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JOINT SITTING

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PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT SITTING

Members of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces assembled at the Nieuwmeester Dome at 14:04.

The Speaker of the National Assembly took the Chair.

The Speaker of the National Assembly requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation.

GUESTS WELCOME AND MEMBERS' BEHAVIOUR

(Announcement)

The SPEAKER: Order, order, hon members. May we all settle down and take our seats. Hon members, you are all welcome to the House, and I would also like to welcome our guests in the gallery, including former President Zuma, who I'm told is on his way here. [Applause.] Hon members, I would like to wish

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... Hon Mantashe, can you, please, take your seat. Thank you very much.

An HON MEMBER: Umm, tiger. Tiger!

The SPEAKER: Hon members, some of you are members of the Christian faith and I know that today is Wednesday, the start of Lent. So, we want to wish you well as you start this period of Lent. Lent is not only about, you know, doing away with foodstuff and something like most, but it's also about doing our away with bad behaviour. And I just hope that if we know that we have some bad behaviour, we will make sure that in six weeks when we finish that Lent by Easter, that too will be seen in how we do things going forward.

Hon members, just one of the bad things that I am sure you will do away with, is what I saw here yesterday. A lot of you were busy on your phones while the House was in session, a lot texting, some of you were even holding your phones and it looked bad. Some of your friends, comrades and family members told me and said: Speaker, please, advise the members not to do so.

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Others were eating biltong openly and biscuits, again, your members said to me: Please, talk to your members. So, I just hope that some of those bad practices before we reach Easter, we would have done away with. So, you are most welcome, hon members.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE NATION

ADDRESS

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Hon Speaker of the National Assembly, Mme [Ms] Thoko Didiza, the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mme [Ms] Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, ...

Setswana:

... Moporesitente wa naga ya rona, Rre Ramaphosa, Motltsamoporesitente, Rre Mashatile, maloko a Ntlo ya Palamente, e akaretsa maloko a Kabinete le batlatsatona, babusakgotla ba di porofense ba ba leng teng fano, le dibui tsa rona, ka re dumelang.

English:

Hon Speaker, in one of his books titled, ...

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Mr J S MALEMA: ... Speaker, Speaker ...

The SPEAKER: I'm sorry, hon Malema, I did not notice you. What is your point of order?

Mr J S MALEMA: The Deputy President has biltong, so, I'll give him peanuts ... [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Malema. Again, let's try and preserve the decorum of the House. Hon Mmoiemang.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: In one of his books titled, *Oliver Tambo's Dream: Four Lectures*, former Judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, Albert Louis Sachs, well known as Justice Sachs, an accomplished lawyer and a leader of the congress movement, describes the achievements of the ANC since 1994 by posing two fundamental questions. The first one is as follows: "If a paternity test were done on South Africa's widely admired Constitution, whose DNA would come up?"

The second one is as follows: "If the late President General Oliver Tambo were alive today, walking around South Africa,

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would he be pleased with what he saw?" Indeed, hon Speaker, Justice Albie Sachs asks these fundamental questions because while in exile in Lusaka in 1988, Oliver Reginald Tambo, who used his leadership of the ANC to bridge the gap between the era of internal resistance and the transition to a democratic South Africa, preparing to hand over a stronger and united mass democratic organisation, had set up an ANC constitutional committee which organised a workshop to discuss a document titled, *Constitutional Guidelines*.

These guidelines were later incorporated into the Harare Declaration. They became the foundational principles of the SA Constitution, which became the pillar of our democracy and the supreme law of our nation. These guidelines set out the mandate of the National Council of Provinces which represents provincial interests in the national sphere of government. We do so to ensure that provinces have a direct voice in national lawmaking by participating in the legislative process, overseeing national aspects of provincial local government and providing a forum for provincial issues.

It is also this Constitution that establishes a system of Co-operative Governance, which requires the three spheres of

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government; the national, provincial and local to operate in partnership with mutual trust and good faith to deliver quality services to our people. Mr President, through you, hon Speaker, for us as the House mandated by the democratic dispensation to represent the interests of our provinces, the 2026 state of the nation address signals a shift away from fragmentation toward deliberate alignment in which national capability strengthens rather than replaces provincial and local implementation.

