It really does not help to complain that there is no money as the committee chairperson has indicated but we do not know how to spend it.

I believe that there are competent people within the departments; because there is no one who can design a strategy to misappropriate funds without being competent. All the people in the department who are said to be incompetent, are actually competent. They cannot be competent in misappropriating funds but be incompetent to appropriate them. We would like to strongly urge the departments to consider these points.

The UCDP supports the budget. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Mr B L MASHILE: Because I am vertically unchallengeable, I hope that I will be audible.

Chairperson, hon Minister of Transport, members of the Portfolio Committee on Transport, MECs from respective provinces, members of the economic cluster that are present here today, officials from the department and public institutions and members of the public in the gallery, one of the areas in Asgisa that requires attention to grow the economy is listed as follows: "We will grow faster when infrastructure capacity is enhanced, especially in relation to telecommunications, rail, roads, ports, electricity and water".

The Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech said:

> The South African National Roads Agency and the Rail Commuter Corporation receive a further R1,7 billion to upgrade roads, and stations in areas critical to the World Cup. In total, over R9 billion will be allocated by national government for municipal transport, roads and precinct upgrading relating to the 2010 Fifa World Cup.

In line with the specific transport-related commitments outlined in the state of the nation address of 2007—to reduce the cost of doing business in our country; to promote the growth of the small and medium business sector; to implement a detailed programme to respond to the challenges of the second economy; to ensure that the public sector discharges its responsibilities as a critical player in the growth, reconstruction and development of our country—the Department of Transport is embarking on concrete programmes to give effect to the pronouncements of the Bill of Rights, the ANC NEC Statement of 8 January 2007, the 2007 state of the nation address and the national Budget of 2007-08.

May I remind the House that the ANC-led government has a responsibility to unshackle the masses from poverty and unemployment and to create a better life for all? We shall not betray the trust that South Africans put in the ANC in the 2004 provincial and national elections. In concert with the provincial and local governments, the department will in this current financial year of 2007-08 spend some R1,4 billion for road infrastructure. The department's vision on infrastructure states that we want an integrated road network system that is managed efficiently by adequately resourced road authorities providing access and mobility to all South Africans in a sustainable manner.

Section 12(1)(c) of the Constitution provides that everyone has the right to freedom and security of person, which includes the right to be free from all forms of violence from

either public or private sources. The existence of poor and dangerous roads within our country is a violation this right.

The above vision calls for the systematic and co-ordinated elimination of poor and dangerous roads in pursuit of the above-mentioned constitutional right. The above-mentioned resources—R1,4 billion—will be appropriated for maintenance work on roads showing different distress levels to enhance their useful design life, the rehabilitation of roads showing extreme distress levels that require reconstruction, provision of new infrastructure to provide mobility and access to all South Africans.

To realise the above vision, the Road Infrastructure Strategic Framework for South Africa calls for an embodiment of road infrastructure policy and a blueprint for road planning and development for use by all road authorities in the development of their road plans.

The Road Infrastructure Strategic Framework mainly deals with challenges in areas of institutional arrangements, the road classification systems, information systems, funding models and human capital issues. The institutional arrangement calls for the establishment of a roads co-ordinating body—which is already in place—to oversee planning and development of service delivery models of road infrastructure, the establishment of uniform road classification systems that will inform a comprehensive road prioritisation system and inter-linkages of these systems for national competency, the commission of road studies and research, the development of funding models and mechanisms, including the review of the current toll strategy.

Over and above this, the strategy calls for skills and industry capacity audits. These will reveal the strengths and weaknesses which will inform any short-term interventions and long-term interventions on matters of human capacity.

We are already aware of the lack of engineers in the country. The question that arises is whether the shortage of engineers is the only constraint. What about artisans? What about technicians?

The strategy further looks into areas of research study into roads, proposals on the research agenda for the roads sector, which should encompass financing, technology, environmental and social implications.

There are specific action plans to implement the strategic framework in relation to the focus areas. Resources have been made available in this financial year to give effect to these action plans. The resources made available are for development, maintenance and rehabilitation of strategic secondary roads in accordance with provincial priorities; investigation of heavy vehicle loading restrictions and punitive pricing on secondary roads; identification of critical public transport movement corridors within the strategic secondary road network; the development of a framework for the alignment of road transport and economic development plans; the reclassifications of the South African road network per province in accordance with the new classification system; the development of road prioritisation guidelines to ensure balance between economic and social imperatives; and the review and determination of demands on provincial road networks.

The Department of Transport and Sanral are therefore called upon to exploit the intellectual capacity within the SA Institution of Civil Engineering, the SA Association of Civil Engineers, the SA Road Federation, the South African Black Technical and Allied Careers Organisation, SABTACO, and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR, to enhance the capacity of the department and industry to deliver on the strategic framework.

Given our dual economy scenario and the mammoth task of integrating the two economies, our effort will always take care of both.

The majority of small and medium businesses rely on receiving raw materials and delivery of their products to markets by road. The majority of South Africans rely on public transport for their mobility to economic and social centres.

In the quest to improve the quality of life of South Africans, the ANC-led government will continue to provide resources to enhance their mobility. All human beings have equal worth. The ANC supports the budget. [Applause.]

Mr M T LIKOTSI: Thank you, Chairperson. I am going to speak in one of the African languages. So, I think members should put on their interpretation devices.

PAC e fetisetsa matshidiso lelapeng la Ngaka Ian Phillips, le ho Letona le lefapha ka kakaretso. Mokgatlo wa PAC o amohela Kabo ya Ditjhelete e entsweng ke letona selomong sena sa ditjhelete. PAC e lebelletse hore kabo ena ya ditjhelete e tla thusa bakeng sa ho ntlafatsa marangrang a ditsela tsa rona ka hare ho naha ya rona, le dinaha tse mabapi.

Selemo le selemo re kopana le dikotsi tse ngata mebileng ya rona. Hona ho bakwa, hara tse ding, ke maemo a mabe a mebila ya rona e tletseng mekoti le mangope. Ditsela tse ding di hloka terata ya tshireletso bakeng sa mehlape e thulwang ke makoloi mebileng.

PAC e boela e ikamahanya le seabo sa ditjhelete sa balaola-sephethephete. Borasephethephethe ke batho ba bohlokwa tshireletsong ya maphelo a rona maetong a rona a kamehla. Empa PAC e kgothaletsa Letona ho ntlafatsa maemo a tshebetso a borasephethephethe le bommasephethephethe. [Ditsheho] Ho bolawa ha borasephethephethe ho tlameha ho thibelwa ke setjhaba le lefapha. Ntle le bomasephethephethe le rasephethephethe dikotsi di ka ata haholo naheng ya rona.

Bakeng sa mokgwa wa ntlafatso ya dipalangwang tsa setjhaba haholo ditekesi—taxi recapitilisation—PAC e nyaroswa le ho phoqhwa ke mmuso ho ntshetseng pele letsholo lena. Bomma- le borathepa ya ditekesi ha e sale ba etsa sello se sa utlwahaleng ditsebeng tsa mmuso, ho se tatele le ho sebedisa matla a ona hampe, ho hatella letsholo lena. PAC ere, boratekesi ba fuwe diphallelo kapa "subsidy" ke mmuso bakeng sa dipalangwang tsa setjhaba, jwalo ka ha ho etswa dibeseng selemo le selemo.

Taxi recapitalisation e fedisetsa bakganni la bathusi ba bakganni ba bangata mosebetsi. Ha re bua ka hore ho na le ditekesi tse ka etsang 2 000 tse bang mohlomong di ntshwa tseleng ka tsela ena ya taxi recapitalisation ho hlalosa hore hona le bakganni ba etsang 2 000 ba fellwang ke mosebetsi mmoho le bathusi ba bona. Mmuso o kenya borathepa dikolotong tsa makoloi a ditekesi mme hona ho tla etsa mathatha ha ba sa kgone ho lefa dikoloto tseo.

Puo ya Mopresidente ha ho bulwa Palamente selemong sena ka taxi recapitalisation, e na le bomadimabe pusong ya setjhaba ka setjhaba. Ha ho hlokahale ho busa ka ho tshosa batho. [Nako e fedile.] *(Translation of Sesotho paragraphs follows.)*

[The PAC would like to extend its condolences to Dr Ian Phillips's family, the Minister and the department in general. The PAC welcomes the Budget Vote introduced by the Minister in this financial year. The PAC hopes that this Budget Vote will help in the improvement of the vast network of roads in our country and adjoining states.

Every year we see a lot of road accidents on our roads. This is caused, among other things, by bad conditions on our roads, which are littered with potholes and dykes. Some roads do not have protective barriers that keep livestock from being run down by motor vehicles.

The PAC again aligns itself with the financial injection for traffic officers. Traffic officers are very important people in protect-

ing our lives in our daily travels. But the PAC encourages the Minister to improve the working conditions of traffic officers. [Laughter.] The killing of traffic officers must be prevented by the community and the department. Without traffic officers accidents would increase in our country.

With regard to the improvement of our national transport, especially taxis—taxi recapitalisation—the PAC is appalled and disappointed at the government's insistence in pursuing this programme. Taxi owners' grievances that the government should not abuse its power in pursuing this matter have been falling on deaf ears. The PAC says that every year taxi owners should be given assistance or subsidies by the government in relation to national transport, as is the case with the buses.

Taxi recapitalisation results in job losses for many taxi drivers and taxi marshals. If we assume that there are about 2 000 taxis that are deregistered as a result of taxi recapitalisation, this means that there are 2 000 taxi drivers who lose their jobs as well as taxi marshals. The government is therefore getting taxi owners into debt in regard to their taxis, and this will cause problems for them when they fail to service their debts.

The President's speech on taxi recapitalisation during the opening of Parliament this year augurs badly for democracy. It is not necessary to govern with the use of intimidation. [Time expired.]]

Ms B THOMSON: Chairperson, hon Minister, Ministers present, hon members and officials present, the message about transport has been sent many, many times. Transport is one of the most important if not critical components of our economy. We are looking at road, air, rail, sea and any other form of transport involving the pedestrian.

It would be wise to primarily consider the pedestrian most. This is where most critical injuries and deaths occur, the result of which is huge disability claims through the Road Accident Fund. These claims can become so huge that they create an enormous burden on the taxpayer.

In the process, as we all know, these huge gaps create potentially fraudulent activities. Ultimately, these fraudulent activities make a demand on the fiscus. This is more prone to happen in the Road Accident Fund claims. Yet, if safety measures are put in place, and of course, adhered to, such occurrences could be curtailed. The Arrive Alive campaign has achieved tremendous progress in this regard.

Sidlulisela ukubonga kwethu kuwena Comrade Jeff Radebe, siphinde singamlibali owayengaphambi kwakho, uComrade Dullah Omar, kanye nezikhulu zoMnyango wakho. Yingakho siye sithi: Abantu bayohamba kodwa izibongo zona ziyosala, njengoba zizosala nje nezikaComrade Ian. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[We extend our thanks to you, Comrade Jeff Radebe, and we cannot forget your predecessor, Comrade Dullah Omar, and the officials of your department. That is why we say: People will go but their praises will remain, like those of Comrade Ian.]

The Arrive Alive campaign has highlighted that human error in road accidents is the major cause of accidents.

Singawaphawula-ke amaphutha adala izingozi: ukuhamba ngesivinini eseqile kwesibekiwe; ukwezela kodwa uqhubeke ushayele; ukushayela usuthi amponjwana—sithi singuhulumeni, suthela ngasekhaya; ukungalandeli imithetho ebekiwe nokungaqapheli nje; ukushayela budedengu; ukugalibophi ibhande. Sike sibone abanye abantu ukuthi ibhande balibophela ngemuva ngoba lezi zimoto ezintsha ziyakhala uma ungalibophile. Umuntu uncamela ukulibopha ngemuva ngoba enqena nje ukubopha ibhande. Angeke siwaqede lawa maphutha maningi kakhulu.

Wonke-ke lawa maphutha awazenzekeli, enziwa yimina nawe. Kubalulekile sikhu-

mbule ukuthi, ngaphambi kokuba sikhombe uhulumeni ngomunwe, yonke le eminye iminwe ibheke kithina. Yithi esiyogwema lezi zingozi, akekho omunye umuntu oyoqhamuka. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[We can identify the many causes of accidents: excessive speeding, drowsiness and drunken driving and we, as government, say drink at home; reckless and negligent driving and the non-wearing of seatbelts. Some people would even fasten the seatbelts at the back of their seats, just because they do not feel like wearing them, and these new cars emit a warning sound if seatbelts are not worn. We cannot mention them all—there is too much negligence.

All these accidents do not just happen on their own; they are caused by you and me. It is, however, important to remember that before we point a finger at the government, all the other fingers point at us. It is we who will avoid these accidents, and no one else but us.]

Our critical focus therefore remains on road accidents. I am confident that the new taxi recapitalisation programme will soon achieve the desired results.

Our President, Comrade Thabo, once said that the former mode of kombi transport was like a mobile coffin. I hope that our brothers and sisters in the transport industry will realise and understand that it is in the interests of road safety that we make these changes. We are also enhancing the taxi industry, which makes a significant contribution to the African economy.

This is what taxi recapitalisation is all about—safety and a better, growing taxi industry, nothing more. The returns on the taxi recapitalisation programme are enormous. I am confident that our drivers will also be prepared for the courtesy that our visitors from other countries will expect in 2010, and presently.

As we will be hosting the 2010 Soccer World Cup, there will be enormous use of air and road transport.

Allow me also to salute South African Airways for being one of the five members of the Star Alliance. This recognition is due to the safety measures which are employed by our Transport department and other stakeholders in transport. We are well assured that air transport is well guaranteed. Frequent foreign flyers to South Africa can bear testimony to this. I also hope that we will share the 2010 South African dream with them.

On another note, domestically, the urbanisation influx is increasing and so is urban sprawl. Accompanied with this is an influx of rural communities seeking a better life in the urban areas. Each and every one of us is aware that many a time we have come across a situation where we have to avoid knocking over schoolchildren on the road. This is particularly so in informal settlement areas where there is so much neglect.

In this regard I challenge the Department of Housing to take cognisance of this fact. This is where interdepartmental relations come into play. The Department of Transport, in conjunction with other concerned departments, can play a leading role with regard to the safety of our school-going infants. It is a very rare reality to find scholar patrols in predominantly previously disadvantaged black communities. We need to ensure that safety measures are put in place to deploy scholar patrols in every district and city, including in rural areas.

Isinqumo seNkantolo Ephakeme yaseBloemfontein sangonyaka odlule sithi abashayeli mabaphucwe izimoto ezisetshenziswe ekwephuleni umthetho, njengokushayela kudliwe amponjwana nokushayela ngesivinini esikhulu. Lesi sinqumo-ke siyasebenza. Amaphoyisa ethu azobopha abashayeli abashayela budedengu futhi azoqinisekisa ukuthi izimoto zalaba basha-

yeli ziyathathwa kubo zinikwe uhulumeni ngoba kusho ukuthi ziyabehlula.

UMnyango uzimisele ukukwenza lokhu usebenza ngokubambisana nabophiko oluthatha izimpahla—lokhu esithi phecelezi yi-Asset Forfeiture Unit engaphansi ko-Fezela phela. Siyakuqonda ukuthi ukuqina komnotho kusho amandla athe xaxa okuthenga izimoto. Lokhu kubuye kusho ukuthi sesinabashayeli abaningi abasebenzisa imigwaqo ulwazi lwabo luseluncane kakhulu lapha ekushayeleni, okwenza izinga lezingozi zezimoto likhuphuke. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[Last year's judgement of the High Court in Bloemfontein states that vehicles involved in offences like drunken driving and excessive speeding should be confiscated. This judgement is applicable. Our traffic officers will arrest reckless drivers and make sure that their vehicles are confiscated and forfeited to the state because it means that they cannot drive them properly.

The department will be doing this in co-operation with the Asset Forfeiture Unit that works under the Scorpions. We understand that the growth in the economy means that there is more buying power in respect of cars. This also means that we have more inexperienced drivers who are using our roads, which leads to the sharp rise in road accidents.]

Lastly, as mentioned before—on a lighter note, Comrade Jeremy—South Africa will be hosting the 2010 Soccer World Cup games. Beijing in China will also be hosting the 2008 Olympic Games. I have learned that the processes are well under way in terms of hosting the games as well as safety measures to be put in place.

It is then my submission, Chairperson Comrade Jeremy, that the portfolio committee should visit Beijing to obtain first-hand information in this regard. [Applause.] China is well-advanced in numerous aspects. Good lessons could be learned by this portfolio committee. [Applause.]

Ms S RAJBALLY: Chairperson, even though the department has 62 pieces of legislation governing land, air and sea travel, challenges do exist, such as the fatalities on the road.

We are estimated to lose 14 000 lives, with 40 000 people being seriously injured and 7 000 people being permanently disabled each year. As our hon Minister reported, between 1 December 2006 and 10 January 2007, road fatalities cost South Africa R1,205 billion.

In view of the department's budget and priorities for 2007-08, it is noted that making transport in South Africa safer is high on the list. However, funds dispersed to provinces in making travelling safe as a localised initiative play a vital role in transforming the statistics mentioned.

I applaud the MEC of Transport in KwaZulu-Natal, Bheki Cele, who expresses his commitment to eliminate drunken driving in the province by incorporating more vigilant roadblocks. We need to ensure that all provinces effectively utilise funding if transport infrastructure development is to succeed.

A substantial amount of the Budget has been allocated for the improvement and development of the South African transport infrastructure and operations for the 2010 Soccer World Cup and beyond.

The MF, however, recommends that more roadworks be done at night, as is done in Johannesburg, so that it does not cause endless traffic jams during the day. This certainly affects the productivity of many lucrative businesses and their turnovers, which eventually affects state revenues.

Progress is being made in transport. Safety remains high on the agenda with the Gautrain development, and the new taxi vehicle plan positively seeks to assist.

Beyond development, we are first and foremost a democracy in which transport plays a vital role in ensuring that gender equality, the aged, children and physical challenges are represented and catered for. It appears that KwaZulu-Natal has once again taken the lead with the first taxi fitted to accommodate the physically disabled in wheelchairs being launched by the KwaZulu-Natal Transport Alliance and Mercedes Benz.

While the MF is confident about the department's progress, we express our concern as the subprogramme on integrated delivery under Programme 4 shows a decrease of 0,2%. This programme is crucial for the development and transport programmes in rural areas and for poverty alleviation and job creation, especially for women, children and the disabled. We would like an explanation of this and, indeed, a relook at prioritising funding for this programme.

Airport security has recently been an issue in South Africa. We are pleased that Absa has initiated endorsing special security personnel training to ensure that the security violation aboard aircraft . . .

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr D A A Olifant): Order! Hon member, your time has expired.

