

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 1

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

PROCEEDINGS OF HYBRID NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

The Council met at 14:00.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon delegates, I would like to remind the delegates that the rules in particular sub rule 21,22 and 23, relating to virtual and hybrid meetings and sittings apply to this hybrid setting. I have been informed that there will be no notices or motions without notice. We will now proceed to the First Order on the Order Paper, which is Policy Debate on Budget Vote 28 - Police. I call upon the hon Minister, Mchunu, the Minister of Police, to come and open the debate.

APPROPRIATION BILL

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 2

(Policy debate)

Policy debate on Budget Vote No 28 - Police:

The MINISTER OF POLICE: Chairperson of the NCOP, hon members of the NCOP, my colleagues in the department, Deputy Minister Boshielo and Deputy Minister Mathale, and all other hon members that are here. It's a great honour indeed, to present this maiden budget to the NCOP, as a newly appointed Minister of Police.

As background, we just want to indicate that we have received comprehensive briefings throughout the department and the entities. We have received comments from the public, from colleagues in Cabinet, we've had our own meetings ourselves. So, we're fairly briefed about the situation of policing in the country as a whole.

Further, we have ventured out to meet other stakeholders and that includes municipalities, at least at the stage, two, City of Cape Town and Gqeberha, and ... [Inaudible.] ... role players there. We were met station commanders; we've had the good discussions pointing at where problems are.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 3

Hon members, I now present to you the SA Police Service, SAPS Budget Vote 28 for 2024 - 25 financial year, which is R113,597 billion. Several aspects have stood out in respect of where we need to turn our focus on, to ensure that we build safer communities as per constitutional mandate. And the and the National Department Development Plan, 2030.

I will briefly outline the priorities of this financial year. First is to build capacity within the police, that is SAPS. We have to enhance visibility as a preventative measure to a large extent throughout the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF, and it's very important that we do so, because we are aware that part of the cause for upsurge in criminality, on crimes, it's lack of visibility on the side of police.

We are pleased to indicate that we have additional funding which allows us to recruit 10,000 more officers over the fiscal years 2022-2023 and then 23-24 and then for this financial year 2024-25, this increased financing will allow us to hire another 10,000 more police officers. And then we unleash them to communities and to streets in the battle of winning over against the criminals.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 4

Secondly, we want to enhance safety protocols and measures to protect police officers who are on duty all the time. But thirdly, we also want to strengthen specialized crime detection capabilities. At the moment we are not where capabilities should be.

And on the side of technology, even part of the technology that we have is concentrated in an area and when in another city a problem crops up, we have to move some of this other technology to such areas before we're able to make a move. These are some of the things that we need to deal with going forward, just on the capabilities.

I may as well mention that we're not happy with the crime intelligence budget, we will certainly look at reviewing this as at the first opportunity that will arise towards the end of the year. And I must say that as part of visibility, we want to tap on resources that are there. In the metros, for instance, and we've started that program, to say let's stand on one line, with their capacity, with their resources, and let criminals stand on the other fence.

Now there are these mechanisms that we busy with at the moment, to make sure that we increase, maybe not just capacity

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 5

only, but also the real strength on the on the street, because we believe that crime must be fought, and one on the street, and then that will translate to safer ... individuals feeling safe, families feeling safe and whole communities feeling safe. We can't fight when we're here. We have to be on the streets.

Let me go further to deal with another aspect, we need to reduce violent crimes. This apart from just visibility and building capacity. There are crimes that are very much pointed and on the foremost every South African's mind when they think about crime.

Now, priority number one, is personal, family and whole community safety. That's what is driving us. That is a core around which we are going to be strategizing and doing everything that we're going to be doing, with this in mind that, all South Africans must be safe on the streets but in their homes and with their communities.

In the past weekend, we met stakeholders initially, in Hanover Park in the Western Cape and went to Motherwell in the Eastern Cape, which came through to us as a part of the hotspots, we are not saying that there are no other hotspots. But these

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 6

were the most protruding one and we had the opportunity to go there and deal with them.

Some of the results we're seeing in Gqeberha via the resolution that was reported to today of kidnapping. And although some of the crimes on the streets are still there, but we've deployed there, and we've increased the capacity of police to fight and clear things in Gqeberha.

Now in these engagements, communities have really made their voice heard to us, have our police forums and everything that they said that we listened to.

Now it's therefore evident that the whole of government approach is very, very important. We are not going to be alone and we're not going to take hold the attitude that we as police alone are equal to the task. Yes, we have to be fit. We have to be equal. We have to pump on all the cylinders, but we need our colleagues, vertically and horizontal. Vertically in terms of spheres of government and horizontal in terms of sister departments and we make example of social development. Police are not trained to look after people who need the social welfare skills and all of that. And therefore, we need

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 7

them close to us. So, this is the cooperation that we're talking about, that is going to be vital.

Even in the approach, some of the causes of these crimes that are there, is like drugs, it becomes a sub economy in those communities. And it needs to be a broken on his back. So, we want the whole approach, a whole government approach against this one.

It is for this reason again that we met both the Member of the Executive Council, MEC, and the Mayor of Cape Town last night, to have a concrete discussion which will result in a memorandum of understanding, so that we line up all the resources as a front against criminals, finally, once and for all, here the in the Western Cape. It has potential to release some of their people up to about 50,000 people on the streets who are armed, all of that. We will go and repeat this in all other metros once we see success here.

Of course, throughout implementation of the increased crime prevention and combating action plan we aim to reduce percentage of contact crime reported by at least 14,5% in the medium term. And we will then improve after that. Of course,

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 8

detective services need to be improved and as I say, the technology and crime intelligence.

But of course, visible policing, which weighs at least 52% of the total allocation. It is time to see the impact of this kind of budgeting, even though we may need to review it here and there in favour of other aspects that we have identified.

We are worried about the proliferation of our arms, which requires our immediate attention. There are too many firearms in our communities. People treat possession of firearms, whether legal or illegal, as just having a cell phone out there and it's not a situation that we can avoid dealing with. We are on it and we're going to be improving our interventions on these matters.

We're just disappointed that community of Hanover Park when police officers ran after one person, he threw his firearm to the community and the community took the firearm and hid it and ran with it and it's something that is quite shocking.

We have to modernize as part of what we need to deal with. There's a system in policing that we think is outdated and

we're going to be looking at all those matters across the board.

Crimes that impact on the on economic activity, of late we are noting that we are dealing with extortion, on a wide scale, to shocking levels. Where among other things, even hawkers our and mothers and grandmothers, who are trying to make a living on the side of the streets are made to pay extortions. It's not just extortions. We use extortion, because of lack of any other appropriate word. It's actually criminality of the worst kind, with no ethics, no conscience at all, and it needs to be confronted with all force, and we will do so exactly ... extortions.

It's all over the country, here in the Western Cape is rising, in the Eastern Cape is on the rise, and it goes across in a number of sectors in our community. We've identified that and we are giving it a priority.

Of course, priority crimes include your murder, your rape, gender-based violence, GBV, and like. Those are the ones that we want to tackle as a matter of urgency.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 10

Of course, going forward, we note the majors of gangs throughout. And around the gangs, there are drugs and around drugs, there's murder. So, it's a combined cycle because if you check, what are these gangs about, what are they busy doing, you find that the core around which everything revolves, is drugs. And when you talk about drugs in the Eastern Cape, they say drugs come from the Western Cape and if you ask Eastern Cape, what do drugs come from, they point to the sea, at the airport and on the road.

And we are saying to police, gone are the days now when we all get satisfied that certain volumes of drugs have been identified and we've arrested people. We need to know the same person must tell us, how they got drug. Until we get to where drugs originate. If it is this side, if it in any other neighbouring country across the seas, will have to go there and fight right from the origin. And increase our tempo on fighting drugs, generally.

So, the gangs are a phenomenon that we have to deal with. And I don't think that ... our attitude is that gangs are groupings of people established by human beings, and therefore they can be broken by human beings as well. They don't come from heaven, and there's no rocket science about them. We just

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 11

have to confront them and deal with them. And I think we are preparing just for that.

Now spending in the department over the medium term. Will be on visible policing at 52%, as I've said, detective services 20% and of course we will relocate the budget as I've indicated.

Policing is a labour-intensive function as stating personnel engagement between police and citizens of the country. One of the things communities are concerned about this corruption within the police. And if you look at it from a distance, you will say this is very disappointing. But like in our homes, there will always be one member who will fall on the wayside because of misfitting behaviour in in the household.

So, we are not shocked. We're just saying these are human beings. But we have to confront this, clean SAPS of the rocks among them because they killed the image or the otherwise the majority of men and women in blue who are dedicated ... this is the problem that we need to confront. And we're not happy at all.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 12

And we ask hon members to help us, we don't need to generalize and say police are corrupt. At this level, we need to name people, name surname and the police station to the best of your ability.

That's the only way and I see that people outside are now prepared to come up with names. Although others are still saying we are afraid these people will kill us. So, we have dedicated ourselves. I'm meeting quite a number of people from one of the provinces who were almost in whispers on the phone: "Hey, well, we know all these people who are doing this, and hey, but you are afraid". Whispering on the phone when that is just two of us talking. That's the extent to which people have ... so we said, ok, let us meet physically and won't open up on the names, because we need to catch these individuals.

And the indicators are that criminals are smaller than law abiding citizens, in number. And even the way they are armed, they armed as the state, and all of us. And therefore, it's going to be difficult, it's going to be long and there's going to be tears out there, as we deal with this particular problem in our country, but it will be a necessary phase to get us to the other side.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 13

So, I'm indicating that we are up to fighting crime and we are not going to be massaging it. And it's going to be clear, as we move on, going forward. We believe that the whole of South Africa, NCOP, Parliament, everybody is on one side, saying let us face these criminals. Let us break their bone. Let us create safer communities. Let us make it safe once more, for our children to play and grow in our beloved South Africa.

So, hon members, this budget represents an unwavering dedication to building a safer South Africa. And we are aware that as we bring crime down, so are the opportunities of economic growth in the country with South Africa having an environment that is enabling, an environment that is encouraging to investors.

And therefore, we're not just fighting crime, but we are also helping South Africa to have conducive environment, wherein to grow. Whether it is internal investors or even outside investors. And we are sure that we will succeed even if it takes time. It's not going to be an easy task.

Chair and hon members, it's our pleasure to have this short engagement with yourselves, and we're looking forward to much more interaction as we move forward. And we promise and

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 14

undertake that we'll do everything in our power to create safer communities. It's now my, my honour to thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you very much, Minister. We wish you all the best in your new responsibility as well as your Deputies. We know that you are well capable men and women. We are safe as communities in your hands. Much is expected of you, and they will follow up on the work that you are doing. And now call upon the next speaker, hon Mananiso.

Ms J S MANANISO: Chairperson, hon Minister, hon Deputy Ministers, hon members, fellow South Africans, good afternoon. Hon members, we are supporting this Budget Vote 28 for job opportunities, safe space and better communities. The SA Police Service, SAPS budget must give real meaning towards accomplishing this goal in 2030.

Our people need to feel safe, and our international partners should have a desire to invest. Therefore, improving safety for our citizens will improve international relations and improve economic growth. Hon members, the SAPS receives an allocation of about R113 billion and the administration

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 15

programmes receive R21,9 billion to provide a safe environment for our citizens.

Hon members, SAPS needs to have its own house in order in terms of staffing and resourcing. As this House, I want to take your confidence and fellow South Africans that before we came to date with this Budget Vote 28, we have deliberated on issues that some of us will be speaking about in this budget speech.

We have called that SAPS recruitment as they have planned that they need to recruit 10 000 new entry level for police trainees, it needs to be fair in terms of people who meet the requirements.

Sesotho:

Ha re sa batla dintho tse etswang ka dikamano ...

English:

... where you would find that Jane is being hired because ...

Sesotho:

... ke ngwana wa generale kapa wa komishenara.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 16

English:

We have emphasised to them that as they do their recruitment, they need to ensure that they get men and women who want to save South Africa. We add SAPS to ensure quality in selection and recruitment processes. Our men and women in blue need to be capable and trained to effectively fight crimes in all provinces.

In our select committee, we have emphasised the issue that there should be unism and professionalism in terms of how these institutions are reached. We have noted that since these challenges, there are some relations of issues of vehicles, and we have recommended the following to the SAPS.

Each province must have sufficient working vehicles and consideration should be given to the specific requirements and terrain of each province. In the allocation of suitable vehicles, we have urged them that repairs of vehicles should be decentralised so that the vehicles station level should address every area where there's a problem with regards to this vehicle repairal. There shouldn't be a person from somewhere repairing in a certain station. Hence, we are saying that we are adopting this budget to ensure that there are job opportunities.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 17

So, I want to say to our people wherever they are, where they are watching, that they must look out for these opportunities because we are passing this budget for them. Hon members, in terms of the service provided by these men and women in blue, the SA Police Service should instil ethos of discipline and professionalism in the training of new SAPS recruits.

Employee wellness programmes must be accessible to all SAPS officials. At times we forget that these are men and women like us. So, we want their issues in terms of social psychology be taken care of in terms of employee wellness.

The department must implement effective measures to protect SAPS officials. There have been too many reports of SAPS officials being killed while on duty, and we want to say to them they must not die while they have something to use as a tool to defend themselves.

Visible Police receives an allocation of R60,1 billion, which is 52% of the SAPS total budget. Visible Policing speaks directly to improving community safety and we recommend that SAPS establishment in terms of satellite offices in rural areas must be increased; that community policing forum must be

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 18

sufficient capacitated and funded to work together with SAPS to fight crime.

I'm saying to you, fellow South Africans, those who are CPFs and have been volunteering their time, the time is now that at least you will be appreciated and get something from this government. Community partnership cannot be overemphasised in the fight against crime, as it is often communities who are able to identify those committing crimes and if communities and SAPS work together, then safety can be guaranteed in every community.

Most of us learn of these issues via TikTok. However, we want to call to our South Africans that from now on they must use their nearest police station to report these issues before TikTok. These offices are open for 24 hours. The time you use to spread via TikTok is the time where you can knock at your nearest police station and submit for that case, because the first contact in terms of the defence of crime and petty crimes is our police stations.

This partnership further builds a foster respect and trust between SAPS and communities in the fight against crimes. The

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 19

SA Police Service should build a foster working relationship with provincial government, hon Ministers, hon Minister.

We need to ensure that we create an economic hub in terms of the working relationships of all these years of government. We commend SAPS for their implementation of *Operation Shanela*, which has proved to be very effective in fighting crime. Just to mention, in Gauteng every Thursday we've got *Operation O Kae Molao*. It's an effective programme.

Imagine if you have that programme every day, everywhere in every province. What will this impact be? We want to see more of these strategic initiatives towards achieving our 2030 vision. The SA Police Service must strengthen the anti-gang units and work with communities. This is no place for gangs or gangsterism and we need communities to feel safe to report gang related activities to SAPS.

I'm talking to people who are at worst end that it is about time that there is they respond to their issues. We need a zero-tolerance approach to all violent crimes committed against children, youth, men and women, elderly persons, persons with disability, persons with albinism and lesbian,

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 20

gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, LGBTQIA+ society and other interest groups.

Contact times statistics remain high and concerning, and we need to address this. We recommend that every police station has victim friendly rooms. We must prevent secondary victimisation and improve trust between communities and the police.

We have further recommended that divisions of units pay their emergency or agency be effected for our frontline services. Our committee deliberated that this won't cost the department anything. It doesn't need too much of a budget, but they just need to activate it and ensure that there's division of services there.

For instance, we no longer want to find a person who does certification of affidavit at the same space where a person who needs to get a service in terms of certain crimes being assisted. So, there should be order in every police station across the country.

Hon members, detective services receive a main appropriation of R22,5 billion. We want to see a reduction in organised

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 21

crime. Let us be clear, drugs and crime syndicates are systematically dismantling our communities, breaking down our family units and destroying the future of our children. Clear strategies need to be employed to address this.

We must look at both the socioeconomic and criminal context, which requires the SAPS collaboratively with civil society organisations and communities. We would like to see a clear plan of action from the SAPS. The SA Police Service should address backlogs in detective services and improve its forensic capacity.

Hon members, SAPS should work closely with the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA to ensure successful prosecution. We want to see the decrease in detective of contact crimes, in crimes against children, youth, men and women, elderly persons, persons with disability, persons with albinism, faith-based organisations, traditional leaders, traditional healers and other sectors of the society. Let us implement the necessary training, resource planning and consequence management to improve work of our detectives.

With respect to the Hawks, we recommend that they must increase the number of investigations in respect of state

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 22

capture, corruption and anti-money laundering, and work closely with the NPA to ensure successful prosecution. They must work with the Financial Action Task Force, FATF to address the strategic deficiency to remove South Africa from the grey list.

The Crime Intelligence Programme, the programme receives R4,7 billion. Hon members, we want to see more proactive intelligence gathering reports to ensure the prevention of crime and unrest. Just over three years ago, we had an ascension of unrest in KwaZulu-Natal. We need to be proactive to ensure that levels of crime never reach those proportions again.

The Protection and Security Service programme receives R4,9 billion. We note the budget in this programme. And we wish to receive a more detailed breakdown in terms of this budget as a committee. In our interaction with the department, we agreed to use the budget presented as our base. And we will do justice to follow the money. We are going to follow this money that we are passing today.

Hon members, as the ANC, our oversight for this budget, Statistics South Africa will be our diagnostic tool to solve

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 23

for X. We are not going to be speaking statistics, calling people's names while we are doing nothing. So, our Statistics South Africa report will be used to solve for X.

Hon members, the Constitution and the Public Finance Management Act, PFMA will be our major for a robust oversight and accountability. Audit outcomes must speak to the lived realities of our people. We are tired of clear audits that when you go outside, you see the high rate of crime. So those clear audits must speak to the issues of our people. When we get clear audits, they should be a reduction in terms of that particular programme, and they should be changed in terms of that programme.

Hon our members, fellow South Africans, and in particular those who live in Gauteng, just yesterday the Department of Social Development under the leadership of member of the executive council, MEC Mazibuko, have unveiled an old programme that speaks about violence against women.

I want to implore all of you to join that campaign. On the 25th of every month you wear your orange colour to reflect that you are part of this journey of standing against all forms of gender-based violence, in particular for women.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 24

I hope that as the National Council of Provinces, we will be the first, as few as we are representing provinces to come here on the 25th wearing our orange colours to show the people that it's now or never that in our lifetime our communities will be safe, in our lifetime, we will live our lives as we want, free from hate speech, free from any forms that most of us we are experiencing in our communities.

And I want to say to all of you, this budget speaks to our daily lifestyle. It's a societal issue. When you want others to do something, take charge. Don't look away. Be part of this journey of ensuring that we create a safer space, we build a safe country because we believe that better life is better life for all and it's now or never. I thank you.

Mr P A PHALA: Chairperson of the NCOP, the Minister, the Deputy Ministers, fellow hon members and hon members on the platform, good afternoon. Minister, Chapter 11 of the Constitution of the Republic of SA section 198(a) dictates that among others, the following fundamental principles that governs national security in the country, that the national security must reflect the resolve of the South Africans as individuals and as a nation, to live as equals, to live in peace and harmony, to be free from fear and want, and to seek

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 25

a better life. This is a core driving constitutional motive that should be characterised as the South African Police Service, SAPS, strategic plans. The plans which are meant to create, administer and maintain conditions of peace, stability, national unity and a better life for all.

Hon Ministers, the people of this country are yearning for a peaceful and a crime-free South Africa, the people of this country are yearning for a professional, trustworthy and efficient state police institution, the institution that should be managed by men and women in blue as guardians of peace and order in this democratic dispensation. Hon Minister and Deputy Ministers, furthermore, in the Constitution of the Republic, section 205(3) on SA Police Service, SAPS, stipulates that the object of the police services are to prevent, combat and investigate crime to maintain public order, to protect and secure the inhabitants of the Republic and their properties, and to uphold and enforce law.

Furthermore, the executive summary of our National Development Plan, NDP, 2030, page 14, subtopic, our future-make it work, states that no political democracy can survive and flourish if the mass of our people remain in poverty without land, without tangible prospect for a better life, attacking poverty and deprivation must, therefore, be the first priority of the

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 26

democratic government. Minister, this is a dream we envision as a country, and would want to strive together to achieve it in 2030. This is a dream which only could be achieved in the SA Police, SAP, programme structures. The purpose and outcome can be realised as stipulated in your strategic plans and the Annual Performance Plan, APP.

Minister, as the ANC, we fully support Budget Vote 28. This Budget Vote, as prepared, seeks to address the national security threats that our beloved country is facing. The high level forms of crime that can systematically wipe out everything that since 1994 we have given to the African child as a sense of identity and a national pride. This budget, through each strategic plan and Annual Performance Plan, APP, as presented with effectively and efficiently deal with what seemed to be an entrenched, orchestrated and a widespread criminality that afflicts almost our communities in poor areas of this country. Minister, it is very important that you approach and deal with this matter with the necessary urgency it deserves, it cannot defer anymore. The SA Police Service programmes, its purposes and priorities, seeks to strengthen institutional performance and focuses on police's responsibilities of internal security and crime prevention. Programme 1, endeavors to discharge your responsibility

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 27

professionally, with humility and adhere to the highest call of duty to serve the nation. Programme 2, endeavors to position the men and women in blue, to honor the faith that the South African public has placed in them. We have further noted, Ministers, in your statement on recruitment of more personnel in the system in this medium term. We applaud you for taking that decision, and we are quite happy and say, continue with that.

In Programme 3, you endeavor to investigate and combat organised crime and that perpetrators be brought to book. Minister and Deputy Ministers, the issue of drugs, proliferation of firearms in our communities, vehicle theft and hijacking, as well as commercial crimes and corruption in both public and private spaces, are a serious threat to our country. In Programme 4, you seek to ensure a proper investigation of criminal cases and provision of sound crime intelligence. In Programme 5, you endeavor to protect the status quo that is the primary authority of our democratic dispensation. The SA Police Service, SAPS, priorities and targets, as reflected in the strategic plan, are to advance the institution's intent and the vision to which it should aspire to be the police institution which is accountable to the nation, and which the department should discharge its

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 28

responsibilities with the aim of promoting stability, economic growth and prosperity for all. Minister, we are concerned about the following. The gender-based violence, GBV. This matter is tearing our society apart, and fellow hon members, this is not only the police matter, but also a challenge which we need to discuss here and come up with solutions to nip it on the bud.

