WEDNESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2026

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSSEMBLY

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The House met at 14:00.

House Chairperson Mr C T Frolick took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Good afternoon hon members. Allow me to welcome all of you who have locked into this virtual plenary session of the National Assembly. There will now be an opportunity for silent prayer or meditation.

Thank you, hon members. Hon members, before we proceed, I would like to remind you that the virtual plenary is deemed to be in the precinct of Parliament and constitute a meeting of the National Assembly. In addition to the rules of virtual sittings, the Rules of the National Assembly include the rules of the debate apply. Members enjoy the same powers and privileges that apply in a sitting of the National Assembly.

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Members should equally note that anything said in the virtual platform is deemed to have been said to the House and may be ruled upon. All members who have locked in shall considered to be present and are requested to mute their microphones can only unmute when recognised to speak. The microphones are very sensitive and will pick up noise which may disturb the attention of other members. When recognised to speak please unmute your microphone and where connectivity permits connect your video.

Members may make use of the icons on the bar at the bottom of their screens which has an option that allows a member to put up her or his hand to raise a point of order. The secretariat will assist in alerting the chairperson of the session to members requesting to speak.

Lastly, when using the virtual system, members are urged to refrain or desist from unnecessary points of order or interjections.

The first item on the Order Paper is a statement by the hon Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation on the significance, the outcomes and achievements of the inaugural National Science Month. I now recognise the hon Minister.

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STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ON THE SIGNIFICANCE, OUTCOMES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INAUGURAL NATIONAL SCIENCE MONTH

The MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION: Good afternoon, hon House Chairperson, hon members and Cabinet colleagues. Thank you for this opportunity to inform this House of the outcomes of our inaugural addition of the National Science Month and highlight some of the key advances in our country's public science system. On 4 July 2026 we formally launched the inaugural addition of the National Science Month at the Vaal University of Technology. The launch of the National Science Month marks a significant milestone in advancing public engagement with science, technology and innovation. This is a significant step up from our traditional National Science Week which we have been hosting annually since 2000.

Hon House Chairperson, as the Minister responsible for science, technology and innovation, I have often expressed my concern that much of the high-impact transformative work done by our country's science institutions remains little known across various sectors of society. This has crystallised a

UNREVISED HANSARD

vital realisation that the public communication of science has become just as critical as the pursuit of science itself.

I now wish to focus on some of the key activities we implemented as part of the inaugural addition of the National Science Month. Our department implemented a comprehensive programme of nationwide science engagement activities. I am proud to state that we achieved significant coverage across the length and the breadth of our country with activities recorded in all nine provinces and across at least 34 district municipalities.

Some of our key activities during the National Science Month included the following: Several partners dedicated major activities to the National Science Month. These included the SA Institute of Physics Conference in Cape Town, the National Science and Technology Forum South 32 Awards, and this is to aknowledge intermediary institution science such as science centre’s museums, interpretive centres and biodiversity conservation sites. The Gauteng Sci-Bono Discovery Centre also hosted us during the National Science Month.

Our facility the SA Radio Astronomy Observatory, Sarao, in Cape Town, hosted the premier of the Northern Cape, Dr Zamani

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Saul. As the premier of the province that hosts the mega science project the Square Kilometre Array, SKA, this visit provided him and his team first oversight of the advanced digital infrastructure that supports complex data processing for the SKA project.

I am pleased to inform this House that the construction phase of the MeerKat extension project in the SA Karoo region is nearing completion as of August 2026 with early engineering commissioning underway. The extension adds 13 new dishes to the existing 64-dish MeerKat array increasing the maximum baseline distance from eight kilometres to 17 kilometres and significantly improving the MeerKAT's scientific capabilities.

Additionally, since inception, through the Square Kilometre Array project we awarded over 1 700 academic grants and fellowships, training a diverse workforce of worldclass engineers, scientists and technicians to young people in Carnarvon and surrounding areas.

To close out the National Science Month, we launched a groundbreaking 2-kilowatt (KW) local laboratory scale Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) electrolyser facility at the Sasol plant in Sasolburg. Developed entirely using publicly funded

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South African intellectual property. This lab-scale electrolyser will serve as a critical research platform to evaluate clean energy technologies and renewable conditions and support our country's energy transition.

Hon House Chairperson and hon members, I now wish to briefly reflect on the work we are doing to harness science technology and innovation for sustainable development. Firstly, to catalyse health innovation, our department contributed over R500 million towards the establishment of the Nuclear Medicine Research Infrastructure, Numeri, as we call it, located at the Steve Biko Academic Hospital. The Numeri is an advanced one-stop-shop medical imaging facility dedicated to cancer and Tuberculosis drug development and clinical trials. I am proud to state that Numeri's research productivity remains exceptional. It produced 43 peer reviewed publications, 24 invited scientific lectures and numerous conference presentations delivered nationally and internationally. Numeri also supported 13 PHD students, 20 Master's students, six International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, fellows and multiple interns and trainees from across Africa. The Numeri, I need to add is the first and the only facility of its kind on the African continent.

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Also work to support manufacturing and industrial innovation our entity the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research launched the Hot Isostatic Press facility. This infrastructure will help optimise metal component manufacturing and reduce reliance on offshore processing.

The next capability and activity were to support the commercial agricultural economy. We allocated R14,9 million to the Biosecurity Hub at the University of Pretoria to upgrade surveillance and strengthen the management of livestock diseases risks including those linked to foot-and-mouth disease.

To foster municipal innovation and build a capable ethical developmental state, we have launched several key initiatives. These include what we call the Viability and Validation of Innovations for Service Delivery Programme (VVISDP) at local government level. The Technology Acquisition and Deployment Fund (TADF), the Municipal Innovation Maturity Index (MIMI), and the Municipal Innovation Fund (MIF).

These programmes assume extraordinary importance in view of the forthcoming local government elections and directly support the six action areas introduced during the launch of

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the ANC local government manifesto by President Ramaphosa. These six action areas were; delivering reliable quality and affordable basic services, driving local economic development and job creation, creating safe, healthy and resilient communities, ensuring sustainable municipal finances, building a capable developmental local government with zero-tolerance for corruption and promoting community participation and clear communication.

To sustain and increase the scope of the strategic projects I have mentioned, our department is currently on a drive to strengthen strategic partnerships both within and outside government. Though the Interministerial Committee and the Presidential Science Technology and Innovation Plenary, we are advancing the consolidation and streamlining of Science and Technology of Nuclear Installations, STNI, initiatives in government. In this regard we will continue to deepen co-operation with all science and technology intensive government departments.

We are also strengthening our partnership with industry and our academic institutions. Through these proactive industrial engagements, we seek to enhance our department’s contribution to innovation-led industrialisation.

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Hon House Chairperson and hon members, for this reason, we are currently engaging various industry partners, to assist us in building provincial, regional and local innovation forums and also actively pursuing partnerships to establish fully functional, science technology and innovation parks across all nine provinces with a particular focus on our country's Special Economic Zones.

Our upcoming engagements with industry include targeted oversight visits to the Ngqura Development Corporation in September and the East London Industrial Development Zone Technology Science and Technology Park in October.

Hon House Chairperson and hon members, I am pleased to announce that the 2027 edition of the National Science Month will be hosted by the North West University with the support of the North West Provincial government. To us the National Science Month is not merely about increasing public awareness of the outstanding work of our public science institutions and scientists. The National Science Month is also about demonstrating how science, technology and innovation are contributing to solving our country's everyday structural challenges such as unemployment, poverty, education, health

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care, water provision, energy security, crime violence and migration.

Hon House Chairperson and hon members, our department’s work is aimed at putting in place the essential building blocks for transforming South Africa into an innovation-driven country where science directly helps to ensure that all our people and enjoy a life of dignity. I thank you very much.

Mr T S MJADU: House Chairperson, I am having a problem with my gadget. Allow me to speak.

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

Mr T S MJADU: Hon House Chairperson, hon Minister and hon members, we as the MKP reject this ministerial statement. We do not reject science, technology or innovation, but we reject the attempt to present isolated launches, conferences and awards as evidence of a functioning national science and innovation system.

South Africans do not live in laboratories, but they live in communities facing unemployment, failing municipalities,

UNREVISED HANSARD

unreliable electricity, water shortage and poverty. The Minister told us that the National Science Month reached all nine provinces and 34 district municipalities, but the real question is, what measurable difference did this make to ordinary South Africans? How many permanent jobs were created? How many businesses were established? How many innovations were commercialised? What returns did taxpayers receive?

The Minister stated that over R500 million for Nuclear Medicine Research Infrastructure, NuMeRI, R14,9 million for biosecurity hub, and over 1700 academic grant and fellowship through the Square Kilometre Array, SKA, project. However, the money spent is not the same as the value created. South Africans are still struggling with cancer and tuberculosis. So, the question is, how many new medicine diagnostic technologies and affordable treatments have actually reached patients as a result of this investment?

The same question applies to MeerKAT. The Minister indicated that the 13 dish extension is nearing completion, increasing the baseline from eight to 17km. However, South Africans want to know, what is the economic benefit of such? How many of these engineers, scientists and technicians, trained through

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this SKA project, remain in South Africa? How many patents, companies, and sustainable jobs emerged?

Additionally, the Minister indicated that the Municipality Innovation Fund, the Technology Acquisition and Deployment Fund, and the Municipal Innovation Maturity Index for service delivery programmes assume extraordinary importance because of the forthcoming local government elections and directly support the six action areas of the ANC local government manifesto.

The MKP rejects this. The resources of the state belong to the people of South Africa not to the ANC. Public funds allocated to municipal innovations cannot be presented as an instrument to support the struggling ANC election manifesto. We understand ANC’s desperate attempts to save itself from death, but it must never come from the usage of state resources.

The Minister speaks of building innovation forums and science parks across all nine provinces with the upcoming visits to Kouga and East London Industrial Development Zone, IDZ. As the MKP we want to know, where is the actual implementation plan? When is the measurable target or deadline? Who is accountable if these promises are not being delivered? Our belief as the

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MKP is that we need science that creates jobs, technology that reduces the cost of electricity, innovation that improves water provision, and local manufacturing that reduces our dependence on imports.

The Minister says that science can help address unemployment, poverty, healthcare, water, energy, crime and immigration. Those are specifically the areas where millions of South Africans continue to experience government failure. The MKP holds itself to the standard of a party that will one day be answerable for this very budget. We believe in science in South Africa, scientists, engineers, and innovators. As such, we refuse to accept the political grandstanding dress-up as public communication state of measurable delivery.

House Chairperson, as the MKP we reject this statement. We call on the Minister to return to providing South Africans with a transparent and independent verifiable account of outcome expenditure, commercialisation jobs, and tangible benefits to ordinary South Africans. I thank you, House Chairperson.

Dr S S THEMBEKWAYO: House Chairperson, the Minister says that the National Science Month demonstrates how science and

UNREVISED HANSARD

innovation can address unemployment, poverty, education, health care, water, and energy. Yet, access to science remains deeply unequal, with opportunities determined by where people live. Access to laboratories, research opportunities, technology, and innovation funding remains unequal also.

A young person in Lusikisiki, in Giyani, or Bushbuckridge does not have the same opportunities as the one in Sandton or Constantia. Activities in nine provinces and 34 districts may show the reach of National Science Month, but they do not prove meaningful access to science. Taking science into communities is not the same as giving our people the means to participate.

The statement points to the SKA, MeerKAT, nuclear medicine, advanced manufacturing, and local energy technology as evidence of progress. After 13 years the ANC-led government has failed to translate this scientific capability into the scale of industrial and technological development our people need.

South Africa possesses minerals needed for future technologies, yet we continue exporting too much of our mineral wealth without building industries that can

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beneficiate these resources and manufacture technologies here at home. There is nothing progressive about remaining a supplier of minerals while failing to build industries that turn them into greater value here at home. Africa cannot remain rich in resources but poor in ownership and industrial power.

Science and technology are central to economic freedom. Those who control knowledge and technology, control production, industries and wealth. The Minister cites 1700 grants and fellowships through the SKA. Government cannot parade training figures while avoiding the economy these cities centre. South Africa cannot train young black scientists only to supply skilled labour elsewhere; their knowledge must also build industries and technological capacity here at home. Knowledge produced here must find expression in what South Africa manufactures, owns and export. Research must benefit the people, and it must improve the material conditions of our people.

The new electrolyser was developed from publicly funded South African intellectual property. That investment must help build local manufacturing, create jobs, and develop industries here at home. The EFF wants laboratories in township and rural

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schools, support for black scientists and women instead, and state intervention connecting research and local manufacturing.

The National Science Month must be judged by whether where you come from still determines your access to science, whether South African knowledge builds South African industries, whether the mineral wealth beneath our soils build industries above it, and whether science changes the material conditions of workers and the poor.

The EFF rejects a future where South Africa supplies minerals and African labour, while multinational corporations dominate technologies and industries generating wealth. We want a South Africa that develops knowledge, owns technology, builds industries, and has the scientific capacity to determine its future. Therefore, the EFF rejects this statement. Thank you, House Chair.

Mr S S ZONDO: House Chairperson, the IFP ... [Inaudible.] ... from a single week of activities to a dedicated month of national focus under the banner of making science and technology accessible to all South Africans. This project took a step towards ... [Inaudible.] ...showing specific main idea

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on paper than limited to academic space. They must serve as drivers of human dignity, economic empowerment and sustainable community development. We commend the department and its agencies for expanding outreach and igniting curiosity amongst our youth during this month.

This celebration must be grounded in the realities of our people. A genuine culture of science cannot be built on exhibition and dialogues alone, while system inequality blocks rural and township youth out of the foundational disciplines. Public awareness campaigns cannot substitute for the functioning infrastructure, considering that thousands of schools still operate without labs and basic learning materials. Science can only belong to everyone when a learner in a remote village is afforded the same tools as a learner in a well-resourced urban school.

Furthermore, future additions should continue to break ground barriers that persist across the science and technology landscape. We cannot build an innovative science society while women and girls remain underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics, Stem, careers, research, leadership and entrepreneurship. Dedicated mentorship, targeted bursaries and outreach to young women,

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particularly in rural communities, must be central to our mission to provide national access.

Beyond expanding access, the momentum gained during July must now crucially translate into measurable classroom outcomes and tangible career pathways for our youth. Public expenditure must deliver a clean return on investment. As such, the monitoring framework must show how this initiative improves performance in econometrics subjects, increases teacher enrolment and fosters youth inclusion over time.

The IFP commends the successful launch of National Science Month as this programme becomes an established feature of our calendar. Future editions must build on the momentum by deepening rural reach and translating awareness into permanent and transformative development for all South Africans. We support. Thank you, House Chairperson.

Mr E HENDRICKS: Greetings hon Speaker, hon members and patriotic South Africans. The Patriotic Alliance rises in full support of the Minister Nzimande’s statement on the inaugural National Science Month. We support this bold step; expanding Science Week into a month-long national programme sends a clear message to everyone. It is for township learners, the

UNREVISED HANSARD

rural farmer, the young engineer and the community seeking clean water and reliable energy.

We commend the project, the MeerKAT extension, the Proton Exchange Membrane, PEM, electrolyser facility, numerous groundbreaking medical research ... [Inaudible.].

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, do you want to ... [Interjections.].

Mr E HENDRICKS: ... innovation programmes, practical tools delivering job skills ... Can you hear me? Can you hear me?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Yes, your connection is not very good, hon member. Maybe if you switch off your video or your feed where your picture appears, then we will be able to hear you a little bit better. If it’s possible, of course. If not, you may continue but try just to get a better connection. Just continue where you left off, hon member. Thank you.

Mr E HENDRICKS: The PA believes South Africa must invest in what works. We are not building a country on rhetoric. We build on science, technology and innovation. The challenges

UNREVISED HANSARD

are real ... [Inaudible.] ... unemployment, poverty and energy insecurity ... if we have the will to fund, prioritise and partner.

To business, academia and all levels of government, the time to co-operate is now. To young South Africans, science is your future. Seize it. The Patriotic Alliance stands with the programme. We support the vision. We commit to an innovation-driven South Africa where every citizen enjoys a life of dignity. Let science lead. Let progress follow. Thank you.

Dr W J BOSHOFF: Hon House Chair, the Freedom Front welcomes the statement of the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Afrikaans:
Hierdie verklaring oor Wetenskapsmaand dui op ’n strewe van die staat se kant af om wetenskapbeoefening na die mense te bring, om dit populêr te maak. Eerstens, erkenning waar dit nodig is. Die departement en sy instellings doen uitstekende werk met ’n fiskale toekenning wat veel groter behoort te wees.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Die klem tydens hierdie wetenskapsmaand is juis daarop. Wetenskap laat mense dikwels net aan natuurwetenskappe dink en die uitvloeisel daarvan tegnologie. Dit skuif die mens en wetenskappe wat menslikheid ondersoek op die agtergrond. Net so groot as die vraag: hoe en hoekom werk natuurverskynsels? Net so groot is die vraag: hoekom wil ons weet en wat wil ons daarmee maak? Geesteswetenskappe is dus ten minste net so belangrik as natuurwetenskappe, hoewel die Minister dit nou nie vandag genoem het nie.

Dit bring ons by die vraag na die taal van wetenskapsbeoefening. As ons na die Minister se verklaring kyk, is dit Engels, finish en klaar. Dit is die taal van die wetenskap. Dit is nie net onwaar nie, daar word wêreldoor in talle tale wetenskap beoefen, maar die benadering is ook skadelik. Onwaar, omdat dit bloot nie so is nie. Skadelik, omdat dit toegang beperk. Nuuskierigheid word in die moedertaal geprikkel en basiese begrippe word in moedertaal begryp. Waar is die plekaksies wat wetenskap van isiZulu of Setswana bring of watter taal ook al in Suid-Afrika wat dit daaraan bekend stel? Waar is die handboeke wat die woordeskat ontwikkel?

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In die verlede was daar baie maniere om wetenskaplike kennis te populariseer. Die Afrikaanse skrywer, CJ Langenhoven, het skreeusnaakse stories vertel en dan wetenskaplike inligting daarin geweef. ’n Volk wat nie lees nie, is nog nie werklik vry nie, was sy slagspreuk. Hy’t nie soveel omgegee of hy die beste boek is nie. Hy’t omgegee of hy die regte boodskap oordra, of hy kennis uitbrei, of hy mense wat eintlik nie wetenskap sou lees nie, wetenskaplike inligting laat kry ... [Interjections.]. Met lees het hy bedoel lees vir inligting en in jou eie taal. Dit was dekolonisasie in aksie.

’n Vorige regering wou Afrika-tale vir onderwys en wetenskap ontwikkel. Die ANC het dit verwerp en Engels as ’n samebindende krag verkies. Die gebruik van moedertaal is neerhalend as tribalism beskryf, as ’n tegniek van verdeel en heers. Dit is ’n geleentheid wat verbygegaan het, maar kan altyd weer aangegryp word. Ek dank u.

[Interjections.]

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Nomvalo from MK, please switch off your microphone. Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The next speaker is the hon Dr Letlape.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: House Chair, the inaugural National Science Month was an important opportunity for South Africa to confront the simple reality that science, technology and innovation must serve society and not remain confound to government strategies, academic institutions and policy documents.

As ActionSA, we recognise the potential of science and innovation to create jobs, strengthen our economy, improve public services and equip our young people to compete in a rapidly changing world. However, it would also play a critical role in ensuring that our education promotes critical thinking.

It would, therefore, be important that during that month we do an assessment of access to facilities to be exposed to science in our Basic Education system. It should not just be about what happens at the top. It should be about ensuring it is embedded in early childhood development that lower primary schools, irrespective of where they are, have access to exposure to science and technology.

UNREVISED HANSARD

People should not imagine a test tube all their lives and only see it when they are adults. So, we implore the Minister to ensure that they co-operate with other Ministries in particular, the Ministry of Basic Education so that the exposure to science should be to all communities, to all our children so that we encourage critical thinking and evidence-based inquiry.

We applaud the Minister for what has been started. Nevertheless, it can't just be a fair for the elite schools. We need to ensure that no one is left behind. Minister, we support you. But Minister, we implore you to ensure that science exposure is to all citizens in all geographic areas of our society.

I thank you, Chair.

Mr W M THRING: Hon House Chairperson, the ACDP views the Minister's vision of a science-centred public-private partnership as attractive in principle. However, we must judge the statement and government not by the elegance of policy language, but by its record of implementation. The Minister correctly acknowledges that South Africa cannot rely on public funding alone and that too many promising discoveries remain

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trapped between the laboratory and commercial application. This is precisely where government’s argument becomes vulnerable.

The problem is not a shortage of strategies, frameworks and partnerships, it is the persistent failure to translate them into measurable economic outcomes. For years, South Africans have been presented with ambitious plans for innovation, industrialisation, digital transformation and commercialisation. Yet, unemployment remains devastatingly high. Manufacturing capacity remains under pressure. Many small businesses and innovators struggle to access finance markets and state support.

The Minister speaks of shared infrastructure, blended financing and agile intellectual property arrangements, but missing, are the hard targets for jobs created, technologies commercialised, patents translated into enterprises and South African innovations actually manufactured at scale. The ACDP believes that public-private partnerships must be mutually beneficial.

In this regard, government departments must guarantee transparency, competitive procurement, measurable public

UNREVISED HANSARD

returns and parliamentary oversight. The Minister rightfully highlights energy security, agriculture, mining, manufacturing and the digital economy as strategic priorities. The ACDP gives that these priorities require more than conferences and policy dialogues. They require decisive implementation, institutional accountability and an environment in which entrepreneurs can actually build businesses.

Most importantly, innovation must not become the preserve of elite institutions, corporations or technology hubs. In acknowledging the need to include townships and rural innovators; women; youth and small, medium and micro enterprises, SMMEs, the ACDP expects government to demonstrate how these commitments will be funded, measured and enforced.

As kingdom builders, the ACDP positions that South Africa does not need another grand innovation narrative, but it needs service delivery. Science must move from laboratories into factories, from patents into products and from policy documents into jobs and livelihoods. Thank you, hon Chair.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu na ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

English:

... hon members, we know that the science of today is the technology of tomorrow. We must seek to understand the world we live in today, and we must invest in technology we need to build a South Africa of the future. To that end, Minister, we welcome the extension of the traditional Science Week to a month where science and innovation is supported and celebrated.

My own love for science and technology was sparked by the opportunity to participate in science week as a youngster. We need more of our children to see a future in science, to see how they can contribute to technological advancement in our country. This requires a clear prioritisation of school-level awareness campaigns, but also targeted investment in educational infrastructure at rural and township schools.

We commend the work of the provincial education department in this regard, but it is clear that more should be done to harness the potential of all our children in South Africa. It is also encouraging, Minister, to hear of the accolades that South African scientists and researchers are receiving across the world. We have a wealth of knowledge and talent in our country.

UNREVISED HANSARD

However, Minister, we continue to bleed academic staff. We are losing our brightest minds because of uncertain tenures, a lack of funding and the state of governance in our tertiary education. This undermines both children's future in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM, fields and our country's very own development.

Our investment in science of today determines our technology of the future. This must be a priority to us all. Let us ensure that this Science Month celebrates our scientists, but also it leads to sustainable investment in building a South Africa of the future. May this Science Month continue long into the future.

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

Dr M A MAIMANE: Hon Chairperson, let me highlight the fact that the Minister's statement today represents a significant achievement in the South African calendar, which we welcome, and we welcome the National Science Month. It is equally important that we celebrate science, for ultimately, economies of the future will be dependent on how well we have young

UNREVISED HANSARD

people who can compete, who can become scientists, engineers, researchers and innovators.

However, hon Minister, I do wish to highlight that if this is going to mean anything, we have to ask the existential question: Where do our future scientists come from? This cannot be just about exhibitions, speeches and celebrations. It is about really creating a pipeline where young people are able to participate and fully maximise the opportunities presented to them.

I urge you, hon Minister, with your counterpart in the Minister of Basic Education: In fact, the reality is that 873 public schools do not offer physical science as a matric subject. Where physical science is offered, too many learners are expected to imagine what a test tube is without properly understanding the nature of science.

Recent data indicates that 32% of schools only have laboratories, while 15 299 schools or 72,3% of those in service, do not even have a science or a computer laboratory. If we want to really make this a meaningful exercise, let us produce scientists of the future and stock that the majority of our citizens do not have an opportunity to study science.

UNREVISED HANSARD

I want to also address the second myth, hon Minister. When you do a longitudinal study of learners, when they are in primary school, they do very well in maths and science; however, when they get to a school where maths and science are not offered, they struggle.

Therefore, the third myth is that we have to address this question: Why do we then ask young people to pass at 30%? We reject this idea that an assessment can be given at 30%. We accept that it is not the only thing that you need to do to achieve a National Senior Certificate, but it is one of the components; it is far too low; and it is not helping our young people.

We have to produce an education that will compete with anyone in the world, or these weeks will be for the elite quintile four and five schools and only for the benefit of some. So, if we are going to produce future engineers, let us prioritise physical science and mathematics and make it available at every school. Let us accept that it is about our future. Let us properly train teachers who can teach the subjects. Let us have functioning laboratories and infrastructure at schools, and the National Science Week will therefore be meaningful.

UNREVISED HANSARD

It will be a place where all of us can say that the talent in South Africa finds expression. It is able to develop, innovate, and show that science and technology are available for everybody. In the future of AI, we could really make a difference. So, Minister, I congratulate you. I ask you now: Let us build schools that produce scientists that we will need for tomorrow.

Setswana:

Ke a leboga, Modulasetilo!

English:

Thank you very much.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Speaker, I greet you with the warmest of greetings of peace, love, unity and respect. Through you, hon Speaker, I wish to welcome the ministerial statement on the significance, outcomes and achievements of our inaugural National Science Month. As Al Jama-ah, we recognise that science, technology and innovation are not luxuries reserved for the privileged few. They are essential instruments for transforming our economy, improving service delivery and creating opportunities for our young people.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The inaugural National Science Month provides us with an important platform to bring science closer to our communities, particularly learners and young people who may never ever have considered careers in science, technology, engineering and innovation. I believe we must create lasting opportunities. We must ensure that our townships, rural and disadvantaged communities become active participants and beneficiaries. Let us find innovative ways to include, motivate, inspire, and benefit our youth.

We should also strengthen partnerships between government, universities, schools, businesses, NPOs, NGOs, and innovators, particularly in supporting young entrepreneurs to turn scientific ideas into sustainable businesses and employment opportunities. Science must ultimately improve the lives of our people, whether through better health care, food security, water management, energy solutions, digital connectivity or more efficient public services.

Hon Minister, we therefore commend this important initiative. Let us become a national movement for knowledge, innovation, opportunity and empowerment. Science should be used to change our communities, transform our economy and build a better South Africa for all.