Ms S RAJBALLY: The MF supports the Budget Vote. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mme N P KHUNOU: Modulasetulo, Tona ya Lefapha la Dipalangwa, DiTonakgolo, badiredipuso le Maloko a Palamente a a tlotlegang, dumelang. Ke rata gore go Tona, re na le wena mo kutlobotlhokong ya gago ya go latlhegelwa ke motho yo o neng a tshepetse mo go ena. Ke Modimo fela yo o ka go gomotsang. Rona ga re na mantswe a kgomotso a re ka a tlisang go wena le ba lelapa la gago, ke ena fela a ka go gomotsang. Ke eleletsa batho botlhe masego.

Mopresidente o buile gore re tshwanetse go lwantsha lehuma le tshotlego ya batho ba rona mo ngwageng wa 2007. O dira boikuelo go rona rotlhe go tsaya marumo a ntwa, a bagale ba rona, re tsweletse ntwa pele, gore re bone batho ba rona ba tshela ba sa je kwa dithothobolong. *(Translation of Setswana paragraphs follows.)*

[Ms N P KHUNOU: Chairperson, hon Minister of Transport, hon MECs, public servants and hon Members of Parliament, I greet you all. It is with great sadness that I convey my condolences to the hon Minister. Let me assure him that we are with him during this time of bereavement. May the Lord comfort and strengthen him and his family. I would like to wish everybody everything of the best.

The State President stated that we must fight the frontiers of poverty and suffering during 2007. He has made an appeal to all of us to pick up our heroes' spears and improve the lives of our people so that we can liberate them from the scourge of poverty.]

The Minister of Finance emphasised throughout his Budget Speech that human life has equal worth. He further encouraged us to respect each other as human beings. By so doing we will make a difference in people's lives. We should acknowledge that mistakes have been made in the past but we need to remove this scourge. We are all equal and need to be treated as such. Employers need to work diligently and show commitment wherever they are employed. It should happen to us consciously that it is a crime not to take our given task seriously and therefore we are stealing from the taxpayer.

In his statement of 8 January, the President also emphasised that we need to continue the task of defending our revolutionary gains. The central task of the national democratic revolution is to liberate our people from the scourge of poverty in all its manifestations and eliminate all its elements. At the beginning of last month we had a parliamentary caucus of the ANC and it emphasised that oversight and monitoring should be taken quite seriously and vigorously. It is for this reason that we will be there to ensure that we do the task that we were given.

My task in this debate is that I need to talk about public entity oversight and economic regulation. The Department of Transport in its programme 7 has to develop appropriate mandates and monitoring mechanisms for public entities. It needs to develop and oversee transport economic regulations in line with its broad economic and transport policies and effective co-operative governance. There needs to be improvement in service delivery. You ask yourself: Is this well done? It is a problem and a challenge that there is a clear communication breakdown between the department and its entities. Without communication we will forever experience problems. There are some entities that have improved fairly well. Even though they had problems, they overcame them.

There is a great concern in respect of vacancy rates throughout, and I heard the Minister earlier on saying that the 41% vacancy rate will be improved this year. We cannot make poverty history and achieve our targets if we still have hiccups that need to be taken care of.

With regard to the Road Accident Fund, we know that it had a lot of problems before, especially of backlogs. With the leadership of both the board members and the CEO this has improved quite well. Even though the application process still takes long, I hope that this will improve this year. Expenditure has grown at 12,9% from 2003-04 to 2009-10. There has been an additional allocation to them of R50 million per year for the Arrive Alive campaign. This will minimise the number of road accidents.

There was an additional once-off allocation of R40 million in 2006-07 for the new road accident benefit scheme and its legislative amendments. Minister, you need to guard, together with the department, against foreigners who claim a lot of money. You need to implement the legislation to minimise this. The South African National Roads Agency's main activities include financing, management, control, planning, development, maintenance and rehabilitation of our national road networks. As other members have said, we need to have a target and strive to achieve that target. We don't need to see a road being rehabilitated forever. However in the case of some roads there has been improvement.

The mandate of the South African Maritime Safety Authority is to ensure safety of life and property at sea, prevent and combat pollution from ships and promote our country's related mobile interests. They get their revenues from levies that are collected by the National Ports Authority as a 2,5% fee. I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister that most of these entities don't take Parliament seriously. They gave us documents on the day of the presentation and it becomes difficult for members to go through the documents and have a sense of what they are talking about. For instance some of them gave us the documentation of the previous year. This should be taken seriously. [Applause.] I think the improvements need to be done.

Regarding the Civil Aviation Authority, established in 1989, I think there is a great improvement and the CEO is no longer in an acting capacity. Again, we need to have the documents in time.

In the case of the Road Traffic Management Corporation, we have a serious problem. This was established in 1999 and it came into operation in 2005. To date, they have only had one board meeting. We asked them questions last year and when they came to the committee this year, they did answer our questions and gave us a report. As a department you need to help this agency. Some of their functions that they are talking about are actually those of the provinces and local government. When we do the integration and incorporate all of this, we need to make sure that they all work together so that, at the end of the day, this important agency does its job.

However, the South African Rail Commuter Corporation is doing quite well. The merger between the SARCC and Metrorail on 1 May 2006 was a milestone that provided us with a real opportunity to bring about significant changes in the short term. The portfolio committee was recently briefed by the CEO and the management team of the SARCC about their overall turnaround strategy and concrete plans for passenger rail. We are really excited about the many changes that are beginning to take place and believe that the entity is in good hands with the strengthening of the board and the appointment of the new CEO. There is certainty about the future of passenger rail and I hope, as one hon member has said, that the Gautrain will be incorporated in this. There is potential, and we have capacity. In the long run, we can also make sure that the Blue Train is incorporated as well.

I would like to share my experience with you. I had the privilege of using the train for a long-distance journey from Johannesburg to Cape Town. I want to say to members that we are in a stressful job, and for us to relax at some point, we need to take that train. There is everything that you need. The food is actually better than the food on the aeroplanes. [Applause.] For us to relax, we need to use what we have. Let us not only focus on flying. Get onto the train, leave your car there and relax. I thank you.] [Applause.]

Mr M M SWATHE: Chairperson, hon Minister, the DA welcomes the budget allocated to the Department of Transport. However, the DA still feels that it is not enough, due to the backlog that we have within Sanral and the RAF.

Our concern comes from the RAF backlog, where the majority of road accident victims have not yet received their monies. According to the report presented to the Portfolio Committee on Transport on 28 February 2007, the RAF stabilised the situation through efficient and sustainable plans. The R2,7 billion additional cash injection helped to alleviate the burden. The problem remains that the fund is still not viable and not yet out of the state of insolvency. The claimant costs are far more than what the RAF have, if all the projected liabilities have to be paid out.

The injuries caused a loss of earnings in 2006 of R580 million, and this increased to R1 billion in 2007. The general damage claim is still a major component of claims payouts. In 2002 general damage claims came to R880 million and increased to R2,1 billion in 2006. The legal costs for RAF and expert costs in 2002 came to the sum of R180 million and in 2006 increased to R480 million. From 1 December 2006 to 10 January 2007 the number of fatal crashes were 1 369, with 1 645 fatalities and the costs estimated at R1,2 billion.

There is an increase in the total number of large claims. The total outstanding estimated claims liability is approximately R210 million, which is 54% or 12 claims of an average of R17,5 million, plus a total RSA outstanding estimate of R176 million. That comes to 46%, or 18 claimants at an average of R9,8 million. There are high reported claims and incurred claims which have not been reported. The liability arising from undertakings alone is estimated at R2,5 billion. A further cash injection will be needed.

The shortage of traffic officers on our roads is a concern because we cannot bring down road accidents if we do not have enough visible policing. The budget does not cover much to that effect. Traffic offenders need to be removed from our roads. It is reported that most of South Africa's road carnage is caused by speed and reckless driving.

The DA welcomes an initiative which the department has proposed of developing a culture of proper road traffic enforcement, new values driven by service delivery, research and development. [Time expired.]

Nk M D NXUMALO: Phini likaSomlomo,

Ngqongqoshe Wezokuthutha, Malungu esishayamthetho ahloniphekile, Mnyango oholwa uMaZwide, maqabane, mphakathi waseNingizimu Afrika, inhloso ebaluleke kakhulu eMnyangweni Wezokuthutha ukuhola ekuletheni ukuphepha nokwethembeka kwezokuthutha, ngokuthi uze nezinhlelo eziqinisekisa ukuthi imithetho ephathelene nezokuthutha iyathuthukiswa futhi iba yimpumelelo. Okungaphezu kwalokho ukuthi, njengamanje sekukhona isidingo esikhulu sokuqinisekisa ukuthi zonke izinhlelo eziphathelene nezokuthutha ziyathuthukiswa ukuze ezokuthutha zikwazi ukumelana nezidingo ezizoqhamuka ngenxa yeNdebe Yomhlaba ka-2010 nangemuva kwayo.

Ngenkathi ethula inkulumo yakhe ka-2007 yobunjalo besizwe, ePhalamende, uMongameli uThabo Mbeki wathi, eminyakeni emibalwa eyedlule siqalise ngezinhlelo ezehlukahlukene ezibhekiswe ekuthuthukiseni ezokuthutha umphakathi. Lezi zinhlelo zibandakanya uhlelo olubizwa phecelezi Taxi Recapitalisation Programme kanye nezinhlelo eziqalwa yizifundazwe njengeMoloto Rail Corridor, eMpumalanga. Lolu hlelo lungoluqaliswe ochwepheshe ukubheka ukuthi lungenziwa kanjani olwasesifundazweni—okungukuthi, phecelezi, yi-flexibility study. Ezinye izinhlelo yi-Klipfontein Corridor yaseKapa kanye neGautrain ezoxhumana nalo lonke uhlobo lwezokuthutha umphakathi.

Lezi kanye nezinye izinhlelo ziyingxenye yohlelokazi olukhulu esihlose ngalo ukuthuthukisa ezokuthuthwa komphakathi, ukuxhuma izimoto ezihamba emgwaqeni kanye nezitimela. Sizoqinisekisa ukuthi lezi zinhlelo ziyenzeka ngokushesha ukuze senze ngcono izimpilo, ikakhulukazi zabasenzi.

I-Freedom Charter, kulabo abayazi ngendlela ephelele incazelo yayo, kanye nenhloso yezinkulungwane zabantu ababecindezelwe abazizwa benokuzimisela ngokuthi balibhale phansi iphupho labo lokwakha isizwe, iyakubalula ukuthi kufanele kube khona uhulumeni ozoba phambili ekubhekeni izidingo zomphakathi. Ngakho-ke i-Freedom Charter iyasibalula isimo somphakathi lapho wonke umuntu ezohlala ngokunethezeka nangokuphepha khona, ezokwazi ukuthi uhulumeni uzibophezele ngokuhlangabezana nezidingo zawo. Ngaleyo ndlela ulethela abantu bethu ezokuthutha eziphephile, ezithembekile futhi ezingabizi kakhulu.

Akuzenzekelanga nje ukuthi kwathi ngonyaka ka-1994, ngenkathi sithola inkululeko yethu, uMnyango Wezokuthutha, njengolunye lwezinhlelo zawo eziphambili, waqhamuka nohlelo olubizwa phecelezi recapitalisation ukuze ubhekane nezinkinga zabantu abasebenza kwezokuthutha umphakathi kanye nezibhekana nalabo okuyibo abathutha umphakathi, kwadingeka ukuthi sisebenze.

Namanjeke, njengoba sesineminyaka eyi-12 sisenkululekweni, siye sibheke impumelelo yethu ngokuthi siyiqhathanise nezinhloso ezikwi-Freedom Charter. Lokhu kuchaza ukuthi i-ANC kufanele ilungise izinhlelo zayo ngaso sonke isikhathi ukuze zihlale zikulungele ukuletha izidingo zabantu.

Ngonyaka wesabiwomali ozayo, uhlelo lwezokuthutha umphakathi olubizwa kuthiwe phecelezi yi-public transport strategy luzoqalisa ukusebenza ukuze kuthuthukiswe ukusebenza kwezokuthutha futhi kwandiswe amathuba okusebenzisa ezokuthutha eziphephile kubantu, nokuselokhu kusathanda ukuba umqansa okwamanje.

Inselelo esibhekene nayo futhi inselelo uMnyango obhekene nayo ngezokuthutha abantu abakhubazekile. Abantu abakhubazekile nabantu abadala basahlangabezana nezinkinga uma befika ezindaweni okugitshelwa kuzo. Njengasezitimeleni zethu nje akukho ukuthi singangena esitimeleni isihlalo esinamasondo.

Ezimotweni zokuhamba, uma abantu bamatekisi bebona umuntu wesihlalo esina-

masondo emile endleleni, bamuthi jeqe nje bese bedlula ngoba bebona ukuthi uzobachithela isikhathi sokuthi bayobamba umugqa phambili ngoba bethi kuzodingeka bamthathe bamtatamise bamfake etekisini. Nabantu abangaboni nabo kuseyinselelo enkulu ngoba uthi emile, elindile, abe engazi ukuthi konje ubani ongamsiza ngokumtshela ukuthi lelo tekisi noma lelo bhasi eliqhamukayo lisuke liya kuphi. Lokho kuseyinselelo uMnyango obhekene nayo.

Abantu abadala abaye bahambe, mhlawumbe beya kothenga edolobheni izinto abazidingayo okungaba yiphinifa noma amazambane, kuba nenkinga impela ababhekana nayo ngoba kudingeka bahlale bebuza bethi, "Mtanami, leli tekisi liyaphi?" Ayikho indlela okusizwa ngayo abantu abafana nalabo nasemabhasini ethu nasezitimeleni.

Ngifuna ukuhalalisela uMnyango, ikakhulukazi i-Metrorail ngokufaka amaphoyisa ezitimeleni. Kuleli sonto eliphelile, ngoLwesibili, lalingekho ibhasi e-Acacia. Mina namanye aMalungu ePhalamende sahamba saya kogibela isitimela esisuka e-Acacia Park siza e-Cape Town. Sasikhululeke ngendlela eyisimangaliso. Sasikhuluma nangamaselula ethu ngokukhululeka ngoba amaphoyisa ayegcwele yonke indawo. Sazibona sesifika esiteshini nje ukuthi, "Hhawu, sesise-Cape Town!"

Amalungu ahloniphekile angangizwa kabi kube sengathi ngithi mawagibele izitimela, kodwa kulula kakhulu ngempela ukuthatha isitimela esisuka-Acacia Park siqonde lapha ePhalamende, e-Cape Town. Akukho kuhlushwa yizimoto eziminyene, akukho nasigebengu ngoba kugcwele amaphoyisa. Kunamaphoyisa amade nje, obonayo nawe ukuthi uma isigebengu singaqhamuka angavele asicaphune asilahle le ngaphandle. Kusho ukuthi khululekani niye ezitimeleni, ikakhulukazi abantu abahlala e-Acacia Park. [Ubuwelewele.] [Ihlombe.] Siphephe kakhulu.

Ngiyawuhalalisela kakhulu uMnyango ngokubhekela into efana naleyo. Sengathi lokho kungenzeka kuzo zonke izifundazwe zethu ukuthi abantu baphephe, ikakhulukazi abagibeli bezitimela kanye nabagibeli bamatekisi, ubugebengu buphele. Kodwa siyethemba ukuthi uMnyango uzokwenza lokho.

AMalungu ePhalamende ahloniphekile aze angalinge athi ngithe awagibele izitimela. Kodwa thina-ke nelungu leli eliphambi kwami siyasigibela isitimela uma sisuka e-Acacia Park siza eCape Town. Siphephe kakhulu futhi akukhona nakuhlushwa ukuminyana kwezimoto.

Ngithanda ukuhalalisela futhi iMetrorail ngeqhaza elibambe endaweni yaseSoweto, ezitimeleni ezisuka eNaledi ziya eJohannesburg neziphuma koVereeniging zibheke eJohannesburg. Izingane zethu kulezi zindawo zithatha isitimela njengethoyisi. Ngisho maqondana nabamantombazane nabo uthola idangari indiza phezu kwesitimela.

Kodwa uMnyango usebenzile ngoba uze nohlelo oluhle kakhulu oluqondene nalezi zingane zethu ezifa mihla namalanga ezitimeleni ngoba zithatha isitimela njengethoyisi. Sekukhona ukuphepha okukhulu ngoba uMnyango ususungule uhlelo lokuthi laba bantwana abakade benza lokho mabafundise labo abasaqhubeka nokwenza leyo nto. Kuthi-ke labo abangasakwenzi lokho babuyele ezikoleni bafike bafundise nabanye. Ngiyabonga kakhulu futhi ngiyawuhalalisela uMnyango. [Ihlombe.]

Abantu abakhubazekile nabantu abadala basahlangabezana nezinkinga ezitimeleni nasematekisini. Akuvamile ukuthi bathole usizo abaludingayo. UMnyango uyaqhubeka nokuletha uhlelo olusha oluzoletha ukusebenza ngokusemthethweni embonini yamatekisi. Lokhu uMnyango ukwenza nge-Taxi Recapitalisation Programme. Ngalesi sizathu, uMnyango usubeke eceleni imali elinganiselwa emarandini angamabhiliyoni ayi-9 ezobhekana nokuthuthukisa ingqalasizinda kwezokuthutha umphakathi onyakeni ka-2009-10.

Izinkomba zezibalo zikhombisa ukuthi imboni yamatekisi imele ingxenye engaphezu kwama-65% kwezokuthutha emgwaqweni. Ngiyafisa ukuthi uma ngabe bekhona abamabhizinisi amatekisi namhlanje, balalele kahle. Ama-65% abantu abagibela amatekisi izimpilo zabo zikubo.

Mihla namalanga thina esisagibela amatekisi sisahlangabezana nezinkinga ezinkulu ematekisini. Abashayeli basenezinkinga zokungabaphathi kahle abantu abangabagibeli, abantu abadala nabantu abakhubazekile. Sicela ukuthi kube khona uhlelo mhlawumbe uMnyango ongalusungula lokufundisa abashayeli ngaphansi kwe-taxi recapitalisation maqondana nokuthi mabaphathe abantu kahle ematekisini. Ngempela, izimpilo zabantu zisuke zisezandleni zabo mihla namalanga uma beya emsebenzini, ngisho nezezingane zesikole.

Kusetshenziswe amafomu ayi-908 000 ukuguqulela amatekisi ohlelweni olusha. Izindawo zokushabalalisa amatekisi amadala sezikhona, futhi lo msebenzi uzokwenzelwa kuzo lezi zindawo. Sezisebenza ngokuphelele KwaZulu-Natali, eFreyisitata, Nyakatho Kapa, Mpumalanga Kapa, Ntshonalanga Kapa, Limpopo naseMpumalanga.

Eminyakeni emibili eyedlule uMnyango ukhuphule izinga lokusebenzisa isabiwomali sawo kusukela ku-R74,4 wezigidi zamarandi kuya ku-R138 wezigidi zamarandi. Lokhu kusho ukukhuphuka ngamaphesenti anga-22,5. Lokhu kukhula kudalwa ukwakhiwa kwezigaba ezintsha eMnyangweni, njengesigaba sezomthetho nesokuhlola, indlela okusetshenziswa ngayo izimali eMnyangweni, ukuqashwa komabhalane kanye nokukhula kwezikhundla eziphezulu eMnyangweni.