We cannot continue with this type of a thing. This is horrendous, and the police only comes at the end when this horrendous activities have taken place. We need to stop it, Minister and the Deputy Ministers. Minister, the other concern is that there's a strong public perception that police are collaborating with criminals for financial gains. The third point is that we are concerned about the sabotage of our key state infrastructures, the fourth point is corruption and hijacking of buildings, and the other one which fellow members here have mentioned, is the safety of schools and public institutions. These are the issues which we think we need to deal with, Minister and Deputy Minister. In conclusion, Chair of the session and hon members, we have been charged together with a political task to deepen our political resolve, conscious of the fact that the scourge of crime in the country constitutes a major obstacle to the socioeconomic development

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 29

of this country. Let us enhance the capacities of our state institutions and ensure that despite our political differences, our country remain on a transformational course. The reorientation of public policing toward a preventative strategies should be a radical task and a constitutional commitment to our SA Police Service, SAPS, to address serious and violence to counter the proliferation of firearms, to improve the safety and security in high crime areas, to combat political killings due to political factions, fighting and to maintain security at major public events. Hon Minister, the people of this country are yearning for a peaceful and a crime-free RSA, and as ANC, we fully support the vote. Thank you very much.

Mr O J MOKAE: Hon Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, hon members and fellow South Africans. Let me begin my inputs in this Budget Vote by expressing my appreciation for the sincerity and level of commitment shown by the new Minister and the Deputy Ministers to lead the fight against crime and lawlessness.

I trust this energy and seriousness will grow as we continue together to work in the Seventh Parliament and in the seventh administration. And I say lead the fight deliberately, because

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 30

the scourge of violence in our country requires each one of us to join hands and deal with crime head on.

It will take all of us from street communities, community safety forums, neighbourhood watches, policymakers, experts on safety and security and the actual women and men in blue. We should all roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty. Criminals and perpetrators are working hard to terrorise civilians, and their victims are alike, and we need to work harder to fight crime.

During the budget presentation and the annual performance plan, APP for this financial year, the select committee was unanimous regarding the resourcing and the strengthening and the function of the community policing forum, CPFs across the board, and I think my colleague, the chair of the committee, has stressed this issue that the funding and resourcing of the CPF must be addressed as a matter of concern.

We noted with concern that many police stations do not have functional structures and where some existed, they are not adequately resourced. This creates a dilemma in the fight against crime, particularly as it relates to communities' involvement.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 31

Hon Chair, this is critical as these structures are legally recognised. However, if they are not adequately resourced, they are toothless and communities do not partner with them, and this in turn creates a breeding ground for community vigilantism and does not assist in the process. And I think in the committee I raised that from Kimberly, where I come from in the Northern Cape, we have a group called *Operation Wanya Tsotsi* and this is when the community takes up the law into their hands and it does not end well because they are not operating within the confines of the law.

In the previous financial year, an amount of R70 million was budgeted for this exercise to capacity CPFs. But in this financial year, I did not pick up much of that. This Minister must be given priority, as it will go a long way in strengthening community partnerships and getting them on board.

The department also set aside a total of R41 million to outreach, targeting youth, children and the vulnerable people. Although little detail was available, it is a welcome note to involve as many in crime fighting measures.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 32

In our engagements with the Border Management Authority, it was revealed that criminal syndicates utilise sophisticated technology to outsmart our law enforcement measures. Hon Chairperson and members, it cannot be that criminals are a step ahead of us. We should be far ahead of them. It goes without saying that technology and innovation should be at the centre of our policing efforts, and I think the hon Minister touched on it.

We cannot stress enough how important it is to invest in information communication and technologies, ICT. This is to say when the SA Police Service make use of innovative technology and digital tools it will assist officers in doing their jobs and implementing proactive interventions which do not require an officer to be physically present.

Technology can offer cost effective solutions and overcome many of the capacity shortcomings facing our service. There is a critical need for law enforcement agencies to invest more in crime information services and smart policing that is based on information, intelligence and technology.

We must also urgently modernise our approach to public safety and security in South Africa. The investment in ICT

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 33

infrastructure is key to this, such as close circuit televisions, body cameras, drones and so forth, just to make an example of some of these technological advances.

Hon Chair, the issue of gender-based, GBV comes up every time and we are not going to tire to speak about the gender-based violence against women and children. We noted that the SA Police Service, SAPS constantly underperformed in the reduction of contact crimes against women and children, and this also doesn't solve the problem with when it comes to the DNA backlog because it also delays the processing of cases and the successful prosecution of perpetrators. That's also one area that we want the ministry to give attention to.

Hon Chair, I'm also just providing a few solutions or recommendations to the ministry. One of them is building capacity in the SAPS. We need to inculcate a culture of integrity and professionalism within the service, and secondly, collaboration is key.

As I indicated in my debate when I started, that crime cannot be fought by the SAPS alone. But the SAPS must treat the private security industry as a partner and rally the support

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 34

of the neighbourhood watches and community safety forums and the community at large.

Thirdly, one of the recommendations from the committee was to speak about quality versus quantity. We know that while the equipment of additional police officers is welcomed, the practical implications for training should be carefully considered, and it is true that mass recruitment strategies often do not have the desired impact on policing, as recruitment and training criteria could be less.

Lastly, Chair, the health and wellness of our officers cannot be overemphasised, and I think our chairperson also touched on that. Meaningful and sufficient counselling and support must be provided to members of the SAPS and their direct families. High-performance officers must also be appropriately recognised within the performance management system, performance incentives and career progression measures also serve to boost the morale and productivity of our officers across the different ranks.

Hon Chair, as I conclude the above are not exhaustive, but they are laying the foundation for the success and particularly of this new Government of National Unity, and I

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 35

implore on every member of this House, let us be builders and not break us as we work together to rescue South Africa. I thank you, hon Chair.

Mr X NQATHA (Eastern Cape): Hon Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Minister and Deputy Ministers, MECs, hon members of the NCOP and the members of the provincial legislatures, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon, let me take this opportunity to congratulate our newly appointed Minister of Police and Deputy Ministers, as the Eastern Cape, we looking forward to working with them in the fight against crime in the province.

The Minister has hit the ground running by successfully convening a Minister' stakeholders engagement meeting in Nelson Mandela Metro in the Eastern Cape province over this past weekend. Which we welcome with appreciation as the province.

The Nelson Mandela Metro requires intervention of all spheres of government as our people continue to live in fear in this metro. That is why we welcome the announcement by the Minister in his budget speech to appoint another 10 000 police trainees for 2024/25 financial year. We are looking forward to the

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 36

additional deployment to the province, as we continue to intensify our fight against crime.

Although there has been an increase in crime in the province, some crime categories have shown a decrease in the recent crime statistics released by the national and the province. The Nelson Mandela Metro, OR Tambo District and Buffalo City Municipality, BCM, remain crime hotspots areas. The decreases are marginally because of the high levels of increase, and therefore they cannot be felt by our communities. That is why we are determined to ensure that we work together with the national leadership to reduce the levels of crime such that the people in the province can feel safe in their homes and in their communities.

The Eastern Cape, in the Nelson Mandela Metro in particular has seen an increase in serious crimes such as kidnapping, murder, extortion, burglary and kidnapping of business people and have now spread to medical practitioners.

In addition to the steps that we are taking to combat crime, which is enshrined in the provincial security strategy that we adopted as a province back in 2022, which rests on six pillars that include active public and community participation,

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 37

security through environmental design and early intervention to prevent crime, among others. We will make an addition on the 1st of next month, in August. There will be a deployment of about 370 police officers in Nelson Mandela, 137 in BCM and 290 in OR Tambo from the youngest officers who are completing their training in different areas. These numbers will be split in each of these hotspot areas, with one number being responsible for visible policing and the other number for detective work.

As part of strengthening the collaboration between communities and police, we have also launched the most "Musa ukuthula kusunakala" campaign, which has seen the MEC crisscrossing the province, posting anticrime engagements under the theme: "Musa Ukuthula kusunakala." Which has paid dividends as many people have begun to respond for their communities in the province to respond for communities to unite against crime and for communities and members to be active in crime fighting platform.

Hon Chairperson, the Department of Community Safety is now introducing the concept of safety brigades in the province, especially in problem areas like Nelson Mandela Metro. There we have appointed security brigades who play an important

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 38

role. At the last meeting organised by the Minister, community members appreciated the role of these security brigades and in Nelson Mandela Metro we have deployed about 90 of them, in OR Tambo about 50 and in Buffalo City about 100 of these security patrols working under the direction of the station commanders in each of the areas.

Hon Chair, we are aware of the fact that modern technology is part of our lives and that we must use it in our plans to fight crime. Therefore, we have decided to use technology as part of our crime-fighting methods, especially in areas where crime is high. We will be using cell phones and cameras to detect and combat crime in the province, especially in the Nelson Mandela Metro and other hotspot areas. And I am pleased that the Nelson Mandela Metro, including the King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality, has committed to working with the Department of Community Safety and the SA Police, SAPS, so that we can take this work of using technology forward.

Chairperson, allow me to touch on the issue of extortion fees occurring mostly in the Nelson Mandela Metro OR Tambo and Buffalo City Metro. We have sought to work together with SAPS particularly the Directorate of Priority Crimes Investigation, the Hawks, which have begun to deploy their own teams to do

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 39

investigations. Though it is an area that is difficult as people are afraid to come forward, they have begun to secure people where they are willing to write statements. As a result, after the incidents in the Mthatha, the members of the Hawks were able to arrest about five culprits. And we see this as the start which laid basis for a breakthrough to defeat these acts of crime to ensure that we safeguard our communities.

We are committed to promoting and recognizing the community centred approach to crime prevention and this entails intensification of building and capacitating and sustaining community-based structures like Community Policing Forum, CPF, and Community Safety Forums.

We shall dedicate our efforts to capacitating CPFs to strengthen and sustain their functionality for these criminals, they are known in communities, they reside in households. And the some of the crimes are not policeable because they take place between people who know each other. Therefore, the role of the community and active participation of citizens in our fight against crime is one of the central pillars.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 40

The country has experienced a variety of new crime patterns that require a different approach to policing. There is a need to improve evidence-based and data-driven policing methods. This means that we need to strengthen our research processes to assist the police in strategically planning the correct deployment of resources. We need to focus on specific areas and patterns of crime. And I am very pleased that even the Minister has prioritised strengthening our intelligence investigations, which is very important so that the operations we conduct in the province are smarter and are targeted, that using this information.

As I conclude, I would like to urge that the Minister should continue to assist the province in waging the struggle against crime, particularly Nelson Mandela Metro, in line with the commitments that the Minister has already made to ensure that our people in that part of the country, including in the whole province, are able to live safe in their houses and in their community.

The Nelson Mandela Metro plays a critical role in shaping the development of the Eastern Cape and is a socio-economic powerhouse of the Eastern Cape, contributing significantly to the province's GDP, employment and social development. Due to

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 41

its strategic importance, we must ensure that the province's major centres such as Mthata are also considered. They are crucial in ensuring peace so that we can attract the necessary investment to create jobs and fight poverty. The Eastern Cape supports the budget. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you very much, hon Nqatha. The chief presiding officer of the National Council of Provinces is the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, not the Speaker.

Mr V GERICKE: Chairperson, I ask your indulgence, as I just got out of a sick bed, but I will try my best. Hon Chairperson, Ministers and Deputy Ministers, members of the NCOP, dignitaries and officials, I am privileged to speak on behalf of the EFF on this very important Budget Vote, as there is a direct impact on the safety and security of ordinary citizens in South Africa. In terms of section 205(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the objects of the police service are to prevent, combat and investigate crime; to maintain public order; to protect and secure inhabitants of the Republic and their property; and to uphold and enforce the law.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 42

The former Minister released the crime statistics for the term to December 2023, just before the elections and ever since, we have not been updated for the year to date. However, the last statistics were clear that violent crimes such as murder, assaults, domestic violence and gender-based violence escalated and posed a real threat to our country. It has become a reality that human lives are worth nothing in South Africa, when these gangs and criminals execute their criminal agenda.

The last statistics on this on 31 December 2023 reported an average murder rate of 75 to 84 murders per day. This number is totally unacceptable in a country where the Constitution guarantees the rights and freedoms of every citizen. It means that something is broken in our policing system. We may play with wording or semantics to justify the decline in crimes in inverted commas, but the lived reality of South Africans tells a different story.

As the EFF, we base our approach to policing on the seven cardinal pillars of an open, accountable, corruption-free government, forcing a society free from fear of victimisation by state agencies. The EFF makes it very clear in this House today that we do not regard the police as the enemy, but

rather identifying the real challenges - white monopoly capital and their political appointees.

The EFF opposes this Budget Vote and will outline the reasons before this House. The Budget Vote in relation to the crime statistics indicates a marginal increase of only 5 to 8% on average. This includes administration, visible policing, detective services, crime intelligence, as well as protection and security services. Now, as we all know, our country's current challenges around crime revolve exactly around the shortage of visible policing on the ground. It means, if the average growth rate is estimated at 6,1%, the police will only be able to fund the status quo. Effectively, it means that no meaningful impact will be made by police, in terms of fighting crime on the ground.

For this reason, the EFF proposed that an additional 100 000 police officers be employed by the end of 2026. That will require a much broader vision and bigger budget. As we have submitted, the model of policing should change, to combat crime effectively, and the current model is redundant, ineffective, outdated and underfunded.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 44

Communities are being held at ransom by drug lords and gangsters in the areas where they stay. In Inanda KwaZulu-Natal, which has for years been deemed as the murder and rape capital of the country, residents are terrorised by youngsters who hold residents at ransom, conducting a string of robberies, attacks and murders.

We draw your attention to our request for a dedicated task force to fight gangsterism in our country. Currently, the police are not winning the battle against gangsterism and organized crime. The EFF is acutely aware that it will cost the country billions in additional funds to establish a specialised task force to fight gangsterism and violent crimes. We are, however, of the opinion, the sooner it happens, the better, as the situation is deteriorating on a daily basis.

If the government is serious about fighting gangsterism and violent crimes, they will prioritise the fight against gangsterism, and protect the right to safety for those citizens who suffer these brutal crimes in their neighborhoods.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 45

It is a known fact that children as young as 10 years old join gangs, as they succumb to peer pressure in the area of living and schooling. These youngsters are often victims of illiteracy or semi-illiteracy levels, resorting to crime for a living. These youth are also exposed to drug dealing and abuse. The time has come where the kingpins are apprehended and not only the small guys. The specialised task force will be better placed to make a dent in this regard.

While the EFF welcomes the establishment of a unit fighting the construction mafia, we are suspicious of the low percentage of arrests made by organised crime investigation. This figure stands on a very low 50% arrests made. The wording is somewhat cumbersome. We are not sure whether it is 50% arrested or 50% sites visited. For the purpose of this debate, we shall take it as arrested, unless you indicate otherwise.

In most cases, the victims do know the perpetrators. It is therefore questionable as to why the percentage of arrests is not higher. We are aware that corruption, blackmailing and violence are the key factors in this area.

South Africa's construction industry has been grappling with these illicit networks, which initially surfaced in KwaZulu-

Natal about a decade ago, but they have since expanded to other provinces. Contractors are most probably scared to come forward out of fear of victimisation, but comprehensive reporting and data is needed to analyse the situation properly.

The EFF is taking a very strong stance against these construction mafias and advocate for safety and security for all construction sites, regardless of colour or gender. More intensive and specialised investigations are needed to affect a higher number of arrests, and this also means that a bigger budget should be considered to appoint more manpower and resources.

Dockets are piling up at police stations regarding detective services, and it is mostly overloaded with investigations. It was repeatedly said that detectives cannot cope with the number of dockets and investigations. Police stations are understaffed and the number of dockets in relation to the number of detectives is a gross point of concern. The public has the right to speedy investigations and the right to justice. We know that justice delayed is justice denied.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 47

The general public is losing trust in the police, due to investigations not being concluded. The EFF is taking the battle against crime very seriously. Therefore, we say that we must determine the number of police officers to be allocated to a station in relation to the number of people within the station's catchment area.

The 50% person to person crime DNA leads finalised, the 47% crime to crime DNA leads finalised and the 47% fingerprint leads is a clear sign of a lack of personnel and resources. The shortage needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

In terms of corruption, the country has seen exorbitant levels of corruption in state departments. For those reasons, the EFF proposed that all police stations must attract specialised skills in order to deal with these types of crimes immediately, as it is reported. Drug syndicates, serious commercial crime and cyber-related crime should be prioritised even at local level. Crime intelligence operations must be properly budgeted for and the amount of R1,9 billion must be increased to roll out compensation payments for informants. The amount of R22,7 billion for intelligence and information management is way too low, in comparison with the sophisticated substance of crime syndicates.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 48

To combat these operations successfully, the police need a much bigger budget, and technologised systems. More crime intelligence operators should be recruited to infiltrate and understand criminal operations. Commercial crime within the private sector is not adequately addressed, and the Hawks should do much more to apprehend criminals within the system of government. And they have their names. They know their faces and they have their domicilium.

Subsequently, cases are being withdrawn or thrown out of court many times, due to incompetent investigations. Corruption is rife in the private sector. The name white collar crime can no longer be treated as a secondary crime. Selective justice can also not be tolerated. Investigators must do their job, without fear or favour and clamp down on all who are implicated in private-sector crimes.

We have seen concerning contradictions and interpretations of the law. Just listen to this. Leave our VBS out; it is fine. We have seen concerning contradictions and interpretations of the law in the Phala Phala matter. Corruption is corruption and our legal system must treat it accordingly. The EFF is in accordance with the constitutional principle that all people

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 49

are equal before the law. I hope the media underlines that statement.

The EFF takes note of the R3,7 billion for VIP and static protection. It is a massive amount of taxpayers' money spent on the protection of the President, Deputy President, former Presidents, their spouses, and other identified dignitaries. We are all aware that members forming part of the Government of National Unity, including the DA, the FF Plus and the PA have fiercely campaigned against what they termed, luxury and a waste of taxpayers' money. The EFF is of the opinion that a huge amount can be saved when those Ministers and Deputy Ministers waived their privilege on bodyguards and luxury cars.

They have brought the electorate under the impression that they will save money at all costs to build houses and infrastructure. Since they were inaugurated, they are all mum on this very important point. They have now quickly settled into their luxury lifestyles and forgot about the promises to those who voted for them.

We urge them all to give up their luxury benefits and start to look after the poor masses. It is simply disingenuous of them

to say one thing and do something else. If they proceed to enjoy these benefits, they have misled the electorate and the public at large. The community must take note of these double standards, as we approach the 2026 local government elections. The electorate of our country cannot afford to accommodate liars and people without principles and ethics. Such must be rejected by our nation.

Afrikaans:

Geslagsgeweld, geweld teen vroue en kinders is 'n dringende aangeleentheid wat op alle vlakke van die samelewing aangespreek moet word. Die stryd van vroue in die laaste 30 jaar versleg, en vroue ly veral onder geweldige druk as gevolg van geweld en verontregting.

Die regering self doen bittermin om geslagsgelykheid te bevorder en die rol van vroue tot volle reg te bring. Behalwe fisiese geweld, steier vroue steeds onder dekadeslange diskriminasie en rassisme in die werkplek en samelewing, seksisme, uitsluiting, uitbuiting en baie ander faktore wat tot die vernedering van vroue lei. Swart vroue dra veral die swaarste aan die las van armoede, verwerping, misbruik en beperking van geleenthede.

Ongelykheid is een van die grootste ewels onder vroue, veral swart vroue. Die EFF is baie duidelik dat 50% verteenwoordiging van vroue op alle vlakke van regering moet wees. Dit sal die waardigheid van vroue herstel, gelykheid bespoedig en vroue ekonomies bemagtig en bevry.

Die begroting moet ook 'n groter gedeelte van swart bemagtiging aan vroue prioritiseer. Daar is baie vroue wat besighede registreer het, maar geen of min besigheid by die polisie kry.

Die EFF versoek dat 'n dringende bewusmakingsveltog geloods word, om vroue van besigheidsgelentehede binne SAPS bewus te maak. Dit sal bydra tot armoedeverligting en sosiale opheffing van vroue en veral agtergeblewe vroue.

Gemeenskapspolisieforums, GPFs, speel 'n belangrike rol en 'n integrale deel in ons gemeenskappe se oorsigrol in ons polisie. Dis 'n sisteem wat ingebring is om misbruik van mag en polisie brutaliteit te veg.

Die EFF is egter baie bekommerd oor die politieke opportuniste en misbruik van hierdie forums. Dit word dikwels gebruik om 'n bepaalde politieke agenda te dryf, in belang van hulle wie in

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 52

beheer is. Min opleiding word aan forumleirs agegee, wat dit moeilik maak om 'n oorsigrol te speel namens die gemeenskap.

Polisieforumlede tree in baie gevalle op as polisiemanne. Hulle is ook betrokke by klopjagte, padblokkades, visintering, inhegtenisneming en allerhande rolle van die polisie. Dis nodig om te sê dat polisieforumlede nie opgeleide polisiemanne en vroue is nie. Daarom kan hulle nie die rol van polisiemanne en vroue vervul nie. Enige amptelike klag moet deur opgeleide polisiemanne en vroue uitgevoer word. Polisieforumlede tree onwettig op as hulle die rol van die polisie wil oorneem. Baie dankie.

Mr M G MODISE: Chair, I was wondering if the hon member is prepared to take a question.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Modise, I think his time has expired. He will have to take the question at another time.

Mr M G MODISE: I did not want to disturb his flow.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): His time has expired. You will have to ask earlier next time.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 53

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Mr C C Mathale): Chairperson

...

Xitsonga:

... ndzi rhandza ku teka nkarhi lowu ku xeweta Xandla xa Mutshamaxitulu wa Yindlu leyi, Holobye wa Maphorisa, Senzo Mchunu, Holobye Gwede Mantashe, Xandla xa Holobye wa Maphorisa, Man Boshielo, MECs lava nga tikatsa na hina emoyeni, mutshamaxitulu wa komiti ya NCOP Man Mananiso ...

English:

... hon members of the NCOP, Ministry of Police, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, "avuxeni" [hello]. I greet you all and congratulate new and returning hon members of the National Council of Provinces as we all hit the ground running in executing the responsibility bestowed upon us by our constituencies. The people of South Africa have put their trust in our hands, and we cannot fail them. We must all continue to explore every avenue to improve their lives in pursuit of the constitutional aspirations and the National Development Plan amongst other progressive policy directives adopted by the government of national unity.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 54

Hon members, as you may know Chapter 12 of the National Development Plan, NDP, envisages safe and secure communities in South Africa by 2030. It envisions a South Africa with citizens, residents and visitors who feel safe at home, in the streets, at work as well as in places of recreation and entertainment. It envisions a prosperous South Africa where its women, children and all vulnerable groups can lead their best lives without fear of being victims to crime and criminality.