As you have clearly articulated, hon President, we have indeed turned a corner. We are moving forward together decisively and with greater urgency to rally all the structures of our government across spheres to a common agenda to build stronger communities and a stronger nation. Hon President, the 2026 state of the nation address reaffirms the bold, visionary and innovative leadership to integrate the capabilities and resources of the national and provincial governments in a structured way to provide support and capacity to the provinces and local government.

Indeed, hon President, our strength comes from our shared determination and resolve to work tirelessly to build a better

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South Africa, deliver quality services to our people, ensure access to water and sanitation and take decisive action to ensure that all South Africans live in safer communities.

As the House that is mandated to represent our provinces, we want to welcome the President's decisive intervention to stepping up the fight against crime, gangsters and criminal syndicates that are holding our people to ransom.

We join the people of Gugulethu and Sporng informal settlements, whose lives have been turned upside down by ruthless zamazamas and the people of Manenberg, Delft, Mitchells Plain, Lavender Hill and Ocean View in welcoming your decision to put more boots on the ground. We also welcome the deployment of the SA National Defence Force to support the police in combating criminality in our communities. As the late veteran of our struggle and our movement, Rre [Mr] Walter Sisulu once said: "The story of our struggle is the story of problems arising, and the problems being resolved - we shall overcome, only if we work together."

Indeed, Mr President, our strength and power as a nation come from one another. It comes from what we can achieve when we

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work together in a co-ordinated, integrated and collaborative way to ensure an effective response to the challenges our communities in the provinces face. As the doctrine of nature teaches, for every stride and success there always emerge a new set of challenges and problems. Our phenomenal successes in expanding access to electricity, water and sanitation to the majority of our people since 1994, continue to be overshadowed by two interrelated new challenges.

Firstly, is theft and vandalism of critical electricity and water infrastructure by criminal syndicates. Secondly, is the inability of the local government to maintain current infrastructure for maintenance operation. The persistence of water outages has led to the emergence of water tank enterprises in many parts of our communities. This has to be arrested. Mr President, through you, hon Speaker, there is growing suspicion that some in the water tank enterprise are at the core of the criminal syndicates behind the vandalism of critical water infrastructure. This calls for enhanced collaboration between our law-enforcement structures to preempt, combat and investigate these crimes in a much more co-ordinated way.

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Mr President, while we have witnessed the strengthening and evolution of the law on the theft of public infrastructure into a multipronged legislative and policy effort aimed at treating infrastructure vandalism as economic sabotage rather than mere petty theft, these crimes constitute serious economic sabotage and a major disruption in the delivery of basic services to communities. We welcome the transition of the 20 Economic Infrastructure Task Teams into permanent Economic Infrastructure Units to combat theft and vandalism.

We must make sure that communities play a critical and proactive role in crime prevention. Indeed, our people must act as the eyes and ears of our police, sharing vital information on criminal activities and syndicates. It is for this reason that we join the masses of our people and all political parties in welcoming the move to ensure that there is a speedy introduction of the Whistle-Blower Protection Bill. We say this because mobilising our communities against crime is critical and can go a long way in assisting law enforcement.

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Mr President, one of Africa's foremost anticolonial leaders, a Pan-Africanist and intellectual nationalist revolutionary poet, Amilcar Cabral, says:

Tell no lies, claim no easy victories ... always bear in mind that people are not fighting for ideas in anyone's head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace ...

For us in the NCOP, we are concerned about the state of our municipalities. Among our critical concerns are the current state of our municipalities and the effectiveness of political interventions in local government administration under section 139 of the Constitution.

Some of these section 139 provincial government interventions in municipal administration take too long on the takeover of municipal powers by the provinces. The organised local government, Salga, repeatedly raised red flags about the persistence of these problems including in some areas, their deterioration after these interventions. This calls for a fundamental paradigm shift and a structured empirical study on the impact of these interventions in turning the local

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government around. We have correctly declared this year the year of ... [Inaudible.] ... local government and transforming the economy.