Phini likaSomlomo, uma ubheka indlela imali esetshenziswe ngayo onyakeni ophelile, kuyacaca ukuthi imali isebenze ekuthuthukiseni umthetho kanye nokuhlonishwa kwawo. Lokhu kusho ukuthi, ngonyaka wesabiwomali ozayo, imali ekhokhelwa abasebenzi nayo izokhuphuka. Kunezimpawu ezikhomba ukuthi kuyathuthuka kakhulu ukuphepha emgwaqweni ngenxa yokuthi kuye kwakhula isibalo samabhanoyi akhokhisa imali ephansi. Wonke umuntu manje uzokwazi ukugibela ibhanoyi. Angithi bakhona oMango no-Kulula.com?

Inhloso yoMnyango ukuthi kube khona uhlelo olusebenzayo lokubhekela izidingo zomphakathi, kusetshenziswe imali yabakhokhi bentela ngendlela eyiyo, kanye nokubhekela ukuthi lapho kunokwentuleka kwabantu abafundele imisebenzi ethile, ikakhulu emikhakheni yamabhanoyi kanye nemikhumbi, abantu bafundiswe leyo misebenzi. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[Ms M D NXUMALO: Deputy Speaker, Minister of Transport, hon Members of Parliament, the department headed by MaZwide, comrades and the South African community, the most important objective of the Department of Transport is to lead in bringing about the safety and reliability of the transport system by coming up with programmes that ensure that legislation that is transport-related is developed and that it becomes a success. On top of that, presently there is a dire need to ensure that all programmes that are related to transport are developed to cater for the needs that will emanate during the 2010 Fifa World Cup and beyond.

During the 2007 state of the nation address in Parliament, President Thabo Mbeki said that we have over the past few years developed and started implementing various programmes aimed at improving passenger transport. These include the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme and provincial initiatives such as the Moloto Rail Corridor, in Mpumalanga. Experts are doing a feasibility study to see how it can be initiated in provinces. Other projects are the Klipfontein Corridor in Cape Town and the Gautrain project with its linkages to the rest of the public transport system.

These and many other initiatives form part of a comprehensive passenger transport strategy, combining both road and rail. We will attend to the urgent implementation of these programmes to improve the quality of life of especially the working people.

The Freedom Charter, to those who know its meaning and the objective of thousands of people who were oppressed and who were determined to write down their dream of building a nation, provides that there must be a government that will cater for the needs of the people. Therefore, the Freedom Charter does mention the public situation whereby everybody will live in comfort and in security, and know that the government will fulfil its promises. In that way, the government is bringing about passenger transport that is safe, reliable and affordable.

It didn't happen automatically in 1994—when we got our freedom—that the Department of Transport, as one of its forefront programmes, came up with the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme to address the problems of commuters and taxi operators.

Even now, as we are in the 12th year of democracy, we look at our success by comparing it with the objectives of the Freedom Charter. This implies that the ANC should every time review its programmes so that they will always be ready to bring services to the people.

In the next financial year, the Public Transport Strategy will be implemented to improve passenger transport and increase the chances of using safe transport, which is still difficult for now.

The challenge that we and the department are facing is the transportation of people with disabilities. People with disabilities and elders encounter problems when they arrive at bus and taxi stops. On our trains, for instance, there is no way that a wheelchair can be accommodated.

In our taxis for instance, if taxi drivers see a wheelchair-bound person on the side of the road flagging down a taxi, they simply give him one glimpse and pass him because they believe this person will waste their time in rushing to join the queues because such a person would need to be lifted up and be put in another taxi. People who are visually impaired also still face a huge challenge because while they are waiting, they usually do not even know who will help them. They sometimes wait there with no one to tell them where that coming taxi or bus is heading. That is a challenge facing this department.

Elders who sometimes travel, maybe going to town to buy what they need, like a pinafore or potatoes, encounter problems because they must always ask, "My child where is this taxi heading?" There is no way of helping these people also on our buses and trains.

I wish to congratulate this department, especially Metrorail, for deploying police officers on trains. Last week, on Tuesday, there was no bus service in Acacia Park. Other Members of Parliament and I went to board a train from Acacia Park to Cape Town. We were relaxed in an unbelievable way. We were even using our cellphones freely because the security guards were patrolling all over. We only realised when we were at the station, "Wow, we are in Cape Town!"

Let the hon members not get me wrong, as if I am saying they must use the trains. No, but of course it is much easier to board a train from Acacia Park heading for Parliament in Cape Town. There is no traffic congestion and there are no criminals because the security guards are patrolling all over. There are well-built, tall police officers who give you the impression that if a criminal happened to come along, they could just grab him and throw him outside. This therefore means that you must be free to use trains, particularly those who stay in Acacia Park. [Interjections.] [Applause.] Trains are very safe.

I congratulate this department for addressing

this issue. We wish that this would happen in all provinces in order for our people to be safe, particularly train and taxi commuters. Criminality must come to an end. However, we hope that the department will address that.

Hon Members of Parliament mustn't dare say that I said they must take trains. However, I and the member that is in front of me here take a train when we are coming from Acacia Park to Cape Town. It is very safe and there is no way of being bothered by the traffic congestion.

I also want to congratulate Metrorail for the sterling work it is doing in Soweto, especially on trains from Naledi to Johannesburg and those coming from Vereeniging to Johannesburg. Our children in these areas treat trains like toys. Even girl children, too; you find them doing train surfing in dungarees on top of a train.

But the department has worked very well because they came up with the programme to address the issue of these children who are dying every day because of train surfing, who regard a train as a toy. There is safety now because the department initiated a programme whereby these children who were once train surfers themselves must now educate those who are still doing it to stop it. Those who choose to stop doing this, go back to schools to educate others. Thank you very much, and I congratulate the department in this regard. [Applause.]

People with disabilities and elders encounter a lot of problems on trains and in taxis. And they hardly get the help that they need. The department is continuing with the new programme that will regulate the taxi industry. The department is doing this through the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme. For this reason, the department has set aside over R9,2 billion for the Public Transport Infrastructure Grant in the 2009-10 financial year.

Statistics indicate that the taxi industry accounts for over 65% of road transport. If taxi operators are present here today, I wish that they would listen attentively. The lives of 65% of taxi commuters are in their hands.

Every day those who are still riding in taxis encounter huge problems. Taxi drivers still have a problem of not treating the elders and people with disabilities fairly. We urge the department to come up with an initiative under the auspices of the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme to teach taxi drivers to treat commuters well in the taxis. The truth is, the lives of people are in their hands every day when they go to work or even to school.

There were at least 908 000 forms used to convert the taxis to the new project. Places for scrapping ageing taxis are there, and this job will be done in these places. They are operating full-time in KwaZulu-Natal, the Free State, the Northern Cape, the Eastern Cape, the Western Cape, Limpopo and Mpumalanga.

Two years ago, the department increased its spending from R74,4 million to R138 million. This is an increase of 22,5%. This increase is due to new units that were created in the department, like the legal services and the evaluation services. The new way of spending finance in the department also contributed to this, as well as the employment of clerical staff and the increase in management positions within the department.

Deputy Speaker, if you look at the way the money was used last year, it is clear that the money was used to develop policies and their implementation. This means, in the next financial year, salaries for employees are going to be increased.

There are signs indicating that there is an increase in road safety because of the increase in low-cost airlines. Everyone will now be able to travel by air. We have airlines like Mango and Kulula, don't we?

The objectives of the department are to have a programme that caters for the community

needs, to use the taxpayers' money properly, and to see to it that people are trained in areas where there is a scarcity of skills, especially in aviation and the shipping industry.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Your time has expired.

Ms M D NXUMALO: U-ANC uyasesekela lesi Sabiwomali. Ngiyabonga. [Ihlombe.] [The ANC supports this Budget Vote. Thank you. [Applause.]]

UNGQONGQOSHE WEZOKUTHUTHA: Phini likaSomlomo, ngiyabonga ngale nkulumo-mpikiswano yeSabiwomali sezokuthutha. Ngizwile ukuthi wonke aMalunga ePhalamende ayasivumela lesi Sabiwomali. Asho ngo-elethu ukuthi afuna iqhubekele phambili. Ngizoba mfushane nje ekuphenduleni eminye yemibuzo ebuziwe lapha.

Owokuqala umbuzo ubumaqondana ne-Gautrain. Njengoba sazi, iGautrain yayikade iqalwe isifundazwe saseGauteng kodwa ngokuhamba kwesikhathi, sabona singuhulumeni omkhulu ukuthi le Gautrain ibalulekile eNingizimu Afrika, ikakhulukazi kwezomnotho. Sabe sesithi asingene, singuhulumeni omkhulu, sifake izizumbulu zemali ukuze le Gautrain iqhubekele phambili ngoba siyazi ukuthi izobamba iqhaza elibalulekile ekuthuthukiseni ezokuthutha umphakathi eNingizimu Afrika.

Njengoba amalungu azi, kulo nyaka kunesizumbulu semali engu-3,2 billion wamarandi etshalwe uhulumeni omkhulu ukuze sixhase iGautrain. Ngaphambi kokuthi sisayinde isivumelwano ngonyaka ophelile maqondana nokuthi iGautrain iqhubekele phambili, sahlala phansi nabo sabatshela ngemigomo nangamasu esinawo okuthuthukisa ezokuthutha umphakathi, ikakhulukazi eGauteng. Lapho sathatha-ke nemibono ephuma ekomidini lenu lalapha ePhalamende. Ukwenza izinto ngendlela enjalo kuyinto esiyibiza ngesilungu sithi i-integration. Sikhuluma nje thina sesiyazi ukuthi sekukhona ukuhlela ngendlela ehlanganisayo phakathi kweGautrain kanye nezokuthutha umphakathi. Ngisho namabhasi namatekisi, khona laphaya eGauteng, azoqhubekela phambili.

Okwesibili, kukhulunywe ngendaba ebizwa phecelezi Taxi Recapitalisaton Progamme. Ngifuna ukucacisa ukuthi akukho ukuphindela emuva kulolu hlelo lwe-Taxi Recapitalisation Programme, siya phambili. Njengoba kade ngichaza lapha, abalelwa ezi-2 000 amatekisi esesiwasulile, ayizikorokoro. Kulezi zinyanga ezizayo, sizoqhubeka nokuthi siye phambili ngalolu hlelo.

Okubalulekile futhi okufanele sikwazi ukuthi kukhona amalungu akhulume sengathi azikho izinhlelo ezithinta osomatekisi maqondana nezokuthutha umphakathi ngendlela ehlanganisayo. Lezo zinhlelo zikhona, yingakho nje sesikhuluma ngokuxhasa abagibeli, hhayi umxhaso esizothi awuye kosomatekisi. Kufanele kuphoqeleke ukucacisa ukuthi abantu bafuna ukugibela yiphi imoto, noma bafuna ukugibela ibhasi noma isitimela. Iyona ndlela lo mxhaso ozohamba ngayo.

Maqondana nemidlalo yango-2010, abaningi bakhulumile ngokuthi ngabe sizokwazi yini ukuwusingatha lo msebenzi. Ngifuna aMalungu ePhalamende azi kahle ukuthi nathi le nto iyasihlupha. Yikho nje kunemizamo esiyenzayo yokuthi kuqhubekele phambili ukulungela ukuy isingatha eMyangweni Wezokuthutha, ukuze sikwazi ukuthi le midlalo yezikanobhutshuzwayo ka-2010 iqhubekele phambili. Kunekomidi elikhona eMnyangweni elibhekene nemidlalo ka-2010, futhi kunekomidi elihlangana nezifundazwe zonke ukuze sihlele izinto sihlangene. Njengoba ngikhuluma nje, kunemali efakiwe kulo nyaka ozoqala 2007-08 ebalelwa ema-20 ezigidi zamarandi ukuze izinga lokusingatha nokusebenza kuqhubekele phambili.

Kwezomgwaqo, njengoba sazi nje, ziningi izinto esizenzayo nenkampani ephethe imigwaqo. Siyazi ukuthi kunomgomo othi

makube khona uchungechunge lwemigwaqo kazwelonke ebalelwa kumakhilomitha ayi-20 000 ngoba siyalazi iqhaza lemigwaqo ekuthuthukiseni umnotho waseNingizimu Afrika kwezokuthutha abagibeli kanye nokuthutha izimpahla. Lokho sekwenze kube nesizumbulu esikhulu semali engamabhiliyoni amarandi ayi-13,1 esizonikwa i-Sanral kule minyaka emihlanu ezayo. I-Sanral iyona nkampani ephethe imigwaqo kanti le mali izotshalwa kwezemigwaqo eNingizimu Afrika. Lokhu-ke kukhombisa ngokusobala ukuthi ukuthuthuka kokutshalwa kwezimali kwezemigwaqo sekungaphezulu kuka-1,2 wamabhiliyoni amarandi, uma siqhathanisa nonyaka wezimali ka-2002.

Okunye futhi okubalulekile ukuthi namabhizinisi azimele nawo azofaka imali ebalelwa kumarandi angamabhiliyoni ayi-8 yokwengeza kule mali engiqeda ukuyisho yokuqhubela umsebenzi phambili. Ngaphezu kwalokho, i-Sanral izoya emakethe ukuze ikwazi ukuthola imali ebalelwa kumarandi angamabhiliyoni ayi-10 ukuze siqhubeke nawo wonke umsebenzi. Konke lokhu kukhombisa ngokusobala ukuthi uhlelo lukhona, nokuthi ezinhliziyweni zethu sizimisele ngokuthi ezomgwaqo zithuthuke eNingizimu Afrika.

Okokugcina, kukhulume lapha uMnu Koos Van der Merwe, wakhuluma ukudelela okukhulu. [Ubuwelewele.] Kodwa usebalekile, akafuni ukuthi ngimphendule kule mibuzo ayibuzile.

Ngithole incwadi ayibhalele uJeremy Cronin. Ngifuna ukuthi aMalungu ePhalamende ezwe ukuthi uthini uMnumzane Van der Merwe kule ncwadi. Ithi, phecelezi:

> Jeremy, as you know, I am only acting as the IFP transport speaker after Mr Ngiba crossed to Nadeco. I kindly request leave to go now as I have other important business that I cannot postpone.

[Uhleko.]

Manje angazi ukuthi ngizomphendula kanjani ngoba ubalekile. Kodwa into okufanele ngiyichaze ukuthi uMvikeli Womphakathi wasibhalela incwadi wathi siphendule. Ngizophendula yonke into ngenkathi sengiphendula uMvikeli Womphakathi.

Into ebalulekile okufanele siyazi ukuthi ilambu elinombala osibhakabhaka lisetshenziswa amaphoyisa namaphoyisa omgwaqo. Akekho umuntu ongalisebenzisa ngaphandle kwalabo. Iyona le nto okufanele ngiyichaze kuMalungu ePhalamende.

Kukhona nesikhalo sokuthi i-Road Traffic Management Corporation ayihlangani. Ibhodi ye-RTMC siyikhethe ngoDisemba 2006. Iqale-ke ukusebenza ngomhla ka-1 January kulo nyaka. Sebebambe imihlangano emine beyibhodi. Komunye wayo nami ngaba khona ukuze ngizwe ukuthi bakhuluma kanjani. Ikomidi lami nozakwethu basezifundazweni lihlangana njalo ukuze siqhubekele phambili ukuthi zihambe kahle izinto.

Ekugcineni, ngithanda ukuthatha leli thuba ngibonge ikomidi eliholwa uMnu Cronin ngemisebenzi emihle abayenzayo ukuze izindaba zokuthutha ziqhubekele phambili eNingizimu Afrika. Ngibonga futhi uMqondisi-Jikelele woMnyango Wezokuthutha, uMpumi, okunguye ophethe uMnyango; ngibonge nezikhulu ezingosigaxamabhande abakhulu, kanye nalabo abaphethe izifundazwe esisebenzisana nabo kahle ngokuthula. Ngibonga futhi-ke namalungu oMnyango Wezokuthutha asisizayo kuzo zonke izindawo.

Ngibonga iSantaco—osomatekisi. Bakhona lapha obaba uMthembu nabańýe esisebenzisana kahle nabo ukuze · I-Taxi Recapitalisation iqhubekele phambili. Ngibonga futhi izinhlangano zomphakathi zabagibeli—ubaba uSangweni ukhona lapha —okuyibo abasisizayo ukuze ezokuthutha umphakathi sazi ukuthi zizosiza abantu abaningi baseNingizimu Afrika.

Ngibonga futhi ozakwethu abangoNgqo-

ngqoshe bezokuthutha ezifundazweni esisebenzisana kahle nabo. Zonke lezi zinhlelo sizenza nabo. Akuyona into yami nje noMnyango, kodwa into ehlanganisa zonke izifundazwe nomasipala, ikakhulukazi laba esibabiza ngokuthi ama-metro. Ngibonge futhi abaphathi, osihlalo nabaphathi bezinkampani zikahulumeni abakhona lapha. Baningi kakhulu; angisakwazi nokubasho bonke ngoba sesibaningi. Manje sesinezinkampani zikahulumeni ezingaphezu kwe-11.

Mangibonge futhi nomndeni wami. Unkosikazi wami ukhona lapha, uBridget. Uyena ongisekelayo kakhulu. [Ihlombe]. Ekugcineni, mangibonge amalungu ehhovisi lami, okuwona angisizayo ukuthi ngenze zonke izinto engizenzayo. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT: Deputy Speaker, thank you for this debate on the Transport Budget Vote. I heard that all Members of Parliament support this Budget Vote. They say in one voice that they want it to go forward. I will be brief in responding to some of the questions that were raised here.

The first question was about the Gautrain. As we all know, the Gautrain was initiated by the Gauteng province but as time went on, we, as the national government, felt that this Gautrain was important in South Africa, especially for our economy. We therefore got involved, as the national government, and we injected a lot of capital for the Gautrain to go forward because we know that it will play an important role in developing public transport in South Africa.

As the members are aware, in this financial year there is a huge amount of R3,2 billion that is invested by the national government to finance the Gautrain project. Before signing the agreement last year for the Gautrain project to continue, we sat down with them and told them about the conditions and strategies we have for developing public transport, especially in Gauteng. We also used the suggestions that came from the transport committee of this Parliament. And that is what we call, in English, integration. As we speak, we know that there is a programme that involves the Gautrain and public transport. The buses and the taxis in Gauteng will also continue operating.

Secondly, there was also talk about the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme. I want to clearly state that there is no turning back on this Taxi Recapitalisation Programme; we are going forward. As I have explained here, there are almost 2 000 taxis that we have scrapped. In the following months, we will continue with this programme.

There are, however, members here who spoke as if there were no programmes that we have in place to integrate the transport industry, and more especially the taxi industry. The programmes are there, and that is the reason we now speak of subsidising the commuters. This subsidy will not go to the taxi owners. With this subsidy, there would have to be a clear indication from commuters as to what is it that they want to use—a taxi, a bus or even a train. That is how this subsidy will work.