UNREVISED HANSARD

IsiZulu:

Malibongwe!

English:

I thank you, hon Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon member. Is there a speaker from the NCC? The PAC?

The MINISTER OF LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Chair, there is no statement from the PAC, but we support the statement by hon Nzimande. Thank you, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon Minister. The next speaker is the hon Dr Mahlatsi.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Thank you, Chairperson.

Sesotho:

Kgotso, Maafrika!

English:

The UAT acknowledges the inaugural National Science Month and acknowledges the importance of moving beyond traditional

UNREVISED HANSARD

National Science Week towards a month-long program designed to broaden public engagement with science, technology and innovation. The theme - science, technology, and innovation - is for everyone. It is particularly important in a country where access to knowledge, technology and science infrastructure remains deeply unequal.

However, we must be careful not to measure the success of National Science Month merely by the number of exhibitions, lectures, school visits and people who attend activities. The real test must be whether science and innovation change the material conditions of our people. Can it reach the children in Sekhukhune District, where the UAT supported them with three water boreholes, despite being surrounded by grown minds?

The department itself acknowledged that South Africa invests approximately 0,61% of GDP in research and development, substantially below the National Development Plan aspiration of 1,5%. This must concern us. We cannot proclaim that science is for everyone while our investment in the knowledge economy remains inadequate. We therefore welcome the programme’s emphasis on learners in rural communities, emerging

UNREVISED HANSARD

technologies, health, climate change, education, human rights and decolonisation knowledge systems.

The reported participation of more than 1 000 learners in a Stem Career Expo in the rural Manguzi demonstrates the value of taking science to communities that are often excluded from advanced science opportunities. However, the Minister must tell Parliament what happens after July. How many learners who participated will receive sustained Stem mentorship? How many will access bursaries, laboratories, research opportunities and science careers? How will the government measure whether National Science Month change public attitudes towards science and increases participation by young people from poor to rural areas? Ladies and gentlemen, vote for the UAT.

Xitsonga:

Khanimambo!

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon member. I see the hand of the hon Selepe from MKP is up. Why do you want to be recognised, hon member?

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Mr L D SELEPE: Thank you, House Chair. House Chair can Mr Marlon Daniels switch off his video because he is distracting the meeting. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Noted, hon member. The next speaker is from GOOD. Is there a speaker from GOOD. If not, I recognise the hon Mazzone.

Ms N W A MAZZONE: Hon House Chairperson, there are moments in a life of a country where we need to stop talking about everything that is wrong with us and start to remind ourselves about everything that is right with us. Science, technology and innovation give South Africa exactly one of those moments. For despite our challenges ...

Ms O M C MAOTWE: House Chairperson, on a point of order.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Yes, hon member, what is the point of order?

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Hon House Chairperson, my point of order is: Is it parliamentary to have someone debate from the DA who does not even have a matric on a subject so complicated like science and technology.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, hon member, you are out of order.

Hon Mazzone, will you please proceed.

Ms N W A MAZZONE: With pleasure, thank you, hon House Chairperson.

Despite our challenges, this remains an extraordinary country. A country of extraordinary people and a country capable of extraordinary things and if we are serious of economic growth, jobs energy, security, food security, better health care and competing in a rapidly changing world, then science, technology and innovation cannot sit anywhere on the periphery of the government. It must sit in the very heart of our national development.

Hon House Chairperson South Africans, sometimes estimate how significant the science and technology community is. However, let us look at the Karoo. There under some of the clearest skys sits the Meerkat one of the greatest radio telescopes and the precursor to the Square Kilometre Array, SKA. South Africa is not simply participating, in one of humanities greatest scientific endeavours, we are in fact helping to build it.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Scientists from around the world are coming here to peer billions of years into the universe.

Let us think about that; from the Karoo South Africa is helping humanity answer the questions of the very universe itself. And then look to Sutherland where the Southern African telescope continues to be a proud astronomical tradition. Look to the iThemba LABS here in the Western Cape, the largest particle accelerator base scientific facility in the whole Southern hemisphere conducting advanced research and producing radioisotopes that are used in medicine.

These are the dreams that South Africa has that one day we will all be able to participate in.

At the Council for Scientific Industrial Research, CSIR, South African scientist Sandile Ngcobo invented the world first digital laser changing the way laser beams can be controlled. This is phenomenal.

Oue scientist work in biotechnology, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, agriculture, climate science, hydrogen technology and space science. Biovac have received approval to begin clinical trials for the oral cholera vaccine, an

UNREVISED HANSARD

important step in building the vaccine manufacturing capacity not only for South Africa but the whole continent. This is the South Africa we do not speak about merely not enough because people are so happy to speak about hate.

Hon House Chairperson, innovation is not some luxury reserved for wealthy countries. Innovation is how countries become wealthy. Every economy that has successfully transformed itself has understood something very simple. Knowledge creates value. Research creates industries. Innovation creates jobs and science solves problems.

For a country like hours, we have enormous mineral wealth, extraordinary biodiversity and abandoned renewable energy with possibilities limitless especially for our young population.

However, House Chairperson, potential is a terrible thing to waste. This is where we must be prepared to challenge ourselves. The space economy is happening now. The artificial intelligence revolution is happening now. The global energy transition is happening now. South Africa has a choice. We can become consumers of technology's invented elsewhere or we can become the creators. I chose to become the creator. I want a South Africa that does not merely import tomorrow, I want a

UNREVISED HANSARD

South Africa where we invent tomorrow. That requires something more than government funding.

It requires universities, researchers, entrepreneurs and the private sector to begin working together. It requires us to take brilliant South African research out of laboratories and turn it in South African companies, South African products and South African intellectual property. This will ultimately turn into South African jobs.

It requires us to make science exciting to children again. This year’s decision to expand the Science Week into Science Month is therefore something well worth celebrating. Somewhere in a classroom in Soweto, Khayelitsha, Bloemfontein, Mitchells Plain or Upington is a child who could become South Africa’s next greatest astronomer, engineer, mathematician or inventor.

Talent does not belong to a postcard. Opportunity should not either. Our responsibility is to find that talent, nature it and give it somewhere to go. Our greatest scientific discovery has not yet happened, and our greatest innovation yet been invented. The South African who would ultimately create or invent something is sitting in a classroom somewhere

UNREVISED HANSARD

completely unaware that one day she will accomplish greatness. Our job is to make sure that she gets the chance.

South Africa has the brains, we have the institutions, the natural resources, the scientific heritage and most importantly we have the people. We now need the confidence to back them. So, let us be ambitious about South African science. Let us invest wisely, let us demand excellence and let us celebrate our scientists. Let us never accept the idea that South Africans must simply watch while a future is invented somewhere.

Hon House Chairperson, we are a country with enormous problems, but we are a country with enormous possibilities. Science gives us tools and innovation give us opportunity. South Africans have repeatedly shown that when given this opportunity we can compete with the very best in the world. More opportunities like Science Month will ensure that we can continuously support and encourage South African excellence. Hon House Chairperson, I thank you.

Ms L SAPO: Hon Chair, it is with great pride that we stand here today, united in celebrating the launch and resounding success of our inaugural National Science Month, a landmark

UNREVISED HANSARD

evolution from the National Science Week that has served our country since 2000. This important initiative, driven by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, DSTI, marks a pivotal step in placing science, technology, and innovation at the very heart of our national development agenda. South Africa has always aspired to rise as a beacon of scientific science excellence and innovation on the African continent and the world stage.

Hence, hon Chair, we recognise that to address the deep-rooted challenges of poverty, inequality, and unemployment, cutting-edge technologies must play a transformative role, and the National Science Month, with its theme: *Science, Technology, and Innovation* are for everyone, does precisely that. It breaks down barriers, dispels the notion that science is a field reserved for selected few, and opens doors for all our citizens to engage meaningfully with science and technology.

Our commitment to championing transformative global technology is evident in the strategic focus areas embraced during this month-long celebration. These include artificial intelligence and machine learning, which hold immense promise for solving socioeconomic challenges by boosting industrial automation and creating new economic opportunities. The investment in these

UNREVISED HANSARD

fields will empower our industries to compete globally while addressing local issues.

Hon Chairperson, quantum computing, another milestone explored with growing vigour, promises a revolutionary breakthrough in computing power. Its implication in security and problem-solving could redefine how we handle sensitive information, optimise resource allocation, and accelerate scientific discovery. Our presence in these domains signals South Africans' readiness to lead in the new global knowledge economy.

While our biotechnological research continues to expand its footprint, supporting health care innovation, agricultural advancement, and environmental sustainability. Through the projects such as DSTI-funded community participatory research involving Cape Peninsula University of Technology and the University of South Africa, we see science and indigenous knowledge working hand-in-hand to enhance livelihoods. These initiatives have empowered local communities to produce and market high-quality products, combining traditional wisdom and scientific rigour, an inspiring model of inclusive science.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Hon Chairperson, we recognise the critical importance of our advancing nuclear medicine and health innovation to combat diseases that affect our people. Investment in medical research infrastructure not only enhances diagnostic and treatment capabilities, but it also positions our country as a hub for cutting-edge health science. It is that good that our focus is not limited to abstract scientific inquiry, but extends to practical applications, tackling societal challenges, including time prevention and societal health safety.

Science Month has also highlighted the pivotal role of science and technology in poverty alleviation and job creation. Through showcasing young innovators and entrepreneurs, particularly during the event that the Minister spoke about the value deficit of technology, learners have witnessed first-hand on how, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, STEM, subjects translate to valuable careers and economic empowerment.

An example of Bongani Maletse’s inspiring testimony reminds us that with focus and perseverance, our youth can achieve their dreams and contribute meaningfully to society. The intensive reach and participation of all provinces and relevant

UNREVISED HANSARD

stakeholders demonstrate the unity and strength of our national science engagement ecosystem. Activities that took place across the country and growing involvement of rural and underdeveloped communities ensure that no community is left behind.

Our use of trusted mainstream media and dynamic social media platforms broadens access and reflection, reinforcing science's place in everyday South Africans' lives. As the ANC, we support the Minister and the Department's strategic vision. We recognise that elevating science, technology, and innovation to the centre of government, education, industry, and society is fundamental to achieving our developmental goals.

We believe that Science Month is more than a public awareness campaign, but it is a vibrant platform for evidence-based solutions addressing societal problems. Hon Minister, we are looking forward to the second edition of Science Month. We're of the view that early stakeholder engagement would lay the foundation for even more impactful events, both in lessons learnt and successes achieved. Today we celebrate a South Africa that is ready to harness the power of science and

UNREVISED HANSARD

technology for the prosperity and well-being of all its people.

As we prepare for local government elections, we urge all young people to exercise their constitutional right to vote and to vote for the liberation movement. It is only the ANC that believes that science, technology, and innovation are drivers of economic growth and local economic development. Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION: Apologies, hon Chair, let me start by thanking all the members who participated in this important discussion, this important statement, and especially those who have expressed their support for our Science Month and its objectives and activities that we spoke about. Hon Mjadu ...

IsiZulu:

... hhayi, lungu elihlonophekile, kodwa ke uyaganga, uyahlupha nje esikhathini esiningi.

English:

You know very well this was not a presentation on the state of science, technology, and innovation in our country. We were

UNREVISED HANSARD

talking about Science Month and highlighting some of the achievements and the things that we have done.

IsiZulu:

Akekho ke umuntu ongibuza imibuzo ePhalamende ukwedlula wena. Zonke lezi zinto othi asizenzi zihleli lapho ezimpendulweni engakunika zona.

English:

All the answers are with you that I give you, and also you know attending the portfolio committee that I give updates on many things, including these things which you say we do not do. You know that is not true. You are just grandstanding as the MKP normally does. So, if you engage with me honestly, I could also engage you seriously. So, I won't engage you seriously because it's just grandstanding to try and say we don't do anything when we do a lot.

Similarly, Dr Thembekwayo, you also know that some of the things that we are saying, I think much as you are raising some points that I can agree with you, the importance of access to science, which is what we are partly addressing, but also you sit in the portfolio committee and get lots of answers on the things that we are actually talking about.

UNREVISED HANSARD

I also do want to say, by the way, that we also do have a Grassroots Innovation Programme in our department which is based on the assumption, which is a correct one, that much of science comes from highly educated, highly qualified scientists and researchers, but also innovation comes from the grassroots, from ordinary people who are able to come up with very innovative things. So, that is part of our programme.

We are also mobilising around our indigenous knowledge systems, trying to ensure that traditional things that were used and are still being used by majority of our people we harness them like herbalists. We study their herbs to see if there's any scientific value if we actually measure them.

So, there is a lot that is happening, and I wasn't really talking about that - the entire state of Science, Technology and Innovation. We also promote local technologies. Also, hon Zondo, thanks for acknowledging what we are doing, but also the issue of under-representation of women and girls. You know it's a matter that we are dealing with through our programmes, our scholarships, our bursaries that are biased towards women. Also, we've got an annual Science Awards for Women in South Africa which we've just done hardly a week ago, where we are

UNREVISED HANSARD

honouring women scientists who are doing wonderful work. Also to encourage young girls and women to be attracted to science.

Hon Bossoff, unfortunately my Afrikaans is not that good coming from Pietermaritzburg, but I thought what you were saying is that we were protesting that we mustn't just make English the only language of science, ...

Afrikaans:

... Wetenskap ...

English:

... and that we do need to use African languages and other languages, and Afrikaans, I'm sure. We agree with you, but you know that we are trying to cover centuries and decades of colonialism and apartheid, which actually suppressed our languages. The whole mission of Bantu Education was to suppress African languages. So, you are the last person that I would expect to be complaining to us about this.

I must say look at yourself as to what your predecessors did to black South Africans in particular, but I take your point. We are doing a lot now using AI to try and use African languages to promote Science. I also thank, as I have said,

UNREVISED HANSARD

Letlape, bab'uGana who have made some very important points, and also hon Maimane for your point. I will debate with you on another platform about this 30% pass thing. There is no such in matric, but I will debate with you as to why we have a differentiated education system that recognises knowledge at different levels. I don't have time for that today.

Since 1994, we have significantly expanded access to Mathematics, but we still have a lot to do in order to actually achieve that. I also thank Al Jama-ah, PAC, and UAT for your positive comments. In fact, Bab'uMjadu, the person who replied to you today is hon Mazzone, who actually then took all the issues that should have been debated and discussed. I think she gave a very good reply to yourself.

IsiZulu:

Kufanele uzinuke amakhwapha bab'uMjadu. [Kwaphela isikhathi.]

English:

Thank you very much, hon House Chair.

Statement concluded.

UNREVISED HANSARD

REMOVAL OF THE SPEAKER FROM OFFICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 52(4) OF THE CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RULE 28

(Draft Resolution)

Mr J S MALEMA: House Chairperson, Members of the House, the Parliament of South Africa since the dawn of democracy has had many Speakers of the National Assembly, all charged with ensuring that this arm of the state performs its mandate of crafting legislation and holding the executive accountable.

To be Speaker of the National Assembly is a role that comes with a great responsibility. One that requires the ability to distinguish between serving the political organisation that deployed you as a Member of Parliament and serving the Constitution to which you take an oath once you are elected Speaker, by a majority in this House.

That oath is owed to all 400 Members of this House and to the public who elected them, not merely to the party that put you here, as a speaker.

Unfortunately, over the last 15 years a culture of prioritising the party and the elected President over the

UNREVISED HANSARD

Constitution and over oversight has come to characterise those who occupy this office. It began with Ms Baleka Mbete who presided over a Parliament that received its first scathing rebuke from the Constitutional Court for failing to adhere to the recommendation of the Public Protector regarding what is now popular known as the Nkandla Scandal.

Under Baleka Mbete, the then President of the Republic was shielded through a refusal to allow Parliament to conduct its oversight role through secrecy and through violence, using the deployment of security personnel against unarmed Members of Parliament including women who were violently assaulted for demanding accountability.

At that time, we were not quick to act because we believe she could still be reasoned with, but this proved futile. She has since, years later come forward to confess that she regret her actions and admits that she did not conduct herself in a manner consistent with her oath of office. That confession changed nothing. The damage had already been done, and it is this country that continues to carry the consequences.

Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula followed in her footsteps and was a speaker who carried open disdain for Members of Parliament who

UNREVISED HANSARD

raised the Phala Phala saga in this House, calling us names and equally deploying security personnel to assault members who dare raise the matter.

It was under Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula that this Parliament conducted an unconstitutional and illegal vote to suppress the section 89 Independent Panel Report into Phala Phala which found that the President may have violated the Constitution by bringing foreign currency into this country without following our laws.

The report went further, it said that there was prima facie evidence that President Cyril Ramaphosa was subsequently, abused his office and state resources in trying to recover that foreign currency after it was stolen from him.

Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula has since appeared on a podcast where she expressed regret for her conduct as a Speaker, yet we remain stuck with the consequence of her actions.

Chief amongst this, is the current Secretary to Parliament who was irregularly appointed under her watch and has since been awarded salary increases that amount to nothing less than the theft of public money.

UNREVISED HANSARD

It was her recklessness in suppressing that report that has left us saddled with the very Phala Phala conundrum to this day. Had she simply allowed the matter to be referred to impeachment committee as the Constitution required, would have impeached Mr Ramaphosa long ago and moved on as a nation. She too regretted her action, but that regret does not undo the harm this country has suffered.

Ms Thoko Didiza, the current Speaker, now forms part of this generation of Speakers who put President first and the Constitution second. Not only has she dragged her feet, but she has actively failed to execute her responsibilities in defence of the oversight duties of Parliament.

This Seventh Parliament has under her stewardship been the most secretive since the dawn of democracy, with the Speaker controlling matters in a clandestine manner. She does not consult and she manipulates political parties in her efforts to protect the President.

On occasions, despite her attempts to appear sophisticated about it, she has misled the public. And when we raised our concerns, she deployed Parliament’s communication machinery in

UNREVISED HANSARD

response, granting multiple interviews that offered multiple conflicting versions of the same story.

When President Cyril Ramaphosa filed papers to take section 89 Independent Panel Report on review, following the Constitutional Court judgment that Parliament must establish an impeachment committee to test whether President violated this oath of office the Speaker as the head of Parliament did not oppose that application.

Similarly, when Mr Ramaphosa filed an interdict application to stop the impeachment committee from doing its work, pending the outcome of his opportunistic review application, the Speaker again decided not to oppose that application. These two instances are a grave abdication of duty because the Speaker, as head of the legislature, is ultimately the custodian of the section 89 Independent Panel Report and ought to defend Parliament’s process from being compromised and halted by the executive through the judiciary. She has failed to do this because she is partisan.

All of these partisan decisions can be traced back to the fact that when Parliament voted on whether to establish an

UNREVISED HANSARD

impeachment committee, the then Member of Parliament, Thoko Didiza, voted ‘no’ and was part of those who voted illegally.

Now, as a Speaker of the National Assembly, her attitude towards this process remain ‘no’ because she does not want the President held accountable. She did not want accountability then and she does not want accountability now.

What makes matters worse is that the Speaker ignored the legal opinion given to her, which said she must oppose the President’s review application and instead went on to seek a legal opinion from the law firm of a former ANC official, one that merely affirmed she will accept any outcome of the court process without filing any argument in defence of Parliament and its work.

We must also say this plainly. We keep telling the former liberation movement that their one of party majority rule in Parliament, in provincial legislature, in municipal councils is over, and that they remain in denial. Because they are refusing to accept this reality. It is precisely this denial that makes the Speaker’s conduct look acceptable when it is not. If this Seventh Parliament fails to confront this

UNREVISED HANSARD

behaviour, it risks becoming a permanent feature of Parliament that no longer commands majority and that cannot be accepted.

It is for this reason, and in terms of section 52(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, that the EFF files this motion of no confidence because Ms Didiza is not fit to preside over a legislature whose role and constitutional responsibility, she is not willing to defend.

We call on all political parties to appreciate this, that she has exhibited partisanship at a critical moment in our democracy when we ought to will be showing that no one is above the law and this includes the President, no matter how powerful the political party that deployed him to that office.

Ms Thoko Didiza must go and she must go now. I thank you, House Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order hon members! I now hand over the presiding to the hon Deputy Speaker.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY (Mr M Ntuli): Hon Deputy Speaker, good afternoon to you and good afternoon to all hon members. The motion of the EFF is calling for the

UNREVISED HANSARD

removal of the Speaker of the National Assembly at the very moment when the integrity of this institution is under the sharpest scrutiny it has faced in years. It is our firm view as the ANC that this House considers not only this motion for this debate, but its facts, the law, and indeed the implications. Let us first remind ourselves of where we stand in our constitutional history, because this motion cannot be understood outside that particular and important context.

Section 89 of the Constitution grants power to the National Assembly to remove a President for a serious violation of the Constitution and the law. Serious misconduct or inability to perform the functions of office is one of the most consequential and the first of its kind in our constitutional democracy.

For years, it existed almost entirely on paper. The National Assembly had no rules to give practical effect to it, no committee structure to process it, nor sacred practice to guide its proceedings. The Constitutional Court in the Nkandla judgment found that this Assembly had failed to hold the then President accountable and that no rules existed to give effect to Section 89 of our Constitution. That judgment was the

UNREVISED HANSARD

beginning of the establishment of what we now know as Section 89 rules.

Perhaps, and most importantly, let us set out the facts as they are and not the caricature offered by the EFF in its campaign for the removal of the Speaker. The Speaker's own explanatory affidavit before the Western Cape High Court sets out that record in detail and let me make specific references to it. On 8 May 2026, the ConCourt and put down its judgment on the matter between the EFF and the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Accordingly, the Speaker acted without any hesitation to ensure that the National Assembly fully complies with the directive and the order of the Apex Courts. On 11 May 2026, three days after the judgment was handed down, the Speaker formally transmitted the final report to the President of the Republic in writing, informing him in the same letter that the report would also be referred to an Impeachment Committee as the court had ordered.

On 12 May 2026, the report was published for the information of all members. On 13 May 2026, the Speaker wrote to every political party in this House requesting nomination for

UNREVISED HANSARD

members of the Impeachment Committee with a deadline of 22 May 2026. Accordingly, all political parties met that deadline.

On 25 May 2026, the committee's 31 members, drawn from 16 parties in proportion to their representation in this House, was appointed and published. Six days later, on the 1 June 2026, the committee held its first meeting and elected its own chairperson.

A day later, on 2 June, the Speaker referred the panel report to the committee, formally activating its mandate under Section 89 rules. That is 25 days from the judgment to a fully constituted Impeachment Committee. No delayed tactics. No constitutional abdication or obfuscation.

A Speaker moving with urgency as required under Section 237 of our Constitution, demanding all constitutional obligations to be performed diligently and without delay. It was actually the President, not the Speaker, exercising his constitutional right and trying in our Constitution, who legally intervened, which introduced to the effect the pace, which impacted on the pace and the substance of what the committee can and cannot do.

UNREVISED HANSARD

On the day the committee was constituted, the President launched a review application asking for the court to set aside the panel report itself and to invalidate any parliamentary steps taken in pursuant of it. Days later, his attorney also wrote to the Speaker asking that the committee formally inquire if he stayed pending the review. The Speaker's response, which is on record, on the very same day she received the letter from the President, refused to grant the President's request. In her letter to the President, the Speaker emphasised that committees determine their own working arrangements in terms of Rule 167, subsection F, and that she has no power to interfere with the work of the committee, as the Constitutional Court itself indicated that once seized with the matter, the committee performs a distinct investigative function and retains control over its own proceedings.

That is the record. A Speaker who complied with the abiding order within days, who kept the process moving, who, when the President sought to halt the process, she refused and upheld the independence and principles governing the workings of the National Assembly. Why the EFF and its allies in this House completely indifferent to this objective reality? The record

UNREVISED HANSARD

shows that the Speaker would try to keep the Assembly within the four corners of his constitutional obligation.

Number one, comply with the court order. Number two, constitute the committee. Number three, refer the report. Then, of course, step back and let the committee, not the Speaker, personally carry the Constitutional obligations forward. This brings me to the heart of the legal complaint underlying this motion, that the Speaker's decision to file a notice to abide, rather than to formally oppose the President's urgent application to halt the committee's work.

The EFF in this motion indicates that the decision offends Rule 2026, which requires the Speaker to act fairly and impartially, and that she acted in a partisan manner in violation of her constitutional obligations.

In reality, the opposite is actually the truth. Fairness and impartiality do not require the Speaker personally to become a litigant against the President in every matter before the Assembly. They require her to ensure that the correct constitutional actor, in this case, the Impeachment Committee itself, which is the body properly seized with the Section 189

UNREVISED HANSARD

Inquiry, is able to make its case fully and without any interference. That is exactly what happened.

The committee opposed the President's interdict application on its own papers and in its own name, as it was entitled and equipped to do so. That happened without any objection or interference by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Speaker did not abandon that fight altogether. She supplemented it. She filed an explanatory affidavit to assist in the adjudication of the matter before the court and the steps she had already taken to comply with the ConCourt judgment and as well as her obligations.

The Speaker's own affidavit is very candid about why she states plainly that given that the committee seized with the matter and will itself report back to the National Assembly on the outcome of its processes. It was necessary at that stage to allow the committee the space to deal with the matter in accordance with its own mandate. She expressly notes in the same breath that the committee had already elected to oppose the President's application.

UNREVISED HANSARD

That cannot be construed, even by a stretch of imagination, as the Speaker's abdicating her responsibility and therefore acting in a partisan manner as alleged by the EFF.

The Speaker did not contradict the committee's position. It is in the principle the same position aimed at supplementing and complementing the arguments of the committee because the Speaker's constitutional role in this process is not identical to that of the committee. It would have been improper for her to pretend otherwise.

It must be noted that by law, to abide by a court, the court's ultimate ruling is not to concede the merits. This motion asks us to remove a Speaker, not for defying the Constitutional Court, not for halting an impeachment inquiry, not for shielding a President from accountability, but for choosing a legally different, procedurally sound way of assisting a court to understand the perspective, complemental roles of the two constitutional actors, both moving towards the same destination, which is the compliance with a binding judgment of our Apex Court.

If we remove a Speaker, every time a losing party in a legal dispute dislike how she understands her own constitutional and

UNREVISED HANSARD

institutional role, we will have created a precedent far more dangerous than anything alleged in this motion. We would have told every future Speaker that their security of tenure depends not only on lawful conduct, but on satisfying the loudest voices in the room on any given day. Whether rational or irrational, this will plunge this institution, the National Assembly, into chaos and create a constitutional crisis.

We cannot allow the EFF's strange way of thinking to prevail. It is dangerous. It is unsustainable. This Assembly has created the Section 9 Committee, which is on powers, as defined in the Rules 168 of the NA Rules, which litigated in its own right, exactly stipulated by Section 23 of Powers and Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act.