Among the critical questions which we may have to consider is: Whether the NCOP should focus more on monitoring the support and capacity provided by the national and provincial governments to local government under section 154 of the Constitution? Section 47 of the Local Government Systems Act enjoins the Minister responsible for local government to provide an annual report on the state of local government to the National Council of Provinces.

Therefore, critical scrutiny and analysis of these reports by the NCOP House can provide valuable insights and inform the development of early warning and interventions in local government. One of the most significant announcements in the state of the nation address, as correctly pointed out by the Minister and hon Kaunda, is the revised White Paper on local government, which acknowledges a simple truth that not all municipalities can or should be treated the same. Some metros have stronger revenue bases and others cannot maintain basic services.

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Therefore, a differentiated approach allows stronger municipalities to do more. Weak municipalities receive targeted national support and persistent failure is to be met with firm intervention. This is not a retreat from decentralisation but a systematic, structured and controlled evolution of our governance system.

Mr President, allow me to join the great masses of our people to also acknowledge with a great sense of appreciation the emphasis placed by the state of the nation address on the professionalisation of public services through independent appointment processes, mandatory lifestyle audits and also central disciplinary registry to prevent recycling of failed and unethical officials. As the NCOP, we want to see an even greater drive to finalise the professionalisation of our local government.

Mr President, a critical task in the Seventh Administration is to ensure that the NCOP becomes the true custodian of Co-operative Governance and intergovernmental relations by rallying all spheres of our government and the institutions of democracy to develop a culture of rapid response and decisive intervention to address the challenges facing communities.

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This is particularly so against the background of emerging patterns of intergovernmental challenges, like the recent floods that ravaged parts of Limpopo and Mpumalanga and the tragic road accidents of scholar transport in Gauteng and the North West.

Transport and environmental disasters are shared competencies between the national and provincial governments. Therefore, our failure to be among the first to be with our communities when they shed tears amid these tragic moments is a serious indictment of our collective aspiration to be an activist and responsive people's Parliament for a better quality of life for all. While the Constitution mandates the national SA Police Service to prevent, combat and investigate crime, to win the war against crime, build better and safer communities, we need a whole of society's approach that will rally all our efforts to a clarion call to work together to build a better and safer South Africa.

In conclusion, allow me to join other speakers who spoke before me by saluting our President, His Excellency, Cyril Ramaphosa, for his sterling leadership during these difficult and trying times, the leadership of all the political parties

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represented in the Government of National Unity for their courage to subordinate their narrow party political interest to the broader interests of the country and its people. We also salute other political parties on the opposition benches for their constructive role and contributions to the national discourse on the reconstruction and development of our country. Thank you, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

IsiZulu:

Mnu E NZIMANDE: Ngiyabonga, Somlomo, ngicela ukubingelela amakhosi ohlanga, ngibingelele umongameli we-MKP nethimba lakhe, ... [Ubuwelewele.] ... bese ngibingelela wonke umuntu ongaphansi kwalolu phahla. Ngiyathembisa, Mongameli, ngeke ngixoxe nakancane ngendlela okwathi siya kwimpumelelo yentando yabantu indlela ukuqashwa okwenziwa ngakhona, ukuthi uyoba u-constable, wase uqeqeshwa nawumuntu owayesebenzela i-MI6 u-Paul O'Sullivan, ngeke ngisho lutho. Ngeke ngisho lutho ngisho umhlonishwa uNtuthuko Sibiya mayelana nehlazo le thenda yohlelo lokudla ezikoleni elithinta ukosikazi wakhe, ngeke ngisho lutho. Ngeke ngisho lutho nakoziswana zingangamathuna ezingane.

English:

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Mr President, the people's patience is not endless, you have stretched it to the limit. The ANC under you has undone its revolutionary duty instead of the crushing the system of exploitation. You integrated the ANC into it. Your State of the Nation Address, Sona is rhetoric and full of illusions. Let me tell the nation what it means. It means words without justice, promises without delivery, and hope without dignity. It is slanted what the Chief Whip of the ANC ...
[Interjections.] ...