As government we have, since the dawn of democracy, been working hard towards bringing this vision to life. From the SA Police Service, SAPS, perspective in particular, we have been developing and implementing various strategies and programmes aimed at ensuring an environment where, inter alia, each community has a well-equipped and fully functional police station with respected and professional police officers.

In this regard, we have therefore intended to intensify our efforts of bringing services closer to the communities that we serve by increasing the SAPS footprint of policing. We are not going to start today, Chairperson, to increase police personnel. Yes, there is a shortage of police officers in the Republic because of what we went through previously. The Sixth

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 55

administration started a programme of increasing our footprints in the Republic by ensuring that the numbers are increased.

We also appreciate the commitment made by members who came here to say we must increase our personnel. The issues that they are asking like increasing 100 000 police officers at a go it's a very good idea, but you can't achieve that at a go. It is not practically possible to train 100 000 at a go. The Sixth administration laid a firm foundation which we are building on in the Seventh administration to increase the numbers.

We have in the recent two years appointed 20 000 police officers to augment the numbers that we have. Currently as we speak, we are training in our colleges another 10 000 police officers that we are going to deploy in the respective stations as part of our programme of strengthening the numbers of police personnel.

It is incorrect for members to stand here and say that the people have rejected this government led by the ANC. Of course, today under the auspices of the government of national unity, GNU, the head is from the ANC. The results clearly

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 56

point to the opposite. From the 2024 outcomes, yes, we did not get an outright majority, but it is not factual that our numbers have decline to an extent that we are insignificant. The fact that we have a President who is also a president of the ANC as a President of the Republic is an affirmation that our people still have confidence on us. The year 2026 will come and we are ready for that. What is clear is that what we do between now and then will determine the numbers that we are going to get. With the commitment that the government of national unity, GNU, has in serving our people, I am quite certain that we will be given a resounding mandate when that particular moment come.

This obsession about the very important person, VIP, protection services, I think people must move away from it. The very important person protection is part of the tools of trade that are given to people that are given the responsibilities to run the affairs of the country. We cannot for a moment think that VIP protection or the facilities that are given to those who are given the responsibilities to run the affairs of state is something that is not of value. It serves a particular purpose, and it is a purpose that is necessary. You can go throughout the world and look what other countries are doing. This service is there.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 57

Yes, I agree that we must intensify servicing our people, I agree that we must serve with humility and I agree that we must respond appropriately to the needs of our people. What determines whether you are doing your work or not is not the vehicle that you drive or the clothes that you wear, but it is the service that you provide to the people. That is what determines your commitment to serve.

The inputs given here across political parties include the one from my friend, hon Gericke, with whom we worked well. In the Sixth administration he served in the Police committee. I am happy that his organisation sent him to serve in this committee. His input is not saying that the budget must not be passed, but he is saying the budget must be increased and that must be commended. He is being objective. Of course, he agrees that the budget is not enough. We agree with you, hon Gericke, as far as that is concerned.

Mr V GERICKE: On a point of order, I am asking the Chair to protect me. I have not said that the budget must not be passed. Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 58

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Gericke, that's not a point of order. You are very capable of protecting yourself. Please, continue, Deputy Minister.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Mr C C Mathale): I am happy that he is confirming that he didn't say the budget must not be passed. Indeed, I said you did not say that the budget must not be passed, but you said the budget must be increased because what we are given here is not enough. I fully agree with you, Chairperson. Of course it's semantics. I am happy and I am quite comfortable with the support that members have given us on this budget.

As the Police we are committed to ensuring that the professionalisation of the service is carried through, hence the role that the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid, played in this regard. The Independent Police Investigative Directorate is not there only as the police of police, but it is there as an instrument that must contribute towards the professionalisation of the SA African Police so that they can serve our people in accordance with what is expected in terms of an environment where human rights rules are central. The Constitution of this land requires that people must be treated with respect and dignity. Our police

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 59

officers must conduct themselves in line with these prescripts. The Independent Police Investigative Directorate is there not there as an obstruction, but an as supplement to professionalise the SA Police Service. Thank you very much, Chairperson.

Mr S A ZULU: Hon Chairperson of National Council of Provinces, hon members of this august House, fellow South Africans. Chair of Chairs, we want to place on the record that the MK Party rejects this budget vote 28 as proposed.

I think the hon members from the ANC benches must refrain from lecturing us on how to give a speech here, because whenever they respond they seem to be lecturing us and we are not here on your invitation. And we are not part of that Government of National Unity, GNU, and we'll never be part of that GNU. So, don't behave here as if you have won the elections. Thank you very much.

Addressing the crisis in the SA Police Services, SAPS. Today I rise to address a matter of critical importance to our nation, the challenges facing the SA Police Services. Our police force is the frontline defence against crime and violence. They are the guarding of our safety and security. Yet it is clear that

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 60

the SAPS is grappling with profound issues that undermine its ability to protect and serve the people of South Africa effectively. These challenges are not just operational, they are deeply political.

Reflecting on the systemic flaws and failures that we must urgently address, high crime rates and public trust. First and foremost, we must confront the staggering crime rates that plunge our communities.

South Africa has one of the highest crime rates in the world, with violent crimes such as murder, rape and armed robbery occurring at alarming rates. This grim reality is a testament to the failure of the SAPS to maintain law and order.

Public trust in the police is at an all-time low with many citizens feeling that the police are either unable or unwilling to protect them. This erosion of trust is a dangerous trend as it undermines the social contracts and the very fabric of our society.

Under resourcing and understaffing are a significant contributor to the ineffectiveness of the SAPS is chronic under resourcing and understaffing. Our police officers are

often overworked and underpaid and ill-equipped to handle the demands placed upon them. The shortage of personnel means that response times are slow, investigations are delayed and communities are left vulnerable. This situation is exacerbated by inadequate training, leaving officers ill prepared to handle complex and evolving criminal activities.

Corruption and misconduct. Corruption within the SAPS is another major issue that cannot be ignored. Corrupt practices including bribery, collusion with criminals and misuse of resources are rampant within the force. These practices not only divert crucial resources away from fighting crime but also erode the public confidence in law enforcement.

When citizens see police officers engaged in corrupt activities it sends a clear message that the system is broken and that justice is not being served.

Political interference. Political interference in the operations of the SAPS further compounds these problems. The appointment of senior police officials based on political loyalty rather than merit has led to a lack of professionalism and accountability within the force.

Politicization undermines the independence of the police, making it difficult for them to carry out their duties impartially and effectively. It also leads to a lack of continuity and stability in leadership as changes in political power often results in the replacement of key personnel.

Inadequate support for officers. Our police officers face significant risk in the line of duty support, yet support they receive is woefully inadequate. Many officers work in dangerous conditions without proper protective gear.

Psychological support or adequate medical care. The mental health of police officers is a critical issue that is often overlooked. The constant exposure to violence, trauma and high stress situations takes a heavy toll on their wellbeing, affecting their performance and judgment.

Community police relationship. The relationship between the police and the communities they serve is strained, incidents of police brutality and excessive use of force have led to a widespread anger and mistrust.

For the police to be effective, they must have the co-operation and support of the communities they serve.

Building this relationship requires a fundamental change in how the police engage with the public. Moving from a force-centred approach to a service-centred one.

The way forward. Given these challenges, what steps can we take to reform and strengthen the SAPS?

Firstly, increase resources and improve training. We must allocate more resources to the SAPS to ensure that they are adequately staffed and equipped, this includes providing better training to equip officers with skills they need to tackle modern crime effectively. Specialized training in areas such as cybercrime, forensic investigation and community policing is essential.

Secondly, combating corruption. A zero-tolerance approach to corrupt within the SAPS is imperative. This requires robust internal oversight mechanisms and the establishment of an independent anticorrupt officers. Transparency and accountability must be the cornerstone of this initiative.

Thirdly, depoliticize the police. To restore professionalism and accountability we must depoliticize the SAPS. This means appointing senior officials based on merit and experience

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 64

rather than political allegiance. The police should be free from political interference, allowing them to carry out their duties impartially and effectively.

In conclusion, the challenges facing the SA Police Services are indeed formidable, but they are not reforming the SAPS, it's not just a matter of policy. It is a matter of political will and moral responsibility. We owe it to the brave men and women who serve in our police force and to the citizens they protect to ensure that SAPS is a capable, trustworthy and effective institution [Time expired.] the road to reform will be long and ...

MK Party, therefor, rejects this questionable budget vote. I thank you.

Ms S V MATHYE (Limpopo): Hon Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Ministers and Deputy Ministers, hon members, hon Chairperson of the portfolio committee, National Police Commissioner, this plenary session takes place a few days the President of the Republic, hon Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, officially opened both Houses of Parliament, for the seventh administration since the democratic dispensation. The President, in his address, reiterated the need to tackle priority crimes, and double our

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 65

efforts in the fight against gender-based violence and femicide.

These similar sentiments were echoed and clarified earlier, by Minister Senzo Mchunu, during his presentation of Budget Vote 28, which is a clear programme of action, on how this government aims to intensify the war on crime and making our communities safe.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate Minister Senzo Mchunu and his Deputy Ministers, Mr Cassel Mathale and Ms Polly Boshielo, our best exports from the Limpopo province, for being charged with this taxing responsibility, to oversee the safety and security needs of the Republic. On behalf of the people of Limpopo, we want to express our unwavering confidence in their collective capacities, and we are certain that under their stewardship, our people will be safe.

Chairperson of the House, it was not a coincidence, that the President used the occasion of the birthday of Madiba, to commemorate the official opening of the seventh administration.

Madiba has laid a solid foundation to transform the South African society, and has taught us invaluable lessons, of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 66

building an inclusive, non-racial, non-sexist and an equal society. Today, 30 years down the line, we are still busking in the sun rays that were ushered by the Great Nelson Mandela and the collective he led.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to Madiba and his contemporaries, on how they managed to steer this country, from its tumultuous past to the current constitutional democracy. Let me also use this same opportunity to congratulate the South African Police Service, SAPS for its ability to maintain peace and stability during the May 29 general election. The electoral environment was highly charged up, and the SAPS, true to its distinctive character, managed to maintain peace and stability during that period.

The SAPS has always been equal to the task, on a number of occasions, when its arsenal was put to test. This Budget Vote, as presented by Minister Mchunu, has been tailored to be responsive and address the safety and security needs of our people.

As the Limpopo province, we have continuously benefited from the windfall of additional personnel, that the SAPS continue to recruit. This has helped us to increase our capacity and

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 67

visibility on the ground. We have also witnessed how police visibility has assisted our efforts to lessen incidents of violent crime in the province. The findings of the victims of Crime Survey, by Statistics South Africa in August 2023, indicated that Limpopo residents feel the safest, of all South Africans, while walking alone on the streets of their neighbourhoods during the day and night.

This was based on how households and people experienced crime in the 2022/23 financial year. As we wait for the outcomes of the 2023/24 financial year, I am confident that not much would have changed on this front. The criminal community is still reeling from shock, from the Makhado shooting incident, in which nineteen criminals were eliminated by the Police.

Hon members, the truth is, after that Makhado episode, there have been less incidents of a cash-in-transit heist nature, where criminals are randomly involved in shoot-outs with the Police. We have intensified the fight against cross-border crimes, and we have diminished the practice. We have done, because we have employed superior policing methodologies along the N1 stretch, and many other parts of the province.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 68

The arrest of five suspects and the uncovering of a multi-million-dollar crystal meth laboratory, in the Sekhukhune District, is a demonstration of the tough stance that the Police have taken on the fight against drugs. What is worrisome on this reported crime, is the involvement of foreign nationals, in an activity of this scale.

Chairperson of the House, it is a fact that the modern world is transitioning, and as Government we must be able to keep up, with the advent of technology and the evolution of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This means that our policing endeavours must be alive to the modern-day technologies, and its use in acts of crime. Our people, across all ages are falling prey to an assortment of acts of cyber-crime, and without a sophisticated Police Service, we might not be able to put this criminality to an end.

It is for this reason, that our traditional policing methodologies should be modified, and be able to move with the times. As the Limpopo Province, we are the leading provincial administration with effective Community Policing and Safety Forum structures. These programmes are helpful to narrow the gap between the work of the Police and the communities they serve.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 69

This is mainly because participants and members of these structures are drawn from communities, to help the work of the Police. We also have programmes called Young Civilians on Patrol and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, which are meant to increase the police's foothold in communities.

Hon members, our work of creating safer communities will amount to nothing, if we fail to create a society which can protect its women and children. As the provincial government, under Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, we have lined-up a series of activities for the Women's Month of August, to heighten the fight against the scourge of Gender based Violence and Femicide. We have recorded a few incidents of GBV and Femicide in the recent past, which are a demonstration that we still have a lot of work to do. In the past few months, we have recorded the following cases, in which women lost their lives, to people that they have regarded as their intimate partners.

Earlier this year around March, in a shocking incident, Funanani Patience Mbedzi was shot dead by her husband while attending a church service, in Makonde Village outside Thohoyandou. In Moletjie, just outside Polokwane, Judias

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 70

Mabetoa was hacked to death with a sharp object, by her husband, after they had a verbal altercation.

Mpho Mokwele, a newly appointed Educator, who had reportedly bought a new car, was also stabbed to death by her boyfriend, in Seshego outside the city of Polokwane. Just this past weekend, we buried Dorcus Lekganyane, a young woman from Polokwane, with a Masters' Degree in Botany, who was killed by her boyfriend in Gauteng.

This, and many other similar cases, are a demonstration that as a society, we still have a long way to go, to educate our citizens that, violence is no solution to any debacle.

However, despite this worrying trend, we remain resolute, and we will do everything in our might, to ensure that these incidents are brought to a halt.

As I conclude, hon members, as the people of Limpopo, together with other progressive forces, we welcome this budget vote, and view it as a developmental allocation that is pro-poor and has the interests of our people at heart. It is Nelson Mandela, who reminds us that, I quote:

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 71

Safety and security do not just happen, they are the result of a collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear.

Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Thank you very much hon MEC. My greetings to the hon Minister of Police makhelwane[neighbour]It is good to see you this side. We worked very closely together in KwaZulu-Natal. So, I am happy to be with you again. Greetings to hon Gwede Mantashe, it is good to see you sir.

Mr K J MACIE (Mpumalanga): Hon Chairperson of the NCOP, hon Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, the hon Chief Whip of the NCOP, hon Mr Kenny Mmoiemang; Minister of Police, hon Senzo Mchunu; Deputy Ministers, hon Cassel Mathale and Polly Boshielo, Chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee on Police; members of the provincial executive committee; delegates from the provinces; the SA Local Government Association, Salga, representative; civil society and business organizations; it is a great honour for me to participate in this debate of the maiden budget speech of Minister hon Senzo

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 72

Mchunu as the Minister of Police to the National Council of Provinces, the NCOP.

This too, hon Chairperson is my maiden participation since my appointment as MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison in the province of Mpumalanga.

The best point of departure in this debate at least from the point of view of the ANC, is for us to draw inspiration from our revolutionary compass, the Freedom Charter adopted at Kliptown on 26 July 1955 in order for us to ensure security and comfort for all.

The Freedom Charter which we will celebrate its 69 years' anniversary on this coming Friday, succinctly directs us when it declared that; "All people shall have the right to live where they choose, be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security".

Our Constitution as a strategic legal framework to safeguard and promote the rights of all citizens, entrenches the point which the Freedom Charter postulated in 1955, "Everyone has the right to freedom and security of the person, which

includes the right: to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private sources".

Our implementation document, the National Development Plan, the NDP, states that safety is a necessary condition for human development, improving quality of life and enhancing productivity.

And that when communities do not feel safe and live in fear, the country's economic development and the people's wellbeing is affected, hindering their ability to achieve their potential.

Indeed, hon Minister acutely captured the essence and urgency with which the government ought to respond to the public concern to reduce crime in the country.

Hon Minister Mchunu, reverberated what the President vociferously said during the opening of the Parliament of the 7th Administration when he said in order to enhance police visibility, improve community responsiveness, detection rate, crime intelligence capability and to build public confidence in the police service, government has committed to expand the workforce over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 74

The plan to recruit additional members into the police organisation will bolster our ranks. This strategic expansion is crucial for addressing the growing demands of our communities and ensuring that we can effectively combat crime across the country.

Importantly, the Nation Development Plan makes the critical point that safety and security are directly related to socioeconomic development and equality, affecting the development objectives of economic growth and transformation, employment creation, improved education and health outcomes, and strengthened social cohesion.

In order to build safer communities, the NDP directs us to ensure that by 2030: People living in South Africa feel safe and have no fear of crime; people are safe at home, at school, at work and they enjoy an active community life free of fear; women can walk freely in the streets and children can play safely outside; the police service is a well-resourced professional institution staffed by highly skilled officers who value their work, serve the community, safeguard lives and property without discrimination, protect the peaceful against violence and respect the rights of all to equality and justice.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 75

Reducing violent crime, gender-based violence, and femicide. The police, especially the Ehlanzeni region has witnessed the discovery of a woman and children buried in shallow graves with signs of violent wounds. This is a situation that we never thought will be experienced by these vulnerable groups in the era where everyone has a right to life.

The government of Mpumalanga has strongly condemned the gruesome murders and applaud the co-operation between the affected communities and the SA Police Service, which led to the arrest of three perpetrators who are still kept in custody.

Trans-border and organized crime. Mpumalanga is a unique province with its own challenges and our Crime Prevention Strategy is designed to deal with key pressing issues that have been identified as a threat to peace and stability in the province.

Mpumalanga is unique and a gateway to the Southern African Development Community, SADC. The province is also bounded by Limpopo province to the north, Mozambique and Eswatini to east, KwaZulu-Natal and Free State to the south and Gauteng province to the west.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 76

Obviously, this geographic phenomenon brings to logic high in- and-outflow of goods and movement of people which in turn imposes security risks such as human trafficking, movements of illicit goods and other sophisticated crimes.

Crime is a threat to economic growth and more often, it creates instability and instils fear amongst community members. Business cannot thrive in a place where crime is prevalent and very little is done to combat the ills.

The disruptions caused by crime have serious social and economic impact hence the need for a bold move to drastically reduce crime by the year 2030.

As the leading agency in the provincial joint operational and intelligence structure, supported by other government departments and stakeholders serving on the structure proudly demonstrated zero tolerance to criminal activities with the view to reduce the level of crime in and around the communities alongside the borderline of South Africa and Mozambique.

Our crime prevention and traffic law enforcement operations were a resounding success with no major crime incidents

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 77

reported during at least in the past weekend in areas recently declared as hotspots.

It is because of our crime preventing strategy that we were able to disrupt reduce the smuggling of counterfeit goods and illicit cigarettes.

Most of the suspects were arrested on our major roads during our routine multi-disciplinary operation. We will continue with our joint operations to ensure that we eradicate crime at the vicinity of the borders and on all our roads in the province.

However, Chairperson the state of infrastructure at the borderline between South African and Mozambique will always outweigh our efforts and the impressive success recorded thus far. At this juncture, additional resources to deal with the identified weaknesses will come very handy. Mpumalanga support the budget that has been presented by the hon MEC. Thank you very much. [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Ms S P Boshielo): House
Chairperson, Minister of Police, Mr Mchunu, hon Minister Gwede
Samson Mantashe, hon Deputy Minister of Police, Mr Cassel

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 78

Mathale, hon Deputy Minister Mme Judith Nemadzanga,
Chairperson of the NCOP, Mme Jane Mananiso, hon members of
this august House, MECs representing provinces, ladies and
gentlemen, comrades and compatriots ...

Sepedi:

... thobela.

English:

Crime and violence continue to be among the most intractable
impediments to development in this country, which also
continues to undermine the people's sense of safety and
security. These impediments are the result of a multiplicity
of factors related to the country's socioeconomic challenges.

The Civilian Secretariat for Police Service was established in
line with section 208 of the Constitution, and the legislative
objects of the civilian secretariat include, among others,
liaison and communication with stakeholders, implementation of
a partnership strategy, promotion of a civilian secretariat
police and directorate co-operation and the provision of
guidance to Community Policing Forum, CPF, and associated
structures.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 79

The South African Police Service, Saps, continuous to provide training in order to equip CPF members to support policing and crime prevention initiatives at the local level, an exercise which is integral to the implementation of the Community Policing Policy and the Cabinet approved Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy.

Efforts to strengthen community policing relation have seen the Saps also direct its focus towards the development of response plans as a mechanism for providing feedback on matters raised between communities and the Minister during dialogue public participation. We went to Hanover to give the community feedback after the previous Minister went there three times. We normally go back to the communities and give them feedback on what we have done up to so far.

The Civilian Secretariat continues to contribute to fight against the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, through various programmes over and above the monitoring of Saps compliance to the Domestic Violence Act. As part of the implementation of the partnership strategy and framework, the department has a programme through which it collaborates with stakeholders such as Memeza, ShoutOut NGO and the First Run Foundation on the systemic reduction and prevention of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 80

GBVF through victim empowerment tools. This is very close to our hearts as members of the police, and we are going to make sure that we partner with everybody to deal with this.

Hon Chair, the Ministry of police is hard at work. In the previous financial year, 2023-24, the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, also known as the Hawks, arrested more than 2 683 suspects and secured more than 864 convictions. During the same period, 97 suspects were arrested for killing police officials, while 34 accused were convicted and sentenced to serve life sentences and a further combined period of 788 years imprisonment.

In the same vein, in 2023-24 financial year, 18 clandestine laboratories were dismantled with 25 arrests. In this financial year, 2024-25, we have already dismantled five clandestine laboratories with 20 arrests. In dismantling a clandestine laboratory in Groblersdal this month, five suspects were arrested and more than R2 billion worth of drugs were confiscated.

Hon Chair, 192 suspects were arrested for cash in transit, CIT, robberies, while 25 were convicted and sentenced to three life imprisonment. That is a further combined period of 560

years imprisonment. Over and above the CIT cases, 147 suspects were arrested for CIT related cases. In one of these cases that happened in Makhado which you know in Limpopo, a confrontation ensued with a group of suspects where 19 suspects died, while one Hawks official was also hurt and 11 firearms were seized.

We are also dealing with the theft of fuel from pipelines. In 2019, 280 suspects were arrested for the theft of fuel related cases. Of these, 48 suspects were arrested during the 2023 financial year, while 10 convictions were secured. That is why we want this House to support us to be able to help the Hawks do more.

In terms of illegal mining, part of the focus is to deal with illegal mining in this country. Several successes were registered, including a case pending at Stilfontein court where 24 rifles were confiscated, and 21 individuals arrested. There were 541 arrested persons, while 148 convictions were secured during the 2023-24 period. So, we are really not sleeping at work.