Therefore, I ask this House to firmly reject the motion and the political gimmicks of the EFF, and the ANC stands on record before the National Assembly and the people of South Africa that we are firmly opposed to this motion, not only because it is against the Speaker who happens to be a member and a leader of the ANC, but because the facts before us and before the people of South Africa confirm that to decide otherwise would be a dereliction of duty on our part as

UNREVISED HANSARD

members of the National Assembly, and we will be acting on the basis of wrong information and wrong understanding of what precisely constitutes the task and the responsibility attended to the Speaker of the National Assembly.

I do want to conclude, by saying the Speaker of the National Assembly, hon Thoko Didiza, enjoys the support of the ANC, and I am convinced as the Chief Whip of the ANC that she too also enjoys the support of all members who elected her in 2024. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Ms P MKHIZE: Hon Chairperson, ...

IsiZulu:

... siyiqembu le-MKP, sisukuma ngokungananazi futhi sifuna ukukusho kuzwakale futhi kucace ukuthi siyaseseka isiphakamiso sokungathenjwa kukasomlomo wesiShayamthetho sikaZwelonke umhlonishwa uThoko Didiza. Phecelezi, ...

English:

... we rise in full support on the Motion of No Confidence in the Speaker of the National Assembly, hon Thoko Didiza, tabled in in terms of section 52(4) of the Constitution.

UNREVISED HANSARD

IsiZulu:

Lokhu asikwenzi ngoba sizama ukususa uchuku noma siqhuba ipolitiki yamaqembu. Sikwenza ngoba sikhathazekile siyi-MKP, ukuthi ngabe le Ndlu yePhalamende isayisikhungo sikaHulumeni esizimele ngempela na, njengoba kubekiwe ngaphansi kuka-section 42(3) soMthethosisekelo, noma sesiphenduke nje isandiso se-Luthuli House.

English:

The Office of the Speaker is not ceremonial, the Speaker is the guardian of this House’s institutional independence.

IsiZulu:

Ngokuka-section 65(2) kanye no section-89 woMthethosisekelo, eminye yemisebenzi yakhe njengoSomlomo ukuvikela igunya lePhalamende nokuqinisekisa ukuthi uHulumeni ophethe uyaphendula futhi nokuthi uyaziphendulela kubantu. [Ubuwelewele.], Akumele ke lokho kuthanjiswe noma kuhlehliswe ngoba nakhu kungahambiselani noMnumzane u-Ramaphosa kanye nomshado wakhe awakhe ne-DA noma ne-Government of National Unity, GNU, yakhe. Ingakho ke siyi-MKP sithi, umhlonishwa uThoko Didiza wehlukelekile ukusimela njengoSomlomo wePhalamende likaZwelonke.

UNREVISED HANSARD

English:

When the President of the Republic approached the Western Cape High Court to interdict a constitutionally mandated impeachment process, flowing directly from a constitutional court order, he made Parliament the respondent.

In that moment, there was no mutual ground. The Speaker had two options, to either ... [Interjections.] ... Deputy Speaker, can you please protect me from the ANC?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, just pause for a moment ... [Interjections.]

Ms N BUTHELEZI: Gwede Mantashe, you are misbehaving.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, please mute your microphones.

Ms S I NKOSI: Deputy Speaker, can I also just raise a point of order?

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Awathule ama-Ankole.

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms S I NKOSI: Our member was distracted more than three times and you did not say anything.

Mr V G REDDY: The Speaker needs more time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I am now intervening! Hon Reddy, you have not been recognised. Do not activate your microphone if you have not been recognised.

I am requesting all the members to mute their microphones. Minister Mantashe, please mute your microphone. I see there's a hand, right? That hand has been lowered. Hon Mkhize, please proceed.

Ms P MKHIZE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The Speaker had two options, to either defend this House or abandon it. She chose to abandon it as she filed a notice to abide. Abiding is not imperiality it is abdication. An explanatory affidavit is not a...[Interjection].

Assisting the court is not defending Parliament. When the executive seeks to freeze Parliament mid-function a Speaker who abide is not being restrained. She is capitulating, secondly, she rejected her own institutional advice.

UNREVISED HANSARD

This was not an error in a vacuum, the Speaker had before her sound independent legal advice, that she herself commissioned which recommended unequivocally that Parliament must oppose the President's application. She sets that advice aside and in doing so, she instead leaned on counsel from an attorney whose own political history includes serving as former treasurer general of the African National Congress, the same party of the sitting President who stood as an applicant.

We make no aspersions on that individual's personal integrity. But, for a Speaker whose legitimacy depends entirely on the perception and reality of independence, the optics are constitutionally intolerable. She sought comfort from the ANC-aligned counsel, rather than from the institutional advice that told her plainly to defend this House.

The House defended itself despite having a Speaker. What makes this indefensible, is that this House's own Section 89 Impeachment Committee understood what the Speaker did not understand. By an overwhelming majority, that committee, chaired by hon Gana resolved to oppose the President's interdict application.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Guided by the same core principals, the Speaker’s own advisors had identified. A process mandated by the constitutional court cannot be suspended at the instance of the very person whose fitness to hold office is under investigation. The committee therefore acted to protect Parliament, but the Speaker did not.

We have now the unattainable position where a committee of this House must defend Parliament against the executive while the Speaker of this House refuses to. This is a pattern not an incident.

We have seen this instinct before in December 2022, the House voted to block a Phala Phala inquiry altogether.

A decision the constitutional court later declared unlawful and irrational. That unlawful shielding was overturned by the courts. What we are witnessing now is the same shielding instinct reasserting itself through quieter means, not an outcry vote to block accountability but a presiding officer’s refusal to stand up for the institution that she leads.

IsiZulu:

UNREVISED HANSARD

Selokhu kwaqala lolu daba lase-Phala Phala, siyi-MKP simi nje ephuzwini elilodwa lokuthi, akekho umuntu ongaphezu komthetho kulaba abaphethe izikhundla zombuso, sisho naye uSomlomo kanye noMongameli wakhe uMnumnzane u-Ramaphosa.

English:

No office bearer is above scrutiny under section 89 and no Speaker may use neutrality as a licence to protect the executive from the consequences of its own conduct.

IsiZulu:

Umuntu akavune akutshalile.

English:

We have heard the defences offered that the Speaker complied with the constitutional court directive and that criticism is a false narrative. That filing an explanatory affidavit is sufficient.

That the IFP and the ANC believe that the threshold for the removal has not been met. We reject that defence in its entirety. Compliance with the order to establish the committee does not licence abandonment of the committee when it comes under legal attack.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Discretion exercised in favour of the executive at the direct expense of Parliament's institutional standing is not discretion, it is dereliction. And when the Speaker forfeits her ability to be seen as independent, she forfeits the confidence of this House to preside over it.

For these reasons the uMkhonto weSizwe Party will vote yes, in support of this Motion of No Confidence. We do so not out of hostility to hon Didiza as a person, but, out of fidelity to a foundational, constitutional, principle.

The Speaker of this House must answer to Parliament and to Parliament alone. A Speaker who will not defend Parliament against the Presidency cannot preside over Parliament.

Setswana:
Fa Sebui se sa kgone go sireletsa seriti le boikemelo ba Palamente kgatlhanong le kantoro ya Moporesitente, ga a tshwanela go etela Palamente pele.

IsiZulu:
Sengiqedile ngizovala ngelithi, Sukuma muntu omusha uzilwele ngevoti lakho.

UNREVISED HANSARD

English:

It’s time for young people to occupy their space by voting uMKhonto weSizwe Party on the 4th of November 2026. Gwaza Mkhonto! I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, of the MK please mute your microphones. We now proceed to the hon Breytenbach. I see there’s a hand raised before you proceed, hon Breytenbach. Hon Maduna what is your point of order.

Mr N MADUNA: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I rise on a point of order. It’s for the second time now that the hon members of the MKP are making such noise and you have not told them to stop doing so. This “cannot work.”

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Hhayi, suka!

English:

Mr N MADUNA: Can you please rule on that. This Takalani Sesame is not going to work.

IsiZulu:

Mnu T T S KUBEKHA: Awuhlale phansi, Maduna. Hlala phansi.

UNREVISED HANSARD

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Benibanga umsindo nina lapha thina sithulile. Phumani kithi.

English:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Shongwe, mute your microphone, you have not been recognised.

Mr C V SHONGWE: I did not say anything Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Shongwe, but you are unmuted, all members please mute your microphones. If I called your three times you will be removed from the platform. Hon Reddy, what is your point of order?

Mr V G REDDY: Hon Deputy Speaker, that point of order is out of order, because you supposed to raise the point when the transgression occurs and the member chose to raise it after.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Reddy, the hon member could not raise the point before I recognise him to raise the point and it was such an absolute mess and noise with the MK members all unmuting, but I could not recognise him. So please members control yourselves, Chief Whip, please exercise discipline.

UNREVISED HANSARD

We are working on a virtual platform, and it is extremely difficult to hear everyone because I cannot see all of you. So, hon Shongwe, hon Motaung, the matter has now been closed.

I have now ruled. Do you have a new matter that I will recognise Hon Motaung? I cannot hear you and there are no hands we will now proceed. Hon Breytenbach, please proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE SECOND LARGEST MINORITY PARTY (Adv G Breytenbach): Madam Deputy Speaker, we debate the motion of no confidence in the Speaker of the National Assembly, the hon Angela Thokozile Didiza. Let me begin by saying that this is an important motion, and it deserves to be treated with the seriousness that the Office of the Speaker and this Parliament demand.

Currently and in the past, the DA has not hesitated to criticise the Speaker when we believed she had fallen short of the standard expected of her office. And there have been numerous occasions when we have done so. Most notably, we have voiced serious reservations about the Speaker’s conduct in relation to the litigation brought by President Ramaphosa seeking to interdict the work of the section 89 Impeachment Committee. The Speaker’s decision to file a notice to abide,

UNREVISED HANSARD

rather than actively opposing the President's application, raised legitimate questions about whether Parliament was sufficiently defending its own constitutional authority and independence. The Impeachment Committee itself had resolved to oppose that application. This was not a trivial matter.

Parliament is not merely another litigant. It is one of the foundational institutions of our constitutional democracy. When Parliament's constitutional processes are challenged, the institution must be prepared to defend those processes robustly and without fear or favour. The Speaker's Office therefore carries a particular responsibility to ensure that Parliament is never perceived to be subordinate to the executive, and certainly not to the interests of any political party.

Also, the Speaker must be the Speaker of the whole House. That means protecting the rights of the majority but equally protecting the rights of minorities and opposition parties. It means allowing vigorous debate, even when that debate is uncomfortable. It means ensuring that the executive is properly held to account. And it means protecting the institutional independence and dignity of Parliament. There are, therefore, legitimate concerns about the manner in which

UNREVISED HANSARD

the Speaker has executed her responsibilities. We have also disagreed with some of her decisions on the prioritisation of matters for debate and on the manner in which Parliament responds to urgent matters of national importance. These concerns should not simply be dismissed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr A Lotriet): Hon Adv Breytenbach, please pause. Hon Shongwe, you have now unmuted again, and there is noise in your background. This is now your final warning. My apologies, hon Adv Breytenbach. Please proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE SECOND LARGEST MINORITY PARTY (Adv G Breytenbach): Madam Deputy Speaker, these concerns should not simply be dismissed as political criticism. A healthy democracy requires Parliament to scrutinise its own performance, including the performance of its presiding officers. But hon members, a motion of no confidence is a very serious constitutional instrument. It should not become a convenient political weapon whenever a party disagrees with a ruling or decision of the Speaker. The question before us is not whether the Speaker has made mistakes; she has. The question is whether those shortcomings are of such a nature and magnitude that this House should conclude that she has fundamentally failed to discharge the responsibilities of her

UNREVISED HANSARD

Office and should therefore be removed. On that question, the DA’s answer is no. We do not believe that the case has been made. The Speaker has, notwithstanding our disagreements with her, continued to facilitate the constitutional work of this House.

Following the Constitutional Court’s judgment concerning the section 89 process, she established the required Impeachment Committee. She referred the relevant matters to it and put the necessary parliamentary processes in place. Parliament has, in fact, proceeded with the work required by that judgment. That matters, because we must distinguish between disagreement with a particular decision and a fundamental inability or an unwillingness to perform the functions of the office. Those are not the same thing. We should also be careful not to create a dangerous precedent whereby every controversial decision by a presiding officer becomes grounds for removal. If we do that, we diminish the authority of the office itself.

The Speaker must be accountable. The Speaker must also be permitted to exercise the discretion and judgement inherent in that office without facing a threat of removal whenever one or another political party disagrees with her. That principle is particularly important in a multiparty Parliament. The DA will

UNREVISED HANSARD

continue to hold the Speaker to account. We will continue to challenge decisions that we believe are wrong. We will continue to insist that Parliament defend its constitutional powers. And we will continue to insist that the Speaker act impartially, fairly, and independently of party-political interests. But accountability does not require us to support a motion simply because we have criticisms of the incumbent. Our responsibility is to make a sober judgement about whether the threshold for removal has been met. We believe it has not.

Hon members, South Africans have entrusted us with an institution that is central to their democracy. They expect us to disagree; they expect us to argue; they expect us to hold one another to account. But they also expect us to exercise judgement. The DA will therefore not support this motion of no confidence in the Speaker. This decision should not be interpreted as an endorsement of every decision she has taken. It is rather a recognition that the remedy proposed by this motion is disproportionate to the shortcomings identified. We will continue to scrutinise the Speaker. We will continue to defend the independence of this Parliament. And where we believe the Speaker gets it wrong, we will say so, firmly, clearly, and without fear. But today, in the interests of the

UNREVISED HANSARD

institution we all serve, we will not support her removal. I thank you.

Mr N M HADEBE: Madam Deputy Speaker, public office is a public trust. We recall this testament from the late hon Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi:

> Public office is entrusted to us in service of the Constitution, our democracy, and ultimately South Africans.

The IFP therefore welcomes the scrutiny of the Speaker, but accountability must itself be grounded in evidence. The Speaker has duly implemented the section 89 Constitutional Court judgment. She constituted the Impeachment Committee, referred the Independent Panel Report to it, and put the institutional and administrative machinery in place for its work.

When the President threatened the Speaker to halt this process in his review papers, the Speaker did not bow down to the President. The Impeachment Committee continued to operate independently and resolved to oppose the President’s application. The Speaker has not abandoned Parliament’s accountability process, nor has she prevented the committee

UNREVISED HANSARD

from exercising its mandate independently and without fear or favour. However, we appreciate their concerns against the Speaker, which this House should not dismiss. The Speaker has obtained legal advice from the State Law Adviser, which concluded that she was under a duty to oppose the President's review application. She nevertheless chose to abide.

The IFP does not contend that a legal opinion is binding, nor that seeking further advice is inherently improper. The Speaker is entitled to exercise independent judgement; but where she departs from expert advice obtained in relation to the constitutional obligations of her office, the standard of accountability must rise. More importantly, she must recognise that departing from clear legal advice on a matter of this magnitude creates legal and institutional vulnerability. A second supporting opinion justifying her decision to abide does not by itself remove that risk. Our Constitution requires this House to exercise oversight and ensure accountability. The National Assembly Rules require the Speaker to protect the effective, transparent, and accountable functioning of the House, and to act fairly and impartially. Those standards must apply to the Speaker herself; but they must also apply to this motion.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The evidence does not establish that the Speaker abandoned the impeachment process, protected the President from parliamentary scrutiny, or failed to implement the Constitutional Court’s judgment. In fact, it shows the opposite. We therefore distinguish between conduct that deserves scrutiny and conduct that warrants removal. The former has been demonstrated; the latter has not. The IFP will therefore not support this motion. To invoke the words of the hon Minister V F Hlabisa, I quote:

> Leadership must set an ethical tone, leading by example in every action and decision.

We will continue to ask this of the Speaker. I thank you, hon Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr M V DANIELS: Good afternoon to you, Deputy Speaker and colleagues on the platform. Deputy Speaker, let me articulate why the PA is confident that this motion will not carry. This is just a whole lot of noise created by the sponsor of this motion. And we have to cut through that noise because this is not about accountability. It's purely about vendettas. It's a political theatre dressed up as constitutional oversight.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Deputy Speaker, the Rules demand a properly substantiated charge. The EFF is giving us nothing but hot air and manufactured outrage. You cannot remove a Speaker on vibes. I've never seen that before. We've seen this movie play out before, Speaker. Weaponised motions, destabilising institutions, manufacture crises, all while South Africa is crying out for stability, for safety, for jobs and so forth.

What does the EFF bring us? Absolutely nothing! Deputy Speaker, the Speaker is entitled to due process. She deserves to respond to allegations and not be ambushed by political grandstanding. We cannot reduce this Parliament to a circus, Deputy Speaker. We stand on governance based on facts and guided by principles, focus and stability. And this particular motion fails on all three of these counts.

I don't understand why they come with this frivolous motion. It's brought by somebody with the military title, commander-in-chief. But he himself can't even win a fight on PlayStation. What ... [Interjections.] ...

Ms O M C MAOTWE: On a point of order, Chair. Deputy Speaker? Deputy Speaker? Deputy Speaker, on a point of order.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Daniels, please pause. There is a point of order. Hon Maotwe?

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Deputy Speaker, I warned about this earlier. Having non-matriculants debating a very complex matter of science and technology, now, we're having this illiterate one speaking about things he has no idea about. He's not speaking about the motion. He's busy attacking the leader of the EFF and the EFF. But we're exercising our duty as Members of Parliament to hold the executive to account.

He is not debating what is on the table. Deputy Speaker, remove this person from the platform, please. He's reducing us to a mockery. People are laughing at us - these are the leaders who are leading you in Parliament and this is how they are debating. He is consistent with his behaviour, Deputy Speaker. We can't continue tolerating the PA’s behaviour. It was DA earlier on, now it's PA. These things of AAAs are a problem.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Maotwe, hon Daniels is participating in a debate on a motion. I would caution members, however, not to make personal insults that would be in breach of our Rules. So, please refrain from going that direction. Please debate

UNREVISED HANSARD

the matter at hand but refrain from personal insults. Hon Mathys, what is your point of order? Is it a new one because I have now ruled?

Ms L MATHYS: Chair, no, it's not a new one. He must withdraw. You didn't ask him to withdraw. You asked him to refrain. What he said, he must withdraw. We are not debating the commander-in-chief, Julius Malema here. We are debating something that we have a constitutional right to do so. So, he must withdraw that. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mathys, I have not asked the hon Daniels because there was no specific request that a specific utterance was offending the member. It was a general utterance. We will now proceed. Hon Daniels, please proceed.

Ms L MATHYS: No, Deputy Speaker, it wasn't a general utterance. And we are asking that you intervene and you also protect us as Members of Parliament. He must withdraw, please.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mathys, the hon Maotwe did not refer to a specific utterance that was made. She made a general comment that the hon member on the podium is now not talking about the motion and is being insulting. And she herself also

UNREVISED HANSARD

said, the hon member, it is typical, this is what you get if you don't have matric. So, that in itself is also offensive. Can we please proceed?

Ms L MATHYS: No, Deputy Speaker, we're not going to proceed because you didn't withdraw on that. I am raising a different matter. I indicated that it's a different matter. I said we are asking that he must withdraw because that is not part of the debate and it is a personal attack. And if he wants to debate members of other political parties and leaders of other political parties, he must bring a motion here. We are here to debate something serious. He must withdraw it, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mathys, I have now ruled. You also are well aware that in a procedure you do not debate. In terms of the Rules, you do not debate a ruling. That was my ruling. You can now write to the Speaker, the Office of the Speaker. It can be taken to the Rules Committee. But I have now made my ruling and we will now proceed. Hon Ntlangwini, I am not entertaining any further matters on this particular ruling. I have now ruled and you are now out of order, yourself. Hon Ntlangwini, on a new matter, not on the one that I have just dealt with.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: It is on a new matter, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the new matter?

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: I want to assist you, Deputy Speaker. That street fighter of the PA said that the commander-in-chief is being referred to in military terms, and he can't even win a PlayStation match. Now, our commander-in-chief doesn't need to play a PlayStation. He's the leader of the fourth largest political party. That is respect. So, for him to say that, he needs to withdraw that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ntlangwini, that is not a point of order. That is a point of debate. And I'm not going to entertain it any further, because the EFF ... [Interjections.] ...

Ms L MATHYS: But Deputy Speaker, we're not debating Members of Parliament here. We are debating a motion of no confidence in the Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mathys, you are now in fact ... [Interjections.] ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms L MATHYS: And surely, we should also have a one against you if you can't even guide us correctly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon van Wyk, please mute your microphone. Hon van Wyk, I have not recognised you. Hon van Wyk, please mute your microphone. Hon members, hon van Wyk, I am still on the floor. Mute your microphone. I have not recognised you. I have not recognised any of the other speakers now. You can carry on. You are now interfering in your members' motion. So, we can carry on with this, or we can proceed with the motion.

Mr S H M VAN WYK: No, Deputy Speaker, we can carry on.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon van Wyk, I did not recognise you. Hon Maotwe, I have ruled on your point of order.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: I have a different point of order, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please proceed.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Deputy Speaker, the hon member said that the commander-in-chief and the leader of the EFF can't even win a PlayStation. That is very offensive and we request your

UNREVISED HANSARD

indulgence on this point that he must withdraw that statement. It's offensive and it's unparliamentary. And we're requesting you, Deputy Speaker, to ask the member to withdraw that comment. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Maotwe. I will allow that based on the fact that you were the original person who submitted this point of order. Apparently not being able to play a PlayStation is critical and is an offence. But yes, so hon Daniels, will you then withdraw that the hon leader of the EFF cannot win a PlayStation game?

Ms O M C MAOTWE: His name is the Julius Malema, Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We know who the leader of the EFF is. Hon Daniels?

Mr M V DANIELS: Deputy Speaker, I did not know that it was going to be a contestation.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Daniels, I asked you to withdraw. Hon Daniels, just withdraw. Do not debate it. Withdraw or not?

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr M V DANIELS: I will withdraw, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. We will now proceed. Hon van Wyk, I'm not allowing this matter further. It has now been dealt with. The same with the hon Mente. We will now proceed. Hon Daniels, your time is activated again.

Mr M V DANIELS: Deputy Speaker, having looked at this motion and the sponsor of this motion, it gave me full confidence that this motion will not carry because I don't see the substance in this motion. And even if I had to ask my 13-year-old daughter, she would have said, daddy, I don't know why they're bringing this motion to the National Assembly. And that is the substance of the intellect behind the sponsors of this motion.

Those who genuinely care about this institution shall reject this motion in the same manner that the PA vehemently and unequivocally rejects this motion with the contempt it deserves.

Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr S THAMBO: The member has equated the intelligence of a Member of Parliament who's the sponsor of this motion to the intelligence of his 13-year-old daughter. He must withdraw that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Tambo, that is not a point of order.

Mr S THAMBO: But Chair ... [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Thambo, I am now ruling you out. We will now proceed. The next speaker is the hon Denner.

Afrikaans:

Me H DENNER: Agb Adjunkspeker, die kern van hierdie mosie het geen behoorlike grondslag nie. Die feit dat daar ’n interdikaansoek was en dat dit toegestaan is, is nie op sigself ’n inbreukmaking op die skeiding van magte nie. Was dit ’n interdikaansoek deur ’n lid van die uitvoerende gesaak om ’n gewone vrae sessie of ’n wantroue mosie te stuig, sou dit noodsaaklig gewees het vir die Speker om te oponeer, want dit sou ’n direkte aanval op die oorsig rol van die Parlement wees. Maar dit is nie wat hierdie is nie. Hierdie gaan nie oor normale oorsig nie.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Dit gaan oor ’n bestraffende proses ingevolge Artikel 89 van die Grondwet. Die Konstitusionele Hof het dit duidelik gemaak dat die Nasionale Vergadering nie self mag besluit of die onafhanklike paneel se verslag substantief of prosedureel korrek is nie. Met ander woorde, dat indien die verslag genoegsame prima facie bewys van Artikel 89 oortredings vind, lei dit outomaties daartoe dat die President in ’n staat van beskuldiging geplaas word, tensy dit deur ’n hof tersyde gestel word en daarom was daar ’n hersieningsaansoek.

Die Parlement is nie die outeur van die verslag nie en mag nie bloot sy mening oor die juistheid daarvan uitspreek nie. Daarom is dit verstaanbaar en nie vergesog nie dat die Speker besluit het om by die hof se beslissing te berus sonder om die aansoek namens die Nasionale Vergadering te opponeer. Die hof moes beslis of daar onherstelbare skade aangerig sou word indien die verrigtinge van die komitee onverpoosd voortgegaan het, alvorens uitspraak oor die hersieningsaansoek gemaak word. Dit gaan dus nie oor die ontduiking van aanspreeklikheid nie. Dit gaan oor ’n regsproses wat die oorsprong en geldigheid van die komitee se werk kan raak.

Desnieteenstaande, as ons wil verwys na die algemene funksionering van die Parlement, moet ons eerlik wees met

UNREVISED HANSARD

mekaar. Is daar probleme in die Nasionale Vergadering? Ja, daar is. Is die Nasionale Vergadering onder leiding van die agb Didiza perfek? Nee, dit is beslis nie. Daar is ernstige tekortkominge, sommige met historiese oorsprong wat nie behoorlik aangespreek word nie.

Openbare vertroue in die Parlement is op ’n rekordlaagtepunt. Wanneer verslae sloer, wetgewing vertraag word, petisies swak hanteer word, geld gemors word en daar steeds onbeantwoorde vrae oor die buitensporige salaris van die Sekretaris van die Parlement gevra word sonder antwoorde, word openbare vertroue in die Parlement verder geskend en moet die Speker en ook ander voorsittende beamptes meer doen om dit te herstel. En dis natuurlik nie slegs die Speker of ander voorsittende beamptes se optrede wat die publiek se vertroue in die Parlement as instansie skend nie. Dis ook die gedrag van partye soos die EFF en die MK wat hierdie instelling te dikwels in ’n sirkus omskep soos wat ons amper sopas weer gesien het.

Maar ons stem nie vandag oor ’n mosie van wantroue in die speaker oor die algemene funksionering of wanfunksionering van die Nasionale Vergadering nie. Ons stem vandag in ’n ongegronde mosie, ’n oorlewingstaktiek van ’n irrelevante

UNREVISED HANSARD

party wat politieke punte in die aanloop tot die verkiesing wil aanteken en ons sal hulle nie daarmee help nie.

English:

Ironically, the very party that has done so much to undermine the credibility of this House, now brings this motion. A motion that is unsubstantiated and hypocritical. Therefore, we cannot and will not support it. Thank you.

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Hon House Chairperson, ActionSA has repeatedly raised our objections to how Parliament and the Speaker have handled the current section 89 impeachment process. We too believe that the Speaker should have opposed the President’s interdict application. However, this does not mean that her choice to provide an explanatory affidavit instead is grounds for her removal through a motion of no confidence.