The SPEAKER: Hon member, please take a seat. There is a point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY (Ms D E Mpapane): Speaker, since when was hon Nzimande an analyst ...

IsiZulu:

... aphume kwi-ANC?

English:

The SPEAKER: Hon member, that's not a point of order. You may continue hon member.

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Mr E NZIMANDE: According to what the Chief Whip of the ANC said, it is slanted from the truth that this Sona is bringing hope to the citizens. But what is correct though Mr President is that you said the plan including unclassified costing of the plan's ability to detect and or intervene on early warnings. It's a problem. But who is to be blamed if not you and your executive of the GNU?

IsiZulu:

Ningasukeli izingane zabantu ezingabasebenzi. Uthi abantu bakithi ababenethemba uzobhekana nenkinga esinayo ...

English:

... of economic exclusion which is persisting. No, Mr President. Economic growth without impact is artificial. It is myopia to speak of growth and jobs when trends are showing that youth unemployment stands at 43% and is likely to gradually increase.

Millions of young people, children from their working class, remain trapped in poverty with no hope of meaningful work. Your Sona is also failing to deal with structural exclusion,

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the concentration of wealth, meaningful intent to transform ownership of land, capital and produce productive resources.

Growth that only benefits the elites is anti-black child. The economy must serve the majority, not entrench the privileges of the few. You say we must have hope of dealing with inequalities and injustices. No, Mr. President.

You spoke of addressing that, but let me tell you, when we physically analyse your Sona, we have found it to be a fallacy. The GNU had no shared vision and ideological beliefs. The DA, FF Plus, AfriForum, your GNU partners want to maintain the status quo. You appointed the irrational Ministers in all strategic departments with the sole purpose to undermine the developmental agenda

IsiZulu:

Usawakhumbula amasheya amahhala owanikwa wona waceba ngawo?

Cha, kwangesona isidlo sasemini samahhala, siyayibona

imiphumela yawo.

English:

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You appointed a DA Minister of Basic Education and we can tell. We shall not advance the fundamental role of government in using education to change societal power structure. Power relations shall continue in favour of their hands.

You speak that you should have hope in terms of service delivered. No, Mr President. You hold office but the power lies with the DA, and the reactional right wingers.

The SPEAKER: Can you take your seat whilst the point of order, hon member?

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN PRESIDENCY (Ms N B Mhlauli): I would just like to ask the hon member where his Mickey Mouse combat suit is today?

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

Can we please allow the debate to flow without putting a lot of points of order that are not.

Mr E NZIMANDE: Mr President, you are saying we still need to have hope that we shall have shelter for all. No, no, Mr

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President. There's a decline in terms of delivery rate of Reconstruction Development Programme, RDP houses and failure to eradicate mud houses across the country.

IsiZulu:

Uboke nje uvakashela indawo yase-Matsakali e-Limpopo uzobona isibonelo esiphilayo.

English:

You will see a living example, yet you are talking of growth. But such growth is not an impactful growth to our people.

IsiZulu:

Hamba nje uye ezikoleni zikaHulumeni, ...

English:

... infrastructure is deteriorating, learner furniture ...

IsiZulu:

... ayikho, ...

English:

... it's inadequate.

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IsiZulu:

Abantwana bahlala kwamatshe nasezitinini zokwakha.

[Ubuwelewele.] Uma ungakukholwa lokhu hamba uye eNgonyama High School naseSakhiseni High School.

English:

Most of township village schools do not have sports and recreation facilities.

IsiZulu:

Uma ungakukholwa lokho hamba uye e- ... [Akuzwakali.] ... unoNgqongqoshe nje ozele ukuzodansa la uma enikezwe inkundla futhi ongasebenzi.

[Time expired.]

English:

Mr N NDHLELA: Hon Speaker, could we please advise these golden oldies that have been in Parliament forever and have changed nothing in this country that this was the member's maiden speech. Can they please demonstrate some decorum.