About the 2010 Fifa World Cup, many have questioned our readiness to manage this project. I want Members of Parliament to know that this troubles us too. That is why there are plans in place that will enable the Department of Transport to make sure that we manage to host the Fifa 2010 World Cup. There is a special committee in the department that is dealing with the 2010 games, and there is also a committee that meets with all provinces so that we can plan together. As I speak now, there is capital that will be invested in this coming financial year, 2007-08 that is estimated at R20 million so that the standard of management and implementation continues.

In connection with roads, as we know, there are many things that we are doing with the company that manages roads. We know that there is a condition that states that there must be a network of national roads that is

estimated at 20 000km because we know the role played by the roads in the development of South African economy and in the transportation of commuters and goods alike. We have made available R13,1 billion that will be given to Sanral for the next five years. Sanral is the company that manages roads, and this capital will be invested in road maintenance in South Africa. This, then, clearly shows that development in capital investment in roads maintenance and construction has grown beyond R1,2 billion if we compare it with the past financial year of 2002.

The other important thing is that even the private sector will inject capital that is estimated at R8 billion that will help take the project forward. On top of that, Sanral will also raise revenue estimated at R10 billion in order to take all the work forward. All this clearly shows that there is a program and that in our hearts we are prepared for roads issues to be developed in South Africa.

Lastly, Mr Koos van der Merwe spoke here with blatant brazenness. [Interjections.] And he has run away; he does not want me to respond to the questions he asked.

I have received a letter that he has written to Jeremy Cronin. I want the Members of Parliament to hear what Mr Van der Merwe is saying in this letter. It reads thus:

> Jeremy, as you know, I am only acting as the IFP transport speaker after Mr Ngiba crossed to Nadeco. I kindly request leave to go now as I have other important business that I cannot postpone.

[Laughter.]

Now, I do not know how I am going to respond to his concerns because he ran away. But what I must explain is that the Public Protector wrote us a letter and he said that we must respond. I will respond to everything to the Public Protector.

The important thing that we must know is that the blue light is used by police and traffic officers. No one else can use it but them. This is what I must explain to the Members of Parliament.

There is also a complaint that the Road Traffic Management Corporation does not meet. The board of the RTMC was appointed in December 2006. It started operating on 1 January this year. They have held four meetings as a board. I was present at one of those meetings so that I could hear how they were talking. My committee and my colleagues from the provinces meet regularly to look at the progress made and discuss the way forward.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee led by Mr Cronin for the good work that they are doing so that the transport issues can be addressed in South Africa. I also thank the Director-General of the Department of Transport, Mpumi, who heads the department. I also thank the high-ranking officials in the department, and those who are managers in provinces with whom we work very well and in peace. Again, I also thank the members of the Department of Transport who help us everywhere.

I thank Santaco—the taxi operators. There are people like Mr Mthembu there and others with whom we work well so that the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme can go forward. I also thank the community commuters' structures—Mr Sangweni is here—who help us to know that public transport will help most South Africans.

I also thank my colleagues, Members of the Executive Councils of transport in provinces with whom we function well. We are doing all these programmes with them. This is not just for me and the department alone, but it involves all provinces and the municipalities, especially those that are called the metropolises. I thank again the managers, chairpersons and managers of government entities who are present here. They are too many; I cannot mention them all because

they are many. We now have more than 11 government companies.

Let me also thank my family. My wife, Bridget, is present here. She is the one who supports me a lot. [Applause.] Lastly, let me thank members of my office, who help me do all the things that I do.]

Lastly, I also wish to thank, as I indicated in my opening address, the family of Dr Ian Phillips who are here—Mary, Moira, the brother-in-law and the niece—for having come and heard for themselves the high esteem in which our comrade, friend and colleague, Ian Phillips, was held, not only by us but also by the broader community and society in South Africa. Thank you. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

The Committee rose at 17:49.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIDAY, 16 MARCH 2007

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. **The Speaker and the Chairperson**

   (a) Special Report of the Auditor-General on the status of tabling of annual reports and consolidated financial statements of national government departments and public entities for the financial year ended 2005-2006 as at 31 October 2006 [RP 260-2006].

   (b) Performance audit report of the Auditor-General on consultants at the Department of Trade and Industry—January 2007 [RP 9-2007].

2. **The Acting Minister of Transport**

   (a) Strategic Plan of the Department of Transport for 2007 to 2010.

National Assembly

1. **The Speaker**

   (a) Letter from the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry dated 14 March 2007 to the Speaker of the National Assembly, in terms of section 65(2)(a) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999), explaining the delay in the tabling of the Annual Report of Magalies Water for 2005-2006.

LATE TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT: MAGALIES WATER: 2005/2006

In terms of section 55(1)(d) of the Public Finance Management act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999) [the Act], the accounting authority for a public entity listed in Schedule 3, which is not a government business enterprise, which includes a water board, must submit within five months of the end of their financial year their Annual Reports and Financial Statements to the Executive Authority (in this case the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry). Within one month after receipt of the reports and financial statements it must be submitted for tabling in the National Assembly in terms of section 65(1)(a) of the Act.

In terms of section 65(2)(a) of the mentioned Act, the Minister must, upon failure to table the Annual Report and Financial Statements within six months of the end of the financial year, table a written explanation in the National Assembly to give reasons why the Report was not tabled.

The Board of Magalies Water failed to submit its Annual Report and Financial Statements within

the prescribed period. The reason for the late submission was caused by the unexpected delay in the appointment of new external auditors, which were only appointed during September 2006. As a result, the auditors only completed their audit function during the last week of November 2006 and the Board of Magalies Water could only adopt and endorse such statements at a meeting held on 25 November 2006.

Additionally, the new auditors recommended significant changes in the format, content and presentation of the financial statements to be fully compliant with the General Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP) and the International Financing Reporting Standards (IFRS). It thus took the Board a while to comprehend the changes that were recommended by the auditors.

These changes have resulted in two key qualifications for the statements. Due to the fact that the printers were already in recess and they only resumed their work during the first week of January 2007 the Annual Report only reached my Department during the third week in January 2007. On receipt of the Annual Report, my Department had to analise its content and brief me on it and this made it impossible to table the Annual Report and Financial Statements earlier, I trust that the reason for the delay is clear and in future, the Board should be in a position to submit in time.

The Annual Reports of Magalies Water is now ready for tabling in the National Assembly and will be so tabled if not done so already.

Yours sincerely

MRS L B HENDRICKS MP

MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

MONDAY, 19 MARCH 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

The Speaker and the Chairperson

1. **Assent by President in respect of Bill**

   (a) ***Accreditation for Conformity Assessment, Calibration and Good Laboratory Practice Bill*** [B 29B—2006]—Act No 19 of 2006 (assented to and signed by President on 12 March 2007).

National Assembly

The Speaker

1. **Membership of Assembly**

   (a) Mr T E Vezi has resigned his seat as a member of the National Assembly with effect from 31 March 2007.

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. **The Minister of Defence**

   Strategic Business Plan for the Department of Defence for the financial years 2007-2008 and 2009-2010 [RP 25-2007].

2. **The Minister of Finance**

   (a) Government Notice No R. 194 published in Government Gazette No 29670 dated 09 March 2007: Amendment of Schedule No 1 (No 1/1/1331), made in terms of section 48 of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964).

(b) Government Notice No R. 195 published in Government Gazette No 29670 dated 09 March 2007: Amendment of Schedule No 1 (No 1/1/1332), made in terms of section 48 of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964).

(c) Government Notice No R. 196 published in Government Gazette No 29670 dated 09 March 2007: Amendment of Schedule No 2 (No 2/283), made in terms of section 56 of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964).

(d) Government Notice No 212 published in Government Gazette No 29658 dated 23 March 2007: Draft Municipal Regulations on Minimum Competency Levels made in terms of section 168(1) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003).

(e) Government Notice No 189 published in Government Gazette No 29683 dated 01 March 2007: Determination of interest rates for purposes of Paragraph (a) of the Definition of "Official Rate of Interest" in Paragraph 1 of the Seventh Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1962 (Act No 58 of 1962).

(f) Government Notice No 187 published in Government Gazette No 29669 dated 09 March 2007: Listing and delisting of Public Entities, made in terms of section 47 and 48 of the Public Finance Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999).

TUESDAY, 20 MARCH 2007

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works on the **Government Immovable Asset Management Bill** [B 1- 2006] (National Assembly- sec 75), dated 20 March 2007:

The Portfolio Committee on Public Works, having considered the subject of the **Government Immovable Asset Management Bill** [B 1- 2006] (National Assembly-sec 75), referred to it and classified by the Joint Tagging Mechanism as a section 75 Bill, reports the Bill with amendments [B 1A - 2006].

2. Strategic Planning Workshop of the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration: 18 – 20 February 2007, dated 2 March 2007:

1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration held a Strategic Planning Workshop at the Villa Via Hotel in Gordon's Bay, with a view to reflect on its performance for the year 2006 and to develop a programme of action for 2007. The theme of the Strategic Planning Workshop was **"Accelerating Transformation and Service Delivery in the second decade of freedom: The centrality of Public Service and Administration"**

This theme was adopted after noting that although it was the same theme for 2006, the message contained therein is still relevant for 2007.

2. ATTENDANCE

The following stakeholders attended this strategic planning Workshop:

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

Mr Gomomo PJ, MP (Chairperson)
Mr Baloyi MR, MP
Mr Gcwabaza NE, MP
Mr Julies IF, MP
Mr Khumalo KK, MP
Mr Mthembu B, MP
Ms Matsomela MJJ, MP
Ms Mentor VM, MP
Mr Minnie KJ, MP
Mr Nyambi AJ, MP
Mr Sikakane R, MP

APOLOGIES

Ms Maloney L, MP
Ms Mashangoane P, MP
Dr Roopnarain U, MP

SUPPORT STAFF

Dyasi Lindelwa: Committee Secretary
Biyela Mlungisi: Committee Researcher
Mninzi Sheilla: PA to the Chairperson
Sibisi Nomusa: Committee Assistant
Bouw Chantal: Secretary to Mr Baloyi

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION (DPSA)

Prof. R Levin, DG
Dr E Kornegay, DDG
Mr R Shaw, Manager in the Office of the DG
Ms C Clark, DDG: Human Resources Management
Mrs D Wilsenach, Acting DDG: Corporate Management and CFO
Mrs SM Van Schoor, Chief Director: Legal Services
Ms S Abrahams, Parliamentary Liaison Officer
Mr L Rabkin, Manager Cabinet Services and Parliamentary Liaison Officer

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC)

Prof. SS Sangweni, Chairperson
Mr J Ernstzen, Deputy Chairperson
Dr NV Maharaj, Commissioner
Mr KE Mahoai, Commissioner
Dr D Maphumulo, DDG
Mr M Diphofa, DDG
Mr AH Simpson, Deputy Director General
Ms N Gwaza, Parliamentary Liaison Officer

THE SOUTH AFRICN MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (SAMDI)

Prof. SJH Hendricks, Deputy Director General
Mr JMP Welman, Executive Manager: Strategic Support

STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLGY AGENCY (SITA)

Mr S Ngubane, Head: Office of the CEO
Ms T Abrahams, Parliamentary Liaison Officer

SPECIAL DELEGATION AND GUEST SPEAKER

Professor DR Thakhathi attended as an invited Guest Speaker.

3. THE CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS:

In opening the meeting, the Chairperson alluded to the following:-

- That this strategic planning workshop presents an opportunity for the Portfolio Committee and other stakeholders to reflect on their performance against the goals they set themselves in 2006. He indicated that the Portfolio Committee could not be able to complete its programme for the year 2006 because of circumstances beyond the Committee's control, such as the fluctuations in the Parliament programme and related developments.

- As we evaluate our performance and plan ahead we have to assess the impact of our failure to complete our programme. He indicated that even in as far as this Committee performing its oversight role on the functions of Government Departments is concerned, we may not be in a position to present a proud record that we performed to the level of our expectations.

- One failure indicator on the part of the Portfolio Committee is that we could not be able to insist on Departments responding to the reports of the Public Service Commission.

- A common feature in the entire Public Service is that we are not rising to the challenge of ensuring that there is an effective service delivery due, in some instances, to bureaucratic tendencies. In this regard he sighted an example of the project in his constituency area where due to technicalities involving the local municipality, his constituency faced a challenge of possibly losing a project donated by the Netherlands Government.

- That the Portfolio Committee should be seen as central in dealing with service delivery in the same way that the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) does in dealing with public accounts issues. Quoting what the President said recently in a ANC Lekgotla, the Chairperson indicated that there should be more time allocated for public consultation at the local areas.

- That whereas acknowledging that, reality dictating, we more often talk about poverty alleviation, he would argue strongly that a primary objective of the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration and the Public Service in general, should be to eradicate poverty, with clear time frames having to determine the Agenda of oversight bodies.

4. ADDRESS BY THE GUEST SPEAKER

Professor Thakhathi presented a paper on the theme of the workshop, and in doing so, he stressed the followings:

- That transformation is a priority issue in South Africa.
- That this Portfolio Committee should be seen as a central driver of transformation and coordinating all Departments.
- In order to achieve its goals the Portfolio Committee should develop a more focused approach, where it may want to assign dedicated tasks attaching its members to champion targeted oversight functions to particular Government Departments over and above the conventional view where this Portfolio Committee narrowly views the "be-all and the end-all" scope of their oversight functions on the Department of Public Service and Administration, the Public Service Commission, the South African Management Development Institute and the State Information Technology Agency.
- The Portfolio Committee should internalise its obligations to ensure that measurable targets are reached and that it interacts with public servants at the service delivery level.
- That we need to empower the Districts to be able to manage the transformation agenda at the local level.
- That District levels of Government are empowered to be able to manage the transformation agenda at the local level.
- That there is a need to identify, recognise and reward champions of service delivery from amongst our public servants, and the criteria to do so should be based on meeting the requirements of being visionary, caring and competent.

- That we often neglect doing an induction of the public servants on recruitment and only rely on their perceived sense of patriotism that they will do the best, only to be surprised at some stage when the opposite holds true.
- That we should be inculcating the sense of humanising the public service in order to engender the culture of excellence.
- That the Portfolio Committee, in addition to what they do in the boardrooms and in Parliament work in general, should keep in contact with people through the use of available diverse communication media.
- That over time our leadership communicate important messages that sometimes disappear before being acted upon and as a result such well considered policy statements end up evaporation into oblivion, such as the call by the President for impatience with the poor performing public servants.

5. INTERACTIONS WITH THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Workshop appreciated the contribution by Professor Thakhathi as a useful motivational address.

During interaction with the address, the following issues emerged:

- The lesson on back to basics put emphasis on grand planning having to be linked to achievable tangible goals set.
- Whereas vision and policies are in place, there is room for improvement in the implementation thereof.
- In order to address this challenge of implementation, the leadership should take it as a priority to go to the Districts, get a feel of what is going on and develop strategies to deal with these issues in order to improve service delivery.

- Departments are not always having the right organisational structures and that even in those cases where there are such structures there are still vacancies that are not filled.
- Some Departments do not have service delivery improvement plans.
- The Department of Public Service and Administration as well as the Public Service Commission are not asserting themselves to call on Departments for hearings on service delivery issues.

6. PRESENTATIONS

The Strategic plans of the following institutions were presented to the workshop, discussed and considered in shaping the workshop's conclusion and way forward:

- Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA)
- The South African Management Development Institute (SAMDI)
- The Public Service Commission (PSC)
- The State Information Technology Agency (SITA)

The Department of Public Service and Administration also presented a report on the African Peer Review mechanism: South Africa's country self assessment report.

7. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

After the interactions on all the presentations, and due consideration taken of the input of the Guest Speaker, the State of the Nation Address and other considerations, the Workshop resolved that the programme of further interactions between the Portfolio Committee and the Stakeholders should respond to and be guided by four thematic areas, namely:

- Strengthening democracy and accelerating service delivery in the Second Decade of Freedom;
- The impact of policy in building a non-racial, non-sexist democratic society;
- The Second Decade of Freedom and the global environment; and
- The State as an institution of peoples' power.

As a Way Forward, the Workshop adopted a draft Programme of Action for the Portfolio Committee, for the year 2007, as follows hereafter.

PROGRAMME OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION, 2007

February 2007					
DATE	**ITEM**	**Stakeholders**		**Venue**	**Time**
		Briefing	**Attending**		
21 Wednesday	▪ Workshop: Public Service Amendment Bill	PC	DPSA	S35	09h00-13h00
28 Wednesday	▪ Consideration of the Public Service Amendment Bill ▪ Consideration of the Strategic Planning report	PC	DPSA	Committee Room 2 120 Plein Street	09H00-13H00

March 2007					
02 Friday	▪ Briefings on: Batho Pele ▪ Consideration of 2007/8 budget	PSC	SITA SAMDI DPSA	V226	09H00-13H00
07 Wednesday	▪ Performance Management of HOD's	PSC	DPSA SITA SAMDI	E340	09h00-13h00
09 Friday	Adoption of 2006/7 PC and Departments Annual reports Finalisation of outstanding issues: ▪ Review of the oversight visits to Provinces ▪ Review of conferences and Study Tours: o IASIA o India o SAAPAM o (GOPAC)	PC	DPSA	S12A	09H00-11H00
14 Wednesday	Public Service Amendment Bill ▪ Public Hearings	Mr Sunil Gopal NAPTOSA IMATU	DPSA Open	Iziko Museum	09H00-13H00

DATE	ITEM	Stakeholders		Venue	Time
		Briefing	Attending		
16 Friday	▪ Consideration of 2007/8 budget	DPSA SAMDI SITA		E540	09H00-12H00
21 Wednesday	**HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**				
28 Wednesday	Public Service Amendment Bill ▪ Public Hearings	COSATU & Affiliates	DPSA Open	E249	09H00-13H00
30 Friday	Consideration of the Public Service ▪ Amendment Bill	PSC	DPSA Open	E249	09H00-13H00

CONSTITUENCY PERIOD: 02 – 30 APRIL

DATE	ITEM	Stakeholders		Venue	Time
		Briefing	Attending		
16 April	Public Service Amendment Bill ▪ Issues emanating from the Public Hearings	Committee Researcher	DPSA OPEN	E249	09H00-13H00
17 April	Public Service Amendment Bill ▪ Issues emanating from further interaction	DPSA	OPEN	E249	09H00-13H00
18 – 19 April	Public Service Amendment Bill ▪ Consideration	PC	DPSA OPEN	E249	09H00-13H00
23-26 April	Public Service Amendment Bill ▪ Consideration	PC	DPSA	E249	09H00-13H00