In terms of endangered species, 95 arrests were effected while 50 convictions were secured. A 60-man syndicate is appearing

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 82

in court in Mpumalanga on charges of rhino poaching. In terms of corruption, several matters are pending before the various courts in the country. Some of these includes, in KwaZulu-Natal the Durban Solid Waste corruption where 22 accused are appearing in court, in the Nelson Mandela funeral scam, 14 accused are appearing in court, in the Free State asbestos case, 11 accused are appearing in court, in the Eastern Cape Amathole district toilet scandal, 10 accused are appearing in court on a R631 million tender fraud and in the Northern Cape Department of Health, three accused are appearing in court for a R420 million tender fraud.

In terms of state capture, the Hawks have already secured the attendance of 33 accused persons in court. Over and above, more than 2241 statements have been obtained and more than R400 million has also been recovered and deposited into the Criminal Assets Recovery Account, Cara.

In terms of the 2021 July unrest, while one person has already been convicted and sentenced to 12 years imprisonment, more than 60 accused are appearing in court. In terms of Steinhof matters, two accused are appearing before court, while one suspect has since passed on.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 83

Some of the examples of heavy sentences that we are dealing with are the VBS Mutual Bank where 35 accused were secured before court, four have already been convicted and sentenced, one of whom has been sentenced to 495 years which will run concurrently. The accused will effectively serve 15 years.

In the Northern Cape, three individuals were sentenced to a combined period of 195 years imprisonment for hijacking and kidnapping. In Gauteng, an accountant was convicted and sentenced to 50 years imprisonment. A 57-year-old woman was sentenced to 40 years imprisonment for R18 million fraud. A fraudster was sentenced to 291 years to serve 18 years currently.

It means that if we get more budget, as hon members are saying, we will be able to do more. We also need to professionalise our services but also use technology more in terms of cybersecurity and tracing illicit monies that cross our borders, and we also need capacity in that regard. We also need to increase detectives so that cases can be solved faster.

We are working together very well with the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, and Correctional Services. Surely

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 84

you have seen the recent raids in the Correctional Services because some gangs are operated from within the Correctional Services, and when we use our equipment like grabber to switch off the signal, we get all the non-governmental organisations, NGOs, taking us to court and saying we are infringing prisoners right, which doesn't make sense because they are prisoners, and they don't deserve those rights.

We are partnering with other stakeholders and yesterday, as the Minister said, we had a meeting with the Mayor of Cape Town, the MEC for police oversight in the Western Cape, Members of the Mayoral Committee, MMC, and other officials. We agreed to work together, and when we combine forces, we will have about 50 000 police on the ground and crime will be dealt with. So, we are hard at work. Thank you very much, House Chair.

Mr H J VAN DEN BERG: Chair, Ministers, colleagues and guests, we urgently need a Police Force that recognises South Africa's diversity that seeks and brings out the best in every member in order to achieve true unity in diversity, not on mutual respect, without discrimination and racism, and without access to equal opportunities.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 85

According to the World Bank, the cost of crime is estimated to be about 10% of the gross domestic product of South Africa. In this financial period, the Budget Vote for Police is allocated just over R113 million to ensure effective policing and can be of great benefit to the country. However, working at the SA Police Service is difficult and there's a constant shortage of stationery, transportation and infrastructure, and calls from across the country seem to be for a better trained and slightly more specialised force. From hospitals, we hear requests for well-trained officers to work with injured victims more compassionately, for faster crime reporting systems and an ability for officers to also be able to deal with the arrest and detention, even of people with disabilities when needed.

Chairperson, when you deal with crime and violence on a daily basis, it has to have a negative impact on our officers and we should be understanding and appreciative of this fact. A fairly recent study has shown the following as reasons for a poor performing police force: a low morale of members, increased workloads, the SAPS members involved in crime, aging or inadequate infrastructure, insufficient resources and a need for modernisation.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 86

A study was performed over 30 years ago where a group of researchers were trying to find the worst working environment known to man, and they found it. It was a fish market. People had to function in this noisy, smelly, slippery, bloodied area on a daily basis but they always came back to work. In fact, they were happy and content. The researchers wanted to know why this was so. The answer was to be found in the camaraderie and caring attitude of fellow workers. This is a lesson we can learn and implement at the SAPS.

The modernisation of working methods might be a huge motivator to the force. I cannot believe that officers are still writing dockets and taking statements by hand in an era where a voicemail can be used to sentence a perpetrator in a court of law. Should the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies as well as the Department of Science and Technology not join in a national effort with the police to modernise the way we do our reporting, investigating and prosecuting?

Also, the Appropriation Bill for Vote No 28 groups the construction and upgrading of police stations as a subfunction of administration. Should we not pay more attention to this great need for infrastructure? A total of R21 billion has been

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 87

allocated to administration but I do not see it being spent on the upgrading and construction of police stations.

Also, how can it be that a police officer would be told by a criminal that his house will be burned and his family will be harmed? This happens on a daily basis. Should we not consider some way to protect officers and their families?

Minister, there are good officers out there that have been left behind due to affirmative action and it has been holding the country back. These men and women are highly experienced and qualified. My appeal to you is to also give them a chance. It has been 30 years now. I thank you.

Afrikaans:

Mnr N GOTSELL: Adjunkvoorsitter, Minister, Adjunkministers, lede en Suid-Afrikaners, toe ek Vrydagaand na die debat op die President se toespraak vir die Opening van die Sewende Parlement van die Kaapse stadsaal deur die middestad huistoe stap kom ek hierbo in Strandstraat 'n blouligbrigade teë.

Adjunkminister Mathale, ek het so veel as agt voertuie met loeiende sirenes getel. Hulle het in die rigting van Fresnaye gery en hulle prioriteit was duidelik om iemand baie belangrik so vinnig as moontlik by die huis te kry. Dit terwyl ek met my

selfoon en my rekenaarsak deur die middestad stap, en ek wil vir u sê daar was geen gevaar nie.

Adjunkvoorsitter, ons woon in 'n land van uiterste teenstrydighede. Teenstrydighede wat ons noop om soms mooi te besin oor wat werklik 'n prioriteit is en wat nie. Die land gaan immers gebuk onder bendegegeweld, geweld teen vroue en kinders, en die grootskaalse plundering van banke en ook staatsentiteite.

English:

The term is VIP, very important person. However, at the cost of almost R2 billion the question must be asked what about the other VIPs? The vulnerable isolated persons ...

Afrikaans:

... of soos ons in Afrikaans sê, Jan Alleman.

English:

For the 2024-25 book year, the SA Police Service received a main appropriation of R113 billion of which the Protection and Security Services programme received a main appropriation of R4 billion, with the VIP Protection Services subprogramme receiving the largest nominal increase of 5,8%.

It was interesting to note that it was reported in the same annual performance plan, APP, programme that the number of security breaches during in-transit protection was zero. Similarly, there were also no breaches at identified government installations or identified VIP residences. That is really impressive. Clearly, these people are a priority.

Afrikaans:

Wanneer die elite die beste beskerming geniet, sou dit net sin maak dat Jan Alleman ook daarop kan staatmaak, veral wanneer dit by die bekamping van bendegegeweld, geweld teen vroue en kinders of dalk die spoedige verwerking van DNS-toetse en ander bewysmateriaal kom.

Dit blyk egter nie die geval te wees wanneer mens die polisie se begroting en jaarlikse prestasieprogram oorweeg nie, want daar word die belangrike mense met hul bloulig-konvooië wat te vinnig ry steeds geprioritiseer bo die mense van die Kaapse Vlakte wat letterlik koeëls voor hul huise sien verby vlieg terwyl hulle vir hul kinders om van die skool af te kom wag.

Gepraat van voertuie wat te vinnig ry, Mnr Dewald van der Westhuizen het kort voor Kersfees verlede jaar op sy fiets uit

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 90

Simonstad vertrek. Hy is deur 'n motor in 'n tref-en-trap ongeluk omgery.

Die motor het met so 'n spoed in Van der Westhuizen vasgery dat die impak hom nie net van sy fiets afgeslinger het nie maar dit het ook 'n deel van sy been en sy kuit uitgeruk. Die motor se bestuurder is 'n entjie daarvandaan opgespoor waar hy sy roes lê en afslaap het. In dieselfde motor was die bloed en skade nog duidelik sigbaar aan die motor se buffer.

English:

The accused appeared in the Simon's Town Magistrate's Court last year and seven months later he is yet to plead to charges against him. The reason for the delay? The state has had to ask for postponements on several occasions, most notably because the DNA evidence which would match the blood and DNA from Dewald's leg with that of the accused's car's bumper was not processed in time. Not only was it not processed in time but a second sample had to be taken because the first one was not sufficient.

Despite the accused's family's own investigations to ... a crucial witness to the event, to get his address and further evidence through the appointment of an attorney who has a

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 91

watching brief in this matter, investigations by detectives are yet to find said witness.

This is unacceptable. While ordinary citizens must fight tooth and nail for justice to be done, our high-ranking politicians are ferried about in armed cars.

Further along on the Cape Flats, a Bonteheuwel man was recently robbed and shot several times in the stomach. A 20-year-old Hard Livings gang member was arrested by the City of Cape Town Law Enforcement, yet another reason why the powers of the police should be devolved. It was later confirmed that the firearm found in his possession was a SAPS-issued firearm.

In the SAPS' APP, one priority is to reduce the number of SAPS-owned firearms confirmed as lost or stolen to, listen carefully, 587. The target is thus to only have 587 firearms disappear from the SAPS' stores. Minister, with respect, a chunk of taxpayers' money is directed at police training, so how on earth is it possible that 2 500 SAPS-issued firearms have been lost over the past five years, some clearly being used in the commission of the most heinous crimes? Why are these targets not also set at zero?

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 92

In our view, this budget does not properly reflect an appreciation for the issues facing the real VIPs. Prioritising blue light brigades over training, Crime Intelligence and Detective Services is not going to address the issue of bringing evidence to courts faster. It is not going to give Dewald Van der Westhuizen the closure that he needs. It is not going to help the people of Bishop Lavis sleep better at night and, Minister, it is not going to help us find out whether it was indeed the money stolen from Limpopo gogos' stokvel that paid for hon Malema's R30 000 shoes.

Minister, we have taken note of your commitments in your speech on Friday, especially the undertaking to professionalise the Police Service and to focus on the drug and gang pandemic. After a period of protracted animosity from the previous Minister, we now have a new Minister who has a track record of being a good change manager. Minister, we look to you to provide a change in police focus and police effectiveness, placing ordinary South Africans first. There are good people in the SA Police Force. They and the people of South Africa deserve to be put first. Thank you.

IsiXhosa:

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 93

Mnu M M PETER: Sekela Sihlalo weNCOP, mandibulise kubaPhathiswa, kumalungu ale Ndlu nakubemi boMzantsi Afrika. Siyakubulela Mphathiswa, ngokuba ulisabele ikhwelo esiye salibetha kwingxoxo yeNtetha yokuVulwa kwePalamente kaMongameli. Ukwazile ukuya eKapa naseGqeberha xa usiva kukhankanywa ulwaphulo-mthetho olugqithisileyo kwezi ndawo. Ukwenze oku ungananzanga ukuba ezi ngxelo ziphuma kweliphi na iqela lezopolitiko? Koko, uye watsiba ukuya kusabela nokungenelela. Siyabulela kwakhona ngokwenza loo mtsi, Mphathiswa.

Ekubuyeni kwakho eGqeberha, izikrelemnqa azothukaka kuba ezinyaweni nje zakho, kubulewe umama nomntwana wakhe onell kwangxwelerhwa abantu ababini. Izikrelemnqa zithi eli lizwe ziliphethe kwaye ziluhluthile ulawulo kuni. Embizana, amapolisa arhangqwe aze ahlaselwa ngemipu xa ebesiya kuvela kwixhoba ebelidutyulwe. Kolo hlaselo, kuswelekwe ipolisa elinye elithe lathathelwa umpu walo obuneembumbulu. Ngaloo mpu kudutyulwe utata ongusomashishini kwilali yaseSizityaneni. Loo nto ithetha ukuba izikrelemnqa zifungile ukuba kuphethe zona, ukhona ungekho Mphathiswa.

Mphathiswa, abantu abaxakwanga ukuthabathela umthetho ezandleni zabo. Nge1985 iNational Party ngethuba

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 94

lezixholoxholo yabona ilizwe liyidilikela. Baye bakhawulezisa baseka ibutho elikhethekileyo, nesalithiya igama, sisithi ngamaTshaka. Eli butho lazisiphula neengcambu izixholoxholo ezazise Gqeberha. Soyiswa leli butho, sancama sabhenela etafileni ukuze kuvele iNgqungquthela yoMzantsi Afrika oLawulwa ngentando yesininzi.

INational Party yaseka eli ibutho likhethekileyo, elalibulala nabantwana aba besikolo, ngenjongo zokukhusela abemi balo. Kutheni ngoku xa abantu besifa, nkalo zonke, singavusi elethu ibutho elikhethekileyo eliza kuqubisana, ncakasana nezi zikrelemnqa? Kutheni thina sicenga izikrelemnqa? Ukufika kwakho eGqeberha akukhange kubekho tshintsho kuba izikrelemnqa zilandele emva kweenyawo zakho zamosha kwangoko. Abantu abantsundu bayaphela, masivuseni elethu ibutho elikhethekileyo.

Sekela Sihlalo, ndiva kabuhlungu xa kuphakama i-EFF, i-ANC iyabaxwaxwa. Ngabantwana benu aba, bakhala bengaphandle. Musani ukubabetha abantwana. Thatha umntwana umnxibise, umfake ukutya, uza kuthula. Kukho nalo umntwana onguMkhonto ufikayo. Musani ukuvuyela ukubabetha kweli qonga. Enkosi. Sekela Sihlalo, siyaluxhasa olu hlahlo-lwabiwo mali.

English:

Mr B J FARMER: Hon Deputy Chair, hon Minister and hon members, policing in general has a crucial role to play in society. Crime has an impact in all of us, but it hurts differently. To have some of your property stolen is hurting deeply but if you have the means to replace it, I guess the hurt is not felt as deep as you do not have the means to replace the specific item. To have one's house broken into hurts more, due to the violation of one's privacy and what you have lost. It brings home the feeling of vulnerability in the hands of the strangers and that is where the real hurt lies in certain occasions.

For as long as this violation of someone's privacy has not occurred to you, I guess the feeling of being hurt by crime would be not as deeply felt by those who have to deal with such experiences. This scenario would be so much hurtful if it is a crime that involves a body, like a rape or an assault by the one you thought loves you. The psychological violation here would only be understood by those who have had such an experience.

As a child, I have had of such an experience of a father who was assaulting his wife in front of his kids. I know the daddy

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 96

was genuinely sorry for his actions but I would like to believe that he tried in the later years to make up to the mother for all of those hurts he caused her. But the psychological scarry aggression left to such a young boy can never be erased.

Hon Chairperson and the Minister of Police, it seems that the impact of crime to society is taken for granted. We have come to adjust and adapt to it, and it does seem that it has become part of who we are. Our walls have become higher with barbwire on top and in some cases, electric wires to keep the criminals out. We do not realise that we are putting ourselves and our loved ones in concentration camps. We had to turn our houses into little prisons, yet it seems to be the right thing to do as we are not being in the battle against the criminals.

Hon Chairperson and hon Minister, traditional methods and mindsets are not really assisting. A case would have to be made on going outside what was normal to route out crime in our country. Now Sir, crime is paying. I, for instance, have got a house in the Acacia Park Village without a tv. So, if someone comes with a brand new tv for R500, I must probably buy it without asking where he got it. Most probably stolen

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 97

from hon Ryder's mansion. The crime that person committed has now paid for him.

If one could establish the unit that visit people's houses and determine whether these houses contain goods that were all bought legitimately. It would be interesting to see how many items in MP's houses have been proper paid for. Such visits will go a long way in curbing the payment of crime. There would not be a need to steal if there will not be payment for it.

Drinking and driving is causing a lot of accidents and killing of the innocents in our roads. Maybe, it is because our people are convinced that they will not be caught and chances are, they will not be caught for real. Hon Minister, if you could succeed in changing that belief, making sure that people will fear getting caught if they drive under the influence alcohol and narcotics. Maybe then half of them would be won.

However, the process of charging someone and having the blood drawn and writing up the dockets is such a time consuming and tedious process that officers would rather not do that. Maybe, our solutions lie in how we speed up the catching process and seek to make the criminal believe that crime is not a

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 98

lucrative business anymore and it will let you behind the bars. Thank you, Chair.

Mr M BILLY: I apologize, Chairperson, my expectation was that we are following the programme in front of us. But, nonetheless, let me continue. Hon Chairperson, the hon Minister and the Deputy Minister, the hon members of this House and fellow South Africans, hon Minister, let me start by commending the work of the SA Police Service in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, where you and I come from, under the leadership of Provincial Commissioner, General Mkhwanazi, who earlier this week neutralized three suspects in a gunfight with the police in Inanda. It is alleged that the suspect had earlier this year killed a police officer and had been on the run. We must commend the role of the community police forum, CPF, which, according to the General Mkhwanazi were central in the successful location of this dangerous suspect.

Now, hon Minister, this is another indication of the important role that is ought to be played by the communities in our efforts in fighting crime. Hon Chairperson, we must never allow criminals to think that they are in charge of our country. We must work tirelessly to support the work of the Police Force, for them to be resourced enough to put in place

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 99

crime prevention strategies and be able to execute arrests and ensure successful prosecutions. It is for this reason, hon Minister, that we welcome the SAPS's commitment to the NCOP that an urgent strategy to deal with the construction mafia will be developed and a quarterly report be provided to this House.

Hon Chairperson, in our previous deliberations with the National Commissioner, in our cities, as the chairperson of security and justice cluster mentioned, we were informed and made some really good progress in terms of the commitments that came from the SA Police Service team. Through this House and using various other available channels, we will in future engage the Minister of Police and the collective police leadership on the necessity of a well-funded crime prevention strategy. This includes strengthening the SAPS's ability to acquire modern technology, such as CCTVs to prevent and deal with crime hotspots and unsafe areas. The Minister did mention that he had visited certain areas which have been identified as hotspots, and I think that is the way that we must deal, address, and fund the fight against crime. This also includes recruitment of more police and increase police visibility in our communities.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 100

Hon Chairperson, the DA is mindful of the challenges that exist in the SAPS. We are aware of the historical factors that have contributed to the systematic collapse of the SA Police Service. We cannot ignore the well documented leadership struggle in that department that had for many years engulfed our Police Force, which resulted in a weakened and compromised leadership and subsequently weakened crime fighting efforts with the lack of clear policies to fight crime.

Corruption within the SAPS has been a huge problem and Minister, we encourage you and ask you that you investigate whistleblowing and encourage people in the SAPS to come forward with information. We cannot ignore the deterioration of professionalism in the SA Police Service, and we cannot ignore the resource and budget constraints confronting the department. While we welcome the recruitment of qualified, competent black and white women in the SAPS, we are not encouraged by the EFF's argument of using black race to try and be a voice for black people because the EFF was rejected by the black electorate in the recent elections and therefore, they could never be the spokesperson of black people in this country.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 101

Without a well-funded SAPS, our country's safety and security remains exposed and compromised to wrongdoers, criminals, and organized syndicates, such as the construction mafias. The DA has consistently labelled the rise of construction mafias as criminal. Our Minister of Public Works, Dean McPherson, has made it abundantly clear that we will not negotiate with criminals, and hon Minister, will also employ you to take a similar stance and make it very clear that we will not tolerate any advancement by the construction mafias or disruption of projects, which are much needed in our society.

In conclusion, the DA is committed to supporting the SAPS in their efforts to safeguard the streets of KwaZulu-Natal ... [Time expired.] ... and our nation in ensuring that every South African live in peace and security. I thank you.

Adv M NONKONYANA: Hon Deputy Chairperson, hon Minister, Deputy Ministers, inclusive of our Minister, distinguished guests, members of the select committee and the entire leadership of the National Council of Provinces, NCOP, your majesties including king and queens of our beloved country, and your excellencies, traditional and Khoisan leaders of our beloved country, peace and law abiding citizens of our beloved country South Africa, I rise on behalf of the glorious peoples

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 102

movement the ANC to add royal support to Budget Vote No 28 as tabled by you hon Minister.

Hon Minister, thank you and thank you to your team headed by the Police Commissioner Gen Masemola, for the annual performance plans, APPs, necessary to combat crime in our beloved country. We are mindful of the tight budget allocated to the department due to the financial constraints being experienced by the ANC-led government of national unity.

I think I must thank the hon Deputy Minister Mathale for whipping the hon member from the EFF to line. You have saved me. I am very glad that he was also honest enough to agree that indeed the EFF supports this budget. Then, I am also disappointed.

Mr V GERICKE: Deputy Chairperson, on a point of order.

Adv M NONKONYANA: Somewhat ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon member, please take your seat.

What is your point of order?

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 103

Mr V GERICKE: Yes, again I ask the Chair to protect our position because we have rejected the budget.

Mr M G MODISE: What rule?

Mr V GERICKE: You are not the Deputy Chairperson, please hold.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon member, I think now you are debating.

Mr V GERICKE: We have stated that the systems is outdated and ineffective. That is what we said. Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you. Continue hon Nonkonyana.

Adv M NONKONYANA: The only member that I needed to deal with shortly, is the hon Zulu. With your leaf I want to address him in *zulungish* so that he can understand me. For when he addressed us in a speech that was clearly prepared for him. He used a word that I do not even understand as I stand here. Maybe he wanted to say polarisation and he said pololisation of the Police service. [Laughter.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 104

IsiXhosa:

Mntanenkosi, ndiyayazi ukuba iqela elikuzise apha ngumntwana esingamaziyo ukuba umnina ngubani, esingamaziyo noyise ukuba ngubani. Sibona nje ngomntwana osililelayo. Siyakuva xa usithi ufuna i-ANC ikufundise, kodwa ukuba ufuna ukufundiseka kakuhle buyela ekhaya. Siyabona ukuba awukagqibi neenyangana nje ezintandathu, awukathungululi nokuthungulula. Uze uncede ke ubaxelele ukuba bangaphinde bathume umntwana wenkosi esimhloniphayo, wena wakwaNdlunkulu. Kufuneka bathumele nje amaphakathi kuba...

IsiZulu:

... iinkosi ngumlomo ongaqambi manga.

English:

I now return to the Budget Vote, Deputy Chairperson. This debate that is taking place, takes place that is preceded by some negative developments especially around crime. Some of my colleagues have already stated this.