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The SPEAKER: Hon member, thank you very much but that idea was not communicated to the Table. Otherwise, we would have made an appointment as such. But still - order, order! Hon members, can we please make sure that we allow speakers to express their points of view, whether we like it or not. Interjections are allowed but commentary that follows in every sentence or paragraph is not allowed. Can we please be in order. What's the point of order hon Ntlangwini? You wanted to make a point of order?

Mrs E N NTLWANGWINI: Speaker, I think you are letting the House collapse and degenerate as usual. The speakers' list would indicate whether a member has a maiden speech or not. So, if your Table Staff didn't do that, that is not our duty. That is your duty. So, you are degenerating this House as per usual under your watch. Please do your job as the Speaker and the let the House flow. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon Ntlangwini. If you may, please look at your own list in front of you, it does not indicate. That's why I have said, no, wait, that's why I said the Table Staff had not advised. Hon Dugmore, what's your point of order?

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Mr C M DUGMORE: Speaker, my point of order is to point out the convention that when a member makes a maiden speech, other members do not interject provided, and this is an important proviso that that member doesn't make a party-political statement and controversial. So, no one who objected to that maiden speech was out of order because it's consistent with the convention.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member, and I'm sure all of us know the Rules with regard to maiden speech and we should abide by it. Hon Nzimande, indeed, we apologise. The Speaker was not made aware that you were delivering maiden speech. So, that matter is brought to an end. Hon Malema, what is your point of order?

Mr J S MALEMA: Since you were not aware that it was his maiden speech, I'll suggest that you give him another chance.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Malema, I really would have been able to do so if our Rules allowed that, but they don't. I was actually generous. I gave him four seconds in addition to his time. Yes, hon member?

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Mr G E KOBANE: Madam Speaker, yesterday, you said someone who likes to raise their hands is because of famous television, TV, which means they want to be famous. Let them go and record an artist, they'll be famous. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: You are not going to surpass Reddy. That is the hon Reddy's spot. Minister of Public Works?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Good afternoon, Mr President, Deputy President, hon members and fellow South Africans.

Last week, we welcomed the announcement by the President that will fundamentally change how this country manages its property portfolio and that being the establishment of a property investment vehicle. It is the most significant change in the management of state property since 1994 and a clear break from the past. For decades, South Africa has owned the largest property portfolio in the country, yet too many assets stand vacant, vandalised, hijacked or underused.

At the same time, the state spends up to R6 billion every year leasing private buildings. We own prime property that stands

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vacant, yet we pay rent for plush offices. We hold strategic land parcels in the metros while people live in informal settlements. We sit on an enormous asset value base, yet we don't generate any revenue to fund asset maintenance. These contradictions end today.

The truth is, hon members, that the current model was never designed to build value, making reinvestment in maintenance and upgrades almost impossible. The result has been predictable: decay, inefficiency and lost opportunity. The South African property investment vehicle changes that logic entirely and flips the script on unrealised property asset values, maintenance and investment.

Work on this reform began more than a year ago, learning from best practices, both domestically and internationally, to create an asset book that generates wealth for the public for generations to come. Let me be clear about what this vehicle is.

It is a ring-fenced, professionally governed investment platform that consolidates income-generating and strategically located assets into a single structure with one mandate, and

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that is to unlock value for reinvestment. It introduces the best in asset management, development finance and property development. It establishes a verified digital asset register - a single source of truth covering ownership, condition, leases, valuation and performance. For the first time, the state will manage its property portfolio with real-time data, not fragmented spreadsheets.

It separates the roles of owner, manager and developer, thus introducing professional property management expertise to run leases, maintenance of assets, lifecycle planning and tenant performance with commercial discipline, while building book asset value. It creates structured long-term development rights that allow private capital to invest in precinct upgrades, mixed-use housing and redevelopment.

It reforms the revenue model to generate income from these assets to support our maintenance. This is how we move from being reactive maintenance owners to planned lifecycle managers. This is how we reduce the billions currently spent on leases. This is how property stops being a liability and starts being an asset. The vehicle includes a dedicated development capability, funding bulk services and precinct

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preparation so underutilised land becomes bankable projects. Clear project timelines will allow private sector partners and sovereign funds to participate with certainty.