May 2007					
A. DATE	**ITEM**	**Stakeholders**		**Venue**	**Time**
		Briefing	**Attending**		
02 – 11	▪ Targeted Oversight Visits: Oversight on Social Security Services	Dept. of Home Affairs Dept. of Social Developme nt Dept. of Health	All Stakeholders	Northern Cape Mpuma-langa	09H00-17H00
16 Wednesday	▪ Report on Public Servants serving as Councillors ▪ State of the Public Service Report 2007	PSC	DPSA SITA SAMDI	TBA	09H00-13H00
18 Friday	▪ Hearings on the International Strategy of DPSA (South to South Dialogue, Africa Agenda, and IBSA)	DPSA SAMDI	PSC SITA SAMDI	TBA	09H00-13H00
23 Wednesday	▪ Briefing: Support to Dept. of Home Affairs on ID & Passport systems ▪ Briefing: Cyber Crime	SITA	Dept. of Home Affairs	TBA	09H00-13H00
25 Friday	▪ Briefing: Public Management Watch- ▪ Batho Pele and Project KHAEDU	DPSA	PSC SITA SAMDI	TBA	09H00-13H00
30 Wednesday	▪ Gender Mainstreaming in the Public Service ▪ Audit on Implementation of PSC recommendations	PSC DPSA SAMDI	SITA	TBA	09H00-13H00
June 2007					
DATE	**ITEM**	**Stakeholders**		**Venue**	**Time**
		Briefing	**Attending**		
06 Wednesday	▪ Hearings on: Management of poor performance in the Public Service ▪ Hearings on: The effectiveness of the National Anti-corruption Hotlines	PSC	SITA SAMDI DPSA	TBA	09H00-13H00

08 Friday	▪ Hearings: Induction & re-orientation programmes in the Public Service	SAMDI	DPSA SITA PSC	TBA	09H00-13H00

DATE	ITEM	Stakeholders		Venue	Time
		Briefing	Attending		
13 Wednesday	▪ Hearings: Report on the Audit of the Poverty Reduction programme	PSC	DPSA SITA SAMDI	TBA	09H00-13H00
20 Wednesday	▪ HRD Strategy in the Public Service ▪ Management of Compensation	DPSA GEMS	SITA SAMDI PSC	TBA	09H00-13H00
22 Friday	▪ Hearings: Memoranda of understanding: SITA with PAP and NEPAD	SITA	DSPA SAMDI PSC	TBA	09H00-13H00
27 Wednesday	▪ Hearings: Performance profile of Peace and Stability Cluster	Peace and Stability cluster	DPSA SITA SAMDI PSC	TBA	09H00-13H00
CONSTITUENCY PERIOD: 02 – 27 JULY					

August 2007					
01 Wednesday	▪ Hearings: Performance of Economic Transformation Cluster	Economic Transformation Cluster	DPSA SITA SAMDI PSC	TBA	09H00-13H00
03 Friday	▪ Briefing: Service Delivery Improvement Plans	DPSA	SITA SAMDI PSC	TBA	09H00-13H00
06 to 10	▪ Inspection on Service Delivery Improvement Plans of National Departments	Dept of Public Works Dept of Housing Dept of Education	PC SITA SAMDI PSC	GAU-TENG	09H00-17H00
13 to 17	▪ Inspection on Service Delivery Improvement Plans of Provincial Departments	Dept of Public Works Dept of Housing Dept of Education	PC SITA SAMDI PSC	GAU-TENG	09H00-17H00 " "

August 2007					
DATE	**ITEM**	**Stakeholders**		**Venue**	**Time**
		Briefing	**Attending**		
22 Wednesday	▪ State of the Public Service Commission – post review	PSC	DPSA SITA SAMDI	TBA	09H00-13H00
29 Wednesday	▪ Hearings: The Single Public Service Bill	DPSA	SITA SAMDI PSC	TBA	09H00-13H00
CONSTITUENCY PERIOD: 25 – 06 OCTOBER					

September 2007					
DATE	**ITEM**	**Stakeholders**		**Venue**	**Time**
		Briefing	**Attending**		
05 Wednesday	▪ Hearings: Feedback on ASGI-SA Programme of Action	DPSA	PSC SITA SAMDI	TBA	09H00-13H00
12 Wednesday	▪ Hearings: Performance of the Governance and Administration Cluster	Governance and Administration Cluster	DPSA SAMDI SITA PSC	TBA	09H00-13H00
19 Wednesday	▪ Hearings: on impact of the Housing delivery in Poverty eradication	Dept. of Housing PSC	DPSA SITA SAMDI	TBA	09H00-13H00
CONSTITUENCY PERIOD: 25 – 06 OCTOBER					

INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL TRIPS			
DATE	**CONFERENCE**	**VENUE**	**ATTENDANCE**
28 Feb –2 March 2007	▪ Preparation for Global Forum V Conference (Africa Forum)	T.B.A.	1 Delegate
26th – 28th March 2007	▪ 1st Biennial Labour Relations Conference	T.B.A.	2 Delegates
28 –30 March	▪ Monitoring and Evaluation Conference (PSC)	T.B.A.	2 Delegates
Date and venue to be announced	▪ Global Conference of Parliamentarians against Corruption, New Jersey, USA	T.B.A.	2 Delegates
2nd – 5th April 2007	▪ Global Forum V Conference	T.B.A.	2 Delegates
19th–20th April 2007	▪ IPMA-HR Conference	T.B.A.	2 Delegates
3-4 July 2007	▪ Common Wealth Forum on the African Heads of Public Service	Magaliesburg	3 Delegates
9th - 14th Jul 2007	▪ IASIA Conference; United Arab Emirates	T.B.A.	2 Delegates
July 2007	▪ The South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM)	T.B.A.	2 Delegates
TBA	Round Table Seminar on Transformation of SAMDI	T.B.A.	

3. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration on the SAAPAM Conference held 20- 22 Septembér 2006, dated 2 March 2007:

Annual Conference of the South African Association of Public Service and Administration Management (SAAPAM) was held at the Sun Coast Conference and Corporate Events in Durban on the 20th- 22nd September 2006.

1. Introduction

The Portfolio Committee of Public Service and Administration was invited and required to send a delegation to participate in the Conference proceedings. The theme of the conference was: "Improving Implementation for Accelerated Delivery".

The delegation to the conference comprised of the following:

- Ms M.J.J. Matsomela MP (ANC)
- Mr R. Sikakane MP (ANC)
- Mr I.F. Julies MP (DA)

2. Observations

Most of the delegates were academics from different institutions of higher education in South Africa.

A total number of forty-eight papers were delivered, mostly by academics, as well as senior government officials. The Director General, Professor R. Levin, who also gave the keynote address viz, "The Revolving Door", officially opened the conference.

2.1 The following topics were broadly covered during presentations and discussions:

- Institutional reform for accelerated delivery.
- Human Resource development and learning for accelerated delivery.
- Local Governance and delivery.
- The ethics of accelerated delivery.

2.1.1 Institutional reform for accelerated delivery

A number of papers were delivered on the topic. Most presenters emphasized the importance of institutional reform as well as the different ways that could be utilized in transforming and modernizing the South African public financial management to accelerate delivery. An interesting presentation and information was made on the institutional measures using the experiences within the Namibian public sector to ensure accelerated service delivery. Some of the models were illustrated with a view to adapting them to the South African public service for improved service delivery.

2.1.2 Human Resource development and Learning for accelerated delivery

This topic was discussed at length, and from the papers delivered there was consensus that human resource development is key to a credible public service. The following challenges were highlighted:

- Training programmes are not coordinated efficiently.

- The need for ongoing training and development.
- The relevance of training programmes.
- Needs-based and Strategic planning.

2.1.3 Local Governance and delivery

A lot of emphasis was put on the need for effective municipal government and administration as preconditions for effective service delivery. There was an in-depth discussion on the co-ordination and control strategy as means of paving the way to incremental intergovernmental relations at local government, service delivery as well as delegation of powers in the context of South African local government.

2.1.4 The ethics of accelerated delivery

The improvement of ethics regarding accountability and performance in contracted public service was discussed at length, especially with regards to the role of service recipients. An evaluation of service standards in the public service was done. The discussions also centred on public service values and ethics for improving the implementation of policies and accelerated delivery. However, most presenters a major seemed to believe that political interference hinders the administration in state departments and that this impacts negatively on service delivery.

3. Presentation by the Director-General of the DPSA, Professor R Levin

The key note address by Professor R. Levin on the topic "The Revolving Door and Collaborative Research" highlighted that the public service is stuck in the transactional mode, and that there was a need to be more transformational in our approaches. The following factors were mentioned as the rationale for the revolving door:

- Building capacity
- Developing knowledge
- Improving service delivery
- Project implementation
- Strengthening research
- Providing a benefit

The following were regarded as risks for the "The Revolving Door":

- Guarantees
- Conflict of interest
- Intellectual property rights
- Security concerns

"Revolving door" modalities are as follows:

- Short-term exchange
- Research partnerships
- Training interventions
- Sabbaticals

It was highlighted that high priority should be given to the development of senior leadership in the South African public service for accelerated service delivery. It emanated from the discussions that the major challenge for the South African public

service was to develop appropriate profiles of leadership competencies and thereby design necessary interventions to ensure appropriate leadership development.

The following were regarded as core management competencies:

- Strategic Capability and leadership
- Programme and project management
- Service delivery innovation
- Problem – solving and analysis
- Financial Management
- Change management
- Knowledge management
- People management and empowerment
- Client orientation and customer care communication
- Honesty and integrity

4. Recommendations

The following recommendations were made with a view to improving and accelerating delivery in the public service:

- Introduce and maintain high standard of professional ethics
- Efficient, economic and effective use of resources must be promoted
- Public Administration must be development orientated
- Public Administration must be accountable

5. Conclusion

The conference was a very informative and enlightening experience. Although it was more of an academic engagement, it highlighted important areas of service delivery, which require follow-ups by way of oversight on the part of Parliament. In future it would be invaluable for the Portfolio Committee to be given an opportunity to present its perspective on service delivery. This would also, to a large extent, bridge the gap between theory and practice.

4. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration on Study Tour to India, dated 2 March 2007:

1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration undertook a study tour to India during the period 9th to 14th October 2006, with a view to share information, in an exchange programme, with their counterpart Committees of Parliament and functionaries, in the areas of:

- The structures, policies, functions of Public Service and Administration at the three spheres of Governance;
- Cooperative Governance and Inter-governmental Relations;
- The role, location and powers of the Public Service Commission at the three spheres of Governance;
- The role of civil society in the democratic governance of the country.

The delegation to the study tour comprised of the following:

Committee Members

Mr M.R. Baloyi, MP (African National Congress) (Leader of Delegation)
Mr B. Mthembu, MP (African National Congress)
Mr M J G Mzondeki, MP (African National Congress)
Mrs P R Mashangoane MP (African National Congress)
Mr K J Minnie MP (Democratic Alliance)
Dr U Roopnarian MP (Inkatha Freedom Party)

Support Staff

Mrs L Dyasi (Committee Secretary)
Mr M Biyela (Committee Researcher)
Mr X November (Member Support)

Representatives from the Department and Ministry of the Public Service and Administration

Ms L Sing (Chief Director: Macro-Organisation of the State)
Mr L Rabkin (Parliamentary Liaison Officer).

2. EXPERIENCE/INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The Portfolio Committee was based in New Delhi, and conducted the study mission through consultations, meetings and site visits. During this study tour, active interactions took place between the South African delegation and representatives of the Government of India on the following issues:

2.1 GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION

The South African delegation contributed to the topic as follows:

- Democratic dispensation since 1994 created a need for accelerated transformation of the Public Service from a compliance-cultured to a service delivery-based Public Service;
- Policies developed, such as the following:

(i) Batho Pele Policy, that seeks to put people first in the delivery of public services by Public Officials, through setting standards for Public Service performance, such that:

- Consumers of Public services are consulted so as to air their views on matters that affect them;
- Benchmarks are conducted to assess and ensure citizen satisfaction;
- Access to services is accelerated;
- Courteous rendering of services is guaranteed;
- Consumers of services receive information on the activities of the Government in service delivery;

- Openness and transparency is guaranteed;
- Redress is encouraged where service is sub-standard;
- The citizenry receive quality and value-adding services.

(ii) Public service education and training policy, that seeks to declare our public service to be a learning environment;

(iii) Other policies dedicated to the line-functional areas of the respective Government Departments, such as the following, to mention a few:

- Policy on Agriculture and land reform, that seeks to redress Apartheid-created imbalances through restitution, redistribution and affirmation as well as the introduction of farmer support schemes.
- Policy on Education, that seeks to open the doors of learning to all, by removing the obstacles to the accessibility of education occasioned due to poverty and related obstacles;
- Policy on Communication, that guarantees access to information, transparency and public participation;
- Policy on Housing, that seeks to facilitate housing development to ensure that all citizens have access to this basic need of peoples' lives.

A practice was introduced, dealing with Parliamentary accountability mechanism, in terms of which Government Departments submit their annual reports to Parliament, and Ministers appear before the two Houses of Parliament to answer questions related to the functioning of their respective Departments, as well as an arrangement where Portfolio Committees of Parliament always call upon Departments to brief them on their activities against their strategic plans.

For a smooth roll out of issues as per set targets, a solid foundation was laid by deciding on the creation of three spheres of Government, namely: National, Provincial and Local Government spheres.

A Proportional Representation Electoral System was chosen so as to fast track the rebirth of a new South Africa based on the founding values of entrenching one National agenda for the deracialisation, de-ethnicisation and detribalisation of the country in order to promote peace, stability and integration across all odds.

The Indian delegation contributed to the discussions as follows:

There are three spheres of Government in the Federal Government of India, namely: Local Government, State Government and Union Government.

For recruitment purposes, there are examinations that the Union Public Service Commission conducts annually for the citizens of India that aspirant Public Service applicants have to write.

Through the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, a Citizens' Charter has been developed to ensure Good Governance through Transparency, Accountability and Citizen Friendliness, born out of a desire to address the dissatisfaction

of the citizen/consumer/customer with erstwhile quality of service offered by a public sector organisation.

India passed the Right to Information Act in 2005, which is the equivalent of our Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA), and in terms of their Act, they seek to:

- Set up a practical regime of the right to information for citizens;
- Secure access to information under the control of the public authorities;
- Promote transparency and thus accountability in the workings of every public authority;
- Contain corruption;
- Increase citizens' awareness and ability to exercise their rights;
- Equip citizens to participate meaningfully in the development process.

Again, through the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, India has adopted a Model Code of Governance, which is recognised as a pre-requisite for participative and citizen-centric development, and also considered by States as a model against which performance can be measured and compared.

The main components of the Model Code of Governance are:

- Improving Service Delivery;
- Development of Programmes for weaker sections and Backward areas;
- Technology and system improvement;
- Financial Management and Budget Sanctity;
- Accountability and transparency;
- Public Service morale and Anti-corruption measures;
- Incentivising reforms.

The Government of India has set up an Administrative Reforms Commission, with a mandate to prepare a detailed blueprint for revamping the Public Administrative systems under the following terms of reference:

- Organisational structure of the Government of India;
- Ethics in Governance;
- Refurbishing of personnel Administration;
- Strengthening of financial management systems;
- Steps to ensure effective administration at the State level;
- Steps to ensure effective District Administration;
- Local self-Government;
- Social capital, Trust and participative public service delivery;
- Citizen-centric Administration;

- Promoting e-Governance;
- Promoting issues of Federal polity;
- Crisis management;
- Public order.

India has a system of clustering Departments under one Ministry, such as the Department of Administrative Reforms, the Department of Personnel and Pensions, and the Department of Police, which are under the Prime Minister.

It is a common practice that Portfolio Committees of Parliament send out questionnaires to the Departments who have to appear before them, in advance, so that they can be in a position to prepare thoroughly for the briefing.

2.2 EDUCATION

The Indian delegation contributed to the discussion as follows:

In order to meet the post-war industrial demands of India post-independence in 1947, India phased in the establishment of the India Institutes of Technology, which deals among other things, with training of engineers. They now stand at six (6). We visited one of them in New Delhi.

These institutes produce engineers of employable quality the world over.

They are partly funded by Government.

They have Memoranda of Understanding with other Universities outside the country, and indicated willingness to consider expanding their networking base with similar institutions in South Africa.

India has a National Council of Education Research and Training that undertakes educational research and development, in-service and pre-service training, extension and dissemination of work to improve the quality of school education, development of teaching methods, skills and learning resources.

The Council also acts as a think tank for Government in dealing with matters of policy development.

The South African delegation contributed to the discussion as follows:

The JIPSA programme focuses on development of scarce skills. It is a build up to processes and interventions introduced since the current Democratic dispensation in 1994.

The teacher training institutions have been re-directed to focus our school education programmes to address scarce skills.

The institutions of higher learning have been rationalised with a view to ensure a co-ordinated programme to contribute towards the redress of past imbalances.

2.3 RURAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The South African delegation contributed as follows to this topic:

The Local Sphere of Government is categorised into three, namely: A, B, and C.

Political structures of the municipalities constituted through a democratic process of elections for Proportional Representation and for Wards. Management structures appointed by the political principals;

Key functions of the municipalities include the following:

- Provide services to communities in a sustainable manner;
- Promote social and economic development;
- Promote safe and healthy environment;
- Encourage community participation in matters of Local Government;
- Promote Integrated Development Planning;
- Coordinate issues around housing, and
- Deal with any other issue that is a service delivery priority need of their respective communities, either directly or through partnerships.

Local Government areas are the service delivery points even for those services that are not the competency of the Municipalities;

Local Government structures are still new.

Organised Local Government operationalised under the auspices of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), which derives powers from the Constitution to do the following:

- Coordinate Local Government;
- Deal with matters of labour relations;
- Capacity building for municipalities.
- Represent Local Government in the National Council of Provinces of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa;
- Represent Local Government in dealing with matters of legislation and policy development.

Legislation developed to define the Institution of traditional rule, locate it within the wall-to-wall operation concept of Municipalities and affirm it to be able to have the necessary capacity to actively participate in Governance.

The Indian delegation contributed as follows to the topic:

- Three layers of rural Local Governance, namely: Village Panchayats, intermediate Panchayats and District Panchayats.

- Elections every five years;
- They provide basic services;
- They may become franchises for the distribution of electricity;
- They determine their budgets;
- They do activity mapping.