Last week on 12 July 2024, Princes Nomalizo Manciya was killed in her own bedroom in Zalo Heights in Lusikisiki. As if that was not enough, it was in Mpumalanga when Prince Matufo Dlamini, the Deputy Chairperson of the Congress of Traditional

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 105

Leaders of SA in the mighty province was gunned down in broad day light in his traditional community.

We all know hon Minister, that many traditional leaders in KwaZulu-Natal have been killed. Many leaders in municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal and other areas have been killed and the caring ANC-led government had to establish a commission to deal with that under Justice Moerane.

It is public knowledge and wellnigh irrefutable knowledge that Gender-based Violence and Femicide is prevalent all over South Africa. As women are mercilessly killed by those men who have vowed to protect them in health and in sickness, till death do them apart.

Similarly, young men are following suit. They say we love you to their girlfriends, but they are killing them mercilessly. Indeed, hell is running loose in our country.

Taxi violence that bedevilled the only industry controlled by Africans - by killing of taxi owners, taxi drivers, innocent commuters is going on in our country. Notwithstanding the ... [Inaudible.] ... we and our ANC-led government have taken to stop the ... [Inaudible.] ... war threatening taxi industry.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 106

We all know here in the Western Cape; the war is going on and among the gangsters and the learners are caught in the crossfire. Innocent civilians have taken the form of self-defence units in Pargat. Gangsters are not deterred in their settled determination to cause violence in utter contempt of the laws of the Republic.

Again, we all know that our government in Gauteng had to yield to the call of the people by actually launching Operations Wanya Tsotsi, but ...

IsiXhosa:

... abatsotsi abeva mhlabelo.

English:

I may go on and on hon Deputy Chairperson, to cite the activities that deny the fruits of liberty that we have enjoyed as a direct result of the supreme sacrifices of the heroes and heroines of our struggle that was led by the mighty ANC. From the time of the President General John Langalibalele Dube and now under the ANC collective leadership under our own President Ramaphosa.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 107

The ANC is pleased to note that you hon Minister and your department continue to fight and take this fight further, from the baton you received from the hon Bheki Cele who has been in the forefront in fighting criminals with women and men in blue of whom they have lost their lives defending freedom delivered by the ANC.

We regard of the killing of police as high treason and such killers are condemned in strongest possible terms and frankly, they do not deserve to be amongst us.

We are mindful of the critics some of whom are unfortunately amongst us in this House. Hon Minister, be assured of our support at all times which support is fortified by the overwhelming peace-loving South Africans.

Paying to his friend, the well renown jazz musician Sipho Hotstix Mabuse had this to say last week, in delivering homage to Stanely Screamer Tshabalala and I quote:

We are a broken people, we are a broken nation, we kill, we destroy those that we love those who give us so much pleasure perhaps should start looking at ourselves as the people. What is it that makes us believe that the only way

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 108

that we can resolve our differences is killing each other?

It has to come to an end.

Hon Minister, in the past weekend, we witnessed you and your team engaging with communities and stakeholders in Hanover Park in the Western Cape and Gqeberha as the hon MEC from my province correctly stated the good work that you have done.

We also noted your emphasis in your engagement with your community that South Africa is one unitary state and therefore the three spheres of government should work together to address crime challenges that faces our country. under the leadership of the ANC we believe that the government of national unity will succeed in fighting crime.

We are encouraged that you hon Minister, you undertook to look into the matter of functionality of police stations especially in the fight against crime. We also welcome your directive to the National Police Commissioner to develop an action plan to address the challenges of crime in Hanover Park, Gqeberha and all other areas. We also note the National Commissioner's undertaking of deploying additional police to those crime spots.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 109

However, Deputy Chairperson, we are participating in this Budget Vote of the department and its entities mindful of the concerning levels of crime in our country.

We affirm the position of the ANC that we should build safer communities and social cohesion to ensure that our people live safely without any fear of crime.

We note that the Department of Police is being allocated over R109 billion, of which 81,4% is allocated for the compensation of police given the police as a labour-intensive department.

We also note that the Department of Police will receive an additional allocation of R22 billion in the medium-term to carry costs of the 2022 to 2023-24 Public Sector Wage Agreement. We are encouraged that the Department of Police will continue to build capacity within the SA Police Service. True additional recruitment of police personnel over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF, period.

Our people are concerned about high murder rates in our country and that takes away their loved ones.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 110

The scourge of Gender-based Violence and Femicide that affect women of this country is a cause for concern. We cannot be a country where women will perpetually live in fear from men of our country. As men we need to stand against gender-based violence.

IsiXhosa:

Mphathiswa, abantu abathi badiniwe zizikrelemnqa, izigwinta nezidlwengu. Kufuneka sibhinqeni sonke, sibhinqeni ezimfutshane silwe nezaphuli-mthetho ukuze bonke abantu beli lizwe bavune iziqhamo zenkululeko esiyixhamlayo ngomzabalazo wookhokho bethu ababekhokelwa yi-ANC. Simemelela bonke abantu ukuba baxhase umbutho wesizwe i-ANC ekukhuseleni iziqhamo zenkululeko ngokubambisana neSebe leeNkonzo zamaPolisa leli lizwe. AmaMpondo ayibeka ngokucacileyo xa esithi kuyafuneka ukuba amaPhara namaVondo bawalungise ngaphandle kwebhokhwe.

English:

The department need to accelerate the traditional police in South Africa which was launched in Nqadu Great Place in the Eastern Cape in 2018 to enable the institution of traditional and Khoisan leadership to work hand-in-gloves with the SA Police Service. It is necessary for the police to work with traditional leaders as well as municipal police service to

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 111

occupy every space in South Africa so that criminals have no place to hide.

There cannot be a thriving economic activity in an environment of criminality. We have seen thugs going around demanding protection fees from our people. They demand money from the businesspeople in our communities as a form of protection against criminals. The ANC support this Budget Vote. Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE: Thank you very much, hon Chairperson, once more, and hon members of the House, firstly, I sometimes get worried when we become unpatriotic while the rules and culture of Parliament allow different views. However, when some Members of Parliament or even NCOP say, we reject this budget - just like that - instead of saying there is a problem there and how do we improve. How to improve, but you just reject the budget. That is unpatriotic in a way.

However, let me go to incidents, and the incidents that hon member there that talked about. Do not worry about that, we are quite concerned about that. We have discussed the matter for follow up with the police. They do not deserve what

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 112

happened after we left some of those people, but they're on it.

There is another one, we will be in a position to make an announcement in due course on the matter about those developments. But otherwise, the importance of the community in fighting crime is extremely important and we regard this as irreplaceable and of course, as they say, we are tired, and we are fed up. They say that in their feet. They do not say that sitting down and which is a plus on our side in terms of fighting crime. We would be finalising some of the plans to work with them at the highest level.

We agree that it is very important that technology should be improved, and it is an important work. The need for professionalisation is important as well. It also is a tool to protect the very police, because if you do your work in a professional way, you avoid some of the pitfalls that otherwise you would fall into if one were lesser professional in approach. So, we take the point.

Yes, interventions that are all over we keep them. The only change we want to do is to improve on those interventions. Of course, on police station functionality, we emphasise that,

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 113

and I am glad that members support that a police station must be a base to fight crime and it must be well equipped. On the other hand, it must be a base to which communities are free to come and report and interact with the police. Therefore, it needs to be put in a functional position, acceptable standards and norms that a police station must be in.

The mafias and the gangs are there, and they are armed. They kill at the slightest provocation. We do appreciate your ... [Inaudible.] of this and we want to act accordingly.

Regarding the promotion policy, we will look at it. I heard that other members are concerned about this. However, I spoke to Deputy Minister Mathale, who has been around for some time, and he said he is not aware of any other policy, other than the promotion on merits and so on. So, we will check that because we do not want to antagonize. Of course, we need to look at demographics with we regard and all of that.

Otherwise, we really appreciate the participation and engagements and some of the views and advises expressed that we got from the NCOP. We thank you very much, hon Chairperson and hon members.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 114

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you very much, hon Minister, once again, we congratulate you on your appointment and your Deputy Ministers. We want to thank you for your participation in the debate. Thank you for being in the House. I want to thank all the other members that participated in this debate. Thank you very much.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Policy debate on Budget Vote No 34: Mineral Resources and Energy:

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES: Hon Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane, Deputy Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Ms Judith Nemadzinga-Tshabalala, hon members, for the last two weeks, we have been going around talking about this budget. We have described it as a transitional budget, in the sense that it is a budget that is in one Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, DMRE, when the department has been reconfigured into two. Therefore, the budget is transitional.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 115

The fact of the matter is that, over the past five years, the petroleum sector has been a second fiddle to other sources of energy, in particular the excitement about renewable resources is that it is a solution to everything - to every energy problem. The reality of the matter is that petroleum is critical for us to have sustainable energy supply in the country, in addition to other sources of energy.

We are, therefore, convinced that the formation of the Ministry of Mineral and Petroleum Resources will end the neglect of the petroleum sector. We pay attention to that. Somebody told me that petroleum is not a primary sector. I had to take that person through basic lessons that it is primary, it is secondary, and it is tertiary. It is primary when you drill and exploit; it is secondary when you process; and it is tertiary when you trade. So, it has a value chain, and that value chain must be exploited to the fullest.

Hon Chairperson, despite headwinds that beset our country's economic growth which include, but not limited to, geopolitical factors, port and rail inefficiencies, interrupted electricity supply, and further compounded by depressed commodity prices, the mining sector contributed

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 116

R444,2 billion to the country's gross domestic product, GDP, amounting to 6% of the total GDP in 2023.

We have accepted that 6% is a decline from the previous assessment in the last financial year. We are trying to locate what has happened for it to decline. I will come back to that point on what we are doing to address that issue. The mining sector employs 489 000 mineworkers, but we have seen a growing number of retrenchments in the sector. These workers are going to impact the lives of many families. We are very concerned about that; we are even engaging that industry on that.

To address the logistics crisis, the National Logistics Crisis Committee, NLCC is working with the National Energy Crisis Committee, Necom, that is why we have seen quite a good number of days without load shedding. Others think that it is a fluke. They thought that it was an elections snare strategy, forgetting that we had a plan from July 2022, working on it. We focused on one area: Improving electricity and energy availability factor power station by power station, rather than talking hit and miss. Once that was done, we have seen the improvements.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 117

Hon members, our department has been allocated R8,84 billion in the 2024-25 financial year as a budget. This is R1,4 billion decrease from the previous financial year. I am sure we are not an exception to that, but the lower location from where we are seated, does confirm the desire to invest in productive sectors rather than increasing spending in social spending without investing in productive sectors. Thus, it is productive sectors that will generate revenue to sustain social spending.

So, our view is that this budget will have to be debated with the Treasury because it is not investing in the productive sector that gives money to the state. Mining is only recognised as giving money to the state when the fiscus is in trouble. Like during the time of Covid=19, it was mining that led to the recovery and the reconstruction of the economy, because we took difficult decisions in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We open coal mines at Level 5, and open [Inaudible.] at Level 4; and every mine at Level 3 of the Covid-19 period. That was quite a risky decision to take, but we took it collectively as a sector, not the department. It was the department, with the

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 118

mining industry, and with labour in the sector. That is the strength of that department.

Of these amounts. R6,4 billion will be allocated to public entities. We have a number of entities that we are managing. If you look at them, you will see that all of them have been improving over time. I remember that I came to this august House, hon Chairperson, and explained that when I walk into that department, the worst thing that happened is that there was no governance structure. We emphasised that improving governance is reducing both operational and financial risks.

We put a lot of time and invested in improving governance. It is up to standard now. It is running and it is good. You can see that in the results that out of our entities: Five have clean audits; three have unqualified audits; one has qualified audits; and one has a disclaimer. We are paying attention to it.

That takes me to the issue of the integrated resource plan, where we procured 6 094 megawatts from diversified energy mix, to meet the country's growing electricity demand, while reducing carbon emissions of this capacity. Let me confess that a combination of reducing carbon emissions and ensuring

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 119

that there is baseload to sustain electricity is the solution in the long term.

I know that when we discuss, we tend to go the extremes. We either say do away with coal and go to renewable sources. Others say leave renewable sources and go to coal. The reality is that it is a combination of the baseload and low carbon emissions that will be a solution for the country. Any one technology is not going to solve all problems. In the statement, which I hope will be circulated, you will get a breakdown of what we have done to reduce this dependence.

For example: The 150 megawatts under RMIPPPP is connected to the national grid; 2 583 MW procured under Bid Window 5 of the REIPPPP; 4 200 MW that were released to the market under BW 6 of the REIPPPP; and we have Bid Window 1 of Battery Storage with a total capacity of 513 MW. In addition to this capacity, a further 8 231 MW of new generation is currently being procured with requests for proposals having been issued in the following areas: 5000 MW of the REIPPPP under Bid Windows 7; 2000 MW of Gas-to-Power under Bid Window 1; and 1 231 MW of battery energy storage under Bid Window 2 and 3

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 120

Our 2 500 megawatts nuclear new build program is underway. We know that we are taken to court to review this and that, but the reality of the matter is that we need that capacity of nuclear because we are procuring nuclear at a pace and rate that the country can afford. So, we are doing it.

The National Development Plan, NDP envisions a South Africa with an adequate supply of liquid fuels by 2030. To realise this vision, the Central Energy Fund, CEF, concluded a transaction on the sale of assets of SA Petroleum Refinery, Sapref, that was destroyed by disasters in KwaZulu-Natal and left by BP and Shell. We have procured it for R1. When you buy an asset for R1, don't be excited, it is not R1. It is R1 but you are also taking over buildings that go without assets.

So, we are procuring that asset. We have procured. A sales deal has been concluded, and we are going to invest in that new refining capacity. That is going with renewing and refining capacity at Petro SA, where three plants are not operational. We are actually refining them. I know the question would be: Why do you partner with the Russians. We are international.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 121

We partner with anybody; we do trade with anybody. We don't have a no-go area because we are ourselves. What we should be doing is to look into the role of foreign funded NGOs that block development. Our suggestion is that, unless we have these NGOs registered and declare their social funding, like political parties. Political parties do that; but these ones don't.

As a result of that, you will get American money coming here and British money coming here from sources that we know are used to block development. We must attend to that issue because if we are not, we are going to be an encircled sovereign. We are not going to be able to take our own decision independently of everybody else. We will be encircled.

The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act is being reviewed. We have put a lot of Acts that are revised through Parliament. The Mine Health and Safety Act is ready for submission. The Upstream Petroleum Resource Development Bill has been adopted by both Houses. The Petroleum Products Amendment Bill is ready for submission. Southern Natural Petroleum Company Bill is ready for submission. Electricity Regulator Amendment Bill and National Nuclear Regulator

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 122

Amendment Bill have been passed by Parliament and are being considered for signature by President. All these ads are for facilitating development.

The amendment of schedule 2 of the Electricity Regulations Act was the deregulation of embedded generation. It is where we said it was 1 megawatt, and we increased 200 megawatts. Then there was an outcry to increase in 1 000 megawatts. We said no, not 1000, remove the top. Then we received the ceiling, and it is open. As a result of that, National Energy Regulator of SA, Nersa, has approved 1 406 generation facilities, with their combined capacity of 6 977 megawatts.

On the Gas Amendment Bill, we have just concluded stakeholder consultation. We will be taking it back to Nedlac. Having said that, hon members, it is important to improve mining and deal with the question of all lazy analysts just plunging into mining. They say, "There is nothing." "It's a disaster" and so on. Only save the fiscus when it is seen as not a disaster.

We have commissioned a study on the state of mining. That study is going to look into mining, mineral- by-mineral, because South Africans have believed that mining is gold mining. In fact, mining is more than gold mining. Gold mining

is in decline; but mining is not in decline. Gold mining is in decline because we have been mining it for more than 140 years. It is deep, it is dangerous, and it is dirty, but other the minerals are being discovered every day in South Africa. That study is going to get into those details.

Linked to that, is another study on critical minerals - those are minerals of the future. Those minerals of the future are quite important for us because that is where the future is. Everybody who talks about green economy must appreciate that green economy heavily dependent on mining. Anything, in any economy, if it is not mined, it is planted. So, mining and agriculture are very important for the economy, into the future.

Now, let's look into a scenario. If we put a seed capital of R400 million for exploration - as an exploration fund - and we are talking to everybody, including the Treasury to say this fund must be increased because if we get more imaging and SMMEs getting into exploration, the future of mining is long term. Every mining does not see a shout. It starts with exploration, it goes to mining, it goes to metallurgy and then it goes to value addition. No mine goes outside of that value chain, and that money is quite important there.

In addition to that, we have set up a R72 million fund forward artisanal and small-scale miners. What are small-scale and artisanal miners? It is miners who use chisel and hammer. The importance of them is that they are following the big companies that mine and leave marginal deposits behind because they don't speak to their funding structure. The small-scale miners will deal with those marginal deposits and create economic value out of them.

The creation of economic value of economic value is going to be a positive contributor reducing space for illegal mining. Illegal mining is a function of marginal deposit left behind, unwittingly, because you can't mine them. Its cost is not relevant for them. Now, these artisanal miners are going to be able to deal with that job.

On illegal mining, we are working on the General Law Amendment Bill there with relevant departments because illegal mining is not a mining activity. It is a criminal activity. So, we think that law amendment is meant to actually criminalise it, so that courts can be able to give appropriate judgement for illegal mining.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 125

The social labour plan is impactful projects and communities. You can go to any province; we have stopped this thing of mines building a small community hall there and a small field there. We said, put your resources together, build schools, build clinics, systems for water, venture into agricultural production because those projects impact on the lives of many people. You are not distributing money and giving it to anybody who want to get money quickly; instead, you are putting it in impactful products.

You can go to a labour-sending area, like Idutywa, you will find a university by [Inaudible.]. If you go to Rustenburg, anybody who comes from Rustenburg will tell you that there we have delivered a number of schools built by the mining companies. You can go to Mpumalanga; you will find schools and clinics. You can go to all the provinces; we are doing that. In doing so, mining companies are not doing us a favor; they are paying a social license to communities that are affected by the mining activity. We are emphasising that social labour plans are quite important. We have actually had 534 projects totaling to R2,5 billion on social labour plans.

House Chairperson, at the beginning of the sixth administration, we had state entities without CEO or boards.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 126

All our state entities, today, have CEOs and they have boards. We will renew the few boards that are expiring. When we renew boards, we don't ask for friends, we advertise. They say to people, here is an advert for board X and board Y. People apply and you get a long list.

There is a selection that is done by a panel. When I request for it, they say here is a shortlist, and I say, give me the long list as well. That is quality assurance of that selection, so that it goes to that panel, and I also have a look at it. That is what we are busy with.

Talking about the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation, Necsa, we took it from a disclaimer. It was in a qualified audit. We are hoping that this year, when audit results are out, it will be an unqualified audit or clean audit because we have been acting on the Auditor-General's comments and trying to correct them - all of them.

So, hon Chairperson, I am presenting to the House Budget Vote 34 for further deliberation and adoption. It has been adopted in the National, both in the plenary and in the committee. We are presenting it, today, to the select committee, for further deliberation and adoption. Thank you very much.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 127

Mr M G MODISE: Hon Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, Minister Gwede Samson Mantashe, Deputy Minister Judith Tshabalala, Chief Whip of the NCOP, hon members of the NCOP, people of South Africa, sing this is my maiden speech, please allow me to first and foremost send my salutations to the men and women, sons and daughters on whose blood I stand here today.

These men and women, sons and daughters are the brave ones who confronted the regime of terror in Pretoria when it was still not fashionable to do so. Among these brave South Africans, let me specifically mention Advocate Philemon Dumasile Nokwe, who was born in Evaton in the Vaal and died at the age of 50 in Lusaka, Zambia, as he could no longer live in this country because he was declared an enemy of the state. Duma Nokwe, as he was known, is a former secretary-general of the ANC. Having graduated with a BSc degree in Diploma in Education, he taught in Krugersdorp and became a target of the apartheid government due to his teaching methods. Arrested and banned from teaching, he lost his appetite to continue teaching and decided to study and graduate with a law degree and became the first African advocate in South Africa. His name is synonymous with defiance and resilience and in his honour and under the leadership of Thulani Kunene, Mluleki Nkosi, Jason Mkhwane,

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 128

Moipone Modikeng, and Mkhonto Radebe and their collective, the ANC Sedibeng Regional Office is named Duma Nokwe after this towering figure of our struggle, and that's why I dedicate this Budget Vote speech to him today. When addressing the Investing in African Mining Indaba here in Cape Town on 5 February 2024, President Ramaphosa said:

Ladies and gentlemen, it is fitting that the 30th Mining Indaba is taking place in the year that South Africa celebrates 30 years of its democracy. Over the last three decades, South Africa's mining industry has undergone significant transformation. For nearly 150 years, mining has been a pillar of the South African economy. It currently contributes roughly 7,5% towards the GDP and accounts for some 60% of South African exports by value. Working with industry and labour, the democratic government has enabled the effect of wide-ranging and sustainable transformation of the sector over the past decades. In 2004, the year the Mining Charter was first introduced, black ownership in the mining industry stood at some 2%. Today, it's standard at approximately 39%. During apartheid, the mining sector was notorious for labour exploitation, human rights violations and poor health and safety standards. Today, mines employ approximately 467 000 people.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 129

We support this budget so that the numbers employed in the mining sector should double, especially seeing the number of unemployed people in the country. Mineral deposits in this country are not only limited to metals and nonmetals. When we speak of metals, we speak of them in the form of gold, silver, copper, iron amongst many others, and nonmetal minerals will be gravel, sand, and dimension stones.

Minerals are a valuable natural resource essential for basic industry and development. They are used in the production of cars, computers, steel and electricity. And, therefore, the management of these natural mineral resources should be integrated and be guided by the National Development Plan, including the overall development of long-term strategies. Mr Mantashe, I beg you, do not expect any quality debate here today. Minister Mantashe, I beg you, do not expect any quality debate here today in this budget because I don't blame them. Mineral resources are a very complex subject and need some time to understand. On Monday, the Chairperson of the NCOP in her speech reminded all of us that no political party managed to win the national elections outrightly and, therefore were in the Government of National Unity. It is, therefore, important, unfortunately, hon member Ryder is not here, that he reminds DA members of this fact and that failures and

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 130

successes of the Sixth Administration are now, by law, theirs. There is no more DA government, but the Government of National Unity. In the state of the nation address on 6 April 2004, President Mbeki said, Deputy Minister Tshabalala:

We must be impatient with those in the public service who see themselves as penpushers and guardians of rubber stamps, thieves intended on self-enrichment, bureaucrats who think they have a right to ignore the vision of Batho Pele principles, who come to work as late as possible, work as little as possible, and knock off as early as possible.