In Tshwane, the Government Precinct Programme shows that this is possible through 30 projects with more than one million square metres of development and roughly R33 billion in Phase 1, transforming lease payments into appreciating assets. Phase 1 on its own can eliminate over R400 million in annual lease costs and deliver a portfolio valued between R45 billion and R55 billion once it's complete.

Phase 2 expands this momentum. It focuses on the refurbishment of underutilised public buildings, bringing them back to life. It also means jobs. Nearly 100 000 direct construction and indirect jobs are projected, with up to R60 billion in broader urban economic activity catalysed in the programme.

It also means well-located public land in the inner city of Johannesburg being used for housing close to transport and employment, not standing fenced off or unlawfully occupied. It means hundreds of residential properties being offered to

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those who serve our communities, including nurses, police officers and teachers.

The state does not need to own all these assets, and neither should it. The DA fundamentally believes in using state assets to build generational wealth through houses that families can call their own. No longer will these homes stand idle while those who serve our country struggle for accommodation.

Consider Telkom Towers, a building that has cost the state close to R1 billion yet remains unusable. We're finalising a Request for Information, RFI, to convert this debt asset into productive accommodation for government departments. Consider Youngsfield and Wingfield - prime underutilised defence land with the potential to create new communities while lowering maintenance costs, restoring dignity and bringing them closer to economic opportunities.

Hon members, this is the reform that the DA is contributing to the Government of National Unity, GNU. We are determined to be solutions-orientated to unlock growth and jobs for all South Africans. A new investment vehicle will attract untapped investment. It will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs,

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on top of the 160 000 new jobs already created in the construction sector over the last six months.

I look forward to working with all our partners as we continue to turn South Africa into a construction site, and South Africa will be stronger for it. I thank you.

Mr S I SUBRATHIE: Hon President, hon Deputy President, hon members and fellow South Africans, good afternoon.

Arabic:

As-salaamu-alai-kum.

English:

On the day of his release from Robben Island, Nelson Mandela extended his appreciation to the many structures and formations of the mass democratic movement. One of those was the movement of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of SA, Contralesa. Perhaps as a start, let's state clearly that traditional leaders are an integral part of our society and they play a significant role in the governance of our country.

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The ANC, coming from its lekgotla, has committed itself and instructed the government to continue to engage traditional leaders, especially on issues of their benefits and their developmental role in society. Any attempt to politicise the matter of traditional leaders is indeed regrettable. The ANC continues to see traditional leaders as custodians of culture and moral standards in our society.

Hon members, in the context of this year being declared by the ANC as the year of decisive action to fix local government and transform the economy, the story of local government is more than what is usually reported in the media. Whilst there are extreme challenges, indeed there are, there are also extreme improvements. To cite a few examples, Okhahlamba, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Ray Nkonyeni, to mention a few, are amongst the best performing municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal.

Just a few months ago, eThekweni recorded the highest number of tourist attractions, a 19% increase compared to previous years. Since the President deployed his task team and utilised the District Development Model, DDM, we have yielded positive results. Hon Kaunda dealt with this extensively in his speech yesterday. Last year, the Ilembe District Municipality was

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awarded as the best performing district by KwaZulu-Natal Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Cogta, and Ilembe Enterprise was named as the best district development agency.

Hon members, although it is a small district located on the east coast of KwaZulu-Natal, Ilembe is one of the best cities in KwaZulu-Natal. In the previous year, they invested over R200 million in infrastructure, water branches, water projects in Macambini, KwaDukuza Bulk Sewer mains replacements and the Ndulinde water supply project. Now, this district represents a good example of how local government is managed through financial discipline and maintenance of infrastructure that boosts the economic outcomes of the municipality. Therefore, hon members, the story is ...

The SPEAKER: Can you please wait until I recognise you? Hon Subrathie, can you take a seat? What is the point of order, hon member?

There is a member from your party in front of you who has raised the point of order.