2.4 INDIA-SOUTH AFRICA BILATERALS

It came to light during our interaction with the South African High Commissioner to India that several Memoranda of Understanding have been signed between India and South Africa, such as the following:

Title	Date Signed	Date Entered Into Force
Parcel Post Agreement	09/03/1911/01/05/1911	
Agreement between Postal Administrations (Money Orders)	16/06/1911/31/08/1911	
Exchange of Notes Concerning the Establishment of Cultural Centre by the Republic of India in South Africa and a Liaison Office by the Republic of South Africa in India	20/07/1993	
Protocol on the Establishment of Consular Relations between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of India	22/11/1993	
Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of India	22/11/1993	
Trade Agreement	22/08/1994	22/08/1994
Agreement on the Intergovernmental Joint Commission for Political Trade, Economic, Cultural Scientific and Technical Co-operation	25/01/1995	22/08/1994
Protocol on Co-operation between the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India	25/01/1995	
Treaty of the Principles of Inter-State Relations	25/01/1995	
Agreement on Co-operation in the Fields of Science and Technology	19/07/1995	
Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on	04/12/1996	28/11/1997

Income		
Agreement on Co-operation in the fields of Education, Arts, Culture and Sports	04/12/1996	
Red Fort Declaration	28/03/1997	
Agreement in the Fields of Tourism	07/10/1997	
Agreement on Co-operation in the Fields of Geology and Mineral Resources	07/10/1997	
Bilateral Air Transport Agreement	05/12/1998	05/12/1998
Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Co-operation in Telecommunications	09/12/1998	
Protocol of the Second Meeting of the Indo-South African Working Group on Geology and Mineral Resources of the Joint Commission for Political, Trade, Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Co-operation	09/11/1999	
Agreement on Defence Co-operation	27/09/2000	27/09/2000
Executive Programme for Cultural Co-operation for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003	15/03/2001	15/03/2001
Declaration of Intent in the Field of Health and Medicine	30/04/2001	
Memorandum of Understanding on Antarctic Co-operation	05/12/2002	05/12/2002
Agreement Concerning Co-operation in the Field of Electricity/Power	16/10/2003	
Agreement for Co-operation in Hydrocarbon Sector	16/10/2003	
Executive Programme for Cultural Co-operation for t he years 2004, 2005 and 2006 (Not an agreement)	16/10/2003	
Joint Declaration	16/10/2003	
Treaty of Extradition	16/10/2003	
Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	16/10/2003	
Agreement on Supplies of Defence Equipment	11/12/2003	11/12/2003
Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Communications and Information Technologies	15/09/2004	15/09/2004
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of South Africa Concerning Merchant Shipping and Other Maritime Transport Related Matters	23/03/2006	
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the	04/01/2006	

Government of the Republic of South Africa on Co-operation on the Field of Health and Medicine		
Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of India on Co-Operation in the Field of Governance, Administration and Other Related Areas	12/06/2006	
Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the Field of Housing and Human Settlements	27/04/2006	
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the Field of Education	02/10/2006	
The Tshwane Declaration on Reaffirming the Strategic Partnership Between South Africa and India	02/10/2006	

Some of these Bilateral Agreements have a bearing on the functioning of the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration, such as the one of the 12th June 2006. The most recent Memorandum of Understanding is the one that has been signed between the Minister of Public Service and Administration of the Government of South Africa and her counterpart Minister Pachouri, which focuses on the following:

- Exchange of study tours;
- Exchange of experts to deliver lectures, build capacity and undertake comparative studies through joint research;
- Secondments of pubic officials from institutions of one Party to institutions of the other Party;
- Mentorship and exchange programmes to facilitate skills transfer;
- Human Resource development or training of public officials of one Party by the other Party;
- Joint training programmes between the two countries fro senior management; and
- Such other ways within the purview of this MoU as the competent authorities may agree upon.

It was noted that the challenge that exists is the implementation part of these agreements.

As we were considering the June 2006 Agreement, it came to light that the parties blame each other for delays in the implementation.

2.5 URBAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The South African delegation contributed to the topic as follows:

Urban development is a shared area of responsibility between the three spheres of Government and operates in terms of the programmes for our Urban renewal programmes as well as town and city development agenda.

The Local Government sphere that focuses on urban areas are largely the Metropolitans or Category A Municipalities and they denote the following features:

- Conurbation features, such as high population density, an intense movement of people, goods and services, extensive development, multiple business districts and industrial areas;
- Having a centre of economic activity with a complex and diverse economy;
- Constituting a single area in which integrated development planning is desirable, and
- Having strong interdependent social and economic linkages between its constituents units.

Urban development is addressed as an aspect of our history, which reflects a reality where there was skewed development of inner and outer-city centres on racial considerations, in which case one would find separate service delivery practices in one continuous geographical area, hence the agenda to redress the imbalances.

There are six of these Metropolitans in the country, and they are organised such that they are self sustaining from the economic and financial strength derived from their revenue and tax bases.

The development of informal settlement is one of the challenges in urban development.

The Indian delegation contributed as follows:

There are 63 cities that fall under the Urban Local Government in India, and they are respectively characterised as follows:

- 7 cities have over 4 million population each;
- 28 cities have 1 to 4 million population each;
- 28 cities are selected cities with less than 1 million population each.

The Department of Urban Development has an overall function of coordinating urban development through the respective municipalities.

They have what they call "Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission" which seeks to ensure that the following are achieved in the urban sector:

- Focused attention to integrated development of infrastructure services;

- Establishment of linkages between asset creation and assert management through a slew of reforms for long-term project sustainability.
- Ensuring adequate funds to meet the deficiencies in urban infrastructural services;
- Planned development of identified cities including peri-urban areas, outgrowths and urban corridors leading to dispersed urbanisation;
- Scale up delivery of civic amenities and provision of utilities with emphasis on universal access to the urban poor;
- Provision of basic services to the urban poor including security of tenure at affordable prices, improved housing, water supply and sanitation, and ensuring delivery of other existing universal services of the Government for education, health and social security;
- Special focus on urban renewal programmes for the old-city areas to reduce congestions.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The South African delegation contributed to this topic as follows:

- There is one National Public Service Commission appointed by Parliament.
- There is the administrative Office of the Public Service Commission that deals with the implementation of the policies of the Government that are the competencies of the Public Service Commission, and accordingly act as the Secretariat of the Public Service Commission.
- The Public Service Commission's major role is to ensure that the values and principles of Public Administration as enshrined in the Constitution are implemented, which are:
    - A high standard of professional ethics;
    - Effective, economic and efficient use of resources;
    - Development-oriented Public Administration;
    - Impartial, fair and equitable distribution of resources;
    - Responsiveness and participatory policy-making;
    - Accountability;
    - Transparency;
    - Good human resource management and career development practices; and
    - Demographic representivity.

The Indian delegation contributed to this topic as follows:

The Union Public Service Commission of the Government of India operates as a central personnel institution and deals with the following matters:

- Recruitment through examinations;
- Recruitment by selections through interviews;

- Advice on the suitability of officers for appointment on promotion as well as transfer or deputation;
- Handling disciplinary cases;
- Advising the Government on any Government matters referred to it for consideration.

2.6 DEBRIEFING AND WAY FORWARD

The South African delegation and the Indian representatives of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances held an impact assessment session to evaluate the effectiveness or otherwise of the study tour, as well as to suggest what could be considered as a way forward in dealing with some of the identified issues, and the following came to light:

- That the fact that the South African delegation could not be in a position to interact with their counterpart in the form of Committees of Parliament was regretted as a missing link to the success of the study tour. This proposed interaction could not take place because the Parliament of India was in recess during the visit.
- That there is a need for further interactions between the Portfolio Committees, even if it means on an issue-by-issue basis;
- The oversight role of Parliament should be strengthened and be visibly seen in dealing with the implementation of bilateral and multilateral deals;
- Common workshops for Parliamentarians should be organised;
- Targeted understudy focused groups should be organised;
- Retreats for Parliamentarians should be organised;
- The Department of Public Service and Administration of South Africa and the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances of India should finalise the appointment of Joint Coordinators for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries.

3 OBSERVATIONS

There are quite a lot of similarities in terms of systems and practices of Public Administration between the two countries and a lot could be gained from each other in terms of dealing with the challenges of implementation, refinement and further projections.

4 CONCLUSION

Despite the fact that the delegation was unable to interact with Parliamentarians due to the fact that Parliament was in recess, the Committee has been sufficiently exposed to the areas of study that it wanted to engage in, as per the programme, as we interacted on the following issues as per our original itinerary:

- The structures, policies, functions of Public Service and Administration at the three spheres of Governance;
- Cooperative Governance and Inter-governmental Relations;

- The role, location and powers of the Public Service Commission at the three spheres of Governance;
- The role of civil society in the Democratic governance of the country.

The Committee could have, however, done far better if its initial plans were not compromised, as we would have been exposed to the situation at the countryside of India, and could get to know more about Parliamentary processes impacting on Public Service and Administration.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the position developed during the debriefing session, as in paragraph 2.7 above, should be further considered for implementation, possibly with a clear timetable for dealing with those matters raised.

Relevant Committees of Parliament to follow up on the status of the respective Bilateral Agreements between South Africa and India.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee acknowledges, with appreciation, the sterling work of the office of the South African High Commissioner to India, for receiving us and making our stay and our work there a success, particularly through the tireless efforts of the Second Secretary in the High Commissioner's Office, Mr Bobby Moroe and, not least, Mr Ramashaba.

The Committee also recognises the participation of a representative of the Office of the Minister for Public Service and Administration, Mr Lewis Rabkin, and the representative of the Department of the Public Service and Administration, Ms Lynette Sing.

TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2007

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. **Report of Portfolio Committee on Education** on the **Annual Reports and Financial Statements for 2005/2006 of the Department of Education and its entities**, dated 13 March 2007:

The Portfolio Committee on Education, having considered and examined the Annual Reports of the Department of Education and the Council of Higher education (CHE), the South African Council for Educators (SACE), Education, Labour Relations Council (ELRC), National Students Financial Aid Scheme (NSFA), South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), UMALUSI (General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance) and National Board for Education and Training (NBFET) reports that it has concluded its deliberations thereon.

2. **Report of the Portfolio Committee on Education on Provincial Oversight Visit to schools in Northwest and Limpopo Provinces**

A. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Education having undertaken an oversight visit to schools, reports as follows:

As part of its oversight function over schools, the Portfolio Committee took a decision to conduct its visits to the Limpopo and North West Provinces, in 31 July- 4 August 2006.

B. LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Portfolio Committee Members divided themselves into two teams of multi party delegations.

The delegation to North West Province led by Prof SM Mayatula (ANC) included Ms PR Mashangoane (ANC), Adv. AD Gaum (ANC) and Mr I Mfundisi. Mr Bhoola (MF) who was part of the delegation did not turn up. The delegation was accompanied by Ms Phumza Mpoyiya Committee Secretary and Ms Nonzwakazi Stemele, Committee Assistant.

In the North West Province the delegation was joined by, the Chairperson of the Provincial Legislature Portfolio Committee on Education, Mr B Mahlangu, together with Committee Members: Mr M R Matlholwa, Ms Mothibi, Ms V Kekesi, and Ms L Molema.

The National Department of Education was represented by, Mr Ncedo Hoyi (Finance), Ms Cynthia Mgijima (NSNP), Ms Marie-Louise Samuels (ECD) and Mr Peter Legong (Governance), the Director-General's office was represented by Mr S Mlambo and Ms E Sedibe.

The delegation to Limpopo Province led by Mr. B Mthembu ANC (Leader of delegation), included Mr. R Van der Heever (ANC), Mr. G Mosala (ANC), Ms L Maloney (ANC), Mr. G Boinamo (DA). The delegation was accompanied by Ms. N Borotho (as Committee Secretary) and Ms C Adams (Committee Assistant)

In the Limpopo Province the delegation was joined by, the Chairperson of the Provincial Legislature Portfolio Committee on Education, as well as the National Department of Education.

C. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The theme of the committee visit was "Towards the provision of quality education in the second decade of democracy".

The main purpose of the visit was to assess the extent to which quality education is provided, with specific reference to the following issues:

- Early Childhood Development [ECD];
- National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP);
- Infrastructure development, Education for Learners with Special Education Needs (LSEN);
- Whether teachers are properly trained for the new curriculum;
- Provision of human resources at the provincial, district, circuit and school levels;
- Funding, Implementation of the Integrated Quality Management System (IQMS);
- Implementation of no fee schools, Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET);
- Functioning of School Governing Bodies (SGB);
- Scholar Transport;
- Discipline management, and other issues.

The proposed theme rests firstly, on the assumption that considerable progress has been made during the first decade of democracy to make education accessible to all. Although there are still challenges in achieving 100% universal primary education, we should begin to focus more on the provision of quality education in the second decade. Secondly, the theme rests on the assumption that achieving quality education is a process that needs to be continuously and consciously monitored to determined progress and challenges, hence the expression "Towards the provisioning of quality education". Thirdly, but also equally important, quality education is determined by numerous variables but there are those inputs that are considered to be critical in the provision of quality education. There is general consensus that the inputs (issues of focus noted above) are critical in the provision of quality education.

The provision of education is based on certain minimum standards and norms set by the Education Department or that are considered to be educational and necessary for quality education.

Therefore in assessing the provision of quality education, the committee used a standard questionnaire, which looked at the various focus areas throughout the schools. In order to get a good sample, the delegation visited a sample of schools covering the different categories, across the respective provinces i.e. ECD, High Schools categorised as Section 21 and section 20, which have best performance and poor performance; the Special Schools; Combined schools and Farm schools.

D. FINDINGS

1. REPORT ON VISIT TO NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The Status report from the Provincial Department covered the following focal areas:

On the 31 July, the Committee received reports on status of schools with reference to the following programmes:

1.1 Early Childhood Development (ECD)

Ms A Pedro and her team led the presentation on brief overview on progress made by the Province in response to legislation.

In order to incorporate grade R into ordinary school, the province used the services of Price Water Coopers to conduct audit on the state of ECD. The consultants were appointed through a Tender Committee and are required to compile a comprehensive report on their findings and further develop an implementation plan for the Province.

1.1.1 The **achievements** of ECD are as follows:

- A preliminary Audit Report on the state of readiness of Grade R in the province has been presented at the 5th Steering committee meeting which was held on 14 July 2006
- Relevant stakeholders will prepare recommendations for a workshop scheduled for August 2006 in order to finalise the Audit Report.
- The 0-4 years (EPWP) plan has been approved by the Acting Superintendent General and the Tender Committee.
- The Acting-Superintendent- General has approved the budget for employment of 28 staff component for the Directorate.
- The 330 Practitioners & 300 Caregivers will receive training NQF level 4 qualifications, from the Orbit FET College (service provider) and the Vuselela College.

1.1.2 The noted **challenges** however for ECD, were the lack of capacity and in ability to meet tight timeframes.

1.2 Implementation of New Curriculum Strategy (NCS) State of Readiness

This presentation was led by Mr Reichel, Mr Phillipose together with his team.

The report focused on brief background on orientation provided for Provincial Training Team (PCTT) as well as monitoring mechanisms.

The provincial Department has plans to offer further training for educators on the new content in the new financial year. In order to sustain support there will be subject specialists within the regions to provide continuous support to teachers through the professional support forums (PSF).

1.2.1 Challenges

- Non appointment of curriculum Coordinators for crucial subjects such as Mathematics/Maths. Literacy, Information Technology, Services and African Languages.
- GET has only 3 out of 12 posts. As a result FET personnel are assisting them. This causes an over load on them. They are unable to meet their own responsibilities.
- In the regions there is no separation of GET and FET for most subjects. Some subject specialists cater for grade 4 to 12.
- Budget allocated to FET is exhausted now. As a result planned programmes cannot be done.
- There is an outcry of transport problems in the regions.
- 75% of the posts are vacant.
- Principals refuse to release teachers for training.

The committee expressed serious concern about the excessive amount of R1, 7 million used to provide meals for the educators during training. While R 200 000 was used for distribution materials. The total cost of the training could not be confirmed as educators still have to submit claims for their transport costs to attend the workshops.

1.3 Adult Basic Education and Training

Ms Mekgwe gave an overview and reference to the provisional vision for 2007/08.

The ABET has been established with clear links with the training objectives of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). It serves as a complete establishment and with a structure and adequate budget to effect the "T" i.e. training part in ABET which provides viable skills in Public Adult Learning Centres. Adult Basic Education & Training seeks to improve literacy and reduce illiteracy in the province. It has to further provide for satisfactory conditions of Service for Educators and ensure stability with a stable cadre of ABET qualified Educators (through Learnerships etc.)

1.3.1 Achievements

The province, currently has 240 established Public Adult Learning Centres, with 2050 Educators who facilitate training to 24 892 learners in formal ABET programmes. The programmes are run in collaboration with host schools, through partnerships with other Government Departments and NGOs.

The Department has a complete Directorate, responsible for offering skills programmes in Centres of Excellence. The Directorate has 200 volunteer Facilitators, who offer 200 Literacy units. The facilitators are paid a stipend on a monthly basis as part of poverty alleviation and contribution to reduction of unemployment. So far the skills programmes have established 21 Centres of Excellence to improve delivery of Adult Basic Education.

1.3.2 Success Indicators

Despite the above circumstances, the Directorate has been successful in providing skills training and development for rural and community development projects. The Department has been successful in offering learnership in bricklaying, plumbing and carpentry through the Expanded Public Works Programme

1.3.4 Poverty Alleviation and unemployment reduction

The Department in collaboration with the Provincial Youth Commission and the ETDP-SETA, as part of the Expanded Public Works Programme for poverty alleviation will offer training to 150 unemployed matriculants who are in rural areas through learnership.

1.3.5 The noted **challenges** were the high turnover of Educators, due to unclear conditions of service and this makes the structure incomplete and unable to function effectively.

1.4 Life skills and HIV/AIDS Programme

Mr Eric Ganz, Provincial Co-ordinator for Life Skills and HIV/AIDS, gave an overview of the Department programme, highlighting the mission, vision and strategies employed by the Department in implementing the programme.

1.4.1 The **challenges** for the HIV/AIDS programme were noted as follows:

HIV/AIDS Co-ordinators are stationed at Regional Offices as part of Inclusive Education Programme. However it is difficult to coordinate the programme at District Level, due to shortage of staff at strategic levels.

1.5 Integrated Quality Management System (IQMS)

Ms D Mohube led a brief report on progress made on implementation processes of IQMS.

1.5.1 The **challenges** for IQMS were noted as follows:

- In small schools specifically in some rural and farm schools, the multi-grade classes still pose a serious challenge with regard to the first four Performance Standards – Lesson Observation.
- For Educators who teach more than one learning subject there is no clarity on which score to appear on the score sheet, especially during Summative Evaluation.
- The shortage of educators for technical subjects, pose a serious challenge with regard to establishment of DSG.
- In cases where there is a vacancy for a Principal, it becomes a challenge to conduct an evaluation when the post has not been filled.
- There is concern that the Development Support Groups (DSGs) allocate high marks for the educators, and this creates an impression that further development is not necessary for educators.
- There is concern that the high scores do not correlate with the overall performance of the school.
- The Internal support structures in Regions are not adequate to deal with moderation of the scores of educators.
- Capturing of the date after completion of appraisal – PGPs and Scores to develop educators' profiles – establishment of an integrated education human resource management information systems can assist.
- The end of the cycle, as the collective agreement dictates, coincides with the hectic time of examinations at the end of the year.
- The province is one year behind with the process; fast-tracking the Summative Evaluation for 2006, for payment July 2007 is recommended.

1.6 National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP)

The National School Nutrition Programme has walked a long journey since its transfer based on the Cabinet Resolution of 18 September 2002; the Department of Education has the mandate to manage the National School Nutrition Programme, with effect from 01 April 2004. To date the Department has registered tremendous progress in terms of its mandate to deliver 100% of nutritionally balanced meals in all the targeted schools. It also experienced both external and internal challenges that affected the implementation of the mandate.

The **success of the programme** was attributed to the memorandum of cooperation between the MEC, Rev. OJ Tselapedi and Mr Mayisela MEC for Health.

1.6.1 The following **successes** of the NSN Programme were highlighted:

At the beginning of the programme, only grade 0-4 and 1-5 benefited from the scheme in a school, and we were only feeding for four days. From the beginning of the year,

January 2006, all the learners in the targeted schools benefited from the programme i.e. from grade 0-7. The number of learners has increased from 380 385 to 488 654 in five regions (Province).