Disagreement with the presiding officer’s decision does not automatically constitute grounds for removal from office. Section 52(4) of the Constitution and Rule 28 provide for the removal of a speaker by resolution of the National Assembly and set out grounds on which removal is sought. Neither provision establishes that a speaker can be removed simply

UNREVISED HANSARD

because members disagree with the decision that she has taken in exercising her responsibilities.

Removing an elected presiding officer is an extraordinary step and ActionSA does not believe that the Speaker’s decisions in this matter meet the threshold to justify her removal, especially as the duly constituted impeachment committee had already opposed the interdict. It is not necessary to use a sledgehammer to kill a fly and, in this case, the opposition to the interdict was in any event overturned in the Western Cape High Court.

In this regard, we would do well to recall the motion of no confidence brought by the self-same EFF ostensibly on the self-same grounds against the previous Speaker in March 2023, except then the EFF tried in vain to use a motion of no confidence against the Speaker because she had them ejected from Parliament for their threatening and unparliamentary behaviour. Using the decision of the Speaker not to allow a secret ballot when voting on the section 89 Independent Panel Report on the impeachment of the President in relation to the sordid Phala Phala saga was a fig leaf to serve their own parochial interests.

UNREVISED HANSARD

We agree that the blind loyalty of the ANC and their dogged defence of their president then and now is wrong, as did the recent Constitutional Court ruling. This, however, cannot be conflated to serving the interests of one political party over the interests of this Parliament. If we expect impartiality from the Speaker, it can then never be that matters of certain parochial interests that they should then succumb to subjectivity rather than objectivity.

The danger with this and the previously defeated motion of no confidence by the same mover is that if acceded to, it could set a precedent that a speaker can be removed willy-nilly whenever a political party disagrees with a ruling or an institutional decision. This is precisely why we should be wary of using motions of no confidence as a political weapon.

The EFF has repeatedly sought to use motions of no confidence to turn Parliament, legislatures and municipalities into theatres of instability, rather than endeavouring to resolve issues through debate and due process. This motion holds a risk of distracting us from the real focus, which is to hold the President to account without any further unnecessary delay.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The President must account for the undeclared dollars and exact quantum that was stolen from his farm. He needs to explain why they were stashed in a couch as opposed to being kept fully accounted for where ordinary South Africans normally keep their legitimate assets. He also needs to account for the actions related to the investigation of the theft, the arrest of the thieves and the retrieval of the said foreign exchange outside the lawful SA Police Service, SAPS, provisions.

We, therefore, reject the motion. Equally and emphatically, we demand that the Speaker acts impartially in facilitating the uncontroverted and fully independent parliamentary impeachment process without any further delay. Thank you.

Mr M S LEKGANYANE: Hon Deputy Speaker, good afternoon. Let me take this opportunity to appreciate and commend your leadership and the leadership of the Speaker of the National Assembly and many other women in the Republic of South Africa who are doing well in their leadership assignments. The motion that brought us here today, questions the leadership of the office entrusted to the Speaker, hon Thoko Didiza.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Like a true leader and a product of our glorious movement, hon Didiza has habituated democratic values and has undoubtedly demonstrated her intent to uphold and defend these values by courageously bringing the motion before this House for debate. It is only profound that we thank hon Didiza for her unimpeachable integrity, for if it was someone obsessed with office or power, she would have tried to suppress the motion, and she would have squealed and bellowed on every platform, risking her reputation and values.

As the Thoko Didiza that we know, admire and adore from the ANC, she stood by her firm moral convictions and ethical standards. We want to thank you, hon Thoko Didiza, the Speaker of this National Assembly, once again, for exhibiting quality leadership, and showing what women can do when they are given an opportunity to lead.

The paradox we face is that it is this month, led in our annual calendar as the month of women that the debate on a motion to remove a female leader from office is happening, and the motion is brought by those with chauvinist, androcentric, patriarchal, and misogynist predisposition. We debate this motion having perspicaciously understood that the emancipation

UNREVISED HANSARD

of women is not an act of charity but a fundamental necessity for the liberation of humanity ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekganyane, please pause for a moment. Hon Mente, you have a point of order. Please proceed.

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: Yes, hon Lekganyane here has just called us misogynists and chauvinists. He must withdraw that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mente, I will deal with that. Hon Lekganyane, have you just said that?

Mr M S LEKGANYANE: Yes, I said the motion was brought by those with chauvinist, androcentric, patriarchal, and misogynist predisposition.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekganyane, that is not parliamentary, although it is not directed at one person, and I do believe that you should withdraw that.

Mr M S LEKGANYANE: I withdraw immediately, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Please proceed.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr M S LEKGANYANE: That the emancipation of women is a fundamental necessity for the revolution, the guarantee of its continuity, and a precondition for its success. Secondly, we debate this motion as a tribute to the gallant generation of the 1956 women and their remarkable accomplishments against a stubborn and inhuman regime that sought to dehumanise, exclude, and disenfranchise them.

We look back with pride, from hon Frenny Ginwala, the first Speaker of the National Assembly, and hon Naledi Pandor, the first female Chairperson of the NCOP, and all those other women, to the current generation of hon Thoko Didiza, who is the Speaker of the National Assembly, and hon Mtshweni-Tsipane, who is the Chairperson of the NCOP.

We debate this motion in remembrance of Kgoshigadi Lekwelaruri Matlala, the legitimate leader of the Bakone Ba Matlala A Thaba in Limpopo, who was ... [Interjections.]

Mr V PAMBO: You forgot Nosiviwe Nqakula.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Pambo, I haven’t recognised you.

Mr V PAMBO: But Deputy Speaker, he forgot Nosiviwe Nqakula.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Pambo.

Mr V PAMBO: I was just assisting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Pambo, you are out of order, and this is the first time I am now calling you. The third one, you will be removed from the platform. Hon Lekganyane, please proceed. [Interjections.]

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Maotwe, is it a point of order?

Ms O M C MAOTWE: What exactly is he out of order for? He was just saying that the hon member was mentioning the Speakers of Parliament, and perhaps he genuinely forgot to mention Mme Mapisa-Nqakula, and he was therefore reminding him. So, how is he out of order, Deputy Speaker? I just want you to help me out.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will help you. Hon Maotwe, you know full well that when we are in a virtual sitting, well, even in the House, you first must be recognised before you speak, and hon Pambo just spoke. The intention, whether you wanted to help

UNREVISED HANSARD

the hon member at the podium, does not carry any weight. What it is about, it's disrupting the speaker. Hon Lekganyane, please proceed.

Mr M S LEKGANYANE: ... Kgoshigadi Lekwelaruri Matlala, who was removed from office in the 1950s by the belligerent, impudent, intransigent and impenitent apartheid racist regime, aided by collaborationist dissidents.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, the motive and politics of this motion are an open secret unmasked by William Shakespeare centuries ago, when he wrote in Henry VI, Part 2, Act 3, Scene 1, that, "hide not thy poison with sugared words." This motion is a sustained onslaught against the ANC by encircling voracious vultures and hounding rapacious hyenas who want to eviscerate and have the ANC left people.

We want to expose these devious machinations to delegitimise the ANC, unsettle its leadership of the Government of National Unity, GNU, and derail its strategic objective. We repeat the call to hide the poison by smothering prudential leadership and ethical standards. We expose the fallacy and ...

[Interjections.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekganyane, please pause. Hon Reddy, what is your point of order?

Mr V G REDDY: Deputy Speaker, can we get an interpretation, please? I am not sure; I can't understand, and I don't know how the general public will understand some of the words being used here. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Reddy, that is not a point of order. The hon member may use any register in a language that he wishes to. Hon Lekganyane, please proceed. Can I also just caution the members that these are frivolous points of order. Please proceed.

Mr M S LEKGANYANE: The injudicious rationale which is against the provisions of section 57 of the Constitution, which empowers Parliament to determine its internal arrangements, proceedings, and procedures. Read together with section 11 of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Prohibition Legislators Act of 2004, which specifically distinguish the different legal standing of the Speaker, who acts on behalf of the National Assembly, and the Chairpersons of committees who act on behalf of the committees they lead.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Furthermore, section 23(2)(b) of the same Act, the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Prohibition Legislators Act of 2004, grants committees powers and authority to litigate on behalf of the National Assembly. All these provisions are read together with Rule 167 of the Rules of the National Assembly. You can see that with that legislation voted; the Speaker has not done anything wrong unless we would have wanted her to act against the law.

We put it on record, that the Speaker unequivocally declined the request by the President to have the work of the Impeachment Committee restricted to preparatory work prior to the ... [Interjections.] [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now move on to the next speaker. Hon Malinga, do you have a point of order before we proceed?

Mr J S MALINGA: Hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr J S MALINGA: I rise on a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr J S MALINGA: On Rule 26(4). Deputy Speaker, when the members of the ANC are disturbing the speaker, unmuting their microphone, you are not cautioning them. But when the members of the MKP and EFF are unmuting, you caution them. You even gave hon Shongwe a final warning. Hon Mantashe unmuted his microphone six times in this House, but you have never cautioned him. So, can you treat everybody in this House in a fairly manner? Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Malinga, I think you have perhaps just missed some of what I have said. I have indeed asked the Minister a few times to mute. Perhaps later on, listen to the YouTube recording, then you will see that, and it goes for all parties.

Mr S N SWART: Deputy Speaker, in a damning judgment, the Constitutional Court found that Parliament had acted unlawfully in not holding the President to account for the Phala Phala scandal. In instructing it to continue with the impeachment, it emphasised that the National Assembly's oversight role over the President lies at the heart of our constitutional scheme. The ACDP agrees, and on Monday 15 June, following the President's urgent application to interdict Parliament, wrote a letter to the Speaker, urging her to

UNREVISED HANSARD

oppose the interdict, pointing out that this is an unprecedented impeachment process, and every step of the process must be carefully considered, given the obvious legal and political precedent it will create, as well as the significant public interest in the outcome.

Our view was supported by Senior Counsel Mokhara, who provided compelling reasons to oppose the interdict, concluding that the Impeachment Committee's compliance with the Constitutional Court's order was not optional; it was a legal and constitutional imperative. These reasons, we believe, applied even more forcibly to the Speaker, where she, as primary guardian of Parliament, has to ensure that Parliament fulfils its constitutional duty of holding the President accountable. One would then have expected her to stand side-by-side with the committee chair in opposing the interdict. Instead, we saw a limp-wristed response to abide by the outcome, obviously in response to political pressure. This we find deeply disappointing.

The Speaker, at great cost to Parliament, obtained her own Senior Council opinion from Advocate Pillay, advising her to oppose the interdict. Clearly not satisfied with this opinion, she then obtained a second opinion from a former ANC official,

UNREVISED HANSARD

who obviously advised that she need not oppose. This at further cost to Parliament. Yet many today find this totally acceptable. We do not find it acceptable. The Speaker then aggravated matters by saying publicly she was relying on the committee's legal opinion, not divulging her own Senior Council opinion to oppose the interdict. This amounts to misleading the people of South Africa. Yet, this too is acceptable to many today, but not acceptable to the ACDP. This conduct represents, in our view, a dereliction of the constitutional duty to protect the independence of Parliament, particularly when dealing with this unique and very serious impeachment of the President. The public is demanding answers to what happened at Phala Phala, but due to delays, legal tactics have to date been prevented from learning the truth. This, in our view, is plainly wrong. By choosing political convenience over institutional defence, we believe that the Speaker has failed the test of impartiality. For these reasons, the ACDP supports the motion of no confidence.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to make sure; do we have a speaker from the UDM? There is no one on the Speakers' List. Is there a speaker from the UDM? It does not seem to be the case. Hon Zibi.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr S S ZIBI: Madam Deputy Speaker, we are being asked to remove the Speaker of this House because she did not oppose the President's High Court review application and instead chose to abide in the face of the Impeachment Committee choosing to oppose. The Speaker initiated the formation of the Impeachment Committee specifically to handle all business pertaining to impeachment. What the committee says about any development in this process must be handled entirely by the committee without the Speaker weighing in with unsolicited opinions. Direct interventions by the Speaker are, in any event, undesirable unless it is to ensure that the Rules of Parliament are adhered to. In this case, the committee decided to oppose the review application. The Speaker has zero role in that decision. Inviting it to start pondering what position should be taken on this matter suffers from a fatal internal contradiction.

What if in future the Speaker decides to oppose in court the committee's position? After all, litigation decisions are not supposed to be mindless, such as defending or opposing a position simply because the loudest voices say so. Therefore, inviting the Speaker to get involved in this matter when Parliament has chosen a committee of competent MPs to represent it makes no sense. It doesn't need a meddlesome

UNREVISED HANSARD

Speaker whose opinion may one day differ with that of the committee and create a bigger constitutional crisis. This and future Speakers must let the committee handle its business and limit their roles to providing the tools and resources for the committee to do the work it has been mandated to do, including opposing review applications.

Hon Didiza has dutifully met this obligation. It is also notable that in his initial input, not once did hon Malema attribute any of the failures to hold the President accountable to hon Didiza. He referred to previous Speakers of the House. A motion such as this is a judgment call on an individual, and it makes no sense to ask this House to pass judgment on one individual based on the failures of another. That is frankly devoid of logic. It is worth noting that no one complained when the Speaker dutifully passed on every correspondence from the President to the committee for its response, and this response ... [Inaudible.] ... prior to this application. The very decision to not accommodate the President's initial request was the committee's and its decision alone. None of the parties was complaining today and wanted us to remove the Speaker, had a problem with it then because they knew, as they know now, that her opinions were not needed. RISE Mzansi supports the work and authority of the

UNREVISED HANSARD

committee to drive the impeachment process and rejects this motion. The Speaker must stay put. We reject this motion. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Nkopane, please mute your microphone. Could I just again ask the UDM? Hon Nontenja, you are on the platform, but you were muted. Do you wish to speak?

Ms C T NONTENJA: Hon Deputy Speaker, the UDM doesn't have a speaker on this one. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We can then move on. And we go to BOSA. I see the Hon Hlazo-Webster is ready.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Madam Deputy Speaker, it is our job as MPs and as lawmakers to continue to strengthen Parliament as South Africa's foremost institution of democratic accountability. And as BOSA, we are aware of the view that pursuing a motion such as this one, which is unlikely to succeed, doesn't on balance advance parliamentary oversight. The Office of the Speaker is bigger than any single ruling, and any single decision. And so, a motion of no confidence should be reserved for instances where there has been a broader failure to fulfil the constitutional responsibilities

UNREVISED HANSARD

of the office. And in this case, this particular motion appears to be largely political in nature, and we can't have a situation where we have frivolous motions like this that waste the House's time.

We note that Speaker Didiza has complied with the Constitutional Court's judgment by establishing the parliamentary processes to begin with, as it relates to impeachment of the President. And while BOSA has not agreed with every decision that the Speaker has taken, we don't believe the threshold for a motion of no confidence has been met at this point. Parliament is currently engaged in significant accountability processes which involve the President, and this isn't the time now to remove the Speaker. The priority now has got to be ensuring that Parliament is able to exercise its constitutional oversight responsibilities effectively.

And that doesn't mean that the Office of the Speaker should remain unchanged. We have consistently, as BOSA, argued that any member who’s elected as Speaker should resign from all senior political leadership positions within their political party upon assuming office, because the Speaker must be and must be seen to be an impartial guardian of Parliament, and

UNREVISED HANSARD

it's difficult to fulfil that responsibility while simultaneously serving as a senior political actor within a party hierarchy. We have to note that there's a growing perception that Parliament has become too weak, too politically constrained, and too willing to defer to the executive, especially with the introduction of a new dynamic by the Government of National Unity, GNU, of around 70% of Members of Parliament belonging to parties that are participating in the executive, while almost in every five MPs is a Minister. Parliament's Rules and culture then have to evolve to ensure that a coalition government doesn't come at the expense of accountability, because South Africans deserve a Parliament that legislates effectively, that scrutinises government rigorously and holds those in power accountable. And that's the Parliament that BOSA will continue to fight for. We, therefore, as BOSA, do not support the EFF's motion of no confidence in the Speaker of the National Assembly, and will continue to call for an accountable Parliament. I thank you.

Ms T L MARAWU: Hon Deputy Speaker, the ATM supports this motion of no confidence in the Speaker of the National Assembly. We do so because the Speaker must protect the integrity and independence of Parliament, not shield the

UNREVISED HANSARD

executive from accountability. The facts are important. When President Cyril Ramaphosa approached the courts seeking to interdict the work of the section 89 Impeachment Committee in relation to Phala Phala, the committee resolved to oppose that application. The Speaker, however, chose to file a notice to abide rather than oppose the President's application. This is deeply concerning. The committee was exercising a conditional mandate to investigate whether there were grounds for the impeachment of the President. Yet at the very moment, Parliament was required to defend that process. Its Presiding Officer chose not to oppose the President's attempt to stop it.

We are told that the Speaker considered legal advice, and that the explanatory affidavit was intended to assist the court. We acknowledge that explanation. But the fundamental question remains: whose constitutional interest was the Speaker defending? The President had his legal team. The Impeachment Committee had its legal position and resolved to oppose the application. But the Speaker, who is supposed to protect Parliament as an institution, chose not to oppose the President. This is not about whether one supports President Ramaphosa or opposes him. It is about whether Parliament is independent enough to hold even the President accountable.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The Constitutional Court has already reminded this Parliament that its constitutional duty is to hold the executive accountable. We cannot have one standard for ordinary public officials and another standard for the President. The Speaker must serve Parliament, the Constitution and the people of South Africa, not the interest of the governing party or individuals in the executive. The ATM, therefore, supports this motion. We need a Speaker who will defend Parliament when Parliament is challenged. We need a Speaker who will protect the constitutional principle of accountability. And above all, we need a Parliament that is not a shield for those in power, but a watchdog over those in power. The Constitution must be bigger than the ANC, the Constitution must be bigger than the President, and the Constitution must be bigger than the Speaker. For these reasons, hon members, the ATM supports the motion of no confidence on the Speaker. Thank you.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Speaker, in the name of Almighty, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful, I greet in the name of peace, love, respect, and unity. Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members and beloved family of South Africans, Al Jama-ah rises to reject and vote against the motion of no confidence in our respected Speaker of Parliament, the hon Thoko Didiza. Since her appointment, Al Jama-ah is of the view that the Speaker

UNREVISED HANSARD

has demonstrated fairness, objectivity, and respect for the parliamentary process. Her role requires impartiality ... [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ismail-Moosa, please pause for a moment. Hon Dugmore, you raised your hand. Is it a point of order?

Mr C M DUGMORE: It was a mistake. I was just wanting to enthusiastically support the Speaker, and I put up my hand by mistake.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, that's another icon. Thank you very much. Hon Ismail-Moosa, please proceed.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Thank you so much, Speaker. Al Jamah-ah firmly calls for stability, functionality, and constructive oversight in Parliament. We recognise the Speaker's work together with the Department of Public Works in facilitating the continued functioning of Parliament and ensuring that parliamentary sittings remain accessible and effective for all members. We further acknowledge the efforts to secure The Dome for plenary sittings, while the rebuilding of Parliament continues. Ensuring that Parliament remains operational during

UNREVISED HANSARD

this period is essential to our constitutional democracy. We also commend the Speaker for setting aside time to commemorate the adoption of our Constitution and for representing South Africa on the international stage. These responsibilities contribute to strengthening the dignity and standing of Parliament. And I think, just like many of the other parties and members, Al Jama-ah does not see sufficient merit in this motion.

The allegations presented against the Speaker, in our view, are unsubstantiated and appear to arise in part from a misunderstanding of the Speaker's procedural duties and constitutional responsibilities. The Speaker must remain impartial. We cannot support the motion that, in our assessment, does not constitute a genuine and sufficiently substantiated accountability measure. We further believe that the Speaker was correct to abide by the decision of the Western Cape High Court, and to respect the authority of the judiciary. Parliamentary accountability is fundamental to our democracy, but so too is fairness, due process, institutional stability and respect for the separation of powers.

For these reasons, Al Jama-ah rejects the motion of no confidence and will vote against it. Let us protect the

UNREVISED HANSARD

integrity and stability of Parliament and ensure that our work remains focused on serving the people of South Africa. In conclusion, to my respected Madam Speaker, Thoko Didiza, stand strong. Viva Al Jama-Ah! Viva to the hon Speaker of Parliament, Thoko Didiza. I thank you. Malibongwe!

Ms S FRENCHMAN: The NCC rises in support of this motion, because our Constitution does not permit neutrality where the independence of the South is at stake. Section 42(3) tells us plainly that the National Assembly exists to represent the people and ensure government by the people.

Section 52(2) commands us to maintain oversight of the executive and hold it accountable. These are not optional courtesies. They flow from section 1(c), which entrenches the supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law as founding values of our democracy.

The Speaker sits in that chair not as an extension of the executive, but as the guardian of this House's independence from the very government it is duty-bound to scrutinise. Yet, when the President moved to interdict the section 89 Impeachment Committee, the very body of this House constituted after the Constitutional Court struck down Rule 129 as

UNREVISED HANSARD

constitutional, that committee itself resolved on 18 June this year to oppose the President's application and formally asked the Speaker to stand with it.

She refused. She filed papers, choosing to abide by the outcome, leaving Parliament's own impeachment process undefended in court. At the precise moment, the executive sought to halt it.

Hon Speaker, that is not impartiality. Impartiality would have meant letting the committee fight without obstruction. What we witnessed instead was silence dressed up as neutrality, while the very process meant to hold the President accountable was left to stand alone.

A Speaker that will not defend this House's authority under section 89, cannot be trusted to defend it under any other. Section 52(4) exists precisely for this moment, to let this Assembly remove a Speaker who no longer commands its confidence.

Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The MINISTER OF LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, the PAC of Azania.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mahlatsi is before the PAC. Hon Mashlatsi?

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Chairperson ...

Sesotho:

... kgotso, Maafrika.

English:

This motion ... [Interjections.] ...

The MINISTER OF LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Mahlatsi is always after PAC. It's a mistake on your part.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me just check with the Table, hon Minister. We will just check that. Hon Minister, I think you are correct, as I recall, that it is first the PAC, but please proceed, hon Minister. Hon Mahlatsi, my apologies, but you will have your opportunity after the Minister.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, the PAC of Azania opposes the motion to remove Ms Thoko Didiza as Speaker of the National Assembly. The Speaker's decision not to actively oppose President Ramaphosa's interdict application and instead to file an explanatory affidavit assisting the court was an indisputable exercise of institutional neutrality, not a betrayal of it.

A Speaker who positions the National Assembly as an active litigant against the head of state rather than allowing the properly constituted Impeachment Committee to deal with the matter risks dragging the presiding office itself into partisan battle. Indeed, this is the very outcome the motion claims to guard against.

The Speaker publicly confirmed that her position is consistent with the Impeachment Committee's own stance following the Constitutional Court judgment. This is not the conduct of a captured Speaker, but it is an attempt to preserve the National Assembly's institutional standing, especially since the Speaker has positively taken steps to allow the process, including the litigation that the Impeachment Committee

UNREVISED HANSARD

instituted. The fact that she decided to abide by the decision of the court does not suggest any partiality on her part.

Removing a Speaker through a hastily convened virtual sitting on the strength of a legal agreement over strategy rather than any proven act of bad faith or corruption sets a dangerous precedent. It turned the Speaker’s position into a revolving door, hostage to the whims of which party commands the numbers on a given afternoon. That is not accountability but the erosion of the very parliamentary independence that the motion claims to be defending.

Our approach to politics, guided by the ideals and values of Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, demands that we build durable and principled institutions and not weaponise procedural motions for factional advantage. The PAC of Azania calls on all parties to reject this motion to allow the impeachment committee to complete its constitutional work without undue, frivolous, time-consuming destruction.

This House should reserve removal proceedings for genuine and demonstrable breaches of office, not disagreements over legal strategy. The PAC opposes this motion.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Thank you, hon, Deputy Speaker.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Deputy Speaker ...

Sesotho:

... kgotso, Maafrika, bonngwe, Maafrika!

English:

This motion is not about personalities. It is about constitutional integrity and the institutional independence of Parliament. Parliament's own material makes it clear that although the Speaker is a member of a political party, she is required to act impartially and protect the rights of all political parties.

The National Assembly is constitutionally required under section 55(2) to hold the executive accountable and maintain oversight over the exercise of national Executive Authority. Our concern as UAT derives from Speaker's conduct in the Phala Phala litigation where Parliament's institutional interests were placed in circumstances that created the appearance that the Speaker was defending or aligning the legislature with the executive.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The UAT finds this to be constitutionally dangerous. The legislature is not an extension of executive. The Speaker's responsibility is therefore not to protect the political interest of governing party or the President, but to protect the institutional independence, authority and constitutional powers of the National Assembly.

The main question here is whether the Speaker has sufficiently protected Parliament as an independent constitutional institution. The answer is no. When the presiding officer is perceived to speak or act for the executive rather than for the House, the doctrine of separation of powers is weakened, parliamentary oversight is compromised and the public confidence in democratic accountability is damaged.

The UAT calls upon the House to restore the authority and the independence of the National Assembly by supporting this motion of no confidence against the Speaker. On 4 November 2026, vote for the UAT.

Xitsonga:

Khanimambo!

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr G MICHALAKIS: Madam Deputy Speaker, Speaker William Lenthall from Westminster in 1642, famously said:

> I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place but as this House is pleased to direct me whose servant I am here ...

This was the first time that a speaker declared loyalty to the authority and liberty of Parliament, rather than to the head of state. For the past 384 years, speakers in democratic countries across the world have followed this noble tradition, standing in defence of Parliament as the representative of the people. It is a noble and dignified role, but it is also a vital role to ensure that Parliament functions effectively, to ensure that the executive never acts unchecked against the interests of the people. I have been very critical of the Speaker’s stance in not opposing the President’s interdict application.

The question was asked, what should the Speaker have done as an alternative? The answer is, she should have opposed the application on behalf of Parliament. Yes, the Speaker should be impartial, scrupulously so, in all matters before the House, which means that she should not show any party-

UNREVISED HANSARD

political affiliation in any matter before the House. However, when it comes to being impartial in any matter where Parliament as an institution is affected, she can never, ever be impartial, which is to say she must always choose the side of Parliament. She litigates on behalf of Parliament, she is its primary spokesperson, and she is the first and the last defender of our traditions, processes and institutional integrity.

She can only, to paraphrase Speaker Lenthall, act in a manner as the House is pleased to direct her, since her only loyalty is towards this House and serving it objectively. Yes, in my view, the Speaker did err, and I have openly criticised her for it. However, as my colleague, hon Breytenbach, set out, grounds for a motion of no confidence is a bridge too far. We cannot use such motions as a political tool to destabilise the institution at every failure of the Speaker to do what we expect her to do.