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IsiZulu:

Mnu D M SKOSANA: Sihlalo, nginephuzu lokukhalima okuphambukayo. Bengithi laphaya uma uqala kwiMithetho, ilungu alivumelekile ukuthi akhulume enze nje izinsolo nomakanjani. Ngamanye amagama, akakwazi ukuthi akhohlise isizwe ngoba le nto akhuluma ngayo ngeThekwini ...

English:

... is not true, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, the point you are raising will require verification of the facts, as you say it's arguing. So, we'll have to put a substantive motion. Therefore, for now, we can proceed.

Dr K LITCHFIELD-TSHABALALA: Hon Speaker, my hand is up.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, there was a member from your party before you. What's your point, hon member?

Mr S P MKHIZE: Hon member, I cannot sit here, coming from Macambini ...

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The SPEAKER: Sorry ... [Interruptions.]

Mr S P MKHIZE: ... and hear a Member of Parliament lying to the public. There's no water in Macambini.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, I have just advised the member of your party. So, if you have facts different from what the member is saying, bring a substantive motion. Because all of us can just stand and say, this one is not telling the truth, this one is, it won't take us anywhere.

Hon Tshabalala, do you still want to say something?

Dr K LITCHFIELD-TSHABALALA: Yes, hon Speaker, thank you. Hon Speaker, microphone etiquette, can he step away from it a bit? He is blowing our ears.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, that's the point for the presiding officer to determine. Can we please not have this laborious point of order? Hon Subrathie, take the platform and continue with your speech.

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Mr S I SUBRATHIE: Chairperson, therefore, the story of success in local government is not just limited to eThekweni; the ANC is providing leadership everywhere. The audit report of the Auditor-General of SA, AGSA, for the financial year ending 2024-25 represents a positive outcome altogether. Let's pause for a moment, hon members, to appreciate the hard work of our supreme audit authority and to indicate that the Standing Committee on the Auditor-General, Scoag, is hard at work to ensure that the AGSA is fully capacitated to carry out its mandate.

Now, the AGSA's most recent Municipal Finance Management Act, MFMA, reports show that 140 municipalities, or 55%, are now in an unqualified or clean bracket, with some improvements. For example, uMshwathi, in KwaZulu-Natal, under the ANC leadership, a notable success, hon members, moving and making a quantity leap from a qualified all the way to a clean audit through focused leadership.

The "disclaimed" breakthrough, perhaps the biggest accomplishment, is that 20 municipalities have finally moved out of the "disclaimed" - the worst category over the cycle. Notable among those showing progress in record-keeping is

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Makana in the Eastern Cape, though it remains under close provincial monitoring.

Now, hon members, these achievements are pivotal and they will become even more central as the Department of Cogta is leading the review of the White Paper on Local Government. We must acknowledge that some municipalities are weak. They have no sustainable revenue streams and there are times when the capacity to collect, because of faulty billing systems and inadequate revenue sources, persist. The review of the entire system is a step in the right direction, and we expect this to be tabled in Parliament, in Cabinet in the next few months of 2026.

Other than that, other than the review of the White Paper, Parliament is busy processing a number of legislative proposals relating to local government. For example, the first and second amendments to the Municipal Structures Act, which has been combined to become the Coalition Bill; the Intergovernmental Monitoring, Support and Intervention Bill; and the Independent Municipal Demarcation Authority Bill are just some of the legislative interventions introduced by the ANC in the sixth administration to deal with the problems

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affecting local government and to strengthen its capacity whilst fostering intergovernmental relationships.

Now, hon members and hon President, we can come up with all kinds of legislations, rules and safeguards, but if we do not emphasise the moral and ethical capacity of those entrusted with leading public institutions, we will still experience the same challenges. Hon President, we must deal with the pattern of consistent non-compliance with legislation. Hon President, non-compliance with legislation requires stronger consequence management and should not be the norm. Therefore, the professionalisation of the public service and the embedding of meritocracy are not negotiable; they are a must. Working with the Public Service Commission, government is hard at work to improve governance and lifestyle audits are being conducted. But hon members, professionalisation must go beyond just lifestyle audits. We need a self-revolution in all individuals entrusted with the leadership of our people.