Through this programme (NSNP), we have created employment opportunities for 4720 women to feed (cook) for our learners at the respective schools. They were contracted through a tendering process.

Also, 35 youth have been employed on contract through the Learnership programme as Administrative assistants, to facilitate payment of service providers. The duration of these contracts depends on the availability of funds. The contract is one financial year (expires on the 31 March 2006/7).

In order to sustain the food production, an Assistant Director has been appointed to manage this programme in the Province.
A team has been established and consists of two selected officials from the regions, who consistently ensure that the programme is rolled out smoothly in all the participating schools. In terms of training, 179 educators have been capacitated on orange flashed sweet potato production and 210 schools received sweet potato cuttings for planting. Further 11 capacity building training workshops have been held for 257 schools, where in 26 government officials, 800 educators and 75 parents received training.

In terms of nutrition, at a strategic level the departments of Education and of health have developed a guide document on mandatory NSNP menu options and a rigorous quality assurance process for food products (industrial foods) intended for the use of NSNP. The latter control measure was necessitated by the proliferation of instant foods in the menus. However, health and hygiene at food preparation points are yet to be addressed through training. The department of education has capacitated fifteen (APO officials) monitors as master trainers to train groups of service providers/ groups of food handlers, starting in nodal regions. After the initial training of master trainers, the role of the department of education will be that of mentoring and quality assurance.

1.6.2 Challenges

With regard to feeding of learners

- Initially schools in the programme were 1465, the latest statistics as per regional audit is 1394 this decline in figures can be attributed to various factors:- Some schools have merged; others have closed down; and others schools have been upgraded to high schools
- Previously feeding was from the first five grades (grade 0-4 or grade 1-5) and targeted learners were 380 385 when eating utensils were budgeted for. This resulted in shortages of the utensils when all grades in primary schools were fed from January 2006. The number of learners increased from 380 385 to 488 654.
- Learners from the same household at different levels (intermediate and the GET phase) do not all have access to the scheme, despite being needy from the same economic background.
- Registered ECD centers are not clearly identified; we do not have reliable data. In terms of the cabinet memorandum, they must be included in the programme.

- Farm schools with low enrolment often do not access this benefit because of minimal profit from the tender that does not entice prospective Service Providers
- Unreliable learner statistics from schools
- Payment problems are experienced in some schools due to incorrect filling of data by the Service Providers
- Soliciting support from the communities to combat corruption, such as fronting, fraud and compliancy.
- Employment of dieticians has not been effected.
- Employment of an environmental official has not been effected.
- Employment of a school nurse has not been effected.
- Minimal monitoring and support at the regional and APO levels because of lack of transport. Although at corporate office transport is available, monitoring and support is minimal as administrative duties keep officials in most instances in office.

With regard to sustainable food product

- There is a need for permanent staff or officials to manage and monitor the programme in the regions.
- Unavailability of basic resources, fencing and garden implements in schools poses a serious problem in the implementation of the programme
- Minimal budget
- Lack of water in most schools

1.7 Chief Directorate Auxiliary Services: Report on Infrastructure Development Programmes

The Chief Directorate- Auxiliary Services, Mr Murugas and his team gave an overview covering performance and achievements for 2005 as response to schools infrastructure needs in the province.

1.7.1 Success and progress on Projects

It was reported that 13 new school projects have been completed, which included water supply, sanitation, fencing, alternative accommodation and office space for regional offices. Further other 13 new projects with the Department of Public Works have been completed.

In terms of 2006/07 infrastructure programme, the Directorate has projects for the Department, which include **19 new schools to be built this year**. It is expected that 18 of them will be finalised by October this year. One school has a site problem and this is being attended to by the local municipality. The Department in partnership with business is involved in building of new schools i.e 2 with Vodacom and 1 with Impala Mines (1 school). It is hoped that these will be finalised by end of the year.
Other projects included water supply, fencing, sanitation, storm drainage and mobile classrooms. These will focus on 22 schools in the Bophirima Region, which was affected by floods. Lastly the Education Department and Public Works Department have further identified 36 other schools for minor and major renovations.

1.7.2 The following were identified as challenges

The National Treasury through the IDIP programme had committed to assist the Department in order to deliver projects on time. The concern of the Directorate is that, some communities tend to reject Contractors from outside their area and this has negative impact on completion of the project. While some BEE Contractors are experiencing cash flow problems and this causes further delays. The budget allocated to the Directorate Physical Resources Planning and Facilities Management has a shortfall of R297million for 2006/07. A request for additional funding has been submitted to Treasury. Further, the Directorate does not have works inspectors and physical planners, vacancies need to be filled.

The Directorate is under pressure in filling vacant posts as there is more work to be done. There is serious shortage of Inspectors and physical planners. This makes it difficult for sites to be visited timeously to make sure that sure that there is service delivery. Further there is a shortage of certain building materials e.g. Corrugated Irons, Window Frames and Door frames. It was also reported that some of the BEE Contractors are experiencing cash flow problems and this contributes to further delays.

The committee expressed concern that the report provided was too general. A request was made, that in order for the Committee to get better understanding of the challenges, the Directorate should provide submit to the committee a progress report on their projects per district with their budgets and challenges thereof.

1.8 Human Resource Management & Development Chief Directorate [HRM&D]

Mr Malaka and his team gave a brief structural overview of the Directorate and reflected on objectives of the programme as well as on relevant legislations.

1.8.1 Projects and achievements

In terms of the Provincial Growth & Development Strategy, the Directorate has done the following:

a) Signing of PELRC Collective Agreement No.1 of 2006 dealing with permanent appointment of temporary educators: Job Creation.
b) Skills Development programmes are implemented (5 Learnerships programmes are currently implemented).
c) In All 799 educators in excess in the entire province, are redeployed, only 12 remain in addition but are to be redeployed by the end of the 3rd quarter.
d) Functional analysis of the organogram & development of staffing norms is to be implemented; a tender advertisement was published to secure a service provider for the project.

1.8.2 Challenges for the Directorate were indicated as follows

The biggest problem for the province are financial constraints, the budget of R 38 million is not enough for the directorate to respond to its objectives. There are 21 IQMS posts available, but it is not possible to fill them, because the budget has not been received from the National Department.

The Directorate needs to develop staffing norms so as to be able to assess the impact of jobs performed in the office. A service provider still needs to make final findings

and advise the department accordingly. Another is the serious shortage of graduates with degree who have practical experiences. These people need to be retrained. The organogram was approved in 2004, but no budget has been set aside, hence it is still difficult to implement policies.

Further in terms of implementation of IQMS policies, the Department is experiencing some challenges, as there are issues of concern that need to be ratified with the Teacher Unions across the country.

1.9 Special Schools and Inclusive Education

Ms Z. Sprang led the presentation gave a brief overview of the delivery mechanisms of the Directorate.

1.9.1 Achievements were noted as follows:

- Constructions are underway for a new Special School for the Blind and partially sighted learners.
- The directorate has submitted proposals for establishment of a CYC Centre for boys to cater for approx 85 learners designated by court order. The school will be established in 2007.
- The proposal submitted for Resource Centre for FET sector for learners who are sensory disabled was approved. The school will be established in 2007.

1.9.2 The following challenges were highlighted:

- The non-filling of specialist support staff posts at special schools, e.g. Therapist/Psychologist posts is hampering the addressing of severe barriers to learning experienced by learners.
- In ability to fill non-teaching staff posts at special schools.
- Severe infrastructural backlogs at special schools.
- Special schools to be fully included in all professional support services (with specific reference to curriculum support) provided to all learning institutions at regional, APO and cluster level. The revision and reformulation of the education budget to meet the needs of an IE system.
- Transport problems experienced by both learners and special schools.
- Equipment / Assistive devices and Material resources backlogs
- Expanding access and provision to accommodate the large number of out-of-school disabled children.

1.10 Provincial Funding

Mr Moiloanyane, Finance Directorate gave breakdown of the Department's budget for provincial schools reflected as follows:

SCHOOLS' NORMS BUDGET: 2006/2007

	QUINTILE 1	QUINTILE 2	QUINTILE 3	QUINTILE 4	QUINTILE 5	TOTALS
NO. OF SCHOOLS	545	417	431	407	393	2,193
NO. OF LEARNERS	177,446	172,972	185,986	175,352	236,860	948,616
TOTAL NORMS ALLOCATION	36,519,801	25,427,869	21,823,822	15,466,645	6,963,954	106,202,091
ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION	26,000,686	31,597,279				57,597,965
LTSM ALOCATION	37,052,206	42,312,077	41,624,908	44,247,309	42,620,183	207,856,683
TOTAL	99,572,693	99,337,225	63,448,730	59,713,954	49,584,137	371,656,739
PER LEARNER	561	574	341	341	209	392
TARGET TABLES	703	645	**527**	352	117	
MONETARY VALUE	25,171,845	12,229,715	34,565,892	2,009,950	0	73,977,402
LTSM PER LEARNER	208.81	244.62	223.81	252.33	179.94	219.12
ALLOCATION BEFORE ADD	205.81	147.01	117.34	88.20	29.40	111.95
TARGET ACHIEVEMENT	517	406	63	54	41	1,081

2. Tabular report of the schools visited

Name of School	ICT Computer facilities	District & Classification	Availability of textbooks	Election of SGB	Infrastructure (water, electricity, toilets)	Budget
General High Schools						
Huhudi High School This is a worst performing school in 2005: 2002- 39% 2003- 53% 2004- 59% 2005- 13,13%	3 computers for educators and only 1 computer is in operation. 20 computers for learners. No internet access, no electricity, telephone not working. No access to Departmental data.	Kagisano Molopo, Semi Urban Section 21, in a rural area. 22, educators 2 vacancies & 648 learners. fees: R150 per learner Budget: R20 000 for the past 3 years. No budget has been received this financial year.	Only 1 textbook available for grade 12 educators. Most of the learners in the school share textbooks.	Yes, from the attendance of 60 parents. There is reluctance by parents to participate to school activities.	Shortage of water in the area, hence the use of pit latrine toilets. Flush toilets are not properly serviced. Electricity & water are not properly paid. The school needs R20 000 to fix the drainage system. No learner transport though some learner stay over 5 km away from school.	Not confirm but less than R20 000. Yearly many of the learners are unable to pay school fees. Fess R 150 per learner for 2006.
Bopanang High School (Township school) 2002- 60.71% 2003- 53.16% 2004- 71.93% 2005- 53.64%	Only 3 computers for use by educators. The computer lab does not have computers for learners.	Bophirima Region, Vryburg Area Quintile level 4 42, educators 1,140 learners	Only 1 textbook available for grade 9 learners for the technology subject. Grade 12 - only 68 Julius Caesar textbooks are available. Have problem with retrieval of books.	Poor involvement of parents. Only 9 attended the meeting and were nominated as SGB.	Educators do not receive pay slips regularly. No learner transport even though some learners say over 20km, away from school.	Section 20 The 2006/7 budget is at R110, per learner. The schools budget has not been received form the Department.

Bergsig High School (Model C) Obtains a 100% grade 12 pass every year.	Fully equipped and operational	Bojanala West Region, Rustenburg District 858 learners of which 25 are black.35 white educators & 11 are females	No problem	Yes.	Shortage of land for netball, parking and abolition facilities	budget R 5 million Cost of fees per learner: R 395, with a record of collection of fees: 95% in 2005 and 70% for 2006.
Bafokeng High School (most improved performing school) Grade 10-12 2002- 68% 2002- 52.3% 2003 -32.24% 2004- 91.96%		Semi urban school, quintile 3 927 learners 28 educators	No problem	Yes	High cost of electricity not difficult to maintain.	section 20 school, R106 000 budget for 2005/06
LSEN Schools						
Ikalefeng School LSEN School (pre-primary, junior, middle, vocational & senior levels	21 computers, not suitable for the learners with special needs	Southern Region, Letlakgona District 14 educators No occupational therapist. 48 support staff Only 20 learners can stay in the hostel.		8 SGB members nominated & functioning.	The school has been upgraded but does not have electricity transformer. It experiences power cuts almost three times per week.	Transfers are received on quarterly basis and all is up to date. The money is used for special needs of the school.
Technical Schools						
Potchefstroom Technical High School Urban school; quintile 5 (Best performing School) 2002- 96%, 2003-05 100%	2 photocopiers Computer lab.	Southern Region, Potchefstroom area. 35 educators 981 learners		SGB elected & first meeting on 31/7/06.The meeting was well attended.		30 learners are exempted fees: R4 200 per learner per annum
Primary schools						
Mochwari Primary (Rural school)	1 telephone & fax. No access to DoE network	Bophirima Region, Kagisano Molopo District	NSNP: All learners benefit from the school's feeding scheme.		The school needs are: 8 classrooms including grade R, laboratory, library, sport facilities and fully functional administration block.	No funding has been received this year.

Moedswil Comprehensive Farm School =merger of 11 farm schools into a comprehensive farm school dual curriculum: Afrikaans & Setwana Grade 1-9	Fully equipped with computer & science laboratory including a media centre.	Bojanalo West Region, Rustenburg District 562 learners, 300 of them are in hostels. 38 educators, 20 general staff members 10 SMT Members	NSNP: All learners benefit from the school's feeding scheme.	SGB has been nominated. The farmers provide support by bringing parents to meetings.	The school infrastructure is well taken care of.	Funding received in April 2006. R 1, 6 million has been allocated. Two trenches received: R450 000 & R750 000
Combined Schools						
Onkgopotse Tiro Comprehensive School = Integration of 12 farm schools. Section 21, categorised as quintile 3, but will be confirmed as quintile 1 after re-assessment.	27 computers but no access to internet due problems with telkom lines.	Central District, rural school 31, educators 972 learners & 575 of them are in hostels. 13 General Assistants for learners in hostels.	The school is not part of NSNP programme	9 SGB Members have been elected, with parents attendance of more than 500 parents	The infrastructure development in the school is satisfactory. A sponsor for electricity has been sought with PPC.	Budget R2, 910million, has been allocated. Thus far, R78 000 has been received.
Early Childhood Development Centre –ECDC						
Montshioa Community Creche		Central Region, Mafikeng Area 4 educators and 42 learners	Learners are brought to school by their parents.			Funding: R4, 50 per child & only 20 learners quality for R20 000 per annum.

3. COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS

1. BOPHIRIMA REGION: VRYBURG AREA

3.1.1 The worst performing school: Huhudi High School

The Principal of this school was not able to confirm the actual budget of the school. The Department has not been able to transfer the funding on time and this impacted negatively on the electricity and water supply, as these could not be paid on time and remained overdue. The school only received their budget late in 2005 and this impacted on them being able to pay electricity account. As a result of non-payment the school services were over due, they operated without electricity for most of 2005.

It was also explained that the school was categorised as a quintile 5, and this implied that it did not qualify for funding. In the previous three years however, the school has been allocated a budget of less than R 20 000.

It is not possible for the school to attend to its problem s due to lack of funds. The classrooms do not have electricity, because many of the plugs are not working. Though the Department of Public Works has been contacted timeously, they have not been able to be of assistance to the school. Since 2004, the Department of Public Works could not attend to the school's infrastructure problems because they are required to provide their own materials.

Another infrastructure problem is the drainage system. The school has opted to use pit latrine toilets for learners because they could not afford R 20, 000 required to fix the system. It was reported that these problems are brought to the Department of Education each year, but no assistance is forth coming.

It is not easy for the school to operate as many of the parents are not able to pay for the school fees. It is estimated that about 60% of the learners do not pay school fees and many who have left the school back in 2002 still have outstanding accounts. This is because many of the parents are not employed.

The school had serious **discipline problems** with many learners involved in drug and alcohol abuse. There is a high pregnancy rate among girl learners. Educators are not respected as learners ignore the formal discipline measures used for those who misbehave. The school management has tried to bring in motivational speakers to address the learners, but this still remains a challenge. It seems the management has lost control of the school.

Given that only one out of fifty two Grade 12 learners passed the June examinations, it is unlikely that the end of the year results will improve unless drastic measures are taken.

The following were considered as the contributing factors:

a) A total of 7 educators have left the school in 2005.
b) The school operated without electricity and for the whole year in 2005.
c) In April 2005, the Principal was sued fro R 150 000 by two educators within the school. The case was finalised in February 2006. This had negative impact on the teacher morale. The principal was however discharged early in 2006.
d) The school did not have water supply and learners had to use pit latrine.
e) The school did not receive learner materials for 2005, only one text book received for use by the educator. This year, learners share text books.
f) In preparation for matric exams, only 4% of learners attended the vacation classes.
g) No learner transport for learners staying over five kilometres.
h) Have not yet received budget for 2006.

3.1.2 **Bopaganang High School**

The performance of this school has been fluctuating over the years. In terms of classification, the school is categorised as quintile 4, yet there are seven schools within the same vicinity which are classified differently. It was reported that 90% of the learners are from poor families and are unable to afford the school fees of R 110 per month. On this matter, the Circuit manger, who was part of the meeting, reported that a meeting has been arranged to revise the quintile system. It will be proposed that the school be classified as quintile 2.

The teacher **pupil ratio is 1:29**, yet there class sizes range from 35 and up to 50 learners. The school does not have a learner transport, yet there are more than 60 learners staying 20 km away from the school. These learners come to school by public transport and no high school available within their vicinity. There are also learners from Dithakwaneng High Schoool near Kuruman. A request for scholar transport has been submitted to the Provincial Department of Education.

The school and those around have a **general problem of discipline about** the learners. Al the mechanisms are followed, but those do not seem to work. The teachers believe that even though they give detention to learners, they (learners do not see it important to be at school on time. It was reported that, they had recently visited the school to motivate learners, the teachers do not think that learners take lessons form these either.

In terms of **parental involvement on school matters** the school has a serious problem because parents do not attend meetings. The school never had more than less than 100 parents in a given meeting. For election of the SGB, only 9 parents attended and these were appointed as members of the School Governing Body. As a result some of the educators have given up on trying instilling discipline as this has negative impact on the learners' performance. It is believed that there is lack of parental control because some of these learners are not supervised by their parents.

Even though the educators did not confirm this matter, the delegation learnt that the school has a high pregnancy rate. It was in the previous week before the visits, a grade 12 leaner gave birth within the school premises.

Concerning, **text books**, the problem is shortage of text books, 68 grade 12 learners do not Julius Caesar and the school does not have money to buy these for learners. The challenge is that the past learners do not return the text book the following year. Some are borrowed for supplementary exams. Also for grade 9 learners a request for 360 learners was submitted and the Department only provided for half of those. The challenge is that the school has not been able to replace them. The delegation stated that the school needs to improve the retrieval system need to be improved in order for learners to return the books on time.

Regarding, inclusive education, the Bopaganag High School, tries to accommodate learners who are slow learners. The relevant school is in Klerksdorp and it is the only school in the province. It was reported that this school is due to be closed. Those parents who are unable to afford, their learners have to remain at home.

The school was advised to report to the department such cases.