Deputy Speaker, the whole matter does, however, raise the question, 30 years after our Constitution was signed into law, is it not perhaps time for us as Parliament to have a discussion around our institution, the appointment of certain office bearers, and, in my view, the impartiality of the

UNREVISED HANSARD

Speaker? Perhaps it’s time for us to put measures in place to ensure that no Speaker can ever serve on their party’s executive structures or openly campaign on behalf of their party. The office of Speaker, along with that of the President and Chief Justice, are the three highest offices of state. The Speaker should be a lifelong ambassador for this institution, free of political allegiance or loyalty. Loyalty to this institution is the job.

Deputy Speaker, I also think that it’s time that we decisively strengthen this institution. I have had recent constructive engagements with the Speaker on this matter, and we are in broad agreement. In my view, she does want to see Parliament become a stronger institution. Some of the matters that we agree on include strengthening the Joint Committee on Financial Management of Parliament, strengthening the Financial Management of Parliament Act, putting a clear recruitment policy in place for the appointment of the Secretary to Parliament and all senior managers in future, and having an executive authority that meets regularly where other presiding officers are included in these meetings. Along with a multiparty review of the institution, this will go a long way in ensuring that we get Parliament back on track.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Madam Deputy Speaker, motions of no confidence are not frivolous political tools. They should be reserved for serious breaches of the constitutional mandate and of an office bearer. I am not convinced that the Speaker, despite errors of judgement that she might have made in certain issues, including the one concerning the motion, has warranted such a serious step. I base it on the fact that the Speaker has also allowed the Impeachment Committee to oppose the interdict and continue our work with the resources needed. There is also no credibility in some parties supporting this motion if their conduct overwhelmingly contributes to discredit and destabilise the institution. I hope the media and public pick up on this. You cannot accuse the Speaker of not defending Parliament if you contribute to breaking it down.

It then simply exposes this motion for what it is, not a serious and sincere attempt to defend Parliament, but an underhanded attempt to use this mechanism as a tool to achieve a very narrow political goal. For now, the jury is out on whether Speaker Didiza is the Speaker willing to make good on her commitments to fix this institution, and the DA will call her out on it if she does not, and, in a manner that is appropriate, hold her accountable. However, she should have

UNREVISED HANSARD

the opportunity to prove this first. We will not support the motion. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Deputy Speaker, I must say upfront that the African National Congress does not support this motion. Today's debate will go down in history as one of the most unnecessary debates we ever undertook as the National Assembly. Looking at it more carefully, it is easy to see that the EFF's latest ploy to remove the Speaker has nothing to do with frivolous matters they allege against the Speaker to support this misguided motion ...

Ms L MATHYS: The ANC did the same thing about the fire pool.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: It is rather an attempt to achieve, through political gimmicks, what they could not achieve through the ballot. It is ironic that a group of political delinquents who are led by men who have been convicted ... [Interjections.]

Ms L MATHYS: A delinquent is you because of you and your fire pool. You remember fire pool.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: ... of a crime by a court of law, are under the good name of the Speaker, who portray themselves as constitutionalists and champions of accountability ... [Interjections.]

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Deputy Speaker! On a point of order, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please pause for a moment. Hon Minister, please pause for a moment. Hon Maotwe, I first want to deal with the hon Mathys. Hon Mathys, you have now twice activated your microphone without being recognised. Refrain from that. Hon Maotwe, do you have a point of order?

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Yes. The Speaker on the podium is saying that the motion was tabled by a delinquent. I think she is misguided. The delinquent is not the honourable member who tabled the motion. It is the sitting President, actually, who is the President of the ANC.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, did you say that the person who tabled the motion is a delinquent? I am a bit confused now, hon Maotwe, if you say that the motion was tabled by the President. Which President?

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Deputy Speaker, I am saying that the delinquent is President Ramaphosa, the President of the member who is on the podium.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Maotwe, you have just ruled yourself out of order as well now by doing the same thing. Therefore, I think that just cancels your point of order. Hon Minister, please proceed.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. To prepare for this frivolous motion, the EFF started a campaign of lies against the Speaker. These lies sought to create a narrative that paints the Speaker’s notice to abide by a court outcome in the President’s interdict application, a partisan stance against the position of the Parliament’s Impeachment Committee, which challenged the President’s court application. Hon members, in his insightful essay titled *Treaties on the Art of Political Lying*, published in 1714, Dr John Arbuthnot sets out a set of rules on how one can get away with political lies created to defame a political opponent.

One of the most important rules that he says should not be broken when creating a good lie is that defamatory lies should

UNREVISED HANSARD

not be quite opposite to the qualities of the person you are lying about or supposed to have. In their unsuccessful effort to defame, in my line, the Speaker, the EFF has not only broken this important rule of political lying, but they've also exposed and cemented their stance as political delinquents. It is easy to show that the EFF accuses the Speaker to have done ... which they've done is totally opposite to how she has acted, as I will demonstrate and other members have been demonstrating here. This means that the EFF's lies do not even pass the test of a good political lie or deception.

In its motion, the EFF claims that the Speaker chose partisan political interests over Parliament's constitutional obligation by refusing to oppose the President's urgent application. This could not be further from the truth. If anything, the Speaker has done the opposite of what the EFF is claiming since the Constitutional Court issued its judgement. In its judgement, the Constitutional Court directed implementation of section 89 as reported by the Chief Whip of the ANC. Not only did the Speaker establish the Impeachment Committee but followed the Constitutional Court's directive, but she has also strengthened the committee by allowing 16 of the 18 parties in Parliament to be represented on the

UNREVISED HANSARD

committee, thereby allowing for a wider participation in this process.

This step led to the creation of the committee and one of the largest committees constituted since the advent of democracy, and this committee has 31 members. The Speaker could have chosen to follow the rules, could have chosen to restrain the committee, but she did not. Now, how do you allege all these things that you are saying to her? The Speaker went even further and dismissed the proposal that only fit and proper Members of Parliament be allowed to serve on the committee. Those who are convicted in a court of law and have been sentenced would not be sitting in this committee because they are not fit and proper, thus defending the rights of all duly elected Members of Parliament to serve in the committee.

However, they have the nerve to throw stones while they are sitting in glass doors. Not only did the Speaker respect the separation of powers ... [Interjections.]

Ms O M C MAOTWE: The Minister is misleading the public. It is not the Speaker who determines who must sit in the committee. It is not her. Therefore, these members must stop misleading the public and saying that it is the Speaker who said the

UNREVISED HANSARD

issue of fit and proper must be out. It is not the Speaker. She does not have the mandate. She does not have the powers to do that. This is supposed to be the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development. What are we dealing with ... [Inaudible.] ... here?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a point of order. You're interrupting the speaker. The hon Minister, please proceed.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. To show that there are members only even believe that this motion is not important.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Can the speaker on the podium stop shouting? Just debate so that we can understand. We don't follow because you're shouting as if you are shouting to your kids. Please.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a point of order. Deputy Minister, do not unmute your mic if you're not recognised. Hon Minister, please proceed.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. You see, the fact that the same members are disrupting their own motion, is because they

UNREVISED HANSARD

believe that this motion is frivolous themselves. Because no party, when it puts a motion, they will disrupt it. It tells you the character of the motion, and the character of the party. Now, when we look at the Speaker, it's in terms of the rules, but also, we must understand her powers. And also, what she has been able to ensure, that not only did the Speaker respect the separation of powers between the Parliament and the judiciary by implementing judgments, but she also protected the independence and integrity of Parliament by taking steps that would ensure that the President of a party she belongs to is held accountable before Parliament.

In all her actions, the Speaker has not stood in the way of accountability. Instead, she has ensured that the National Assembly exercises its section 89 power, which is a core function of accountability that the Constitution vests in a legislature. Hon members, are these actions of the Speaker who has chosen partisan political interests over Parliament's constitutional obligations? No. Or is this poor attempt at the art of political lying? Clearly, it is the latter. It is the poor attempt of art of political lying. It is an attempt that should be kicked out and must be not supported. However, this motion will go down the history being a waste of Parliament's time at a most critical time where we should be dealing with

UNREVISED HANSARD

more important issues and that affects the South African public.

That the Speaker is the presiding officer of the National Assembly bears the constitutional duty to protect, defend and uphold the institutional authority, independence and integrity of Parliament. She has been able to do that. She has been able to affirm her position as the custodian of these responsibilities. The Impeachment Committee is a committee of Parliament established by the Speaker through working with parties and she didn't stop in the way. They are saying that the rules are saying that it's the parties.

The Speaker has the power as the executive authority. She could have stopped some of the processes. She did not interfere. She has not interfered with the committee. She allowed the committee to function. She allowed the committee to even submit applications. She made resources available for the committee as the committee has requested. Now, honourable members, are these actions of the Speaker that is not acting in line with the Constitution? No, it's the contrary. The EFF in its motion makes an irrational claim that the Speaker disregarded the legal advice obtained by her office

UNREVISED HANSARD

recommending that Parliament oppose litigation aimed at undermining the institutional process.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I'm sorry, I disrupted the howling Minister. Deputy Speaker, the hon Malema has been kicked out and has been trying to get ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Maotwe, apology taken. Hon Minister, please proceed.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Deputy Speaker, I'm asking that the Table please let hon Malema back in because he wants to listen. He will close the debate, and he wants to listen to all the speakers. Therefore, I'm requesting that you please ask the Table staff to bring him back. He's been kicked out. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, I have been alerted to the fact that he is not on the platform, and we will most definitely allow him back in because he is on in three minutes. Please proceed, Minister.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: You see, that's why I've been saying that they are not serious about this motion. They even leave the debate. Contrary to the EFF's suggestions, the Speaker did not disregard the legal advice.

Mr V PAMBO: On a point of order, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker!

Mr J S MALEMA: You are being clownish now. You are being clownish now. You are being stupid. I mean ... [Interjections.] ... No, you are being clownish.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: No, I'm not clownish. You are not ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Pambo! Hon Malema!

Mr J S MALEMA: This thing cuts me out and then you make that a political point. You are being clownish.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: You've been in the proper platform as a leader if you are serious about this motion ... [Interjections.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr J S MALEMA: You are so childish. You are so childish. I mean, this thing cuts me out. You make it a point ...

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: No, you are not serious. Yourself, you are not serious.

Mr J S MALEMA: The whole Minister, you make a no-issue an issue. Be ashamed of yourself, man.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Malema, you will have the opportunity after the Minister.

Mr J S MALEMA: Deputy Speaker, this thing cuts me out and then she makes a point as it is a political point. I'm making her aware that she's being girlish.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Malema, you will have your opportunity after the Minister, don't interrupt. Minister, please proceed.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: But she must stop being clownish.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: As I conclude, Speaker, you see, this is what hon Soviet Lekganyane

UNREVISED HANSARD

said. The chauvinist and patriarchal tendency of calling people girlish.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister! Hon Minister, I'm also now cautioning you. You do not speak directly to the members. You speak through the presiding officer.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: My apologies, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not take any more points of order. We are now at the end of this debate. Hon Mente, what is your point of order?

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: I'm covered. I'm covered, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister, I am also requesting you to please stick to your debate and not interact directly with members. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Deputy Speaker, this is a political debate, and I have a freedom of speech. You can't curtail me. Hon members, as I say, you see, hon Soviet Lekganyane spoke about the chauvinist and

UNREVISED HANSARD

patriarchal tendencies. That's why you'd have articulation of girlish. In a Women's Month, it shows the tendencies of individuals that we have in this Parliament.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as I conclude, the Speaker of this House has acted with the integrity that she deserves. She's a woman of integrity that has a track record of never having anything accused against her. This is unfortunate that individuals will utilise this motion to tarnish her image and integrity that she has built over years. She has been able to work within the confines of the Constitution in all the roles that she has been. Therefore, it is not correct to sit here, and watch individuals go and tarnish a black woman who has worked so hard for her career, her reputation and her integrity. Half of them can never even match the quarter of who she is. Therefore, this motion must be dismissed with the contempt it deserves. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: No, Deputy Speaker, you are not correcting the lie that's been peddled across this debate that this motion was called upon on Women's Month. We have sent this motion months ago. It was not responded to. If anyone must be blamed for when the motion is being held, it's yourself and

UNREVISED HANSARD

the Parliament and the presiding officers. Therefore, correct that lie that's been peddled. It's not correct.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mente, that was not a point of order. We will now proceed. Could I please ask the Deputy Minister Mathale to mute your microphone. Thank you very much. We will now proceed with the hon Malema. Hon Malema, you have four minutes left of the global 14 minutes that you had allocated.

Mr J S MALEMA: Deputy Speaker, let me thank colleagues who made a constructive contribution. This is very simple, so we are really shocked by how others want to take this matter forward.

The Constitutional Court says that you must go and set up an impeachment committee. You take that decision and then you hand over to the President, and the same person ... you hand over the document which says we're proceeding with the impeachment process takes Parliament to court. So it challenges the decision you communicated to him, because you communicate on behalf of Parliament. You act in the best interest of Parliament. What do you do? You say, okay ...

Sepedi:

UNREVISED HANSARD

... o tla bona gore o dira eng, nna ke go file dipampiri.

English:

How do you say that? She had a duty to defend the same papers she gave to the President, and the President says, I'm taking these papers to court, meaning I'm taking your Parliament, which you head ... which has taken this decision, to court. And you say, no, but she implemented what the court said she must do.

We never said she's not competent because she did not implement what the court said she must implement. You are arguing a wrong point.

We said she did not defend a decision which was well backed by court, well instructed by court. And, when it was challenged, she was nowhere to be found. That person who acts like that, acts irrationally and not in the best interest of Parliament.

You can say whatever you want to say. That is the point. There's no political point we want to take from this debate ... that this is point scoring. No, it's not about that. It's about defending the integrity, the impartiality of the Speaker and to hold this Parliament accountable, because ... the

UNREVISED HANSARD

decisions she takes, we as Members of Parliament are duty bound to challenge them.

This is another way of challenging some of those decisions. This is a provision which has been made available to make sure that there is robust engagement and to hold both the executive and Parliament itself accountable. The rest of the issues are peripheral.

She can quote the words that Soviet spoke because Soviet said the things he said as he wants to be a mayor in Polokwane. That's the only thing. That was out of character and unlike him, to a point of reading a dictionary because you desperately want to prove that you can be a mayor in Polokwane ... and to a point where you get called to order and you withdraw because you accept you have done something wrong. Let opportunism not make you who you are.

Someone said here that his daughter thinks better than me. She's 13 and all of that. I'm very happy about a very brilliant girl who thinks better. I'm just scared she might be a daughter of a person who may not protect her from taking drugs. So it's important that we pray and extend our hands of

UNREVISED HANSARD

prayer to that child who's growing up under a character who is very questionable.

So, we must ensure that the President is held accountable and Parliament must hold him accountable.

Mr M V DANIELS: Hon Chair?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Malema, please pause. Hon Daniels, do you have a point of order?

Mr M V DANIELS: Yes, indeed, Deputy Speaker. Considering that I was the person who made reference to my 13-year-old daughter, the aspersions cast by hon Malema that she be protected ...

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Deputy Speaker, on which Rule is he speaking to? Which Rule?

Mr M V DANIELS: ... that she doesn't take drugs ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mkhaliphi, you are out of order.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Which Rule?

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mkhaliphi, I'm still listening to the hon Daniels. Please proceed, hon Daniels.

Mr M V DANIELS: The insinuations made by hon Malema referencing that she must be protected from me in not taking drugs insinuates that I'm taking drugs, which I'm not, hon Deputy Speaker. So, I find that very unparliamentary and I would like you to rule on it, and also invite hon Malema and myself to a public drug test — both of us — so that we can see who is the one taking drugs.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Daniels, I'm going to stop you right there.

Mr M SHIKWAMBANA: Hon Deputy Speaker, this man is wasting our time ... [Interjections.]

Mr M N PAULSEN: You drunkard! You drunkard ... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

Afrikaans:

Mnr S H M VAN WYK: Adjunkspeaker, ek het met jou ... [Onhoorbaar.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

English:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Paulsen, you are out of order. Hon Van Wyk, I am still busy dealing with this matter.

Mr S H M VAN WYK: My hand has been up.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Van Wyk!

Mr S H M VAN WYK: Hon Deputy Speaker ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Van Wyk, when I am on the platform, you do not interrupt. Hon Minister McKenzie, you will also not interrupt me. I'm busy dealing with this point of order. I'm sure the hon Daniels made his point and I will now deal with it.

Hon Malema, indeed what you have said in the reference you have made does cast aspersions on the Member of Parliament. So I am cautioning you to refrain from doing that please. I have not been requested ... that you withdraw it, but your reference to the hon Daniels is offensive and casts aspersions on the dignity of a member. We will now proceed.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Hon Van Wyk, I have now ruled. I'm not going to entertain the matter further. We will now conclude with this debate.

Mr S H M VAN WYK: Why do you keep on doing this to me? I'm raising my hand.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Van Wyk, I have now ruled! Hon Daniels, I have also ruled and we will now proceed. Hon Malema, please conclude. You have 22 seconds left.

Mr J S MALEMA: Deputy Speaker, also, I will not win at PlayStation in a competition because I don't get involved in PlayStation competitions. I buy them. I don't go in for competitions. So, I'm unlike others who go to competitions, win PlayStation and sell the same PlayStation to buy drugs. So, I don't have a problem. I don't have a history of drugs. I will never do a public drug test with a small boy. [Interjections.] I don't have a history of drugs. [Time expired.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members ... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.] ... Hon members. [Interjections.] Hon Paulsen and hon Van Wyk, if I call you again, you will be removed from the platform.

UNREVISED HANSARD

An HON MEMBER: Drug addicts!

Mr E HENDRICKS: Deputy Speaker ... [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anyone who speaks now ... Hon Hendricks, if you do not unmute, I'm going to remove you from the platform.

Mr E HENDRICKS: No, but Deputy Speaker, that insinuation ... [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Hendricks, I am not recognising you. We will now proceed. Hon Daniels, I am not going to recognise you. The same goes for hon Van Wyk.

Mr M V DANIELS: I accept, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now proceed. This is the end of this debate. It is now concluded.

Debate concluded.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will now put the motion. I'm putting the motion as moved by the hon J S Malema. Are there any objections?

Question put: That the motion of Mr J S Malema be agreed to.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Deputy Speaker, please note the objection of the EFF, and we are calling for a division.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Maotwe, I just want to get this clear. [Interjections.] Are you objecting to the motion?

Ms O M C MAOTWE: No, no, Deputy Speaker. We are in agreement with the motion. We are calling for a division.

Division demanded.

The House divided.

During Division:

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: Deputy Speaker, can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, hon Ntuli.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: There is a matter that I would like to raise before you start the voting. I don’t know whether I should raise it now or wait for the House to resume. It’s not a long issue. It is a very brief matter in relation to two of my members.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ntuli, I think let’s deal with that once we resume so that everyone is present. Thank you.

Hon members, we will now resume. I also want to ask members to please ensure that their microphones are not on. Hon members, no member will be admitted on the virtual platform until this division is concluded.

The Rules of the National Assembly provide for different procedures for members to cast their votes. These include voting by electronic means or a manual voting procedure by way of a Whip or a voice. In this instance, the Rules stipulate that the Deputy Speaker predetermines the voting procedure. Hon Ntuli, I will get to your point within a minute.

In terms of this division, the Deputy Speaker has determined that a manual voting system will be used, whereby each member will be called upon and requested to voice his or her vote.

UNREVISED HANSARD

When a member is called to indicate their vote, they must unmute their microphone and enable their video for authentication purposes.

Hon Ntuli, if you have anything now to add in terms of members of the ANC who are not available or who have lost connectivity or who will not be able to activate their cameras, please indicate now. Hon Ntuli.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I have two members, Deputy Speaker. The one is the Minister of Health, Minister Aaron Motsoaledi, who is on the platform, but due to illness will not be in the position ... [Interjections.] ... as well as to open his ... [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Deputy Minister ... Deputy President, please make sure that you are muted. Hon Ntuli, please proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: Yes, the first one is Minister Aaron Motsoaledi, who is by no means in a position to either speak or show the video ... the camera, because of his current condition, but he’s online as we speak.

UNREVISED HANSARD

He’s not removed.

The second one is Deputy Minister Nonceba Mhlauli. The Deputy Minister is currently under the supervision of doctors. She can speak ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Deputy President, please mute ... [Inaudible.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: So, the Deputy Minister can actually speak. She’s on the platform. She can speak, but from where she is she will not be in a position to open her video for all of you to see her.

So, those are the two issues I wanted to raise with you. Otherwise, all other members will be in a position to comply with the procedure you have outlined.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. We have taken note of that. Hon Swart.

Mr S N SWART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I have a challenge that one of our members, hon Thring, is waiting to board a plane. He is online now. He is able to vote, but it might be that by

UNREVISED HANSARD

the time you call him and the ACDP, he might not be able to vote. I just wanted to bring that to your attention. Thank you so much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is noted. Hon Ntlangwini.

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: Deputy Speaker, I have four members of the EFF that will not be able to vote on camera. We have already given the names to the Table Staff. Then I have one member who was just at the ... When you closed the ... [Inaudible.] ... was locked out. It's hon Khawula. She was in the House, but ... locked out. So, if they ... pay attention to that one, please.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will make sure about that. Then I have the hon Mkhize.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Chair, I have one member who is on the platform, but who won't be able to vote due to an unstable network. It is the hon Sibonelo Nomvalo. Thank you, Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Skosana.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr D M SKOSANA: Deputy Speaker, I just want to find out in terms of the future, if members are not going to show their faces here ... I'm talking about the future, not about now. If we were physical, what would have happened? You know, I just want to find out for the future. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Skosana. Not that the time to discuss the future is now, but I will indulge you in this situation. We have in fact discussed this matter and it was also discussed with the Chief Whips.

So, this is an extraordinary situation because the Chief Whips had decided that the plenaries would be virtual up until the election. So, if the matter had been dealt with in-person, everyone would have been here and those members would not have been deemed to be in the House. However, as I have just read, our Rules also make provision for the fact that you may vote either by voice, preferably with your camera, but we know that we have connectivity problems. Hon Mkhize, is that a new point?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Yes, Chair. My apologies. The member will be able to vote. He just won't be able to show his camera. Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Breytenbach.

Adv G BREYTENBACH: Hon Deputy Speaker, I just want to bring it to your attention that hon Van der Walt will board a flight in about an hour. I hope we get to her before then, but if not she may then not be present when she's called.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We will now proceed, hon members.

Mr D M SKOSANA: Before you proceed, Deputy Speaker. I've raised my hand. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Skosana.

Mr D M SKOSANA: I understand that you've discussed that. I'm still saying to you ... You have not answered me. You've not answered me.

I'm not talking about us. I'm talking about ... This Parliament is not going to end with us here. Generations to come ... I'm saying to you, if we as members were in Parliament, what would have happened if we were physical and somebody was sick ... was in hospital? ... he said, I'm in

UNREVISED HANSARD

hospital, or he's suspended. No, no, whatever the reason is, I don't want anyone to object in the future.

An HON MEMBER: You are delaying us ... [Interjections.]

Mr D M SKOSANA: We are setting a precedent here. We are setting a precedent here by saying that people can participate even if they are in hospital.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, I'm going to answer you now. I think this is a matter that you must take up with your Chief Whip. This has been discussed by the Chief Whips. It was approved, so it is not setting a precedent. We will now proceed.

You are quite correct that this is ... you're asking something about the future. We are now busy with this voting session, not the future. So, I do propose that you take it up with the Chief Whips' Forum through your Chief Whip, where it can be dealt with for future instances.

Mr D M SKOSANA: Thank you. It's noted.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Nolutshungu. Hon Skosana, thank you. We will now proceed.

Mr D M SKOSANA: I'm saying to you that it's noted. You don't have to be emotional about that. Don't be condescending to me, because the way you are putting it, it's like I'm insane. This thing is going to come back one day. I'm telling you now. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Skosana. We take note of your concerns. Hon Nolutshungu.

Ms N J NOLUTSHUNGU: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Please note that hon Matiase was online, but he was kicked out during the break. You can confirm that with the Table Staff. He's been in all the time, but now he's been kicked out.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will confirm that. Hon Ntuli.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: Deputy Speaker, my apologies. I've just been alerted that two of my members — the Deputy Minister of Communications, hon Gungubele, as well as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs,

UNREVISED HANSARD

hon Chabane, were locked out, but they are at the same venue as the Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC.

So, with your permission, if that would be acceptable, they can show themselves on the screen using the gadget of the Deputy Chief Whip in order for them to confirm how they are voting on the motion. Both of them are physically in the same space as the Deputy Chief Whip. Thanks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. We will deal with that when we get there, and I think that will be acceptable ... [Interjections.] ... as long as they do show their faces. Hon members, please mute your microphones.

Hon Mkhize, is that another matter? Hon Skosana, I'm not going to entertain a debate with you now on voting procedure for today or for the future. This has been decided by the Chief Whips. So, hon Mkhize, is there another member?

Mr D M SKOSANA: No, Chair, I'm not raising my hand because of that, please.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Yes, Chair ... [Inaudible.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mkhize, is there another member?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Yes, Chair. There are actually two other members. They are the hon Siyabonga Mkhize and the hon Carol Mafagane. They are on the platform. Can they be considered? But ... won't be able to vote ... [Inaudible.] ... but they are on the platform. Thank you, Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, we will be going through ... we will be calling all the names and I will explain the procedure now. All the names will be called and if you cannot switch on your microphone or rather your camera, it is acceptable. We would prefer that you work through your Chief Whip as you have done now. However, we will now proceed with the voting. Hon member ... [Inaudible.]

Mr D M SKOSANA: I've raised my hand on another matter, Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your ... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.] ... now, hon Skosana?

An HON MEMBER: We are being abused now.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Skosana, you are not going to delay the voting on this matter.

Mr D M SKOSANA: Deputy Speaker, I'm not delaying anything. I've got the right to raise an issue. You can't say to me that I'm delaying a matter. I'm saying to you ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can in fact say that to you. You are now in contempt of a voting procedure.

Mr D M SKOSANA: You just said that now.

Ms M P KOBE: The Chief Whip of the MK Party must assist us.

Mr D M SKOSANA: Deputy Speaker, I'm raising another matter. I'm not talking about this. There's a matter which was raised by the ... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am now busy with the voting procedure. So this is a final warning.

Mr D M SKOSANA: So, hon Gungubele is going to be allowed?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mpapane, what is your point?

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mrs D E MPAPANE: Hon Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: I think we are being abused here. A procedure has been outlined and all Chief Whips have agreed on how to handle the matter of voting today. I just want to plead with you that we proceed with voting. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mpapane, that is exactly what I'm trying to do. Hon Dugmore, I hope that you have been covered by the hon Mpapane. We will now proceed.