The budget that we are debating today will go a long way in redressing the injustices of the past. It will make it possible for a child of a miner to be a mine manager, as envisaged by Tata Mandela. Hon Mantashe, you are going to hear a lot of, we reject the budget from the EFF of Malema and the MKP of Zuma. Don't be worried. That's the only thing that they can say. That's the only mandate they carry. What is even worse is that these members sit in the select committees and during the debate in the committees where they should be agile and vocal, the opposite is true.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 131

They can't speak in committees because there's no mandate from Winnie Madikizela-Mandela House in Johannesburg, whilst others are waiting for uBaba [Their father] to finish playing chess to tell them what to say. This can only happen when you have auctioned your thinking capacity. Hence in committee meetings, they can't speak or debate as they have to check first with the owners of their political parties.

If servicing society was dependent on what takes place here, it means that those who vote for EFF of Malema or MKP of Zuma should not be serviced as their representatives here continue to reject everything that is presented. All the budgets that have been presented here since the start of the debate, the EFF of Malema and MKP of Zuma have rejected them, but they've got these grand ideas about what needs to happen in the department, yet they reject the budget. How are you supposed to do these things with no money? I don't know, but it can only tell you one thing, that people have auctioned their ability to think. The argument that we are going to be raised by the opposition will be pedestrian and you'll hear them, Minister, and offers nothing new except the energy and vigour that are delivered with, as you saw earlier with a member who came here, said he's sick, but the moment he took the podium, he continued to say he was in the church.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 132

What is worse, Chairperson of the House, is that after they speak, they leave the House, whilst others are sitting listening to them, they don't sit and listen to others.

Yesterday, hon Sibande said, "Unlike the stomach, the brain does not alert you when it's empty." So, it's going to be very difficult to pick up what the reasons are,, Deputy Minister, for the rejection of this budget, except, of course, that unlike the stomach, the brain, when it's empty, cannot alert you.

In closing, ... [Interjections.] ... I don't know what he's saying, but you can hear he's angry. ... Madam Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, let me quote Wolfgang Petersen when he said, Minister Mantashe, when he said:

Men are haunted by the vastness of eternity, so we ask ourselves, will strangers hear our names long after we're gone, and wonder who we were, how fiercely we loved, and how bravely we fought?

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Mr S P MABILO: Dumela [Good afternoon] hon Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, hon Deputy Chairperson, hon

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 133

Minister Gwede Mantashe, hon Deputy Minister Judith Nemadzinga-Tshabalala, bagaetsho dumelang [good afternoon compatriots], fellow South Africans.

When delivering his address during the campaign to end poverty in the development world at the Trafalgar Square in London in 2005, a few days after he formally announced his retirement from public life, President Nelson Mandela said "As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can ...

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Mabilo, can you take your seat.

Hon Mantashe was afforded an opportunity during the House to fix his buttons. If I can afford you an opportunity to fix your ... [Inaudible.] [Laughter.] ... Thank you very much.

Mr S P MABILO: ... our icon, President Nelson Mandela said "As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest."

He further reiterated that:

Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.

The National Development Plan, NDP, pays detailed attention to the several challenges facing our country around liquid fuels and posits that the country should source, sufficient feedstock to support an ideally increased production in the liquid fuel sector.

We must hasten to welcome the fact that the amendment of the Gas Bill, which was withdrawn from Parliament in 2021 to cater for public inputs, will be presented to the Cabinet for resubmission to Parliament in the current financial year.

The amendment to the Gas Bill is seen as a sure way to unlock investment into the gas sector and facilitate a development of gas infrastructure.

Investment into the gas sector will thus allow further exploration of existing gas deposits beyond the Brulpadda, Luiperd development in Block 11 and 12B, which is expected to produce three gas wells by the end of 2025.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 135

An additional gas well discovered at what we call Tretor 4 Virginia in the Free State province.

In this way, the amendment to the Gas Bill makes it possible to champion the use of gas as a transitional fuel, thereby improving our country's capacity to produce fuel from gas as envisioned at the National Development Plan.

Gas deposits are inherently insufficient to support and increase the domestic production of liquid fuels, and therefore, the country cannot solely depend on them. That is why the department identifies the exploration and production of oil as clearly significant with respect to ensuring efficient distribution of liquid fuels in this way.

The commitment to finalise the Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Bill in the current financial year is consistent with the National Development Plan in its objectives.

South Africa's heavy dependence on imported oil and liquid fuels partly because dependencies had a huge negative impact on the country's balance of payment. And partly because the premature closure of oil refineries has presented a new set of

challenges for efficient distribution of liquid gas fuels in the country.

As the ANC we believe that amendment to the Gas and Petroleum Resource Development Bills are necessary, but not sufficient, in order to address the prevailing pressures around liquid fuels and guaranteeing the supply of refined fuel products that are needed to run our economy.

This is because exploration and production of gas and oil do not automatically lead to domestic processing of gas and oil deposits, which may be achieved, one, in full; two, in part; or three, not at all.

For gas and oil deposits to reach their full potential, adequate domestic refinery capacity is required and the NDP identifies the Central Energy Fund, CEF, as best place to lead investment in domestic refinery capacity, given, one, its existing capital; two, management experience.

Two factors need to be taken into account here as qualifiers in responding to the NDP's policy proposal in terms of the CEF that should lead to investment in domestic refinery capacity.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 137

Firstly, is that the Strategic Fuel Fund, SFF, under the CEF has acquired 60% stake in Avedia Energy, which include the Liquefied Petroleum Gas, LPGs terminal in Saldanha, here in the Western Cape.

It is through the acquisition of this strategic asset that the SFF will promote competitiveness in the downstream LPG and storing it to guarantee the country's energy security as well as mitigating risk associated with LPG shortages as a result of local refining capacity declining.

Related to this, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, DMRE, is in the process of finalising the natural gas masterplan in the current financial year, which entails increased usage of natural gas to power generation as a long-term off-grid solution, especially in rural areas, that are costly to be connected to the grid.

This will enable the SFF through its acquisition of Avedia Energy to domestically produce LPG and reduce dependence on imported liquid fuels.

Secondly, to make is that Petroleum Oil and Gas Corporation of SA, PetroSA, under CEF is planning on reinstating to full

production its Mossel Bay production assets which include the gas to liquid refinery in a near ... [Inaudible.]

At least, cost following suspension of production in the previous year, 2020, owing to fee stock challenges.

More crucially, the discovery of gas deposits in our country presents PetroSA with the most commercial and sustainable fee stock to solution for its gas-to-liquid, GTL, refinery programme.

With the proposed merger of PetroSA, SFF and SA Gas Development Company, iGas, leading to the establishment of SA National Petroleum Company, SANPC, and expected to be finalized in the current financial year.

The Central Energy Fund can articulate state interest in both gas and oil sectors with comparative prowess, ringing together its scarce human resource, managerial skills and market savvy, to develop gas and oil resources to advance the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, ERRP's, and the NDP's policy objective.

The NDP and the ERRP acknowledge that South Africa's energy demand has been growing faster than available supply, and that necessitates a further diversification and strengthening of the energy pool and capacity through innovation and efficiency.

Policy interventions to militate against energy insecurity, as outlined in the National Development Plan and the ERRP, include other things being equal, like adopting a lower carbon intensive power generation mix which implies using one coal, two nuclear and three renewable energy technologies in the context of the energy mix, which will enable additional generation capacity through section 34, Ministerial determination, issuing a request for qualification of the determination gazetted to enable the DMRE to commence procurement process and to issue the request for proposal to the market in the current financial year.

However, for the department to issue the Request for Proposal, RFP, to the market in the current financial year. The government, led by the ANC, must align with the governance framework, including funding mechanisms required for the bankability of this massive investment.

It is, therefore, important for the ongoing engagement between the National Treasury, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy and Eskom to conclude, as a matter of urgency, to ensure alignment on the approach and the packaging of the business case for approval.

As I conclude, the Integrated Resource Plan, IRIP, 2023, the gas-to-power, G2P, programme and the nuclear programme play a key role in accelerating the DMRE commitment to the NDP's goal.

Finally, perhaps as the progresses we need to ensure that we support this budget.

As the ANC-led government we are committed to the social transformation, and we support this budget. Thank you, hon Chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Pienaar, you must also fix something behind you.

Mr N H PIENAAR: Madam Chairperson, hon Minister, hon Deputy Minister, hon members and most importantly, fellow South Africans, South Africa's energy crisis has been a dark cloud

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 141

hanging over all of our heads for the last decade and has been at the forefront of many households. It has been debated to death in both Houses of Parliament including in the media.

We as the government of unity, we need to accept that the strategies of the past have not always been successful, and that a new era with the collective leadership of the government of national unity, GNU, needs to provide a change in direction to ensure the energy sector is put on the right track.

Hon Minister, an environment must be created to foster innovation and efficiency.

In the President's speech on the 18th of July, he spoke of investment and job creation.

We have to look to the private sector to further assist and finally rid us of what should never have occurred in the first place. The expansion and integration of Independent Power Producer's and public-private partnerships, PPP's no doubt falls in line with the mantra of being builders and not breakers, moreover, our economy will benefit from this.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 142

Minister, as a country we have the capability to generate sufficient and affordable energy for the foreseeable future. However, the infrastructure is needed to carry the generated energy, and this is where we needed to see a crisis-driven budget. An average growth rate of 4,3% for 2023-24 budget in the subprogramme that focuses on the development and improvement of the electricity generation, transmission and distribution of the energy, does not seem like we are addressing the root causes of the problem.

Minister, as the DA we believe strongly in free market economics as it is the only model that has shown to create wealth and employment over a large spread of the population, and this can be shown in how we run the Western Cape that has created the majority of the employment opportunities in South Africa in the last financial year. So instead of bemoaning these realities, rather ask us how we did it. I am very sure Premier Allen Winde will be happy to assist.

Moving forward hon Minister, renewables must be prioritised, especially in the short-term. Taking into consideration the turnaround times in the construction of solar plants and the readily available materials.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 143

As government, we can provide assistance to further aid the industry by cutting red tape in the market by shortening the application process and getting rid of racial quotas that are hindering the application process and delaying IPP's from getting on the grid.

We can further aid the sector by providing tax breaks to the industry, especially with regards to the manufacturing sector of these products to ramp up production as there is a rise in demand. Hon Minister, we have all the raw materials needed to produce high quality solar panels right here in South Africa namely silver, silica, copper and aluminium and silver.

Currently, we can't compete with global markets as the majority of our solar panels are currently being imported from China and we cannot compete with their labour practices that often undermine human rights.

Lastly hon Minister, we get to the great debate of nuclear energy. In principle we agree that nuclear energy must form part of our long-term energy plan. However, the fiscus cannot afford it at this stage, as we have no working middleclass to speak of. Let us get our people working and let's allows Small

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 144

Medium and Micro Enterprise's, SMMEs, to develop and contribute to the tax base.

Nuclear energy is also an area of skills we must improve on and invest in as a collective. We as South Africa have world class nuclear physicist and engineers that we are currently losing to other developed nations.

However, in order for us to embark on our nuclear energy programme, we must be ready for it.

In closing, Minister, over the next five years I hope we build a productive relationship where we complement each other's skills and show the people of South Africa that we are using logic and facts for the basis of our decision-making.

I however want to commit myself that I will show up every day and ensure that I am well prepared to contribute. I am expecting the same from you. That is exactly why we have been elected. I Thank you.

Ms M KENNEDY: Hon Chair ...

Sepedi:

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 145

... e re ke tamiše gape le Ntlo ye ya agostose ...

English:

... Through you, hon Chair, to hon Modise, this is the House that made the law of freedom of speech. So, hon Modise, if you are used to thinking in a box, we are not the type. If you control your colleagues or children's minds, we are not in that category. We talk our minds and state the facts. Hon Modise, if you are not prepared to talk in this House, you should have said something or ...

Sepedi:

... o letše molodi.

English:

Hon Chairperson, the EFF rejects the Mineral Resources and Energy budget. We reject the budget of the department which fails to uphold and fulfil its objectives and provide the necessary services to the citizens of South Africa in both the mining and energy sector. Provinces like Limpopo - where I come from - are rich in natural minerals such as platinum, iron ore, chromium, coal, copper, you name them. The region is the largest mineral exporter. Not forgetting that mining is a sector with the potential to contribute to the development of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 146

the communities attached to its vicinity to the ...

[Inaudible.] ... Let us take the example of Burgersfort, in Limpopo, it is one of the areas which is very rich in minerals, but as we say right now, the area is dominated by illegal mining. Most of these illegal mining happens in open cast mines. We therefore reject this budget of the department, which is failing to deal adequately with the challenges and economic loss posed by the so-called zama zamas, who continue to smuggle our mineral resources. These illegal mines of South Africa continue to serve as hazardous risk to the workers and surrounding communities because they are open. When it rains, water pollution is rife as water will be trapped in those holes and leak into the flowing rivers, contaminating water to be used by communities and threatening their healthy life. Not forgetting the soil, because healthy soil is vital for plants growth, human nutrition, animal consumption, and landscape support. With the Jagersfontein Dam disaster serving as the most recent reminder of the potential negative impact of unprotected mines in our communities.

Okay, let us zoom into part of the cause of illegal mining. Mind you, land will be taken from the people to make way for mining. The people around there have applied for mining rights, but they were denied the mining permits in their own

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 147

native country. Suddenly, they see white-owned companies from outside countries like Australia, China, and elsewhere coming into their land - their motherland - with mining permits, which were they were denied. You must bear in mind that these people lost their homes, farms, and agricultural land where there were fields, which could help them get something on their tables. They have domestic animals. What happens to them? They also will not survive. What are the consequences of this? This comes to zero income for all those households. This comes to zero income for the communities around the mines, with many households being unable to put bread on the table. You can imagine what happens to poor animals? They will die. We reject this budget, which does not take into cognisance the plight of mining communities such as these marginalized and ignored ones. Does the budget make room for that? No. The answer is a big no. Part of the budget must exist to help the needs and wants of the poor, disadvantaged, and marginalized communities. Remember, it is not of their own choice. We swim in the pool of poverty. They were coerced into poverty when they were giving those false promises to compensate them to leave their residential areas and to leave their land for money. Now they are poor, they do not benefit. If you investigate this, they also resort to illegal mining for their families to survive.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 148

Hon Chair, there have been many marches and many protests, which have taken place in Burgersfort, for example, to alert the Department of Mineral Resources about the problems they encountered with the miners who took over their land but gave them nothing.

Now, here is a solution from EFF. The EFF advocates that all land should be transferred to the ownership and custodianship of the state. In a similar way, all minerals and petroleum resources be transferred to the ownership and custodianship of the state. Recently, in South Africa, we sell our minerals to the outside countries, which are process them and in turn, those raw materials are the ones which are creating many job opportunities in those outside countries like China and Europe. Through manufacturing, engineering, and others, and all these jobs could have been happening in our South African land through industrialization and beneficiation, where those minerals are mined. Where are they? The government always speaks about the beneficiation of minerals, but do they simply put wool over our heads because they know that they will never be able to do that. The minerals underground are owned by the state. The moment they come from underground; they are gone. We do not have anything. So, the government cannot benefit from minerals that do not belong to them. The solution is,

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 149

unless the government passes laws that ban exploitation of raw materials. If they cannot do that, they are simply playing with our minds. [Inaudible.] ... this is what we want to do. Even if it is the burning of just 50% of raw iron, for example, processing and manufacturing it here in South Africa. We will realize a lot of job opportunities. That action only, will boost employment by creating a lot of jobs to alleviate poverty, for example, we had a state-owned company, Iron and Steel Corporation, Iscor, in South Africa, which was based in Pretoria, producing iron, and processing it to manufacture steel. With that venture, the Iscor had a created many jobs and communities benefited until the Iscor was privatized. And what happened? People lost their jobs. That is the drawback of privatization. People lose their jobs. And in the end, they become exploited. That is why the EFF is advocating for nationalization of mines, banks, and other strategic sectors of the economy for the beneficiation of all, not individuals, not one company, everybody in South Africa.

When coming to energy, the EFF still insists on a build, operate and transfer models of Independent Power Producers, IPPs, and the state to ensure a state-led renewable energy industry. When all is said and done, the state-owned mining company must be capacitated and play an active role in

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 150

supplying affordable and high-grade coal to Eskom. We reject this budget that does not take into consideration the lives of ordinary South Africans.

Finally, Chairperson, this year marks 11 years since the formation of the EFF, the only weapon in the hands of our people, and the only voice of the oppressed and marginalized. It has been 11 years of unbroken struggle, alongside with the widows, children, and dependence of our black brothers who were massacred in Marikana under the instruction of South Africa's sitting President, alongside mining communities across the country who have not seen any development and employment. The time is Saturday. We will celebrate the 11-year anniversary of the people's movement. We invite mine workers, mining communities, and our people across the four corners of South Africa to come and celebrate with us at Ar Abass Sports Stadium in Kimberly, in the Northern Cape. I thank you.

Mr D W BRYANT (Western Cape): Chairperson, Minister, Deputy Minister and all members of the NCOP, and good afternoon. The events of the past month have seen us enter a new stage in the life of our young democracy and there is a great deal of excitement about what we will be able to achieve, working

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 151

together in the new government of national unity. As the Minister of Agriculture recently stated that we must all strive to be builders, not breakers and, as builders, we must remain resolute in our commitment to improving the lives of all South Africans by creating a society that is rich with opportunities.

We must also recognise that in order to move forward, we will have to change the way that we've done certain things in the past. As a country which has built its energy infrastructure primarily around the extraction and burning of coal, we are now faced with perhaps our greatest challenge, the imminent threat of climate change and growing international pressure to transition away from fossil fuels towards renewable sources of energy.

Let's be clear, South Africa is not the highest global emitter of carbon. That dubious honour goes to China which contributes over 30% of global carbon emissions. But while South Africa contributes only 1,1%, this is still by far the highest on the African continent. As signatories to the Paris agreement there is no room for finger pointing, we must play our part and move with the times, or we risk being left behind.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 152

I was very encouraged to hear the comments made by the President earlier this month at the Climate Resilience Symposium where he said, and I quote:

Indecision and slow action are not an option. We must act decisively and swiftly to mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure a just transition for all South Africans. We must pursue a green industrial agenda that will create jobs and grow the economy.

Last week, we also saw the signing into law of the Climate Change Act, an important piece of legislation that was supported by the Western Cape parliament. This act will require provinces and municipalities to develop their own strategies in order to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. This, renewed commitment from the Government of National Unity, towards transitioning away from fossil fuels is refreshing and is a clear sign of the positive impact that the government of national unity, GNU, is already beginning to have.

We know that the DA governments such as those in the Western Cape are already well ahead of the curve when it comes to the rollout of renewable energy programmes, and as I understand

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 153

our DA Ministers and Deputy Ministers are already adding significant value to these important discussions. The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Dr Dion George has come out strongly to emphasise that he will make it his priority to implement the just energy transition plan, Jet P, with the financial support of our partners from the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, France, Denmark and the Netherlands.

I'm sure that the hon Minister Mantashe shares this enthusiasm towards achieving the goals of the JetP and we look forward to seeing the billions of rands that have been committed, finally being spent on transitioning towards a greener future. At present, there is still a degree of ambiguity as to which ministries will be responsible for ensuring that the just transition becomes a reality, and the role of mineral resources will no doubt be paramount. Everyone must do their bit to move with the times.

That said, South African's must also make sure that our voices are heard when it comes to the use of instruments such as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, Cbam, which could have a significant negative impact on developing economies such as our own if implemented without proper

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 154

consultation and an appreciation of the challenges that we currently face. The reality is that even with this renewed and fantastic commitment towards increasing renewable energy production, coal-based power will still be a significant part of our energy mix for many years to come. The matter of common but differentiated responsibilities must be considered here.

The DA led governments have not been sitting on our laurels though and have already been contributing significantly towards the transition away from coal by helping to roll out renewable energy at pace in the areas where we govern. The DA-led Western Cape generated over 1 000 megawatts of clean energy last year and is on track to far exceed this in 2024. We will be dramatically increasing the amount of renewable energy in the grid through groundbreaking joint initiatives with our DA-led local governments such as the state-of-the-art solar photovoltaic, PV, project being planned for Riversdale. This small town, home to around 22 000 residents has been the victim of loadshedding over many years. This has posed risks to their local economy, primarily based around fruit and wine production, both of which require stable and reliable energy.

This town is also home to beautiful beaches and picturesque scenery, and I look forward to seeing how local tourism will

grow with a reliable energy source in place. Energy that doesn't come from burning a dirty, finite resource like coal, but from the sun, which I understand is still good to go for about another five billion years.

By harnessing the enormous solar potential in the Western Cape, the Riversdale solar project will generate an estimated 15 million kilowatt hours every year and will be capable of storing 10 megawatt-hours of energy in lithium-ion batteries. Some of you may be familiar with the DA's commitment to create prosumers and we are delivering on this by ensuring that excess energy can be sold back into the grid. Added to this, the Western Cape will see the roll-out of new solar farms in the Touws River area and an extensive embedded solar project in Atlantis comprising over 20 000 ground-mounted solar panels. This is exactly the type of commitment we must see from governments across the country if we are to achieve the transition away from coal towards renewable energy.

The Western Cape has around 200 operational mines, which provide thousands of much-needed jobs. Our province is blessed with a variety of minerals, including some of the most significant deposits of uranium, located mainly in the Karoo region. One of our primary responsibilities at all times must

be the protection of our natural environment from unregulated and illegal mining and the catastrophic consequences that this can have. We are aware of environmental concerns raised about mining in areas along the West Coast in particular, and the Western Cape government under the leadership of Minister Bredell, is doing its best to address these concerns where and when they arise.

The DA has been clear in our own energy policy that all current mining operations as well as the exploration and prospecting for new resources should be managed according to strict environmental regulations and monitored accordingly. It is possible to balance the need for economic growth and job creation with the protection of our ecosystems and our biodiversity. There however can be no room for cutting corners when it comes to compliance, and we must ensure that the maintenance and rehabilitation of mining areas is prioritised.

South Africa is blessed with rich and abundant mineral resources which must be utilised to the benefit of all our people. We cannot and must not allow our precious resources to be exploited for the benefit of a connected few. Those who wish to break South Africa desire a return to the days of dodgy tenders and get-rich-quick schemes. We have seen what a

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 157

broken system looks like in provinces like Mpumalanga, where coal mafias have a stranglehold connected with organised crime syndicates that cause destruction and devastation in our communities. One only has to do a quick Google search to see some familiar names popping up.