The Delegation appealed to the educators to remain dedicated to their work given their working conditions. It was stated that educators have to continuously look for solutions to improve the school. The delegation further emphasised that introspection is need to be done by the educators for learners to understand the benefits of education.

The school expressed concern about the delays in the salary advices, these are not received timeously. It was reported that the salary advises for March this year were only received on 1 August 2006.

3.1.3 Mochware Primary School

This is school has an old building, which is poorly serviced, with two additional in additional to existing structure. The educators have one small room which was also converted to a computer room. The school is part of the nutrition programme with parents providing meals for the learners at stipulated times. They are supervised by the educators. The delegation was shown the new feeding utilities supplied by the Department. In order to sustain the programme, there is a school garden which is facilitated by the educators.

The school has not received their allocation and this could not be confirmed. The Deputy Principal reported on a number of shortages which impact on the conditions of the school. There is serious need for eight classrooms, of which two will be required for grade R learners. The school does not have a laboratory. There is no school library the text books are placed a storage room with the cooking utilities. The school has no Sports facilities. In addition the school needs an administration block, which will cater

for toilets for learners and educators; a sick room; and also offices for the Principal, his Deputy, the Clerk Office; Principal's office, the staff room as well as the Heads of the Departments.

The delegation noted that the school has one computer but is not linked to the Department's system and that the school was advised to submit their needs through to the Department.

2. BOJANALA WEST REGION: RUSTENBURG AREA

3. 2 .1 Model C school: Bergsig Hoer Skool

The Bergsig High School is a well resourced, charges school fees at R395 per month. As reflected in the tabular report on schools above, the teachers are all white and of the 858 learners, only 25 are coloureds. The language of instruction is only Afrikaans. The school has taken a positive decision of starting dual medium classes. Unfortunately, the idea is to house the English medium classes in a separate section, away from the main stream classes. The Committee advised strongly against this move, recommending that the different medium classes must be located together.

The delegation expressed concern was raised about the policies of the school which seem to promote discrimination. The school policies are based on the assumption that those learners who may want to come to the school are those who speak English & Afrikaans. This view for the delegation result in more challenges once the school begins the transformation process. It seems the school has set polices which may not be changed.

The delegation noted school's policy of excluding learners of different religious background. This shows the school is aware of the different religious groups in the society. However, concern was raised that in the process of making the school more inclusive, the school should rather play a role of brining more learners instead of considering previous achievements when considering learners for the school.

The delegation therefore recommended that the school should deal with the matter differently as this is not helping in promoting tolerance of different cultures and religious background.

In general the committee encouraged the school in the move it has taken to transform the school.

3. 2.2 Moedswil Comprehensive Farm School

This is a school project born of the merger of eleven farm schools around Moedswil into one comprehensive school with boarding facilities. The aim is to maximise accessibility of quality education to farm children. There are currently 38 educators as well as 20 other staff members.

It was noted that the school does not turn away learners and they continue take learners throughout the year. This has resulted in increasing numbers. In terms of language, all learners in grade 4 are taught in English, mother tongue is however used, for further explanations. The teachers are prepared to give full support to learners.

In terms of infrastructure the school has all the resources. The challenge however that is the cost of electricity is too high. Water is resourced from boreholes, with the renovations taking place, additional sources of water will be needed.
The Department does not offer learner transport, instead, learners are transported to school through local transport organised by the school.

The school has identified **challenges**, as follows:

- The No fee schools system policy does not allow schools to request for donations from parents. The school would like parents to make small contributions.
- The Department of Transport is reneging in its duty to provide scholar transport for those learners not staying in hostel.
- Need for proper facilities to integrate grade R learners for the coming year.
- The social, cultural and other implications of young children staying in hostels away from parental care.

3. 2. 3 Bafokeng High School

The focus of the Principal's presentation was on a brief overview on the mechanisms used by the school to improve the performance of the school.

Learner support
In terns of learner support, this school has challenges with those learners that stay with grandparents. As way of addressing this, the school has introduced a mentorship system for these learners and the results are good. The school had a history of drug & alcohol abuse, which impacted negatively on the performance of learners: In order to address the challenge of drug and alcohol abuse. The management introduced a policy of keeping the school yard closed at all times. The success in turning the bad situation around is attributed to the role played by the Queen Mother and support received from the department and the dedication of educators in improving and maintains good performance.

General observations
The delegation was impressed with the dedication of the school management system in maintaining a strong relationship and ensuring commitment by parents and the learners in the education. This has positive effects on the behaviour and motivation of learners. The committee expressed great satisfaction in the dedication shown by the educators and management of the school.

The committee recommended that the Principal should share experiences with the Huhudi High School (the worst performing school). Both schools seem to have similar challenges and yet Bafokeng High has succeeded in turning the situation in favour of the learners and maintained a good image of the school.

3. SOUTHERN REGION: POTCHEFSTROOM AREA

3. 3. 1 Potchestroom Technical High School

The general observation was that the school is operating well and the educators have been able to deal with issues of discipline and retrieval of text books. As a quintile 5 school, it was noted that, 50% of the learners are unable to pay for the required school fees and only 30% of them are exempted from paying school fees. The school has a problem of dealing with huge electricity bill, which amounts to R80 00 per month. This is because much of it is consumed in the workshops.

The challenges are that, the Technical Courses need to be retained within the FET colleges' band. There was concern that grade 10 learners, who do mechanical, will not benefit form the current curriculum.

The delegation expressed concern by not converting into FET Colleges, many of the opportunities that could benefit learners will be lost and the Technical Schools may have to close down. The delegation could not understand why the learners were charged and additional R 500 as a deposit to replace warn-out books.

The main challenge for the school was that the curriculum has changed to such an extent that many areas are left out. Five of the eight workshops are not used. This is considered as waste of resources.

3. 3.2 Ikalafeng (ELSEN) School

The school has had a vacancy for an occupational therapist since January 2006 as a result of a resignation in November 2005. Though this position plays a central role in stimulating learners and also plays an important role for special needs, it has not yet been filled.

The department also deployed two educators to fill the post in the school left vacant through the resignation of one and transfer of the other. Both new recruits felt uncomfortable with the environment and left.

Challenges

- The SGB is not involved in the appointment of educators.
- The school identified a suitable candidate for the position of an occupational therapist but the Department has not yet processed the application.
- RNCS is above the mental abilities of ELSEN learners.
- The LTSM supplied to the school is higher than the capacity of the learners.
- There is a need to accommodate the five year old learners in the school.
- There are disabled learners in the community who cannot attend because they cannot afford transport.
- Electricity transformer needs to be upgraded.
- The school needs a stand–by electric engine, for emergency cases.
- The school has a shortage of six classrooms.

- There are members of the support staff with long services but who are still casual.

3.3.3 Potchefstroom Gyamnasium

This is one of the well resourced schools, with proper facilities. The school fees cost R 4 200 and hostel accommodation at R 6 200 per annum. The accommodation policy does not accept learners from outside of the North West Province. In terms of accommodation, preference is given to those whose are from the Potcefstroom area. The delegation considered the practise to be discriminatory against the citizens of this country. The school management proposed that both the principal and the subject advisors should be involved in the IQMS. They believe that this would make the process more objective.

In this school all the educators are white and the delegation expressed concern that no attempt has been made to get black educators even though 60 of the learners are black.

4. CENTRAL REGION: MAFIKENG AREA

3.4.1 Onkgopotse Tiro Comprehensive School

This is a comprehensive school which integrates 15 farm schools, which started operating in 2005; it caters for grades 1-11 learners from the surrounding community. The school has submitted a proposal to include grade R within the premises, but does not have necessary infrastructure. The school was advised to consider plans of including grade R in line with the national policy.

In terms of inclusive education, it was noted that the school have learners who use crutches. The teachers however, could not confirm about learners with hearing or sight disabilities. The school was advised to make means of checking learners who might have disabilities and are not able to attend school.

Onkgopotse Tiro Comprehensive School is not part of the National School Nutrition Programme, because the learners are catered for through hostel system. The day learners are fed twice per day, while those in hostel receive meals four times per day.

The noted challenge for the school is that the level of education of learners does not match up with the required level of education. The school accepts learners with poor performance e.g. grade 7 learners have level 4of education. This makes it difficult to proceed with teaching. The delegation welcomes the dedication of the educators in addressing this matter. In order to improve performance for those in grades 10 & 11, the school provides extra morning and afternoon classes. The school has 22 classrooms and will need 4 extra classes in preparation for grade 12 for the coming year.

3.4.2 Montshioa Community Creche

This is a community Centre, which looks after 42 learners, out of which 20 are in grade R. These learners are supposed to qualify for subsidies from the Department of Education. The delegation noted that the centre does not have mechanisms to link the grade R learners with the neighbouring primary schools.
It was noted that the ECD educators receive training through an NGO on teaching methods as part of teacher development.

The National Department explained that, in terms of funding, the centres received conditional grant until 2004. It was found that some of the centres were not effectively audited and supervised. In order to address this concern, the services of Price Water Cooper to conduct an audit for all the education centres. A full report will be published in November. It is hoped that it will assist the Department in giving direction on how to deal with the centre.

Further considerations are underway to have clear roles and responsibilities of the respective departments i.e. Education, Social development & of Health. It was further explained to the delegation that the Community Education Centres are not registered, with the South African Schools Act. The educators are under social Development. This matter need to be clarified, because the Department of Social Development employs educators at a different level from Department of Education.

4. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The original plan was to have a briefing session with the MEC and the top management; unfortunately, the delegation had to leave earlier to catch flight. The delegation met with the Acting Director General and some of the District Managers and gave an overall report on its visit. The purpose of this was to provide the provincial department a reflection on the findings of the committee and responses thereof:

The delegation reported on the noted observations:

4.1 School Governing Bodies

A significant majority of School Governing Bodies (SGBs) is not functional. In general, there is an absence of programmes at schools for broadening parents' knowledge on educational matters and how to support their children meaningfully. The utilisation of SGB sub-committees is rated ineffective in the majority of schools.

4.2 Text books

There is general shortage of books in most schools because either they arrive late or learners do not return them the following year. The top- up system is not functioning properly because, the books are received in small portions and also the size of learners always fluctuates not easy to confirm numbers. The committee recommends that the retrieval system needs to be improved so that books can be returned on time. The school officials must monitor the availability of LTSM in the schools and report to the relevant authorities.

4.3 Schools Governance

There is a common trend that for the poor schools, funds are not transferred timeously. At Bergsig High School, the transformation process is noted. The Committee has observed that the white schools need to be constantly made aware of the possible ways of transformation. It seems that they focus on systems that maintain separate but equal. It has been noted that some of the poor school are not able to manage their budgets.

The cost of the electricity is cause for great concern, most of the school visited have huge budgets paid on electricity account.

The committee is concerned about the Integrated Farm Schools who provide hostel accommodation for 6 years old learners. The delegation however, could not compare the living conditions of these learners at hostels to their actual homes. There was general feeling that maybe the project could be extended to other provinces.

The gardening programme at Mochwari Primary School was noted. The overview is that all the schools were clean and they need to be encouraged to develop their own flags.

Regarding LSEN, the Department has not given much attention to this programme in the schools.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

There is general concern about the categorisation of schools into the quintile system, which impact on their funding. These matters should be brought to the attention of the MEC, for example Huhudi Schol, where 60% of the learners are unable to pay school fees is classified as quintile 5.

It was further recommended that the Department of Education need to have a person linked to the Department of Public Works, whose sole responsibility would be to see that infrastructure maters are being address quickly.

The committee noted with concern the lack of electricity in the classrooms while the administration block was fully electrified at Huhudi High School.

The delegation observed that issues of governance in this school are attended to by the School Management and that school governing body does not seem to be functioning effectively.

It was recommended that since as a community school, Huhudi High should establish close relations with the Ward Councillors in the area. The school needs to find ways of sustaining itself and take responsibility in ensuring that damage does not recur within the premises. In general the committee feels that it could not get true responses from the school management. It is recommended that the Region should visit and attend to real concerns. It was agreed that the Provincial Committee on Education should monitor the schools

In terms of the **National School Nutrition Programme,** it was reported and observed that all schools have received cooking utensils. The concern of the delegation however, was that there are farm schools which do not benefit: due to low number of learners in the school. It is recommended that in such cases, the Department should liaise with the relevant farmer for assistance to ensure that the learners are being fed. It was also noted that the greenery programme is not operating in the North West province, but is in place in Northern Cape. The provincial Department was advised to follow this matter up.

Concerning Ikalafeng School, the delegation noted that it does not have an exemption system, it uses its own discretion on who is to pay or not. .It is recommended that the school should develop a normal format, which exempts learners from paying school fees. As a special school, no fees should be paid by the learners, this matter should be considered by the MEC.

The school requires appropriate reading materials and the Department do not make these available. The committee has suggested that the school should develop mechanisms to request for relevant learning materials, suitable to the needs of the special schools. For a request for 2007, it was suggested that the school should send someone to the region to assist the school in identifying relevant materials.

The **Ikalafeng School** does not have grade R and is aware of about 10 learners within the area who receive support outside of the school. The committee stated that the school should make the department aware of the need for learners below 5 in 0–4 age band.

The committee was disturbed to hear that about 100 learners from Ikalafeng School use public transport to attend school. There is no scholar transport, some of the learners travel for 1 hour to school. The school has submitted the request for school transport to the Department; this has not yet been responded to.

At **Bopaganang High School**, the school has learners travelling for more than 40km away from school without learner transport. The Department needs to address this matter urgently.

The delegation, further recommends that this matter should be addressed by the MEC as it is the competency of the Department of Transport to provide scholar transport.

The Ikalafeng School receives food supply from Woolworths Stores. The school was advised to contact the Department in order for their menus to be evaluated.

The status of the **Technical Schools** needs to be attended to. The N- level courses offered in the schools have been phased out. The Technical School has an option to either become a general or FET School. The delegation recommends that Technical Forum (wherein 27 technical High Schools in the Province) should develop model to phase out the old system. The delegation noted that the legislation will have to be amended given that the Technical High School are governed by the SA School Act, while FET Colleges by FET Colleges Bill.

Concerning ECD Centre, the committee recommends that the Department should begin with the training process of grade R educators. They also have to be properly qualified to give training syllabus for educators. The Grade R educators the Centre should be registered with the South Africa Council of Educators in order for them to receive training benefits. Also in order for the grade R learners to benefit from the system, the Post-Provisioning Mechanism should be revised. Further, the province should implement the EPWP, in order to assist with the needs of grade R learners. Also the Chief Director should finalise the needs of ECD in line with the plans of the National Department.

The funding norms for grade R learners are different from those governing primary schools. This was noted as serious challenge because; the minimum requirement for grade R educators is equivalent to a level 4 qualification.

6. REPORT ON VISIT TO LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The Status report from the Provincial Department covered the following focal areas:

6.1 Meeting with the Provincial Senior Management Team

The delegation met with the provincial department officials to determine education issues so that the delegation should be aware of exactly where the delegation needs to thread during the visit. The delegation sketched the objectives of the visit. Dr Nkadimeng, Acting HOD, apologized on behalf of the MEC who was attending the Language Conference in Cape Town.

The focus of the Department was on transformation of the department culture, organization, human resources, financial education system and philosophy. In the briefing, the delegation learnt that the department consists of head office, five districts and one hundred forty four circuits. The Provincial head office is mainly responsibly for policy co-ordination and analysis, monitoring of policy implementation and strategic management whereas district are responsible for policy interpretation and implementation.

6.1.1 Provision of Human Resources at District; Circuit and School levels

Re-structuring of the organizational structure

The organizational structures for Provincial, District and Circuit Offices were approved. The Job evaluation of all SMS posts has been finalized and the costing of the structure is accordance with the new grading levels.

The following were highlighted as challenges need to finalise job evaluation on the remaining posts on Levels 1 to 12. Need for budget to fund the implementation of the structure.

In order for authority to expedite service delivery, the HR delegations in both sectors education and public servants have been set in place.

Challenges

- Capacitating managers to enable them to exercise the delegated powers.
- Lack of staff in some critical posts militates against delegation.
- Absence of human resource system

6.1.2 Provisioning of educators posts in line with the regulation

It was reported that the post establishments were issued in 2005 and were retained in 2006. All absorptions were completed at promotional post level only. The vacancies were advertised and filled as follows for Principals = 99 advertised, 76 filled. Deputy Principals = 511 advertised, 391 filled, HOD's = 3 836 advertised, 3 268 filled. Of the 6 761 temporary educators have been absorbed permanently and there are still 1 890 vacancies.

Challenges

There is noted inaccuracy in statistical figures which precludes effective planning. Implementing the Strategy to release funds tied up to institution-based educators in order to fund managerial and support posts in administration.

6.1.3 Curriculum for FET Colleges

There are 7 FET Colleges in 18 sites established and registered with 21 745 learners. The recapitalization programme for the colleges has been started, encompassing, development of relevant and responsive learning programmes as well as refurbishment of college infrastructure.

Challenges

- Inadequate personnel to implement the recapitalization programme.
- Lack of capacity to implement the new training programme, as most of the educators are under-qualified.
- Inadequate capacity by colleges to manage the recapitalization funds.
- Lack of a fully functional information management system.
- Lack of funds.

6.1.4 Early Children Development

There are 99 044 learners enrolled in public primary schools in Grade R; while another 30 500 learners is enrolled in community ECD sites.

The noted **challenge** however is drop in the enrolments of Grade R learners in public ordinary school.

Concerning the **National Curriculum Strategy (NCS)**, 7000 educators for grades 7 to 12 have been trained. The challenge however is inability to fill posts for Curriculum Advisors.

6.1.5 National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP)

The programme benefits 2 772 schools covering 1 140 521 learners (grade R-7) at a cost of R1, 10 per learner per day is R1, 10.The programme assist volunteers who are paid R1 00 per month. It uses services of 144 service providers engaged in the delivery of this programme.

Challenges

- Shortage of water in many schools.
- Farm school in game reserves cannot have gardening due to pests and insects.
- Community participation in the programme not effective.
- Lack of food storage at schools.
- Involvement of local communities as suppliers and cook.

6.1.6 No Fee Schools

The province has only quintiles 1 and 2 schools that have been declared as follows: Q1=1268 schools and Q2=1042. Total=2310 schools.

The noted challenges for no fee schools were as follows

- Learners were not given R703 per learner according to the national target
- Learners have already paid school fees.
- Disputes in the determination of the No fee schools.
- Minimum threshold (R527) preferred due to affordability

6.1.7 Scholar Transport

There are only two districts that are benefiting from this programme i.e Waterberg and Mopani Districts. There are 16 transport providers involved, benefiting 3229 learners i.e. 2496 in Waterberg 733 in Mopani, with 10 providers in Waterberg 10 and 6 in Mopani.

Challenges

- To increase the coverage of this programme to all districts
- Increase the number of school in the programme
- Locate the programme in one programme
- To research the actual number of learners to benefit from scholar transport
- Learners moving from schools near their home to far schools which are performing better.

6.1.8 Infrastructure Development

The mobile classrooms are utilized for over crowded schools and after these are transferred to other over crowded schools.