Hon Skosana, I am not entertaining a discussion on this now. This was discussed by the Chief Whips. There are no other matters that you have to raise right now. You can take it up with your Chief Whip. We will now proceed.

Hon members, in terms of the Rules, when the question is put — with admission to the platform being closed — all members present on the virtual platform must vote or record an abstention. Hon members, please mute your microphones. This Rule does not apply to a Minister or Deputy Minister who is not a member of the House.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The Secretary will call each member from the membership list, starting with those from the largest party. Members will be called by their surname, followed by their initials.

To facilitate this process, I will appeal to hon members to indicate only their vote, not add a preamble, a statement, and also without delay. We have to be very sure that we hear every vote. Members must simply indicate yes, no or abstain.

In the event that a member’s name is called and they are present, but for whatever reason do not indicate their vote, an opportunity will be provided for such members to raise their hands after the last member is called from the list, at which point they will be recognised to cast their vote. Hon members, we will now proceed.

The question before the House is that the motion, as moved by Mr J S Malema, for the removal from office of the Speaker be agreed to.

Those in favour of the removal of the Speaker from office in terms of section 52(4) of the Constitution will say yes. Those against the removal of the Speaker from office will say no.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Those who want to abstain will record their vote as such. Voting will now commence.

As mentioned earlier, no member will be admitted on the virtual platform until this division is concluded. The Secretary will now proceed to call members.

Voting [take in from minutes]

Ms R C ADAMS: Yes. Deputy Speaker, my ... [Inaudible.] ... no.

An HON MEMBER: ... [Interjections.] ... believe that you voted yes.

Ms R C ADAMS: No, my vote is no.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members.

Ms R C ADAMS: Correction, Deputy Speaker. My vote is no. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: No correction. You voted yes. [Interjections.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr J S MALEMA: ... [Inaudible.] ... members must not be bullied here. She said yes. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Allow the member to say yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members.

Ms R C ADAMS: No, no, no, no.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the member is quite adamant that it is a no. We will now proceed. Members, please concentrate on what you have to do. Show your faces, except those who have been indicated to us will not show their faces.

Voting continued: Aphiri, M J

[Interjections.]

Hon members, please wait your turn. Please mute. Hon Bila, please mute. Do not switch on ... [Interjections.] ... Hon Bila and hon Davids, please mute. Hon Bila, please mute.

Can I just explain to you members that you only unmute once your name is called. Hon Ndabeni, please mute. You do not

UNREVISED HANSARD

switch on your camera before your name has been called. What is happening is that there is an echo.

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES: We can’t hear you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mantashe, please mute. Can I have the assistance of the Chief Whips, please? Only unmute and show ... [Interjections.] ... Hon Mantashe. Hon Mantashe. Hon members ...

Mr S LONZI ... [Inaudible.] ... behave, man.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lonzi, I am also going to remove members from the platform if you do not ...

Mr S LONZI: But you do not say that when Gwede speaks. You don’t say you’re going to remove him. You don’t say that ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lonzi, I’m saying it to everyone. Do not unmute yourself without being recognised. So, no one unmute except when your name is called please. Hon Reddy, what is your ... Is it a point of order or do you want to have some words of wisdom?

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr V G REDDY: No, no certainly not. Deputy Speaker, give us some credentials. By now the Table should inform you what the numbers are because entry is locked now. So, if you can give us credentials from each party. Maybe the party Whips can just indicate and we can confirm that, so that we can know who is on the platform and so that we can avoid a situation where people are just snuck in. That could happen as well.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Reddy, the platform is closed. No one can sneak in because they have to be admitted.

Secondly, party Chief Whips can in fact see on the virtual platform whether their members are present or not. It's a very simple exercise. You just look at your Zoom and you type in MK Party and all the MK Party members will appear. So, that is what the Chief Whips can also do. We are indeed quorate. So we will now proceed with the next one. Hon Malinga, what is your point of order?

Mr J S MALINGA: Chair, I'm rising on a point of privilege. Please be consistent because you are going to disrupt this meeting. When ... other political parties ... speak are unmuted you don't discipline them and ... others you are doing

UNREVISED HANSARD

that. I'm pleading with you. The principle of consistency, please. Deal with it. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Malinga, I know that this is apparently very important to you and I agree with you. So, I am requesting members to not unmute, whether it be a Minister, Deputy President. As I have said, please do not unmute unless your name is called. We will now proceed. The Table will now continue with the names. At this point we stopped with the hon Bila. The next one please.

Voting continued: Bilankulu, N K

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Minister, please repeat your vote.

Mr C M DUGMORE: Deputy Speaker, hon Reddy keeps his screen on. He's disruptive.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would prefer that you do not switch on your cameras before you are actually going to vote because it's all a matter of bandwidth. Please assist us. Hon Dugmore.

Mr V G REDDY: Thank you for that.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): I said my vote is no. [Interjections.]

Voting continued: Botes, A

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members. Hon Lonzi and hon members ... [Inaudible.]

Ms S I NKOSI: Deputy Speaker, are these Deputy Ministers of the country?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, I did not recognise you. Could I please ask all the Deputy Ministers and Ministers in the same venue ... It is extremely difficult if you keep the camera and the microphone on. When you have voted just give your vote and switch off the camera and the microphone until the next person is called, because I can see that you are all in the same venue and it is very disruptive. Deputy Minister, please proceed.

Voting continued: Capa, R N

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: Deputy Speaker, on a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mente, what is your point of order? We are busy with the voting procedure.

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: Yes, Deputy Speaker. The people that are in the same house ... can all of them just lower their volume please? Only one gadget must be on. Let’s teach them technology. One gadget must be on and the rest can just speak and hear from one gadget. They are hurting our eardrums.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mente. You are quite correct. So, could I ask all the Ministers and Deputy Ministers in the same venue to only have one device on ... the microphone’s volume on. Please switch off the rest.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Maotwe, what is your point of order?

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Can we get confirmation that these Members of Parliament of the ANC are not quarantined in the same venue? With this level of echo it suggests that these people are all in the same venue. This is not the first time it happens. It

UNREVISED HANSARD

even happened the last time we voted and it's wrong. It's very wrong for people to be quarantined ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Maotwe, that is not a point of order. Hon Maotwe, you are now being disruptive. We are busy voting. We will now proceed.

Voting continued: Cloete, E A

Mr O M MATHAFA: There's something wrong with this. Can you see? [Interjections.]

Ms M DLAMINI: It's tough. It's tough. [Interjections.]

Voting continued: Dikgale, M C

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we just ... I just want to ... My apologies for interrupting. Hon Hlazo-Webster, you have your hand raised. Is this a very urgent point of order?

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: It is urgent, Deputy Speaker. I'm concerned that I was skipped because my surname ... an H and my name wasn't called.

UNREVISED HANSARD

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are doing it in terms of parties. So we start with the ANC.

Mr C M DUGMORE: You can join the ANC any day. You can join the ANC. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, you were not recognised. We are busy with a voting procedure, hon members. Please proceed.

Voting continued: Makhubela, L S

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Chair, my hand is up.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mkhize, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Chair, I'm very concerned. In terms of the Rule Book that you read, it says that members should be logged in. Now, when you rule that members can use one cellular phone if they are in the same venue, that means even a member who was locked out before the window was closed can now vote. So I'm confused as to how you are going to deal with that.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mkhize, I only referred to members putting down the volume on their own individual devices because they are in the same venue, so it doesn't mean they are not logged on. We are also checking at the Table as a member votes, whether their name is in fact on the participant screen. At this point, we have all the members who have in fact been called and have been voting on their own devices except where they show their face and they vote, because then we can see them and we can verify and we have confirmation. Hon Dugmore, is that another point of order?

Mr C M DUGMORE: Yes, Deputy Speaker, it's a point of order. It's clear that other hon members are delaying this process. They know they're going to lose. Can they please stop delaying this process because they are losing and they know it.

Mr V PAMBO: That's not a point of order, Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: You are delaying it yourself.

Mr T T S KUBHEKA: That's not a point of order. That is not a point of order hon Dugmore. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon members!

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms M DLAMINI: When are you going to learn to keep quiet hon Dugmore. Just keep quiet for once. [Interjections.]

Mr V PAMBO: You behave like a chief executive officer here.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: It’s because you are voting from other people’s ...

IsiXhosa:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILEYO: Hayi, thula wena Dugmore.

English:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, this is totally unacceptable, and hon Dugmore, that was also unacceptable. You are really making a disgrace.

An HON MEMBER: Deputy Speaker, on a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am busy speaking. Do you follow that I am speaking right now and that the Rules say you do not interrupt the presiding officer? It is unacceptable that you are interfering and disrupting the voting procedure all of you. This is a motion that was brought by the hon Malema, and

UNREVISED HANSARD

we are now voting on it. We are trying to do as best as we can with all the challenges we do have.

So, I do request members to now please act in a way befitting for a Parliament when you vote. All of the procedures have been approved by the Chief Whips, and we will proceed according to the agreed upon procedure. Hon Mthethwa ...

Mr E MTHETHWA: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am now proceeding with the matter.

Mr V PAMBO: Deputy Speaker, I ask for a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Pambo what is your point of order?

Mr V PAMBO: Hon Deputy Speaker, the House has been disrupted by voting cattle. These people have been put in one kraal, right? That is why we are having disruptions. They have been squashed in one kraal like voting cattle. That is why we cannot tell who is voting. That is why we cannot tell whether these people are logged in on time or not.

Mr W T D PLAATJIES: Just shut up. Shut up.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Pambo, we are busy checking at the Table who has been logged on. We are managing the system, so we know exactly who is voting. We can see next to their names. If you are logged on, on Zoom, you can do the same and check. So we will now proceed. We will not have any more points of order. We are now wasting time, and we are showing absolute disrespect to the House. So, we will now proceed with the voting. [Interjections.]

Mr E MTHETHWA: Deputy Speaker, you recognised me.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mthethwa, I recognised you and then you didn’t speak. So, what is you point ...

Mr E MTHETHWA: I was opened but somebody else was speaking whilst I was speaking. I want to say that it defeats the purpose that the bells would be rung for five minutes and when the window closes, those that are locked outside sneak in through other people’s gadgets. I can tell you that hon Gungubele voted through somebody else’s gadget. How do you then tell whether this person was locked out from his gadget and now sneaking in through another person’s gadget?

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mthethwa, that is exactly what I now also explained to the hon Mkhize, that we are checking each and every vote. The Chief Whips have indicated to us where the ... [Interjections.] The Chief Whips have indicated to me right at the start who will be in the same venue and who will not. Now, hon members, I am going to proceed with the process now.

Hon Maotwe, I am not going to allow any further disruptions of this voting procedure. We will now proceed with the division that you have called for. You have called for this division.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is it, hon Maotwe?

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Calm down, Deputy Speaker, we are fine. Deputy Speaker, you know, we are making a mockery of Parliament.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Indeed, we are.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: We as the EFF, have been, and even on this very motion, requesting that we all convene at the Dome so

UNREVISED HANSARD

that we can deal with this matter. It is the ANC that rejected our proposal. Now the ANC has taken their caucus, they've put them at Woodstock Garden Court, all of them in the same venue, and that's why we've got this disruption.

Why did the ANC refuse for us to meet at the Dome and they decided to convene everyone at Garden Court in Woodstock? Why? Why are we having Parliament at Garden Court as opposed to the Parliament that we have at the Dome, where are we even paying for furniture? We are paying for air conditioning units. We are paying for ablution facilities. The ANC rejected that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Maotwe.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Now they are at Garden Court and now we are seized with this.

Mr S T D LOUW: We are voting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Maotwe, that matter has been dealt with in the Chief Whips' Forum. Your Chief Whip was present, and it was discussed and dealt with. There was no instruction to parties how they should deal with the matter except that

UNREVISED HANSARD

members have to log on with their own devices. We did not prescribe where they should be. We will now proceed.

[Voting continues: MATHAFA O M]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: House Chair, please note my hand. House Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mkhize, what is it now?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: House Chair, I have two members who have been kicked out of the platform. Can the Table please check? It is hon Mngadi and hon Gamede.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will check whether they were on the platform when we closed it. Please just give the names again.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Pinky Mngadi and hon Thulani Gamede.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will check. Thank you. Then there is hon Taaibosch.

Mr S G MWALI: Deputy Speaker, my hand was up.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, hon Mwali. Let me just deal with the hands as I see them raised. Hon Mwali.

Mr S G MWALI: Yes, it is me. Deputy Speaker, the Table was calling hon E S Mchunu and then hon T Mchunu voted instead. Now the Table has just called hon T Mchunu, and she has already voted when the Table was calling hon E S Mchunu. Please check.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, we are quite aware of that because the hon E S Mchunu did not reply immediately. So, we are quite aware. Thank you. Hon Mente.

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: Deputy Speaker, so the entire ANC cannot master the art of just lowering the volume so that we can proceed.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: But why are you interested in the ANC like this? Why are you interested in the ANC like this?

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: Shut up.

Ms S I NKOSI: Because they are running the country and they can’t switch off microphones.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Allow the Deputy Speaker to run the meeting, stop the obsession. [Interjections.]

Ms M DLAMINI: But no one was talking to you ...

IsiZulu:

... awuthule wena Sekela Ngqongqoshe ndini.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Stop your obsession with the ANC. Let Deputy Speaker to run the meeting.

An HON MEMBER: It is not an obsession. [Interjections.]

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: You, see?

Mr T T S KUBHEKA: These old people will need to go to an old age home. [Interjections.]

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: Deputy Speaker what happens now, they just unmute and speak? They are useless like that. We can’t hear you, Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ntuli, I have not recognised you. Hon members, we will now proceed with the voting. This is my ruling. There will be no comments now.

IsiXhosa:

Nksz B MATHULELWA: Kodwa siphakamise izandla.

English:

Deputy Speaker, I have raised my hand a long time ago.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, you are raising frivolous points. You are raising points about a party that cannot turn down the volume on devices. That is not a point of order.

Ms B MATHULELWA: How did you know because you have not ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mathulewa, you are now disrupting the procedure.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mahlatsi.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Deputy Speaker, you must seriously consider this problem of the party that is in the same venue. How do you then control ... [Interjections] ... or outside?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Louw, I did not recognise you. Hon members ...

Dr L W MAHLATSI: I just want to submit that there is no methodology to establish whether the member was inside or outside.

Mr W T LETSIE: But what Rule is this? These guys are wasting ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Letsie!

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, as I have said now a number of times, this procedure was decided on by Chief Whips. There was no decision on how parties would individually deal with the matter, whether they are in one venue or whether they are in separate venues. That is a matter for the party, and I propose that the Chief Whips take this further with the Chief

UNREVISED HANSARD

Whips' Forum to decide on this. I'm not going to rule on that. We will now proceed. Hon Reddy, hon Mathulelwa, we will not ...

Mr V G REDDY: Deputy Speaker, sorry, please allow me, really.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are now interrupting me.

Mr V G REDDY: No, you've made two rulings. The first one, you said members must not put on their cameras, and members are putting on their camera. It's affecting the bandwidth. The second one, you said you're not going to entertain points of order, and yet we are having a whole lot of this. Now, the point that's being raised is a very valid point. The Chief Whips' Forum discussed everything else except this, and I see that there's a loophole that's being created here. You must be aware of this.

You don't want processes of Parliament to become farcical, because now you have a situation where members are sitting in one place using one device. We never thought that somebody would be such big crooks when we have the Chief Whips' Forum. But this crookery has now come to light. What are we doing about this?

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Reddy, I sit with the Zoom in front of me. I have the participants' list, and the members of the ANC are on separate devices. So, your point is not valid. We will now proceed, because you are now interrupting the process. You are in fact, now trying to stop the process, which I will not allow, because we are in a voting procedure. So, hon Ntuli ...

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not entertaining any more points of order. We will now proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: It's not a point of order, Deputy Speaker. It's members who have been kicked out over and over from the platform.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will take that up. The Table is quite aware of that, and we have, in fact, for your confirmation...

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Then we can't carry on if the Table is aware, Deputy Speaker. This is unfair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon ... hon ... [Interjections.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: Hon Deputy Speaker, can you hear me?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: We can’t carry on if people are being kicked out. You can’t expect us to carry on and vote when our members have been kicked out by your system. No, Chair, no.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mkhize! Hon Mkhize! We are quite aware when a member was on ... [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Fix it. Let’s take a break, then you fix it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mkhize, you are now in contempt, and I will warn you now.

Mr V G REDDY: No, no, no.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is your final warning.

Mr V G REDDY: Sorry, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Reddy, I am on the platform.

UNREVISED HANSARD

IsiXhosa:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILEYO: Ingathi yinqununu yesikolo sam samabanga aphakamileyo.

English:

Mr V G REDDDY: But you can’t say that’s contempt. The Chief Whip of the MK Parky is explaining something that makes perfect sense.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is contempt to speak whilst I am speaking.

Mr V G REDDY: You’re not responding to that. It’s not fair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Reddy, I am busy, but the hon Mkhize is not giving me the opportunity to explain. That is disrespectful. That is in contempt of the Chair. So, I have now explained how it works. We sit with all the members online. There are 404 people online, including the staff. So, we know exactly who is on.

We have taken photos of when the platform closed. We know exactly who was online and who was not. This is also being recorded, so we know exactly who the participants are. Please

UNREVISED HANSARD

don’t make inferences that aren’t true, just because you want to disrupt the whole process. Hon members, we will now proceed with the voting. Any, any objections can be raised after the voting, then the vote can be challenged, but not whilst we are busy with a procedure. We will now proceed.

Voting continues. [METH N]

Voting on Motion on the Order Paper (contd.)

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE SECOND LARGEST MINORITY PARTY (Adv G Breytenbach): Deputy Speaker, the hon Baptie was thrown off the platform after the doors closed, so I am voting “no” on his behalf.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chetty, please mute. Hon Breytenbach, we will look into the matter, so we will just check if the hon Baptie was thrown off afterwards, and then, as Chief Whip, you may vote on his behalf.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE SECOND LARGEST MINORITY PARTY (Adv G Breytenbach): Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Deputy Speaker, the same applies to the hon Cassim. He was thrown off after the doors closed, so he votes "no".

Hon Deputy Speaker, again, the hon Gwarube was chucked off after the doors closed, so she votes "no".

Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Ismail was also thrown off after the doors closed, so she votes "no".

Deputy Speaker, the hon Singh was also thrown off the platform after the doors closed, so she votes "no".

Deputy Speaker, the hon Van Zyl was also thrown off the platform after the doors closed. She votes "no".

Mr S LONZI: On a point of order, Deputy Speaker ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order, hon Lonzi?

Mr S LONZI: I want to check whether, after you have checked with the Table, you will report back to the House on these members. I mean, this is now the eighth member that we are being told was thrown out of the platform. That is an anomaly, even on technical terms. Someone losing network because they

UNREVISED HANSARD

are on a flight doesn't count as Parliament throwing them out of the platform. They have left the meeting. I am counting. I just hope that, after you have checked, you will come back to us.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I am also counting. Thank you, hon Lonzi. We are checking as we go along, and I will definitely come back to you. Thank you.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, this is the member I said was kicked out of the platform.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Are you voting on his behalf? We will check whether he was on or not.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Yes, Deputy Speaker. He votes "yes".

He was also kicked out of the platform, Deputy Speaker. He votes "yes".

Deputy Speaker, I had mentioned before we started that I will be voting on behalf of Comrade Mafagane. She votes "yes".

UNREVISED HANSARD

Deputy Speaker, he was kicked out of the platform. He votes "yes".

I had reported, Deputy Speaker. He votes "yes".

She was kicked out of the platform, Deputy Speaker. She votes "yes".

He votes "yes". Deputy Speaker, I had reported to the Table.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Sorry, Deputy Speaker. She was online. She got kicked off. She is voting a definite "yes".

She votes "yes". She was kicked out by the system.

He was kicked out by the system. He votes "yes".

She was kicked out. She votes "yes".

He was kicked out. He votes "yes".

Mr N M HADEBE: Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Hlabisa and the hon N Z Buthelezi got kicked out. They vote "no".

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms T J MOKWELE: We are not scared of anything. They are afraid of the gangs of the PA, but we are not afraid.

Afrikaans:

Mr M V DANIELS: Hulle doen dit vir "Mal Emma". [They do it for "Mal Emma".]

English:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please remove the hon Mokwele. Please remove the hon Daniels.

Dr L MANAGA: You must not disrespect our president!

Mr M V DANIELS: President? Hayibo. Test Mal Emma.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Could we please remove the hon Daniels? Thank you. Hon Wessels? Hon Wessels, your hand is raised. Is that a point of order? Please proceed.

Mr W W WESSELS: Deputy Speaker, I couldn't unmute. This is completely unacceptable, and I request you to refer the members that have acted in such a grossly disorderly fashion to the Standing Committee on Powers and Privileges. This is

UNREVISED HANSARD

unacceptable, and I plead with you to use your powers to do that. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Wessels. That will indeed be considered. Hon Maotwe?

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Deputy Speaker, we welcome the removal of the hon Daniels. It is long overdue. Actually, you sending him out is not enough. Let's send him to a rehabilitation centre. He needs to be rehabilitated. This is uncalled for.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Maotwe, I have now dealt with the matter. Hon Van Wyk?

Mr S H M VAN WYK: Deputy Speaker, it cannot be correct. I am rising on Rule 84. It cannot be correct that each and every time we are being insulted here, and then you allow it. We are being called names. We are drug addicts. One of the children of an hon member had even been called to say they hope she doesn't receive drugs.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Van Wyk, I have now dealt with the matter. You are not going to debate the matter now.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr S H M VAN WYK: Can you please deal with that matter as well? Why are you removing the hon Daniels?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Van Wyk, I have now dealt with the matter. You are also now in contempt.

Afrikaans:

Mr S H M VAN WYK: Die mense sien ons. [People see us.]

English:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are now proceeding with the vote.

Afrikaans:

Mr S H M VAN WYK: Ek stem nee teen nonsense. [I vote no to nonsense.]

English:

Ms O M C MAOTWE: No, no! Deputy Speaker, no, no, no. It is not parliamentary to say “nonsense”. Can the hon member please withdraw?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Maotwe, we will proceed. That is not a point of order. We will now proceed.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Deputy Speaker, you heard him say "nonsense". How is that not unparliamentary?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, I am ...

The MINISTER OF SPORT, ARTS, AND CULTURE: Deputy Speaker, they'd been doing this for 10 years before the PA arrived — this disrupting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon Minister and the hon Hendricks! Hon members, you are now also in contempt. We will now proceed with the voting.

Mr W W WESSELS: Deputy Speaker, the hon Groenewald was kicked out. He was on the platform, but he was kicked out. He votes "no".

The same goes for the hon Mulder, Deputy Speaker. The hon Mulder was on the platform, but he was kicked out recently. He votes "no".

Mr S N SWART: Deputy Speaker, as indicated, Mr Thring was on the platform but had to catch a plane, and therefore he had to leave the platform. Thank you. He would have voted "yes", but

UNREVISED HANSARD

I think the fact that he left the platform would disqualify him from voting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Correct.

Hon members, we will now check whether there are any members who have not voted and who are on platform but was skipped. I think we have covered everyone but just give us a moment so that we just check with the Table whether there are any outstanding names. There are two members that were on the platform, but we could not hear them, so we will just call their names out again. Thank you. Hon Ntuli, you can now proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: Deputy Speaker, I wanted to indicate those members who were on the platform but didn't vote, but I am fine now.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Ismail-Moosa?

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Deputy Speaker, I haven't heard our party leader's name called out.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We called his name. He has voted.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Thank you for confirming, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there anyone else we have skipped? We will now check against the list we have whether the people that were kicked off the system were indeed logged on when the doors closed.

Hon members, the voting session is now closed, and we will now check all the names against those that were present or not. Hon Nolutshungu?

Ms N J NOLUTSHUNGU: Deputy Speaker, you removed members of the EFF without giving prior notice. With the hon Daniels, you did caution him, but the members of the EFF were removed without prior notice. Can you please reinstate them? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. That matter can be taken up later. It is not now the time to deal with the matter. If there are any objections to my removal, there is a process that needs to be followed where an objection can be raised. So, the voting session is now closed. We will now tally the votes. Hon Mathys?

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms L MATHYS: Deputy Speaker, our Chief Whip raised a point of order with you, and you were rather dismissive. You do understand the processes that, if you are removing a member from the platform, you need to indicate so, and you didn't. So, we are asking for an explanation. Obviously, if we don't agree with it, we will take it up on other platforms, but you haven't told us why you removed them without informing them as you did with the hon Daniels. That is all our Chief Whip is asking, and you had been so dismissive.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Indeed, hon Mathys, I have indicated that, if the hon member is not happy with my removal, there are processes that can be followed. I need not give an explanation right now. Any ruling, as is in the rule book, may be challenged afterwards, not during the plenary.

Ms L MATHYS: Deputy Speaker, we are not challenging the ruling. We are asking why you didn't inform us that you were removing our members. That is all we are saying — why you are not telling us, and you understand that very well, Deputy Speaker, that you have to say we are removing so-and-so and so-and-so from the platform. You only did it with the hon Daniels. That is all we are asking — why you didn't do that with our members, and you did it with Daniels.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a ...

Ms L MATHYS: The reason you did it ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mathys, that is a matter of debate.

Ms L MATHYS: No, but it is not. You did.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mathys, that is a matter of debate.

Ms L MATHYS: Deputy Speaker, it is not a debate. They were shocked. We didn’t know.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mathys, you are now also out of order. That was not a ...

Ms L MATHYS: I am not out of order. You are out of order. I will go off.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... and it will ... Hon Mathys, all of this will be in a report to the Office of the Speaker from which it will be referred to the relevant body, whether it be the disciplinary committee, whether it be the Standing

UNREVISED HANSARD

Committee on Powers and Privileges. Whenever a member is removed, a report must be submitted, which is what I will do.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Deputy Speaker ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot see any hands raised, so I cannot ...

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Deputy Speaker, it is me. It is me, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, hon Maotwe? I am now at the point where I want to give the result.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: I understand that, Deputy Speaker. Maybe you are tired. It has been a long day. We understand, but the point that has been raised is whether you can give us reasons why they were removed. It is not about writing the report. It is not about anything. Is there a reason? You outlined the reason why you removed the hon Daniels, and you have not done the same with our members.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Maotwe, there is absolutely no requirement for me to indicate to you the reasons why I have removed the members. There will be ...

Ms C M PHIRI: You know better. They were disruptive! You were right, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Phiri, I have also not recognised you. I will now give the results of voting on the motion.