As builders of a new South African government, we must resist these destructive forces at every turn if we wish to see our economy grow and the lives of all South Africans improve. As we enter a new era, we must be ready and willing to embrace change whilst ensuring that no back door is left open for those who wish to take us backwards. Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES (Ms J Nemadzinga-Tshabalala): The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, Minister of Minerals and Petroleum Resources, Mr Gwede Samson Mantashe, members of the NCOP, including the chairperson of the select committee, Mr Gift Modise, ladies and gentlemen, just the last speaker, as you were speaking about the energy and matters that you were speaking about. One thing that you left is to also say that in the Western Cape, because you like behaving almost as if you are a government on your own, this is a Government of National Unity. It is quite important that there

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 158

is one policy and there is one President and that is where we are all marshalled.

So the appetite for you to behave like you've got your own Ministers. You are going to do your own policy. There's one policy direction of the government and that should be understood. So when you speak about electricity supply in the Western Cape, you must also acknowledge who supplies that electricity. It is still Eskom - 25% of electricity. That's where you generate as much as you are speaking about other sources. So I thought it's quite important. You promised people of the Western Cape in 2023 in July, that you are going to have more megawatts. You have not done that. So you should not behave like Western Cape is different from any other ... but I'm not swooping. Let me get to my speech.

Our nation has over the century benefited from the mineral endowment that our nation is blessed with, albeit not without limitations. Although the mining sector has been a backbone of South African economy which led to the major development in areas with natural resources and access to ports such as Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape. The fact of the matter is that the pit to port approach to mining only

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 159

benefited a few in urban areas, whereas workers and mining communities were left poorer.

The enactment of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act in 2002 and the introduction of the Mining Charter in 2004 presented a significant changes in the living conditions of mining communities and labour ascending areas that would have transformed the working conditions of mine workers and paved the way of the participation of the previously disadvantaged people. In particular, women and youth, who are the hardest hit populace by the scourge of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

While I'm on that point, hon member of the EFF would have also acknowledged that when we speak about social compact, but also the social plan of mining when it comes to the mining sector, wherein the same Minister of Mineral Resources was a beneficiary himself. Born as a child mine worker himself. The National Union of Mineworkers, NUM, is the one that funded young people to ensure that they get education from that sector. You need to acknowledge that.

It is heartening that since the dawn of democracy in 1994, the introduction of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 160

Development Act, MPRDA, black ownership in the mining industry has increased from 0,2% to 39% whereas women participation in the industry is now over 72 000. More encouraging to us is that not less than two women holds the executive position in global mining companies. Today we have the second female President of the Mineral Council of South Africa. I think we need to clamp hands for that. It is transformation. Since its inception 135 years ago, we want to say to the President, Dr Nombasa Tsengwa, that kindly ensure as you climb the ladder, you also take another woman with you.

In order to sustain this transformation into the future, the department continues to empower women with mining skills and knowledge through the Women Diggers Programme and to provide financial or non-financial support to the artisanal women across South African small-scale miners. To this end, Mintek has trained over 200 women since across South Africa from which seven co-operatives trained were formed and have since applied for small scale mining payments. So, we do issue mining payments. We acknowledge the backlog in so far as issues of licences is concerned and that's what is going to be attended to.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 161

Given South Africa's endowment with the world largest reserves of the platinum group metals, the manner in which these minerals are extracted and processed will require maximum participation of the artisanal and small-scale miners. It is in this context that the department will convene the regular workshop and information sharing platforms to really encourage emerging miners to seize the opportunities presented to them, with a particular focus on historical mining provinces including the Free State, Gauteng, Limpopo, Northern Cape and North West. We acknowledge issues of Krugersdorp, the mining towns. What would have happened? The issue of rehabilitation of these mining towns is something that Minister Gwede Mantashe have spoken to me about to say, you need to also pay attention to that. So that is something that ... be hold on to your desk, you are going to see me on the streets very soon.

Now we want to say this workshop that we will convene will be joined in by the mining experts who will impart knowledge and skill the participants from institution such as Mintek, Mining Qualification Authority, Mine Health and Safety Council for GeoScience, to ensure that young people, also women, does participate in such programmes.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 162

I want to say that the rehabilitation programme since its inception, we have rehabilitated 42 abandoned mines and closed 396 holings, an additional two mines are currently being rehabilitated, while four more derelict and ownerless mines are undergoing the design and planning phase. And with the additional funding for this current financial year, we are going to ensure that they are also stabilised and there is money that is being made available to that end.

I want to say the issues of rehabilitation of the derelict mines and ownerless, we are bringing the total allocation for this programme to R310,8 million during the current financial year. So Mr Modise, me and you are going to hold this to account and ensure that pay attention to it. Mintek has also, its inception programme of 42, has ensured that now two mines are currently being rehabilitated. That means the department intends to further rehabilitate three mines and close 40 holings. So we will be closing these 40 holings.

I want to come closer to the issues of beneficiation to say that in order for us to create value for the minerals extracted in our shores and ensure that the benefits of mining are accrued to the people of South Africa, we will focus our energies on ensuring that these minerals are beneficiated

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 163

locally. They fully limit the exportation of these jobs associated with the beneficiation. So we are really alive to the fact that we need to create these jobs in terms of domestication. But fact of the matter that South Africa to guarantee inclusive economic growth and realise employment creation beneficiation such as source becomes critical. It is therefore imperative that on all of this use to ensure reliable and affordable electricity supply, to really support local beneficiation, and this is quite critical.

I want to draw to the House to the ANC policy conference, wherein it would have pronounced itself on the need to really investigate, conduct feasibility studies and make sure decisions on new domestic issues or refinery the capacity, noting the closure of existing refineries that we need to steer ahead. This Ministry is alive to the effect that this policy needs to be ensured that we come to the finally of it. But is also further said in its recommendation that for the sake of the future mining activity, jobs and intensive programme of minerals exploration should be undertaken so that the new mines can be opened and new minerals. Some of which are critical minerals for the energy transition underway globally to be discovered.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 164

Hence, as this Ministry we have that exploration fund that Industrial Development Corporation, IDC, is funding. Hence the Minister would have called to other private partners to say, come on board, ensure that you invest so that we are able to fund and find minerals - the new minerals of the future. And that's the paper that Minister has been speaking about. They are going to be sponsoring two papers. The minerals of the future and the type of minerals we have currently in terms of those studies. We hope hon members will be able to support the exploration fund and such initiatives that are undergoing in terms of this Ministry.

I want to say that as multi stakeholders' initiative and tripartite alliances, we have contributed to the improvement in the mining industry. The health and safety performance is quite important evidence, but among others, the reduction in the number of fatal accidents. We are also alive to that fact.

In closing, I want to say to yourself that it is quite important that we pledge our commitment to working with members of this House, organised labour, communities and businesses to really transform the mining and petroleum industries and make them globally competitive. It's quite an important sector. It is the one that gets into the National

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 165

Development Plan, NDP, and make sure that the economy of this country thrives. It's quite important that you come closer to the sector to ensure that you give the necessary support that is really warranted.

While I still have minutes allow me to pay a birthday celebration to a gallant fighter Utata Goven Mbeki, who would have birth date in this July month. A man of stature and a man who would have given his life to the liberation movement. A communist of nature who would have spoken about the mining industry in this country. You would also find pleasure perhaps, to also go down and check one of his books that he would have read and he would have spoken about what was important in so far as exploration, exploiting the mining and the issue of labour. What would if ...

Mr F J BADENHORST: Chair, if I may, on a point of order. Under the Rules of debate, Rule 58.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: You can proceed.

Mr F J BADENHORST: Thank you, hon Chair. Hon Chair, I am just checking the timing here. That clock is sitting at minus one

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 166

minute and 25 already. Are we all going to get the extra minute and a half when we speak or just this Minister?

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: I have already given you hon member. The Minister is actually done with her speech. Thank you very much, hon Minister.

Mr F J BADENHORST: She's just been talking ...

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: No, no, she's done.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES (Ms J Nemadzinga-Tshabalala): Thank you so much, hon member. You must also adhere to the lessons. You enjoy me talking. Say it. Thank you.

Mr B J FARMER: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister and hon members, Mineral Resources and Energy is the one area we could talk about for years on end. In this country, on the most southern tip of this mighty Africa especially, we have quite a lot to talk about. This department, to me could be that example where you ask the question: Is the glass half empty or half full? Certainly, this glass must be seen as half full. This department, depending on how you wish to look at it, could

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 167

address poverty in our nation in a heartbeat. Hon Minister, how much money is flowing through this industry? How much money is lending in pockets whether it is shareholding or buying or selling, processing, digging or stealing? Can one imagine the sort of amount one could speak of when speaking about this industry? Do not worry, Minister, I do not really want you to answer this, even though I know you might be able to. The crucial point is: As a country, why are we having to deal with so much poverty, inequality and just general hardships? If, we sit with industries like this, and believe me, this is not the only one.

It's almost like asking why we use the ... [Inaudible.] for our own energy generation and export to good high-quality stuff. It's like we are cutting our own nose to spite our face. The lack of reliable, affordable electricity is, without doubt the biggest constraint against the growth of the economy and the creation of jobs, businesses and opportunities.

Solving this problem permanently and putting strong measures in place to never have to return to the hopeless embarrassment of load shedding, should be a central focus of the Government of National Unity. On the consumer end of electricity, South Africa faces the large problem of illegal connections.

Municipalities large and small struggle to pay the Eskom

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 168

debts. Since they recover far less in revenue than they expend in bulk purchases from Eskom.

Hon Chairperson and hon Minister, the principle that people should pay for the electricity they consume is a commitment to a sustainable society. We should, however, be conscious of the phenomenon that big businesses have also exploited the weaknesses in government to bypass paying for electricity and water services. These businesses must be cut off from service and prosecuted when necessary.

Renewable energy offers cost effective new generating opportunities. But the country also needs to commit to building modern, safe nuclear reactors to provide base-load power. Gas fired turbines should also be embraced as an important part of transitioning towards cleaner forms of electricity.

South Africa should be on the forefront of introducing life without fossil fuels. We have demonstrated on numerous occasions that when a question is asked about South Africa's capacity to invent, generate and produce on the front of technology, we always come up with award-winning answers. We are more than just average. We are a winning nation on many

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 169

fronts. We can be our own heroes, but for some reason we chose to be our own worst nightmares. Thank you, Chairperson, and there's the minute of the Minister back.

Mr H S BOSHOFF: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister and Deputy Minister and all other protocols observed, one of the largest contributors to the socioeconomic landscape of South Africa is undoubtedly that of the mining industry. This sector has been the backbone of our economy for over a century, contributing significantly to employment, foreign exchange earnings, and industrial development.

The mining industry remains a significant contributor to South Africa's gross domestic product, GDP. Despite facing global economic uncertainties and fluctuating commodity prices, due to various external factors, the sector has shown remarkable resilience. Minerals such as platinum, gold, and coal continue to be major export commodity, bolstering our economy and providing a vital source of revenue. Moreover, the industry employs hundreds of thousands of South Africans, both directly and indirectly, thus playing a critical role in alleviating poverty and reducing unemployment.

However, Minister, the mining industry is not without its challenges. One of the most pressing issues is the regulatory environment. While efforts have been made to create a more investor-friendly climate, bureaucratic red tape and policy uncertainties continue to deter potential investors. The implementation of the Mining Charter, aimed at addressing historical inequalities and promoting black economic empowerment, has faced criticism for its complexity and perceived impact on investment attractiveness.

Labour relations in the mining sector also remain a contentious issue. Strikes and labour disputes have historically plagued the industry, leading to disruptions in production and economic losses. While unions play a crucial role in advocating for workers' rights. There is a need for more constructive dialogue and collaboration between labour unions, mining companies, and the government to ensure fair wages, safe working conditions and job security.

Another issue of grave importance that poses a significant threat to the mining industry and the socioeconomic fabric of South Africa, is illegal mining. This illicit activity not only undermines the legitimate mining sector but also has far-reaching consequences for our economy, environment and

society. It is imperative that we understand the full scope of these impacts and take decisive action to combat this menace.

Firstly, illegal mining has a detrimental effect on the economy. The former mining sector is a major contributor to South Africa's GDP, providing essential revenue through taxes, royalties and foreign exchange earnings. Illegal mining operations are ever evading these financial obligations, leading to substantial losses in the National Treasury. These losses deprive the government of crucial funds needed for public services, infrastructure development and social programs.

The environmental impact of illegal mining is severe and often irreversible. Unregulated mining activities results in significant environmental degradation, including deforestation, soil erosion and contamination of water sources with toxic chemicals like mercury and cyanide. These practices not only harm local ecosystems, but also pose a serious threat to the health and livelihoods of surrounding communities.

Legal mining operations are subject to stringent environmental regulations aimed at minimising their ecological footprint, but illegal miners operate with blatant disregard for such standards, causing extensive and long-lasting damage.

The informal nature of illegal mining also means that there is no access to healthcare, insurance or social security for all involved, exacerbating the vulnerability of these individuals and their families. The social impact of illegal mining is profound. Communities near illegal mining sites often experience increased crime rates and social instability. The lure of quick money from illegal mining can also divert individuals, especially young people, away from education and legitimate employment opportunities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality.

The impact of illegal mining on the South African mining industry is multifaceted and deeply troubling. To address this pressing issue, a co-ordinated and comprehensive approach is required. This includes strengthening law enforcement, enhancing regulatory frameworks, and promoting community awareness and involvement in safeguarding their natural resources.

Hon Minister, by taking decisive action against illegal mining, we can protect the integrity of our mining industry, ensure sustainable development and build a more prosperous and equitable future for all South Africans. I don't know if I heard correctly, but Minister, you spoke about an Act that is

on the table, that will criminalize these illegal activities. If that is the case, I applaud you.

In conclusion, the mining industry in South Africa stands at a crossroads. While it continues to be a cornerstone of our economy, driving growth and employment, the significant challenges it faces must be addressed. To secure the future of this vital sector, we must foster a regulatory environment that encourages investment, promotes technological innovation, and prioritises the well-being of mining communities and workers.

The way forward lies in balancing economic growth with social equity and environmental sustainability. By doing so, we can ensure that the mining industry remains a powerful engine of progress for South Africa, contributing to the prosperity and development of our nation for generations to come. I Thank you.

Ms S M MOKOENA: Hon Chairperson of the NCOP, I would like to greet the Minister, the Deputy Minister, it is my honour to represent the MKP on Vote No 34 ...

IsiZulu:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 174

... leli Voti esinelungelo ...

English:

... by the way, to reject. It is our prerogative. It is our democratic right. We are within and we can make whatever decision we want on behalf of the people who voted us into this Parliament. [Interjections.] Thanks to hon Modise, I changed my mind about the way that I was going to approach this debate today, and I decided to go on a bit of a little history lesson, and just a little reminder that we all need.

President Jacob Zuma was and still is very passionate about digging deep into the cause of reclaiming mining for the people, and 13 years ago, he launched an African Exploration Mining and Finance Corporation project in Ogies in Mpumalanga. It was worth R130 million, an investment in the heart of the country's coal fields. He also went on to remind us that one of our biggest problems began when Jan van Riebeeck landed in South Africa. He landed in this province, it's a historical fact, and there were residents within the city at that time, the Khoi and San. They were well-established, and they welcomed him with warm hands, the African way. They ended up being removed forcefully. You know what happened.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 175

This is all in the history books. Eight major wars took place, and they were fought, and there was an establishment of four republics in South Africa, two belonging to the Afrikaners and two belonging to the British. It all happened, and the black people were never consulted, as we all know. The Zulus also fought back with the British. It is well-documented, at Isandlwana. The Afrikaners fought the Zulus as well in Ncome, Blood River, and later the Afrikaners, it was the Afrikaners that claimed to have discovered, but they didn't discover, they came across mineral resources in our country, and when the British heard this, they vowed to defeat the Afrikaners, hence what we call the Anglo-Boer War, which resulted in negotiations where the two came together, they combined, and decided that they were going to combine and form a government. They called it that time a Union of South Africa. They decided that Parliament was going to be in Cape Town. We're still in Cape Town today. They decided that the administrative seat would be in Pretoria. We're still in Pretoria today. They also decided that the judiciary would be in the Free State. It was then they also decided that the government would be formed in the form of elections and that black people would be excluded from those elections.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 176

It was that decision that caused black people to meet in Mangaung to discuss what we call the national calamity, that the indigenous people were not allowed to be part of the government of the country. A painful decision. They decided to fight, the black people decided to fight to liberate us so that we formed part of this government as well. So, one of the primary goals of your department, Minister, is to redress some of these historical inequities.

IsiZulu:

Amaphutha enziwa uHulumeni wobandlululo. Nokuthi umnotho ugcine usufikile ezandleni zabantu abamnyama.

English:

We have platinum, we've got gold, we also produce coal, a number of minerals that we produce.

IsiZulu:

Kuyoba nini lapho umnotho ufika ezandleni zabantu?

English:

As the MKP, we are concerned that the people of South Africa are not reaping enough rewards from the mineral resources of

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 177

the country. The state does play a role, but it seems to play more the role of a regulator than anything else.

IsiZulu:

Asikwazi nje ukuqala sikhulume noma sibe nenkulumo-mpikiswano ngendaba yomhlaba noma indaba yokumbiwa phansi ...

English:

... without going into ...

IsiZulu:

... indaba yomhlaba.

English:

Hence, I brought up the issue of land.

IsiZulu:

Umhlaba wobabomkhulu ...

English:

... and it has been for too long that we have been waiting and sitting and 30 years in fact that we've had to correct the injustices and it still hasn't happened. Instead, we have something like the rand with people who are living in America,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 178

some are staying in Britain, and they get to decide on how strong our rand should be.

IsiZulu:

Ayikho into entengantengayo njengerandi lethu.

English:

The moodiest person or the moodiest currency in the world is probably the rand, yet we are sitting with mineral resources that other countries wish to have.

IsiZulu:

Thina la sithola abatshalizimali ...

English:

... from these countries that decide on our rand. By the way, they come in, they invest, they put money in, and they tell us that we must give them our raw material and they will refine it and they will produce it into other things. They then take our money, instead of reinvesting it into South Africa, they take it to First World countries. What happens to us, is we are left with shortchange.

IsiZulu:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 179

Yithina kodwa laba okuthiwa sinomcebo odlula amanye amazwe.

English:

We acknowledge, Minister, that ...

IsiZulu:

... yebo, zikhona izinqubomgomo nezinhlaka, ikhona imithetho
...

English:

... whose sole intention is to promote economic inclusion.
However, not enough is done and we are running out of time.

IsiZulu:

Kuye kushiwo ukuthi wozani bosomabhizinisi abancane nabamnyama
nifike nizothola amalungelo ezemayini kodwa uma ufika
kumnyango ...

English:

... there is red tape. There are stories on end where people
want to come and partake but they cannot. They are told they
need to have money.

IsiZulu:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 180

Siyithathaphi imali? Nini khona?

English:

We are told ...

IsiZulu:

... kumele siqhudelane nabo labo bantu abafika bathatha umhlaba wethu.

English:

Yet they have the running power. This can never be the South Africa that we envisioned. It can never be the South Africa where we cast our votes in 1994.

IsiZulu:

Kuyoze kube nini sincishwa ...

English:

... Our rightful share of the nation's wealth.

IsiZulu:

Kuphinde kuzoba imiphakathi ...

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 181

... that live within these mining areas.

IsiZulu:

Ayinakiwe, Ngqongqoshe. Bayakhala bathi amanzi abo angcolile, izindawo zabo zokuhlala zingcolile azihlanzekile, izingane zabo ...

English:

... are in danger even when they play. Despite the regulations in place still, ...

IsiZulu:

... labo bantu bayahlupheka. Izinkampani ezibhekene nalokho zona zijahe inzuzo.

English:

What are we going to make? What profits are we going to make? But who is it affecting at the end of the day?

IsiZulu:

Iyona nje into esiyixabanelayo leyo. Iyona esifisa ukuyilwela njeng-MKP. Kunalokho abantu bathenjiswa amathuba emisebenzi, bathenjiswe ukwakhelwa izindlu, bathenjiswe yonke into nezinhlelo ezingaphinde zenzeke. Sinazo iziphakamiso,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 182

Ngqongqoshe, ebesifisa ukuthi uzilalele namhlanje. Esokuqala,
...

English:

... to simplify and make the regulatory environment more transparent to facilitate easier access for small-scale miners to combat the corruption within your department to implement stringent anti-corruption measures, and to promote diversity and inclusion. We also like you to strengthen the enforcement of environmental regulations and ensure that companies are held accountable for mitigating the impact of their activities on local land. We would also like you to enhance community engagement and foster stronger relationships between the departments and companies locally. In conclusion ...

IsiZulu:

... lo mhlaba ngowethu.

English:

We remain unapologetic about our mandate as the MKP.

IsiZulu:

Akubuyiswe umhlaba wobabomkhulu bethu. Sinikezeni amathuba angcono wokuthuthukisa umuntu omnyama ... [Interjections.] ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 183

English:

Thank you. [Time expired.]

Tshivenda:

Vho T B MATIBE (Limpopo): Mudzulatshindulo wa NCOP, Vho Rifilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, Mudadzamudzulatshidulo wa NCOP, Vho Govender, Muhulisei Tshimebi, Vho Kenny Mmoiemang, vhurumela ha tshothe na ho khetheaho, Mudzulatshidulo wa Komiti yo khetheaho yo no sedzana na zwa Mupo na Migodi, Vho Modise, Minisita Vho Mantashe na Tshanda tsha Minisita, Mukololo Vho Judith Tshabalala-Nemadzinga, vhadzulapo vha Afurika Thshipembe nga u angaredza, nga maanda vhadzulpo vha Limpopo, ri tama u thoma nga nga u sumbedzisa Mudzulatshidulo u ri rine sa vundu la Limpopo ro rangiwaho phanda nga muphimia Vho Phophi Ramathuba ri kho u tikedza Mugaganyagwama u ne wo nekedziwa hafha nga Vho Minisita Vho Gwede Mantashe.

English:

Hon members, according to Statistics SA GDP provincial estimates released in September 2023, Limpopo's economies worth R326 billion for the period 2020 which translates to 1% annual growth from the previous year. Our economy as Limpopo province has improved in terms of its contribution to the

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 184

national GDP. The Limpopo GDP contribute increase from 7,2% in 2015 to 7,7% in 2023 putting us at top five.

In all this positive growth, contributing 22,9% with 119 000 people employed in the mining sector in Limpopo as per the quarterly labour survey. The province continues to enjoy investment and mining expansion galvanized through the provincial investment conference which started in 2021.