AYES – 100: **MKP 57** Abader, Z A; Buthelezi, N; Cele, Z K A; Douglas, W M; Gama, S I; Gamede, T I; Gasa, M M; Gcwabaza, N B; Hlophe, M J; Kubheka, T T S; Kubukeli, P; Litchfield-Tshabalala, K; Madlala, E K; Madlala, K B; Mafagane, M C; Malinga, J S; Manyi, M; Matutu, M J; Mbatha, M S; Mbele, H H; Mchunu, G; Mjadu, T S; Mkhize, P; Mkhize, S W; Mkhize, S P; Mkongi, B M; Mlotshwa, S N ; Mngadi, P P; Mngxitam, J A; Mogale, I S; Mokoena-Zondi, S M N; Moodley, S R; Motaung, G; Motubatse, M P; Msezane, M P; Mthethwa, Z E; Mtolo, J B; Mtshweni, N A; Muhammad, M B B; M wali, S G; Nchabeleng, A; Ngobese, W Q; Ngubane, J S; Nkosi, S I ; Nomvalo, S; Ntshaba, D; Nxumalo, N I; Radebe , H M; Reddy, V G; Selepe, L D; Shangase, L G; Shongwe, C V; Skosana, D M; Taaibosch, G; Themba, A T; Van Rooyen, D D D; Zuma, B E S; **EFF 37** Arries, L

UNREVISED HANSARD

H; Blose, M B; Chirwa-Mpungose, N N; Diale, B K; Dlamini, M; Gcilishe, S; Khoza, M; Komane, L M; Letlape, M S; Lonzi, S; Mailola, P R; Malema, J S; Managa, L; Maotwe, O M C; Marais, P; Mashabela, N R; Mathulelwa, B K; Mathys, L; Matiase, N S; Matiwane , C; Mente-Nkuna, N V; Mhlongo, N M; Mkhaliphi, H O; Mogale, T P; Mohlala, M R; Mokwele, T J; Mthethwa, E; Niehaus, C G; Nolutshungu, N J; Ntlangwini, E N; Pambo, V; Paulsen, M N; Shikwambana, M; Tafeni, N; Thambo, S; Thembekwayo, S S; Tito, L F; **ACDP 2** Meshoe K R J; Swart, S N; **ATM 2** Marawu, T L; Zungula, V; **NCC 1** Frenchman, S; **UAT 1** Mahlatsi, W L.

NOES – 283: **ANC 155** Adams, R C; Aphiri, M J; Bila, T J; Bilankulu, N K; Boshielo, S P; Botes, A; Burns-Ncamashe, Z; Capa, R N; Chabane, M S; Chauke-Adonis, T M; Chikunga, L S; Cloete, E A; Creecy, B D; Davids, S W; Didiza, A T; Dikgale, M C; Direko, D R; Dithebe, S L; Dlelanga, M; Dugmore, C M; Dunjwa, M L; Frolick, C T; Gantsho, N K; Gcaleka-Mazibuko, N A; Gigaba, K M N; Godlimpi, Z; Godongwana, E; Govana, Y; Gungubele, M; Hala, M M; Hassan, F; Hlongo, A S; Izaks, S E; Jama, S P; Kegakilwe, B M; Kekana, P S; Kgabo, G D; Khanyase, Z; Khumalo, J Q; Koornhof, G W; Kubayi, M T; Kumbaca, A N; Lamola, R O; Legoete, M D; Lekganyane, M S; Letsie, W T; Letsike, M S E; Ligaraba, L E; Louw, S T D; Mabe, B P; Maeco,

UNREVISED HANSARD

S M; Magagula, T E; Mahambehlala, T; Mahlangu, S; Mahlaule, M G; Mahlobo, M D; Mahumapelo, S O R; Maimela, K J; Majodina, P C P; Makasi, N; Makgato, M P; Makhubela, L S; Malematja, C N; Manamela, K B; Maneli, B M; Mantashe, G S; Masemola, N D; Mashatile, S P; Masina, M C; Masondo, D; Maswanganyi, M J; Mathabatha, C S; Mathafa, O M; Mathale, C C; Mbiyo, I M; Mchunu, T V B; Meth, N; Mgcina, P S; Mgweba, T; Mhaule, M R; Mhlauli, N B; Mkhize, Z L; Mkutu, L; Mmolotsane, M L; Modise-Mpya, M; Moela, M S; Mofokeng, M L; Mohai, S J; Mokoena, J L; Moraka, A T; Morolong, I K; Mosikatsi, S; Motaung, N E; Motshekga, M A; Motsoaledi, P A; Mpapane, D E; Mrara, M; Mtolo, N E; Munyai, T B; Muthambi, A F; Mvana, N Q; Nalumango, R S; Ndalane, N A; Ndamase, P; Neale-May, H E; Nel, A C; Nemadzinga-Tshabalala, J L; Nkabane, N P; Nkopane, N S; Nkosi, N E; Nkosi, V A; Nontsele, M; Nqola, X; Ntshalintshali, L L; Ntshavheni, K P S; Ntuli, D P; Ntuli, M; Nzimande, B E; Nzuza, N B; Phiri, C M; Pholwane, M B; Plaatjies,W T D; Pule, D D; Ramaila, K S; Ramokgopa, M L; Ramokgopa, K D; Ramolobeng, K A; Sangoni, K L N; Sapo, L; Seabi, A M; Seate, M O; Segede, M; Sekoati, S C; Selamolela, S D; Senne, M M; Shabangu, F L; Sibiya, N M; Simelane, T P; Siweya, R T; Skosana, G J; Sokanyile, T; Sokopo, M M; Sompa-Masiu, N S; Sotyu, M M; Subrathie, S I; Swarts, B; Tau, M P F; Tikana-Gxotiwe, W;

UNREVISED HANSARD

Tlhong, K C; Tolashe, N G; Tshotetsi, N T; Xaba-Ntshaba, P P; Xego, S T; Zikalala, S; **DA 82** Abrahams, A L A; Alexander, W R; Atkinson, P G; Aucamp, W A S; Bagraim, M; Baptie, E V; Basson, L J; Bateman, A G; Bath, E M; Bergman, D; Bloom, J B ; Bodlani, T K; Bollman, N J; Breytenbach, G; Burke, M J; Cameron, I; Cassim, Y; Chance, R W T; Chetty, M; Christians, D C; Christie, K A; Clarke, M O; De Blocq Van Scheltinga, A D; De Villiers, J N; Engelbrecht, J; Essack, F; Graham-Mare, S J; Gwarube, S; Hattingh, C; Horn, W; Hunsinger, C H H ; Ismail, H; Jordaan, C; Kgobisa-Ngcaba, K; Khakhau, K L; Khanyile, T A; Klopper, D D; Kohler, D; Krüger, H C C; Labuschagne, C; Le Roux, K W D; Linde, E; Lorimer, J R B; Mabhena, T B; Macpherson, D W; Madikizela, B S; Malatsi, M S; Marais, E J; Masango, B S; Maseko, L M; Maynier, D J; Mazzone, N W A; Mbiko, F; Mcgluwa, J J; Mdluli, M M; Michalakis, G; Mileham, K J; Moore, S J; Myburgh, N G; Nhanha, M A; Nodada, B B; Peach, W D; Poole, C J; Potgieter, L R; Powell, E L; Ramongalo, T R; Roos, A C; Sarupen, A N; Schickerling, L; Schreiber, L A; Seitlholo, I S; Sharif ,N K; Singh, S; Sithole, R J; Smit, C F B; Smith, R; Spies, E R J; Steenhuisen, J H; Van Der Walt, D; Van Zyl, A M; Wakelin, K H; Zondi, S; **IFP 16** Buthelezi, E M; Buthelezi, N Z; Cebekhulu, R N; Hadebe, N M; Hlabisa, V F; Hlengwa, M; Langa, T M; Luthuli, B N; Machi, B E; Majozi, Z;

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mhlongo, N H; Ngcobo, S L; Ngobese, A K; Singh, N; Van Der Merwe, L L; Zondo, S S; **PA 9** Basson, J A; Daniels, M V; Hendricks, E; Jeyi, T; Mckenzie, G; Mhlanga, M L; Peters , S; Sauls, A Q; Van Wyk, S H M; **FF Plus 6** Boshoff, W J; Denner, H; Groenewald, P J; Mulder, C P; Van Staden, P A; Wessels, W W; **ActionSA** 6 Beesley, A D; James, D E; Kobe, M P; Letlape, T K S; Ngobeni, L M; Trollip, R A P; **UDM 1** Nontenja, C N; **Rise Mzansi 2** Gana, S M; Zibi, S S; **Build One South Africa** 2 Hlazo-Webster, N L; Maimane, M A; **Al-Jama-Ah 2** Hendricks, M G E; Ismail-Moosa, I; **PAC 1** Nyhontso, M; **GOOD 1** De Lille, P.

Question not agreed to.

Motion accordingly negatived.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will now recognise the Chief Whip, hon Ntuli.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: Uh ... Deputy Speaker, are you recognising me on the next item on the agenda, or you are recognising me on the basis of ... I’m a bit lost?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: My apologies, I am jumping the gun.

UNREVISED HANSARD

An HON MEMBER: For celebrations!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we now proceed with the Order list. The First Order of the day is consideration of report ... [Interjections.] ...

An HON MEMBER: ... would the voting counts be released from prison now.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: No, it can’t be the First Order, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not recognising you, neither did I recognise you, hon Maotwe. The results would indeed be released and it will be in the minutes of the plenary with the names which will be available.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICE NATIONAL OPERATIONS COMMAND CENTRE IN TSHWANE ON 30 APRIL 2026

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: Deputy Speaker, may I disrupt you for a second?

UNREVISED HANSARD

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you may.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE FIRST LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: The reason that I was raising my hand ... and my apology for that, I wanted to request you that Table should then readmit all members who have been out of the platform when we were voting. Thanks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, that will be done. We will now proceed. The hon Maswanganyi.

Dr M J MASWANGANYI: Deputy Speaker, Ministers and hon members of the House, I hereby table the report of the Standing Committee on Finance on the oversight visit to the Sars on 30 April 2026. On 30 April 2026, the Standing Committee on Finance, SCOF, undertook an oversight visit to the Sars data centre. The main purpose of the visit was to obtain insight into revenue administration and compliance, the illicit economy and the day-to-day activities of the National Operations Center.

The Sars is one of the most critical organs of state because it funds the SA government and sustains the national economy. The visit formed part of the committee’s approved programme

UNREVISED HANSARD

and followed earlier parliamentary engagements with the Sars during the Budgetary Review and Recommendations Report, BRRR, process, the Budget Vote process and consideration of the Sars annual performance plan.

The programme for the visit identified the focus areas as revenue administration, compliance, digital transformation, the illicit economy and the data processing center. The visit was intended to enable the committee to exercise oversight of the Sars operational systems and institutional capabilities in relation to revenue collection, compliance enforcement and digital administration, enforcement functions and to observe the extent to which these support the effective discharge of the Sars statutory responsibilities.

During the oversight visit on 30 April, the Sars presented its mandate and institutional role in democratic South Africa. The Sars also presented its strategic playbook for the next phase of institutional development. The committee was informed that Sars Vision 2030 seeks to build a smart modern Sars with unquestionable integrity that is trusted and admired. The Sars also presented the committee with the next phase of its digital transformation agenda. The Sars also briefed the

UNREVISED HANSARD

committee on what it described as South Africa's illicit economic crisis.

The committee was informed that these has led to the establishment of the National Illicit Economic Disruption Programme. The Sars referred in this regard to the state of the nation address delivered by President Ramaphosa on 12 February 2026, in which he stated that government was establishing a National Illicit Economy Disruption Programme, bringing together key state agencies and other stakeholders, including the private sector, and that high risk sectors such as tobacco, fuel, alcohol and other counterfeit goods will be targeted through the effective use of data analytics and artificial intelligence.

The committee acknowledges and welcomes the additional funding allocated to the Sars by the Minister of Finance. The committee considered this additional support necessary in view of the Sars central role in revenue collection, customs administration, compliance enforcement, digital modernisation, and the fight against the illicit economy. The committee again recommends that the National Treasury should continue to provide the Sars with adequate, predictable and appropriately

UNREVISED HANSARD

structured funding for this institution to discharge its mandate effectively.

The committee also recommended that the Sars, the Border Management Authority and the relevant departments finalise an interagency governance operating frameworks for the smart border reform programme before the operating arrangements for the border public-private partnerships are concluded. The committee welcomes the Sars continued digital transformation ... [Interjections.] ... modernisation.

The committee notes the machine learning automated assessment, prepopulated returns, artificial intelligence detection models and real-time operational dashboards have become central to taxpayer service and compliance risk management enforcement. The committee, nevertheless, observes that the increasing reliance on artificial intelligence, integrated taxpayer data and automated decision making requires strong governance, cybersecurity and accumulation safeguards.

The committee, therefore, recommends that the Sars strengthen its taxpayer education and service access programmes in rural and underservice areas. I, therefore, move that the report be adopted

UNREVISED HANSARD

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, Xandla xa Xipikara.

There was no debate.

Declarations of vote:

Mr D D D VAN ROOYEN: Chairperson, the MK Party concurs with the assertion that the work of the Sars should be understood not merely as tax collection in a narrow administrative sense, but as part of the state's broader constitutional and developmental architecture. The Sars is an institution whose work must have a transformational impact on the wellbeing of the lives of people, especially the most vulnerable by enabling the state to fund public services and developmental programmes.

It is our submission as the MK Party that in its current form, the Sars is not in a position to fully discharge a noble mandate. We note the presented historical revenue and taxpayer register data showing the growth of tax administration over time. Unfortunately, the austerity-driven funding model limit the Sars revenue generation capacity. Also, the ambiguous and confused relationship between the Sars and the Border Management Authority, where the Sars present itself as holding

UNREVISED HANSARD

statutory custom authority, while the Border Management Authority claimed operational primacy at the port.

This relationship between the two where overlapping mandates were created and duplicated and have definitely caused a lot of gaps that are exploited by syndicates. The relationship between the Border Management Authority and the SA National Defence Force, where the absence of structured handover protocols from borderline interceptions to port enforcement create a major gap which is also exploited by criminal syndicates. The relationship between the Sars and the Department of Home Affairs, where separate migration and customs system are slowing processes, enable identity fraud and weak trade abuse detection.

During this oversight visit, a critical question was posed, given the progress reported on the Sars digital transformation agenda, how did all this transformation progress fail to detect what happened at Phala Phala? How did Phala Phala crime survive the Sars scrutiny? The Sars failed to respond, and we hope they will be able to account to the nation when brought before the impeachment committee. If anything, this report confirms that Sars is selectively and not optimally used to execute its mending.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The report is more of a compliance exercise that lacks drastic and radical resolutions needed to transform our revenue enhancement effort and it doesn't deserve MK Party support. We reject it and urge all voters to continue punishing Government of National Unity by voting MK Party in the coming local government election. It is only MK Party that will introduce more effective Sars. A Sars that will not be afraid of white capital. A Sars that will not victimise vulnerable emerging black businesses.

Setswana:

Re a leboga, Modulasetilo.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: House Chair, while we were unable to form part of the oversight visit to the Sars, we're happy that the recommendations proposed coming out of the visit are exactly what we've always been saying. We welcome the recognition that the Sars needs additional funding as it continues with the successful rebuilding in the poststate capture era, modernisation and digital transformation and flagship projects that seek to consolidate revenue collection.

However, we must remind our colleagues in the Standing Committee of Finance and the National Assembly that, it is not

UNREVISED HANSARD

the Minister of Finance who allocates additional funding to the Sars. It is this Parliament. It will not be the National Treasury that gives the Sars funding. It is this Parliament that must take a decisive step and fund the Sars to maximum capacity. When the Sars is maximally funded, it is our democracy that will benefit. It is the South African society that will benefit. It is also the tax leakages that need the Sars maximum attention and the people engaged in aggressive tax avoidance who need to be confronted.

To do this, a piecemeal funding approach will not yield the results that we want. We as Parliament must fund the Sars, not the National Treasury, not the Minister of Finance. That is how Money Bills actually work. The issue of fragmentation and mandate tension between the Sars, Border Management Authority and other departments involved in border management is self-inflicted and unnecessary. We have to go back and look at the legislation that established the Border Management Authority because as it stands, it is both impeding the work and costing taxpayers' money.

Chair, while people are paid ridiculously high salaries at the top, workers are removed from permanent positions into contract work through outsourcing and labour brokering. This

UNREVISED HANSARD

is why they wanted to create the Border Management Authority, BMA, over and above the abuse of weak border controls to smuggle goods into our republic.

We agreed with the recommendation that the idea of public-private partnerships will not solve the challenges facing South Africa with regard to border management. No one must profit from border management. This is a matter of national economic security and our sovereignty as a country. Lastly, we must admit that in the past 10 years, while the Sars has made progress in terms of institutional rebuilding, it has failed to resolve aggressive tax avoidance by multinationals. Hence, its focus now on what we consider small scale aggressive tax avoidance.

However, the solution is not with the Sars, it is with us as Members of Parliament to fix the law. We are lawmakers and we must make the laws that will make this country to run smoothly. The EFF supports the report. I thank you.

Mr N M HADEBE: House Chairperson, effective revenue administration is essential to the state's ability to fund public services and support economic development. We note the R1,6 trillion in additional revenue raised between 2019 and

UNREVISED HANSARD

2026, which demonstrates the importance of investing in a capable and effective Sars. However, these gains must be protected through adequate funding, sound administration, and clear accountability.

Concerns regarding fragmented border mandates, information sharing, and consequence management reinforce the need for effective implementation of the Smart Border Reform Programme and responsible stewardship of public resources. As Sars expands use of digital systems and artificial intelligence, strong safeguards for taxpayer information, cybersecurity, and accountability must also be maintained. The IFP supports stronger taxpayer education and access to services, particularly in rural and underserved communities so that compliance is made easier and no taxpayer is left behind.

The IFP believes that effective oversight must be matched by effective implementation. We therefore support this report and reaffirm our commitment to capable institutions, accountable governance, and ensuring that public resources serve the people of South Africa. I thank you.

Ms S M PETERS: House Chair, the PA rises to support the consideration of the Standing Committee on Finance's report on

UNREVISED HANSARD

its oversight visit to the Sars National Operations Command Centre in Tshwane. This report is more than a procedural entry. It is a clear indicator of where our revenue administration stands and where it must urgently go.

The committee's visit showed that Sars is steadily rebuilding its institutional strength. The Command Centre demonstrates improved digital systems, better data analytics, and a renewed focus on compliance and enforcement. These are encouraging signs of an institution recovering from years of instability and governance failures. However, the PA must stress a critical point. The illicit economy remains one of the greatest threats to South Africa's fiscal health. Criminal networks are organized, well-resourced, and increasingly sophisticated. Technology alone cannot defeat them. Sars needs sustained investment, specialized skills, and stronger co-ordination with law enforcement and intelligence agencies. We cannot expect world-class results from an institution that is asked to do more with less.

The oversight visit also highlighted the importance of protecting the data processing centre - the nerve centre of taxpayer information. Strengthening this infrastructure is

UNREVISED HANSARD

essential for safeguarding the integrity of our revenue system and ensuring that every rand due to the state is collected.

The PA supports this report because it aligns our core belief that a strong, well-resourced Sars protects the poor, strengthens the fiscals, and ensures that public money reaches the communities it is meant to serve. When we close the taps of the illicit economy, we open the taps of opportunity for our people. The PA therefore calls for continued modernization and enhanced enforcement capacity and a whole-of-government approach to revenue protection.

South Africa cannot afford leakages, loopholes, or lax enforcement. We must build a Revenue Service that is fair, firm, and fearless. I thank you.

Mr A D BEESLEY: House Chair, the oversight visit to Sars National Operations Command Centre has been a highlight of my time as a Member of Parliament. That visit demonstrated something important. Competence, professionalism, and innovation can be hallmarks of South Africa's public service. When the right political leadership is applied, when institutions are properly managed, and when capable officials are given the resources they need, our state can deliver.

UNREVISED HANSARD

ActionSA was the first political party to call for additional funding to properly resource and capacitate Sars. What we saw during this oversight visit vindicates that position. Importantly, we are no longer alone in this call. Parties across this House are now calling for greater funding for Sars. That growing consensus is welcome, but we must be clear about why this matters. South Africa has a cancerous, illicit economy that deprives the fiscus of billions, undermines legitimate businesses, and fuels organized crime. If we are serious about confronting it, Sars must have the resources, technology, personnel, and institutional capacity to do so.

Properly funding and capacitating Sars is therefore not simply an investment in tax collection. It is an investment in the integrity of our economy, sustainability of public finances, and the fight against the illicit economy. ActionSA will continue to advocate for Sars that is properly funded, properly capacitated, and empowered to do the job that South Africans expect of it. ActionSA supports the report. I thank you.

Mr S N SWART: House Chair, the ACDP supports this report and we wish to commend Sars for crossing the historic milestone by surpassing the R2 trillion mark in net revenue collection for

UNREVISED HANSARD

the previous financial year, a remarkable 8,4% growth. This proves the immense value of institutional modernization and a dedicated public service with over 14 500 staff members operating sophisticated data and compliance systems. Well done, indeed.

The stellar collection performance allowed government to avoid painful tax increases, like raising VAT. In fact, allowing for tax relief, such as for bracket creep. The ACDP believes however that much more can still be done to improve tax collection even further. Outstanding debt and compliance gaps require continuous aggressive tracking in order to recover billions more in unpaid funds.

We agree with the committee's recommendation that Sars needs sustained and adequate financial backing to fully secure its digital infrastructure against sophisticated financial systems seeking to evade tax payments. We have for many years advocated for additional funding for Sars and other law enforcement agencies, and this includes the illicit economy where smuggling, customs fraud, and tobacco syndicates continue to drain state resources and distort fair trade. While progress is being made, far more needs to be done to address the illicit economy. I thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Chair, in the name of Almighty, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful. Hon Speaker, hon members, beloved family of South Africans, Al Jama-ah supports the report of the Standing Committee on Finance following its oversight visit to the Sars National Operations Command Centre in Tshwane.

Sars is one of the most critical institutions in our country because its effectiveness directly affects the resources available to government, to provide services, build infrastructure and support our most vulnerable communities. The oversight visit was therefore important because it allowed Parliament to look beyond reports and statistics and to understand the operational systems and capabilities of Sars, particularly in relation to revenue collection, compliance enforcement, digital transformation, data processing and the fight against the illicit economy.

Al Jama-ah recognizes the progress that Sars has made in modernizing its systems and strengthening compliance. However, we must also remain vigilant. Every rand lost through tax evasion, fraud, illicit trade, corruption or other forms of non-compliance is a rand that could have contributed to schools, hospitals, housing, social development, basic

UNREVISED HANSARD

services and sustainability. The fight against the illicit economy must therefore remain a national priority.

Parliament has already expressed concern about the growth of illicit economy activity and damage it causes to our economy. At the same time, we must ensure that enforcement is fair and does not place an unnecessary burden on compliant taxpayers, particularly small businesses and ordinary citizens. Compliance must be accompanied by education, accessibility, efficient service delivery and respect for taxpayers' rights.

Digital transformation provides us with an enormous opportunity. Better use of data, technology and intelligence can improve compliance while making the tax system more efficient and easier for citizens to navigate. I therefore support the report and its recommendations, and we call for continued parliamentary oversight to ensure that Sars remains effective, accountable, technologically capable and focused on maximizing revenue for the benefit of all South Africans. Malibongwe! Thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr K H WAKELIN: Hon Chairperson, South Africans are under enormous financial pressure. The cost of living continues to squeeze households. Businesses face rising costs and taxpayers

UNREVISED HANSARD

are being asked to carry an increasing burden to fund a state that still struggles to deliver basic services. That is why this House’s oversight report is so important. There is another side to the fiscal equation. Before we ask South Africans for more money, government must ensure that it collects what already owed to them and protects what taxpayers already contribute.

There are catastrophic and encouraging lessons we learn from the Sars history. Firstly, during the Zuma state capture years, Sars was deliberately weakened, hollowed out, and its ability to collect revenue was compromised. The Nugent Commission found a massive failure of integrity and governance under Tom Moyane. While the Zondo Commission found that Sars had been deliberately captured, with Zuma and Moyane playing critical roles, lest we forget.

However, since 2019, under Commissioner Kieswetter, Sars has generated more than R1,6 trillion in additional compliance revenue. Its artificial intelligence dictation models prevented more than R672 billion in outflows, while serious tax and custom investigation have raised more than R80 billion in assessments. More importantly, state capture orders alone has generated R6 billion in revenue. It's time that we collect

UNREVISED HANSARD

all our money. This is the value of investing in capable institutions and ethical leadership during Dr Kieswetter's tenure.

The question remains, how much more revenue is lost because the rest of the state is not working effectively. The illicit economy is a clear example. In our engagement with Sars, they have identified serious weaknesses at our borders involving overlapping mandates between Sars, the Border Management Authority, SAPS, SANDF, and Home Affairs. These include duplicated enforcement, gaps in the hand-off of intercepted people and goods, and separated systems that can be exploited by criminal syndicates.

Every shipment of illicit tobacco, alcohol, fuel, or counterfeit goods that enters South Africa is damaging legitimate businesses, deprives the fiscals of income, and leaves ordering taxpayers to carry more of the burden. That is why the Sars proposed Smart Border Reform Program must be well researched, funded, and managed. The border must operate as one integrated fiscal and enforcement system with clear responsibilities, shared data, scanner, risk engine, and measurable revenue outcomes. This is where the DA’s principle of every run count matters.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The Sars Modernization 3.0 program presents an important opportunity to change the way government fights revenue leakages. Sars is moving towards an AI-enabled operating model using machine learning, automated assessments, pre-populated returns, integrated taxpayer data, and real-time risk detection. This resulted in preventing over R672 billion in outflows.

The DA supports this direction, but technology must be accompanied by strong governance, cybersecurity, human oversight, and measurable outcomes. If AI can identify billions in potential losses, then government must be asking where else similar technology can be deployed across the state to detect fraud, overpricing, waste, and revenue leakages.

The DA supports further investment where it produces measurable results, but we cannot afford another expensive government project where the underlying problems remain. Parliament must therefore insist on knowing the cost, procurement model, implementation milestones, and most importantly, the actual additional revenue and enforcement outcomes of this program.

UNREVISED HANSARD

There were a number of unanswered questions that Parliament must pursue. How many cases reach prosecution? How much revenue is ultimately recovered? What happens to the confiscated goods? The report reports that substantive answers were not provided to all these questions. We need to know whether taxpayers are receiving value for money they contributed.

The DA welcomes the rebuilding of Sars and the evidence that capable institutions can improve revenue collection without simply increasing tax rates, but the lesson must now extend across the whole of government. We need to collect more efficiently, stop leakages, fight the illicit economy, eliminate waste, and measure the return on every major public investment. The DA supports this report. Thank you, Chair.