Recently, in 2023 the province has realized investment expansion in the mining sector through the third edition of Limpopo conference. The Phalaborwa mining company pledged R15 billion which covers smelter and other minerals. Teraco pledged R2 billion for solar energy plant in Tubatse steelpoort. The project is envisaged to create 300 jobs during the construction phase and 25 jobs during the operation phase.

We are also pleased to inform this hon House that Lephalale Solar Power Project worth R156 billion by Exxaro resources, Nkwe Platinum with an investment pledge of R13 billion and Ivan plats with an investment pledge of R6 billion. All these pledges will go a long way in improving the economy of the province further contributing to addressing triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 185

Hon members, Limpopo is the home of critical minerals and promises to be key player in country's energy transition efforts. The platinum Group metals, PGMs, 72% of South Africa's platinum group metals reserve are in Limpopo and PGMs especially platinum and iridium will play critical role in the efforts to decarbonize the industries.

We fully support hon Minister, your R400 million exploration money, which you said you need Treasury to increase that money for exploration. We fully support it because we have got untapped air elements of minerals in areas like Giyani, which have provided major opportunities for investors to make development on rare earth minerals value chains in our province. So, we fully support that, you go and speak to the Treasury to increase that R400 million. Part of it will come and assist us in Limpopo. We have got minerals, chromium, diamond that copper, phosphate in Phalaborwa areas.

The global mining industries are experiencing significant transformation resulting in major capital investment ships. Limpopo aligns very favourable its investment ships. The ships due to demand of low energy metals and minerals and mining investment in shifting drastically in the big six critical matters, copper, PGMs, Lithium, nickel cobalt and rare earth

elements. As we have already indicated all these minerals are found in Limpopo.

We are the first to admit that the mining sector also has its own challenges. For example, the issues of mushrooming community forums, the issues around mining compliance with social labour plans, the administration of community assets as evidence in community ownership vehicle such as Communal Property Associations and Community Development Trust.

But as the province of Limpopo, we must indicate to this hon House that we have got intervention majors in place to mitigate all these challenges, including the issue of illegal mining.

We have got a Government Facilitating Task Team to enhance cohesion in economic development issues around illegal mining, which is a criminal offence as indicated by the hon Minister.

Part of our intervention plan is the improved support provided to municipalities to identify and design high impact economic infrastructure projects that are to be implemented through social labour plans. The resuscitation of Government Mining Task Team which in our province is led by the premier and the

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 187

MEC for Limpopo Economic Development Enterprise, LimDev, to deal with the mitigation of risk affecting sectors and join planning on strategic interventions in the mining sector.

There is a need also for understanding on mining legislation and responsibility of all stakeholders involved in mining industry. The LimDev jointly with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy as indicated by the Deputy Minister of Minerals have initiated training programmes to upskills communities and traditional leaders in mining regulation and policies more especially in areas where there are mining activities.

Collaborative partnerships, the notion of partnerships assumed that all parties can effectively contribute to resolving challenges at hand.

Mining companies cannot solve all community development on their own. The LimDev actively co-ordinates engagement between mines and host mining communities through a government facilitated task team in order to create hon members a conducive environment for effective economic development and benefit for all stakeholders. The collaborative environment still needs to be strengthened, strengthening community

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 188

structures including trust that is responsible for community resources. Dealing with illegitimate community protest and procurement mafias in an effective manner and finding ways and means of supporting authorities or local municipalities in executing their constitutional mandate a comprehensive economic diversification of mining host economies.

In the 7th Administration of Limpopo province, we must assure this hon House that including the area of Tubatse and Burgersfort as indicated, we have got Fetakgomo Tubatse Industrial Park which will beneficiate all the minerals that are found in that area. We are sure that our communities are going to benefit. We are working well with all the stakeholders that are there in that part of the country not only in Fetakgomu Tubatse, but also in other areas like Vhembe, Musina and Makhado SEZ, Mokopane where we are moving towards hydrogen economy.

Hon premier, Dr Phophi Constance Ramathuba has given us a mandate to fast-track economic growth and industrialization agenda to create jobs within mining playing a key role in this regard. We fully support the budget as presented by hon Minister. Thank you very much. [Time expired]

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 189

Mr H J VAN DEN BERG: Chairperson, Minister Mantashe, the representatives, colleagues and guests. We know that the Budget Vote has been divided into two departments with energy now becoming a separate department under the leadership of Mr Ramokgopa. But for the purpose of the Budget Vote debate, I will be referring to one department as this is the format it came from, the Appropriation Bill.

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy as we came to know, it is one of the big ones, a true pillar contributing to the National Revenue Fund a whopping R494 billion. During this Budget Vote period, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy will be appropriated around R8,8 billion. We have to ask ourselves, what would happen if the appropriation did not materialise? Will we be better off without a National Energy Regulator of South Africa, a National Nuclear Regulator, Petroleum Agency SA, Mine, Health and Safety Council, or Eskom? The short answer is probably no.

However, the smallest share of the budget goes to these agencies. The bulk of the budget goes to mineral and energy resource programmes and projects. An amount of just over R5 billion, a large part of this to Eskom and energy generation.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 190

Chair, we are not supposed to fund electricity generation. It should be self-sufficient and even contribute to the national revenue. But one of the greatest threats to our country is the ever-growing culture of nonpayment of services on local government level, exuberated by failure by local governments to stand firm on the collection of electrical accounts. Please note that I'm not including indigent households in this group.

Unpaid debts put local governments in a penniless cash strap situation, often having to choose between payment of personnel or payment of Eskom bulk accounts. Even worse, we then have some politicians encouraging this behaviour and placing pressure on the municipality not to block these accounts.

Chair, this cannot be, not if we mean to build up a robust and self-sufficient energy sector. Already in 2021 it was estimated that the rail and port constraints cost South Africans R3,5 billion in lost revenue. Coming from the Northern Cape province, I experienced this inconvenience all too often when my vehicle strikes a pothole made by an iron ore truck on its way to a port.

Chairperson, we have to ask the Minister to work with the Department of Transport for a solution to the roads being

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 191

destroyed by heavy vehicles. Governmental and departmental co-operation has been educated just yesterday by the President in his reply in the other House. We have to all work together. Let's fix the roads and rail systems.

Also being able to process primary goods and add value to product exports is very important. A perfect example. Is to refine iron ore and manganese. These would be melted with green energy like the sun and hydrogen plants in the Northern Cape province being higher in value and lighter to transport. We will win in both ways. Why do we keep missing these opportunities?

Minister, our approach and policy directions should focus on building a better future rather than on transformation and redistribution. I thank you.

IsiXhosa:

Mnu M M PETER: Mandibulise Sihlalo weNCOP, uSekela Sihlalo weNCOP, Mphathiswa wam omhle noSekela Mphathiswa omhle.

Nibahle malungu ale Ndlu, molweni. Ndiyanithanda. Mphathiswa iUDM iyaluvuma olu hlahlo lwabiwo-mali lwesebe lakho. Kodwa Mphathiswa inenkxalabo, kwinkxalabo yayo inombuzo othi: Ingaba

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 192

ubutyebi beli lizwe obuphethwe zizimbiwa bukhuselekile kusini na?

Inkxalabo yeUDM Mphathiswa isekubeni, ingaba abenzi bobu butyebi sinabo kweli lizwe bengena ngaphantsi emigodini besenza le mali siphila ngayo bayaxhamla ngendlela ukufaneleke ukuba baxhamla ngayo kusini na.

Mphathiswa, zininzi iingongoma esithi siziqwalasele kwiilali zethu siyiUDM. Abantakwethu babhubha bengazifumenanga iimali zabo zomhlalaphantsi emigodini. Baninzi abantu ababhubhayo. Abanye abafumaneki ezincwadini sele sibaphanda singabafumani kwiincwadi zomgodi.

Mphathiswa, ingaba abemi beli lizwe baxhamla ngendlela ebekumele ukuba baxhamla ngayo kusini na? Isizathu sokuba sibuse le mibuzo Mphathiswa kukuba sibona ngoku sele kukho ...

English:

... the illegal mining.

IsiXhosa:

Xa sithetha ngabantu bethu abazithathele ngetshova sithi bazithathele ubutyebi ngendlela engeyiyo. Kukho ii ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 193

English:

... illegal mining.

IsiXhosa:

Xa sikwazi ukubachaza kutheni singabavuleli amatyala nje? Uphando lona luthini? Mphathiswa, iUDM ithi ke kuwe namhlanje, phambi kokuba sikuvalele ekoneni ngemibuzo khawusinike ingxelo egcweleyo, usityebisele singakuxhaxhi kanti awunatyala. Into esiyicelayo ...

English:

... Minister, for the first time in our history since 1994 ...

IsiXhosa:

... kukuba izimbiwa zeli lizwe makhe ziphathwe ngabantu abamnyama.m sasingazi ukuba singaze sibe kurhulumente kuba kaloku kwakuphethwe abantu abamhlophe. Ngoku ke Mphathiswa, xa kuphethwe thina, kutheni izinga Labantu abamnyama liye lisenyuka kwindlala? Kutheni ubutyebi beli lizwe singakwazi ukubukhomba ukuba buyaphi na? Oomama uMirriam Makeba babhubhe bekhala besithi, zemk'inkomo magwalandini. Niwavalele ntoni amehlo?

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 194

Iintsizi ezingabantu abamnyama zihlala kwiindawo ebekungafanelekanga ukuba zihlala kuzo. Akuphethanga bantu bamhlophe ke Mphathiswa kuphethethina kodwa intswelangqesho iyenyuka yonke imihla. Ezi zimbiwa sizibonayo asiziboni ukuba ziphelela phi. Sithi abantu bethu xa bezithathela imigodi sibabize ngee...

English:

... illegal miners.

IsiXhosa:

Sithi mabathini xa bengaxhamli kuqoqosho lweli lizwe? Mphathiswa, sicela usityebisele singakuxabeli kanti awunatyala. Enkosi Sihlalo.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you hon member for also saving us some time. I now call the hon Badenhorst. Hon Badenhorst, you have four minutes.

Mr F J BADENHORST: It should be five minutes because the hon Dep Minister Tshabalala took one of my minutes. Hon Chairperson, hon ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 195

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: That was under the previous administration, not this one.

Mr F J BADENHORST: Hon Chairperson, you just took away four seconds. Hon Minister and Deputy Minister, hon members, and fellow South Africans good day. Hon Minister Mantashe, the main issue with fossils is that they tend to hang around, just like a bad habit, they disrupt, impede and stifle growth.

Take for example fossil fuels, like hon Bryant front the Western Cape said, South Africa is reported to be amongst the top 15 largest emitters of carbon dioxide worldwide and the highest in Africa. The stubborn refusal to move from fossil fuel to renewable energy is causing South Africa to warm at twice the global rate. We should expect with global warming changes in weather patterns. I think we have experiences in ... [Inaudible] ... areas extreme heat like we've had a few years ago and now we have got extreme rain. So, weather patterns will be influenced by global warming as it has been scientifically proven.

Hon Kennedy, thank you again for the invitation to the EFF birthday party. I don't know how big it's going to be now because there is less VBS Mutual Bank money to fund it. Deputy

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 196

Minister Tshabalala, I know you have a ... [Inaudible] ... in the Western Cape. I am going to ask you to please have a look at the Western Cape energy resilience programme. I will get you a free copy. Take your time to read it. But, if you read it as fast as you speak, you are never going to get it.

Specifically look at the cost of the state's full loadshedding in the Western Cape because we made these calculations. It costs the Western Cape R43 million a day at Stage 4 loadshedding. So, we have to move away from Eskom monopolised power, and we have to look at generating our own power and making our own plan. I really hope that you can take that plan to the other provinces because it is a really good plan. Thank you, Minister.

Hon Mokoena, thank you so much for that history lesson. It is about as useful as an unsalted pretzel. The Constitution gave you a right to come here and say what you said, so we will let it go. But remember that, that Constitution is the one that you are trying to get rid of. So, just embrace it and everything will be fine and carry on.

Hon Modise, oh that committee report that you presented to us, I am so glad that you are still here, it was everything. The

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 197

committee report that you gave as the chairperson it actually was not. It was as bad and as useful as an astro on a motorcycle. You didn't say what the committee work you did. You spoke about historical events and you went on and on. So, my advice to you in the spirit of the Government of National Unity, GNU, please hon Modise, don't be bitter, just get better.

Minister please, on the exploration permits. The R442 billion contributing to the economy with the mineral, we need exploration permits please. Three-quarters of the way through the financial year, the department had received 2 525 applications for mining rights and permits, including presumably for exploration rights, and the department was unable to finalise any of those exploration permits Not even one out of 2 525.

Let us look at what John Wooden said when he said: "Failure isn't fatal, but failure to change might be." Thank you very much

Ms S L SITHOLE: Hon Chairperson, hon Deputy Chairperson, hon Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, hon Gwede Samson Mantashe, hon Minister Judith Tshabalala, hon members, hon

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 198

special delegates, ladies and gentlemen and fellow South Africans, greetings. There is a widely populated view that believed by few reactionary souls in the so-called progressive caucus that the mining and mineral industry is disintegrating in the eye of all diehard South African citizens, because of the misguided policy ... [Inaudible.] ... and scholarship guiding ANC and thinking an action. The often-implicit assumption of this widely populated view is that these reactionary souls cover themselves in clothes of respectability have cutting edge and groundbreaking policies that can transform the mining and mineral industry to function in an efficient and better in every possible way manner without risking of ruin and inviting wickedness. I must say that none of this is true.

The truth is that government led by the ANC played and continues to play a central role in the process of developing and transforming the mining and the mineral industry. The most significant lesson that is largely ignored by these reactionary souls unschooled in the history and mineral industry by the government led by the ANC with great development and transformation following as direct consequences is that this industry remained a core facet of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 199

macroeconomic stability and prerequisite for securing investors' confidence.

A good illustration of this is that between 2019 through 2022, a total mining revenue grew by 17,4% from a low base value of R551 billion to R881 billion driven by improved commodity prices and sales. This implies that mining and mineral industry is an explicit ally of the government in an effort to maintain the overall balance of payment, but not at the expense of productive investment and employment creation. The evidence suggests that mining gross fixed capital grew by 2,8% and mining employment growth rate increased by 0,6%, 459 000 528 to 464 615 between 2019 through 2022. An implication of this is that the mining and the mineral industry improve South Africa's ... [Inaudible.] ... to worthiness, enhance domestic and international investors have been more willing to invest in this industry, and their investment has been consistent with the government's objective of lowering unemployment. Needless to say, the widely populated view that the mining and mineral industry is disintegrating and falls apart if we take into account these industries performance since 2019.

While the mining and mineral industry is far from disintegrated, the government led by the ANC recognised that expanding mining production is still a challenge which warrant a selective set of government interventions. The experience of Botswana and Morocco as the highest and the most arctic mining ... [Inaudible.] ... in Africa for overall policy and regulatory certainty have revived interest in government intervention to respond to some challenges that are hostage to expand mining production. Overall, the mining license backlog has not been conducive to investment in the mining and mineral industry historically. Therefore, unless address, this will continue to compound various in terms of accommodating entry and protecting competition in the industry. In this contest, the risk association with a slow pace of expanding mining production are heightened.

The key remedy to the mining license backlog is the mining license application system, commonly known as cadastre which the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources has procured and will be rolled out in the current financial year to improve turnaround times for mining license application. In this regard, it is important to acknowledge that cadastre is paramount because it possesses the most important promises for decarbonising the mining and mineral industry and South

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 201

African economy in general. While the benefit of cadastre is diverse, it favours new ... [Inaudible.] ... and the dynamic gains from greater competitive rivals in the mining and mineral industry will enable South Africa to diversify its mining metrics away from fossil fuels to minerals that are becoming increasingly important in the face of transitioning to a green economy such as nickel, which is increasing in demand due to the large quantity required for electric vehicle batteries and copper which demand is set to grow beyond the current level in the future, driven by electric vehicle that contain four times as much copper as combustion engine gas.

Aside from all this, cadastre has a lot of appeal as it has facilitated entry of new key players in the platinum group metals sector, which employs 38% of the mining and mineral labour force to produce fuel cells for mining and portable power generation, stationary power generation and power transportation, thereby turning South African comparative advantage in the platinum group metals, PGM, reserve into a competitive advantage as outlined in the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, ERRP.

Additionally, fuel cells technology has the potential for introducing more energy efficient and less carbon intensive

industrial ... [Inaudible.] ... within the mining and mineral industry and for increasing contribution of renewable energy to electricity generation in the line with the National Development Plan, NDP. More crucially, mining this mineral resource deemed important for transitioning to a green economy is considered appropriate for building new minerals value chains in several emerging and innovative sectors as one of the policy priorities of the ERRP. For example, renewables such as solar photovoltaic, PVs, are five times more intensive than convention power generation from thermal plant and nuclear.

A thorough review of evidence for Europe revealed that renewable energy systems such as solar PVs create three times more jobs per kilowatts an hour than fossils fuel-based electricity. The most of these jobs are particularly suitable for a country like South Africa with a low skilled workforce and where a marginal cost of labour tends to be low due to the rising level of unemployment.

In addition to the net job gains abundance of copper can reduce South African dependence on imported solar PVs, which were valued at R17,5 billion into 2023, driven by unprecedentedly high level of load shedding towards locally

available renewable energy sources with a potential for local business owned by black women, youth and people with disability. In the local solar manufacturing industry emerging and benefiting from economic of scale. In fact, copper is the main catalyst in the solar PVs facility, the broader participation of local businesses owned by black women, youth and people with disability. In the high demand mineral beneficiation, which in turn has the potential for reviving and reversing Africa premature deindustrialisation which currently ... [Inaudible.] ... long term economic growth, raises the risk association with a high level of unemployment and perhaps even lead at some point to economic instability in the manufacturing sector.

From this perspective, we can vividly see that the progressive policies that I emphasised and promoted in the mining and mineral industry by the government, led by the ANC, can deliver some semblance of economic recovery in response to coronavirus disease, COVID-19, pandemic. However, at no point this was seriously discussed by either the EFF or the MK party. Of course, we cannot expect cheering from reactionary souls in the so-called progressive caucuses as a token of appreciation that the story of the mining and mineral industry is one of amazing success, disconnection and detachment from

reality is one of the intrinsic defining features of political parties whose existence is built on the cult of personalities. Therefore, the problem with political parties under the spell of cult is that they tend to believe that their primary mission in their political space is constantly to generate a negative spin on the success stories of the government led by the ANC to feed their supporters what they want them to hear.

In addition to the mining license backlog, it is clear that regulatory record in the mining and mineral industry has been especially poor and therefore run counter to policy certainty, which is essential to the realisation of economic objective, and, indeed, another objective of the NDP. This often creates uncertainty and unpredictability for the investors in minerals that are becoming increasingly important in the face of transition to a green economy. Uncertainty and unpredictability for investors are compounded by the lack of energy security in the mining and mineral industry, with the implicit assumption that inefficiencies association with Eskom's monopoly are not conducive to the development of this industry.

In the first step to reduce uncertainty and unpredictability for investors, the Minerals and Petroleum Resource Development

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 205

Act will be reviewed in the current financial year as part of the ... [Inaudible.] ... the mining and mineral industry, specifically the expected effectiveness of the reviewed Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act will reduce red tape and improve the business environment arguably signal the credit worthiness of the South African mining and mineral industry to investors and customers.

Policy certainty guaranteed through the reviewed Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act is necessary, but not sufficient. Condition for incentivising investment in the exploration and production of minerals that are becoming increasingly important in the face of transition to a green economy. The argument underpinning this logic is that the investors are likely to have appetite for investing in the minerals that are exposed to significant exploration risk including the possible failure to discover mineral deposit that are sufficient in quantity and quality to justify the completion of prefeasibility and feasibility study.

In response to this possible barrier, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy in collaboration with the Industrial Development Corporation has established ... Thank you. As the ANC, we support this budget. [Time expired.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 206

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES: Hon members, hon Chair, I am not going to respond to many statements that were made. I welcome them. We will debate about them. I want to suggest that the NCOP should create space for discussion so that we get inside the circle. My own view is that many of us do not understand mining. I say to many people that they don't understand mining, but people venture into talking about it. The NCOP must create space for discussions on a relaxed environment where we talk about mining freely. One member says that there were 2 500 and we never processed anything because he read that from headlines - he heard it in the news. What he didn't follow was that when you finish 624 applications, it is not zero, it is 624. I leave that.

We spend money on Inep - that is Integrated National Electrification Programme. That programme is not generating electricity. We are connecting households - that is given to Eskom and municipalities to do the connection. That is what has taken us from 34% in 1994 to the current 93% of access to electricity in South Africa. It is a good programme for the disadvantaged. It is not a good programme for the advantaged.

Now, let me take you through, because I always listen to this thing of people who benefited from the apartheid system

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 207

teaching us about transformation, and about many things. Transformation in the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act is talking about three things. It is talking about ownership, procurement, and employment equity. Those elements of transformation are important because they talk directly to the section of the population that was deprived of access to economic activity.

What they don't know is that howling and heckling are two different things - they are not the same. Yes, when you howl, you are not heckling. Okay, what is important about that is that if you should go to the collieries today, collieries are black owned, except Glencore. Every colliery is owned by a black company except Glencore. That to me is what we measure as progress. Every top company in South Africa doesn't have less than 50% of its managers being black as has been researched. I'm talking of researched information - and therefore, that is progress. I want to answer the question of the 1987 strike, because if you learnt from that strike you will know that this industry has transformed. We have achieved three things there. I am a veteran of that strike.

There are three things that we have achieved. One was the establishment of a retirement fund for black South Africans,

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 208

it was not there. Two, we removed job reservation on blasting. I couldn't be a miner because it was reserved for a single person. We removed that in 1987. Three, it opened the industry for the employment of women. Today, when we talk of over 72 000 miners being women, it's a result of that change.

So, people who benefited from being privileged must not teach us about what we should be doing to improve our situation, please. Now I will talk about coal. If you want to send us ... [Inaudible.] ... those who are from Northern Cape. There is someone who said he is from the Northern Cape, go and check the manganese sector - black ownership is growing at a fast pace. Do check it. This House must take time to go and see those developments so that when we talk, we don't just say poverty is increasing and nothing else. There is a lot of change that is happening and there is a lot of growth. Those who are disadvantaged are benefiting. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon colleagues, I know this was a long session and I want to thank you all for remaining in the House and participating and bringing this session to a close. Hon Minister, Deputy Minister, we thank you very much for gracing us with your presence. Thank you to all the other

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024

Page: 209

colleagues that were here. Travel safe and have a good evening, colleagues.

Debate concluded.

The mini-plenary session rose at 19:35

UNREVISED HANSARD