Ms N A GCALEKA-MAZIBUKO: Hon House Chair, the African National Congress takes pride in the progress made by the 6th and 7th Administrations in strengthening the SA Revenue Service, Sars. It is one of the pockets of success in our state, demonstrating that the state has the capabilities to run a globally competitive revenue service.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The ANC has continually advanced the increase in financial support for Sars, such as an addition of R8,5 billion since 2023 to achieve illicit trade suppression, internal system integrity, and the digitisation of the entity. Sars is a clear example of delivery by the ANC government, hon Chair. This is an unquestionable success produced by ensuring Sars has strong leadership that was capable of turning Sars around to a stage where it collects over R2 trillion for the National Revenue Fund.

We also recognise the public servants working in Sars who have made Sars what it is today. We should draw lessons from this display of an agile, technical, ethical, and capable institution. These are the levels of capabilities we require across the state. Less for various organs of the state also lie within government. The image that everything is going wrong is a factual lie. Remarkable is the fact that the net revenue collection since 1994 has exceeded R25 trillion, and the tax register has grown from 2,7 million taxpayers in 1994-95 to 33,89 million in 2025-26.

This signifies economic development and risk distribution since 1994. Since the Nugent Commission, which found a systemic effort to weaken the national revenue, essentially

UNREVISED HANSARD

collapsing the capacity of the state to function as it should, tackling the legacy of state capture and corruption is a success we welcome. We thank the leadership during the tenure of Dr Edward Kieswetter, who also provided a briefing to the committee.

It is also the agility to adapt to change conditions to ensure that during the COVID-19 period, the process of digital transformation was spread and its vision for 2024. Sars is implementing artificial intelligence, operating models, and reinvention with integrity. It is currently implementing modernisation 3,0 and SARS Vision 2036 to build a smart, modern Sars with unquestionable integrity that is trusted and admired, which the new CEO, Dr Johnston Makubu, will lead.

We welcome the smooth handover to Dr Johnston Makubu, who we are confident that he will continue to take Sars to a higher level. Sars also provided a report on the work they are doing to tackle challenges related to the illicit economic crisis. Illicit financial flows compromise the capacity of the state to collect due taxes, resulting in foregone tax.

Sars has established a national illicit economic disruption programme, bringing together key state agencies and other

UNREVISED HANSARD

stakeholders, including the private sector. That high-risk sector, such as tobacco, fuel, alcohol, and other counterfeit products, would be targeted through the effective use of data analytics and artificial intelligence. Sars stated that it drives the process of combating illicit economy while the border management authority would deal with the security aspect of the project.

Sars reported that additional revenue raised between 2019 and 2026 amounted to R1,6 trillion. That artificial intelligence detection model has prevented more than R672 billion in outflow and provided 1,200 serious tax and customs crimes in the ... [Inaudible.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Mazibuko, can you please hold? Hon Nalumango, can you please mute? It’s unfair, hon members, what you are doing. My apologies, hon Mazibuko. Please continue.

Ms N A GCALEKA-MAZIBUKO: House Chair, Sars also reported that 219 state capture audits had resulted in R6 billion in revenue. These figures reinforce the concern raised by members that inadequate funding of Sars could constrain revenue collection, compliance enforcement, and the ability of the

UNREVISED HANSARD

state to fund Public Service. We are confident, hon Chair, that through further allocations, Sars will be able to accelerate programmes that improve revenue collection and increase voluntary compliance.

Hon Chair, the ANC supports this Report, and we urge South Africans to vote for the government that has experience and the government that knows the challenges of the African National Congress. I thank you.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: Chairperson, good evening to you and may I propose that the Report be adopted. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon members, the motion is that the Report be adopted.

Declarations of vote made on behalf of the uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, Inkatha Freedom Party, Patriotic Alliance, ActionSA, African Christian Democratic Party, Al Jamaha, Democratic Alliance and African National Congress.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Motion agreed to (African Christian Democratic Party, uMkhonto weSizwe Party and ActionSA dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION ON OVERSIGHT VISIT ON SA MISSIONS IN SADC REGION GATHERED AT SOUTH AFRICAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA 3 – 7 FEBRUARY 2026

Mr S O R MAHUMAPELO: Presiding Chairperson, hon members, I greet you tonight. I just to bring to the attention of the House that the Portfolio Committee on International Relations took a cautious decision to adjust the model in as far as doing oversight on the Department of International Relations and Co-operation is concerned. We took a decision to group the 115 diplomatic missions in the world into four geographic regions.

We undertook an oversight visit to the region of Europe, and thereafter, we undertook an oversight to Southern African Development Community, SADC, as indicated on 3 to 7 February 2026. The report provides an important assessment of South Africa’s diplomatic presence in a region that remains central

UNREVISED HANSARD

to our national interests, our economic development and our commitment to African integration. SADC region is not merely a geographical neighbourhood; it is a region with which South Africa shares a deep historical, political, economic and cultural bonds.

Our approach must, therefore, continue to be guided by solidarity, mutual respect and co-operation, whilst advancing South Africa’s national interests and contributing to the development of our continent of Africa. One of the important things emerging from this oversight visit is the growing significance of economic diplomacy. The report demonstrates that South Africa’s companies have established a substantial presence across the region.

They operate in sectors ranging from mining, banking, telecommunication, tourism, manufacturing, logistics, et al. There are also considerable opportunities for further co-operation in agriculture, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, construction, et al. Our missions have an important role to play in connecting South Africa’s capabilities with these opportunities. We particularly welcome the attention given to small, medium, and micro enterprises, SMMEs, and previously marginalised groups of our society.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Economic diplomacy must contribute to broadening participation in regional markets and creating opportunities for businesses that have historically been excluded from international economic activities. The work being undertaken by the mission in Zambia towards the SMME corporation is, therefore, welcomed by the committee. This is the practical meaning of economic diplomacy, as we say.

The report also highlights the importance of infrastructure and regional connectivity. Energy projects, transport corridors and other infrastructure initiatives have the potential to strengthen regional integration, improve trade, and create new opportunities for investment. The Lobito Corridor and other regional infrastructure initiatives demonstrate the importance of developing an increasingly connected African continent.

All this is done in the context of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA. The discussions around non-tariff barriers, customs procedures, regulatory requirements and market access, are therefore, important to the broad objective of deepening inter-Africa trade. South Africa must continue working with its regional partners to address these challenges and ensure that the objectives of SADC integration are

UNREVISED HANSARD

attended to. The ANC welcomes the report's attention to regional peace and security.

The developments in the DRC, Mozambique, and elsewhere in the region, remind us that peace and development are closely interconnected. South Africa must continue to work through SADC, the African Union and other appropriate African mechanisms to promote dialogue, peaceful resolution of disputes and African ownership of peace processes. This is consistent with our long-standing commitment to strengthen African institutions and advancing African-led solutions to African challenges.

Our shared liberation history provides an important foundation for these relationships, but our responsibility is to ensure that these historical bonds are translated into practical co-operation that responds to the contemporary needs of our countries and the people. The oversight visit also highlighted the important contribution made by officials serving in our missions. The recommendations are as indicated and they cover ICT, economy, political relations, management of the internal affairs of the department, strengthening of communication from the Department of International Relations and Co-operation to the missions, and us strengthening our oversight of the

UNREVISED HANSARD

department. We move that the report be adopted. Thank you very much.

Setswana:

Ke a leboga.

Afrikaans:

Baie dankie.

Declarations of vote:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): I will now recognise political parties wishing to make a declaration. The usual time for declarations of votes will apply. The MKP.

Mr W M DOUGLAS: I am just struggling with my camera. Can I keep it off, hon Chair?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Yes, continue, we can hear you, hon Douglas.

Mr W M DOUGLAS: Chairperson, Ministers and officials, I greet you all in the name of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, my Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit, and in the language of my Khoi and San ancestors, !Gai !oes. [Good evening.] The MKP

UNREVISED HANSARD

agrees with much of what this oversight report finds, but his recommendations do not go far enough, Honourable Chair. Therefore, we cannot support the report foundationally.

The committee's role is oversight, and we set out to determine whether our SA Broadcasting Corporation, SABC, and other missions advance South Africa's national interest, confront poverty, inequality, unemployment, and create opportunities for marginalised South Africans from all races, tribes and tongues. Yet the report exposes a foreign service machinery requiring systemic overhaul. The Department of International Relations and Co-operation has got to take the shift from activities-based reporting to outcomes-based reporting more seriously.

In 2024 and 2025, the report identified weaknesses in asset management, procurement, contract management, and consequence management. Across our missions, we find broken ICT, vacant posts, deteriorating properties and visa failures. In Malawi, a network outage reportedly lasted about a month, forcing officials to issue handwritten visas, which is open to corruption. These are not administrative inconveniences; they weaken the South African state and put us at a disadvantage for national security.

UNREVISED HANSARD

So, yes, it's important for us to fix the ICT, to fill the vacancies, to protect our assets and enforce our consequence management. But that cannot be where the recommendations end as it does right now, because the same report tells us that trade between Zambia grew from 30 billion to 60 billion between 2018 and 2025. More than 230 South African companies operate in Tanzania, and more than 120 in Zimbabwe, and that trade with Mozambique reached approximately 139 billion in 2024.

But this economic diplomacy is economic diplomacy for who, hon Chair? Who owns this expansion; who receives these contracts; who accumulates the wealth, and who benefits from the African Continental Free Trade Agreement? The answer is white monopoly capital and their politically connected cronies that were bought and paid for. The same people that benefited under apartheid, still benefit now. Those who benefited under colonialism, still benefit now.

We are the black industrialists, women entrepreneurs, coloured and Indian entrepreneurs, township and rural businesses, youth persons with disabilities and indigenous enterprises. These must be the metrics to decide how good we are and what we are doing in SADC. Are we taking those people to our SADC

UNREVISED HANSARD

neighbours and giving them opportunities? No, we're not. It's the same people as it always was, and that's what the MKP is going to change.

If our diplomacy merely expands established corporate capital across Africa, while ownership remains fundamentally untransformed, then we are expanding trade without transforming the economy, which goes against the very core of the MKP's beliefs. Here lies the contradiction. The committee specifically asked whether missions benefit previously marginalised groups. Recommendations 21.1, 22.1 and 22.5 deal with administration, ICT, consular systems, staffing and properties.

Where is the recommendation on economic transfer that spells out clearly what must be done and how we're going to benefit; where is the beneficiation going to happen? It must be at source, here by us, and where is the industrialisation? We need to share the industrialisation with our neighbours across SADC, and we need to trade across borders. Where is the land and productive agricultural reform linked to African markets, and where is the measurable jobs?

UNREVISED HANSARD

We demand quarterly reports on broken computers, but not quarterly reports on how many jobs our economic diplomacy is created. That must change. Every mission needs an economic diplomacy outcomes scorecard. We must be sure to say how much investment was secured; how many jobs were created; which historically disadvantaged businesses has entered into the SADC markets; how many factories were established that worked together with partners in SADC, and how much infrastructure was delivered and minerals beneficiated on African soil?

This should be done so that we can cut our dependency upon the West and other external powers, because Africa cannot continue exporting its natural wealth and importing poverty. The report tells us that copper generates more than 70% of Zambia's foreign currency earnings. Our response cannot simply be copper. We must become more capable and we must produce products. Thank you very much.

Ms N M MHLONGO: House Chairperson, can I kindly ask to switch off my camera, please?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Continue, it's okay.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms N M MHLONGO: Hon House Chairperson, our oversight visit to our missions that our sister-sided countries exposes just how dire the condition of our missions is. In fact, the Department of International Relations and Co-operation is hiding the neglect with which it handles our foreign missions. South African missions are symptoms of the underlying problem of underfunding in this department. Without addressing this underlying problem, the neglect and rot will continue.

The mission in Zimbabwe is a clear example of this rot. The building of our embassies is in a state of complete disrepair, from a leaking, collapsing roof to using all outdated equipment and furniture that can fall apart at any moment. There’s no budget to refurbish our embassies. The title deed for the embassy in Mozambique is in private ownership of one Mr Colin Peterson, since 1985, even though there’s a court ruling of 2017 that the deed be transferred into the ownership of the South African government.

To this day, the Department of International Relations and Co-operation has not resolved this matter, exposing our national diplomatic services to risk. In 2026, the Department of International Relations and Co-operation can only tell us that they are in the process of appointing a conveyancing service

UNREVISED HANSARD

nine years after the court ruling. The vacancy rate in our mission, more especially the SA Police Service, SAPS, undermines any efforts in place to fight cross-border crimes, especially when it comes to hijackers from South Africa roaming around in SADC.

Our ICT infrastructure in SADC SA missions is an embarrassment. In fact, this matter was a source of complaint by almost all the missions, which indicated that serious intervention is needed to deal with the ICT infrastructure. If the department was serious about resolving ICT challenges, we would have had strict timelines for resolving this crisis. South Africa is not leveraging our standing in SADC to ensure that we create more business opportunities for South Africans to trade in the region.

Sadly, the companies that are trading in the region and all over the globe from South Africa, are the very same companies that used to trade during apartheid. This democratic government has not been able to make exporting products or services to be easily accessible for small businesses and creating opportunities for black-owned and youth-owned companies to thrive. The South African companies trading in

UNREVISED HANSARD

the region do not clearly represent the demographics of this country.

Our missions must have trade attachments to be able to leverage on economic opportunities for the country. Our missions must be able to analyse the political situations and development of a country to be able to actively advise our government on how to continue our diplomatic and economic relations we enjoy. We need a project of the Department of International Relations and Co-operation that is alive with the realities of our missions and addressing these challenges. We therefore support this report and the recommendations of the committee. I thank you, House Chairperson.

Ms B E MACHI: House Chairperson, the IFP knows the report of South Africa's mission in the South African Development Community, SADC, region and acknowledges the importance of implementing our foreign policy engaging with our regional partners provides mutual political, economic, social, and security benefits. In an increasingly divided world, diplomacy remains an essential tool for stabilising regions and sustaining meaningful partnerships.

UNREVISED HANSARD

In acknowledging this and in co-recognition the important work of those serving in our mission abroad, we are concerned by the challenges identified in the report, particularly weaknesses in financial management and audit controls. ICT instability, property, portfolio management and consular and immigration services. These challenges must be addressed as they place the long-term effectiveness and stability of our foreign policy at risk.

We reaffirm that South Africans foreign policies that is capable and effective approach ultimately services all South Africans at home. The IFP accepts the report and calls for its recommendations to be fully implemented, henceforth. I thank you, House Chairperson.

Ms J A BASSON: Patriots, fellow South Africans, the PA is here to speak truth to power, no sugarcoating, no excuses. Our diplomats in SADC region are out there fighting for this country every single day. They are advancing our economy. They are rescuing our people in distress. They are doing the work of the nation. But what do they get in return? Broken computers, dead phones, internet that cuts out, systems that crash in the middle of processing a visa. Our people are

UNREVISED HANSARD

working with one hand tied behind their backs while the department sits comfortably in Pretoria.

This is not incompetence. This is sabotage of our own sovereignty. Every time a system fails, a South African is left stranded. A family is waiting for a visa to return home. A business investor walks out the door and takes their money with them. We say enough is enough.

Staffing gaps, fill them. Property scrambling, fix them. Consequence management missing - we demand accountability. Not next year, not next quarter, but now. Our people are burning out. Our assets are rotting. Our reputation is being destroyed. Not by our enemies, but by our own neglect.

The PA declares that we stand with the committee. We support every recommendation. But we will not accept more empty promises. We want action. We want results. We want heads to roll if they do not deliver. Our diplomats deserve better. Our citizens deserve better. Time for talking is over. Time for doing is now. Forward, patriots. Nothing less than our national dignity is at stake. I thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Ms M P KOBE: House Chair, in considering the portfolio committee's oversight report on the SADC region, we must carefully consider our diplomatic footprint as a country. South Africa spends some R3,45 billion every year, maintaining 115 embassies, high commissions and consulates across the globe.

At a time when resources are constrained, we must really ask whether this footprint is delivering the greatest value to South Africans.

Our immediate neighbourhood of SADC deserves a much greater focus. Stronger regional economic integration can unlock trade, investment, infrastructure development and economic growth. In this way, we must work far more closely with our neighbours to build integrated transport, energy, water and digital infrastructure that strengthens the region as a whole. But these efforts, cannot come at the cost of our values as a country.

Our response to democratic and human rights backsliding across the SADC region has been decades of shameful behaviour. Shame elections, most recently in Mozambique and Zimbabwe, with broad human rights abuses and an erosion of democratic

UNREVISED HANSARD

institutions, cannot simply be met with quiet diplomacy of the ANC. This behaviour needs to stop. We therefore need a diplomatic footprint that is strategic, focused and accountable, not just simply extensive. We need stronger regional relationships, but we must always have the courage to speak when the governments violate the rights of their own people.

As ActionSA, we believe that closer economic integration and principled diplomacy are not competing objectives. The two are not mutually exclusive. They are equally the pillars that should underpin our diplomatic efforts across the SADC region. I thank you very much, House Chair.

Dr M A MAIMANE: House Chairperson, I think what is fundamentally true is the fact that our foreign policy needs to always be aligned to trade and human rights, and so we welcome the committee’s report.

We also want to highlight the fact that it is going to be important. As the Appropriations Committee, we learned when we visited our Indian mission, that ultimately it is important that we tie our trade capabilities with missions all over the world. We need to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure

UNREVISED HANSARD

is put in place so we can enhance our economic growth. Our foreign policy needs to be driven on that basis.

Secondly, in our election observer missions and the work that we are doing in foreign policy, we need to ensure that elections are free and fair as they take place, particularly in the SADC region.

Lastly, South Africa needs to re-evaluate how many missions it can keep all over the world. We are certainly overstretched in a budget that does not meet all the obligations. Therefore, I think it is going to be important that the next iteration of our foreign policy requires us to narrow the number of missions we have in the world, cut down wasteful ones, cut down those that are not delivering economic growth, and ensure that at the end of the day, our missions are aligned to our foreign policy strategy, but also delivers the value. Otherwise, they must be shut down so that we have resources for those who are achieving that task. I thank you, House Chairperson, and I support the committee's recommendations.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon House Chair, in the name of Almighty, the most gracious, and the most merciful, I begin with warm greetings of peace, love, respect, and unity. Hon Speaker, and

UNREVISED HANSARD

our very proud leadership, Mahumapelo, the Chairperson of our very competent team of International Relations and Cooperation, hon members, beloved family of South Africans, Al Jama-ah rises to support the report of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Apologies, hon Ismail-Moosa. You may continue.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Thank you so much, House Chair. Al Jama-ah rises to support the report of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation, following its regional oversight visit to our South African missions in the SADC region, gathered at the South African High Commission in Lusaka, Zambia.

Al Jama-ah is in support of the solidarity as mentioned by our hon Chairperson, Mahumapelo. Al Jama-ah calls for South Africans to take advantage of the economic opportunities.

Our diplomatic missions are not simply offices outside the border of South Africa. They are strategic instruments through which we can advance our national interests, strengthen regional cooperation, and create opportunities for our people.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The SADC region is particularly important because our economies, communities, and futures are interconnected. South Africa must continue to play a constructive role in promoting peace, stability, trade, investment, tourism, and regional economic integration.

I particularly welcome the committee's focus on economic diplomacy. Our missions must actively identify opportunities for South African businesses, especially small, medium and micro enterprises, SMMEs, to enter regional markets, attract investment into South Africa, promote our tourism sector, and create much-needed employment.

Now the Africa Free Trade Area is open, so let us take advantage of trade and boost our economies. Our mission must therefore be adequately resourced, properly staffed, and equipped to provide efficient consular services to South African citizens abroad. They must also be responsive to businesses, investors, students, and communities throughout the region. South Africa's relationship ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Ismail-Moosa, your time has expired.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Thank you, hon Chair. Malibongwe! {Praise!.]

Mr R SMITH: Hon House Chairperson, the consideration of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation's Report on our oversight visit to South African missions and the Southern African Development Community is perfectly timed. Because just last week, South Africa hosted the 46th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in EThekwini, where President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered the welcome address on 17 August.

Having now witnessed the realities of South Africa's diplomatic and trade relationships with SADC member states for myself while in Lusaka earlier this year, the President's welcome address at the SADC Summit last week seems out of touch at best. Because much of what the President has committed our country to achieve within SADC is not borne out by the reality of circumstances on the ground.

Following this committee's oversight visit, I could wax lyrical about the state of diplomatic buildings and assets in SADC, which remain in a state of dilapidation. I could bemoan the fact that very few of our embassies have functional and

UNREVISED HANSARD

reliable information and communication technology, ICT, infrastructure to even make a simple phone call.

I could mention that in our embassy in Mozambique, the committee was informed that five staff members have to share one laptop. I could even berate the department for the fact that in February, South Africa still had no ambassadors to Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, or Mozambique. But state failure and incompetence within DIRCO are all too commonplace among the public by now, and adopting this report and its recommendations merely confirms it.

What I am going to do, however, is challenge the assertions made by President Ramaphosa at the SADC Summit last week with what we are seeing on the ground in SADC itself. If Charles Dickens wrote a tale of two cities, then South Africans could write a tale of two regions, one that exists only on paper and another that exists in stark reality.

Last week President Ramaphosa celebrated the SADC free trade area and its role in creating a platform for greater regional commerce. Then why was this committee told in Lusaka that South African pharmaceutical goods are heavily tariffed by

UNREVISED HANSARD

Zambian authorities when those from India and China are imported duty free?

Last week, President Ramaphosa noted that SADC regional integration is dependent on the prevalence of peace and security. Then why is the South African National Defence Force wholly unprepared to deal with the myriad of regional security threats facing our nation?

Last week, President Ramaphosa decried unmonitored border crossings within our region, which lead to unnecessary pressures on public service capacity. Then why does the ANC remain deafeningly silent on the state failure and institutional collapse of neighbouring SADC states that push citizens to flee?

Last week, President Ramaphosa reaffirmed South Africa’s commitment to democracy. Then why did you say nothing when the ZANU-PF unlawfully changed the Zimbabwean Constitution to extend presidential term limits? In fact, the President feigned blissful ignorance once again at last week’s South Africa-Zimbabwe Binational Commission.

UNREVISED HANSARD

The technicalities of this report and its recommendations are important but will remain meaningless in the face of South Africa's lame duck approach to international relations within SADC. Yes, diplomacy is delicate. It relies on dialogue, finesse, and an imperfect framework to achieve long-term goals and strategy. But it begins, first and foremost, with the recognition of the problem at hand.

The SADC is critical for South Africa's development and the longer we ignore SADC's problems, the longer we will stifle the prosperity of our own country. The SADC needs greater regional legislative agreements to entrench economic prosperity. It needs a revision of outdated legislative barriers like the Southern African Customs Union, which subsidises SADC growth at the expense of our own. It needs consequences for members who veer away from agreed principles of freedom, democracy, and human rights. And it needs greater incentives to build a flourishing regional economy devoid of outdated ideology in favour of evidence-based approaches to growth and investment.

As the DA, we want more than just a report summarising the state of our diplomatic presence in SADC. We want a commitment to meaningful SADC growth and advancement in the spirit of

UNREVISED HANSARD

values that exist in reality and not in the President's many speeches. We have a duty to SADC and its citizens, when are we going to seize it?

Ms M MODISE-MPYA: House Chair, the ANC supports the Report of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation on its regional oversight visit to South African missions in the SADC region. This report provides an important assessment of South Africa's diplomatic presence in a region that remains central to our national interest, our economic development, and our commitment to African integration.

The SADC region is not merely our geographical neighbourhood. It is a region with which South Africa shares deep historical, political, economic, and cultural bonds. Our approach must, therefore, continue to be guided by solidarity, mutual respect, and cooperation while advancing South Africa's national interest and contributing to development of our continent.

Hon members, one of the important themes emerging from this oversight visit is the growing significance of economic diplomacy. The report demonstrates that South African companies have established a substantial presence across the

UNREVISED HANSARD

region. They operate in sectors ranging from mining and banking to telecommunications, tourism, manufacturing, logistics, and infrastructure. There are also considerable opportunities for further cooperation in agriculture, agro processing, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, construction, and other sectors.

Our missions have an important role to play in connecting South African capabilities with these opportunities. We particularly welcome the attention given to small, medium, and micro enterprises and previously marginalised groups.

Economic diplomacy must contribute to broadening participation in regional markets and creating opportunities for businesses that have historically been excluded from international economic activity.

The work being undertaken by the mission in Zambia towards the Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises, SMME, cooperation memorandum of understanding is an encouraging example of how our diplomatic presence can support greater economic participation. This is the practical meaning of economic diplomacy. It is about ensuring that our international

UNREVISED HANSARD

relations contribute to investment, trade, employment, and inclusive economic development.

The report also highlights the importance of infrastructure and regional connectivity. Energy projects, transport corridors, and other infrastructure initiatives have the potential to strengthen regional integrations, improve trade, and create new opportunities for investment.

The Lobito Corridor and other regional infrastructure initiatives demonstrate the importance of developing an increasingly connected African economy. However, connectivity extends beyond physical infrastructure, it also requires the efficient movement of people, goods, services, and investment. The discussion around non-traffic barriers, custom's procedures, regularity requirements, and market access are therefore important for the broader objective of deepening intra-Africa trade.

South Africa must continue working with its regional partners to address these challenges and ensure that the objectives of SADC integration and the African Continental Free Trade area translate into practical benefits of our economies and our people.

UNREVISED HANSARD

We urge South Africans that on the 4th of November, they must go and cast their vote and vote for the ANC. I thank you.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: House Chair, I move that the report be adopted.

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, ITS FUNDED NPOS, NATIONAL DSD GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE COMMAND CENTRE AND TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NDA) AND ITS FUNDED PROJECTS

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon members, I wish to remind you that this matter was debated in a virtual mini-plenary on Friday, 21 August, but that a decision thereon can only be taken in a full plenary. This is also the case for the other decisions of questions the House will decide on when we consider the fourth to sixth orders after this.

There was no debate.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

Report accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO GAUTENG

There was no debate.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

Report accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON POLICE ON PERFORMANCE OF OFFICE OF DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATIONS JUDGE FOR 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

There was no debate.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

UNREVISED HANSARD

Report accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Mr V G REDDY: Hon House Chair, it is uMkhonto weSizwe Party, not Mkhonto Party. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Okay. Thank you very much, hon Reddy. I am sure we've had a long day today. So, you would excuse. However, it is uMkhonto weSizwe Party.

DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON POLICE ON PERFORMANCE OF PRIVATE SECURITY INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PSIRA) FOR 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

There was no debate.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

Report accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

The House adjourned at 20:39.

UNREVISED HANSARD