Many years ago, the father of our nation, Nelson Mandela, made a bold statement arguing that South Africa needed an RDP of the soul. Mandela's call for the RDP of the soul remains relevant today. Such will move us as a country together to

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understand the urgencies of our people, to understand the dire consequences of actions and inactions. This will guide us to see right from wrong. Most importantly, this will make us understand that we are servants of the people. This requires a commitment from all sectors ... [Time expired.] ... Thank you.

IsiXhosa:

Nksk N J NOLUTSHUNGU: Sihlalo, mandibulise kumongameli nesikhokelo sombutho we-EFF, ojongene nokukhulula ilizwe sazeMzantsi Afrika kwezoqoqosho. Ndibulisa kwakhona kuMongameli uRamaphosa, amaLungu ePalamente, umzi wase-Afrika uphela, abahlolokazi nabantwana ...

English:

... of mineworkers who died in Marikana whom you, Mr President, characterised their industrial action for better wage as cowardly criminal after which they were mowed down like flies by the police.

IsiXhosa:

Singazilibali iintsapho ...

English:

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... of the almost 6 000 people who were murdered in the country only between July and September in 2025. The over 10 000 women and children who were raped in the same period and to the almost 5 000 motorists who were hijacked in that same period. One of the victims of these heinous crimes affecting the country was Olorato Mongale, a 30-year-old woman who was killed by a person she went on a date with. She is one of thousands of women whose lives were snatched from them by criminals now running this country.

Mr Ramaphosa, your government simply does not know what to do with the crime anymore, Sir. The extortion racket is now a parallel government running this country, dictating who gets what service and when. As we speak now, a Town Two Clinic in Khayelitsha was forced to close because your government is unable to provide protection to nurses, security guards who are threatened by thugs who want protection fees.

The Cape Flats is a war zone where children as young as 14 years old, carry machine guns spreading fire and fear among citizens in pursuit of the goals of these protection rackets. Your announcement to deploy soldiers to the Cape Flats is a

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little too late. It is a demonstration that you have zero confidence in the capacity of the police to fight crime.

As demonstrated by the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Criminality, Political Interference, and Corruption in the Criminal Justice System, and the Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Allegations made by Lieutenant General Mkhwanazi ...

IsiXhosa:

... urhwaphilizo emapoliseni lungaphaya kokuqonda.

English:

It requires complete recalibration before it can properly deal with crime. It is for this reason that we in the EFF table a motion for Parliament to investigate the causes of this terror in the Cape Flats.

IsiXhosa:

Awukwazi ukubopha isilonda ubofu ungabucudisanga.

[Kwaqhwatywa.]

English:

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Mr President, when you took over from president Zuma, you and the clique around you, decried nine-wasted years under president Zuma. You launched yourself using the seminal song from our beloved Bra Hugh Masekela and declared *Thuma Mina*. It has been eight years ...

IsiXhosa:

... sikuthumile. Awukabuyi nangoku oku komntwana ongafuni ukuthunyw. [Kwaqhwytywa.]

English:

Eight years later, youth unemployment is over 50%. More than 8,2 million South Africans remain unemployed. Where are the two million jobs you promised in the state of the nation address of 2019?

Under your presidency, the economy has not achieved sustained growth above 3% in any single year. Yours is a continuation of the wasted nine years under President Zuma. You are not different to him and you might, in fact, be worse. [Applause.] More than any other president, you have presided over the most devastating collapse of municipalities in this country. Of the 257 municipalities, only 41 got clean audits from the Auditor-

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General, and this has been a general trend for the past four years. It is not just a matter of poor administration and financial record keeping, but also chronic incompetence compounded by corruption. Rural municipalities are unable to even grade rural roads, making commuting a difficult exercise for learners, teachers and nurses, who deliver critical services to rural communities. Amahlathi, Makana and Enoch Mgijima Local Municipalities in the Eastern Cape have been dysfunctional for years, and yet there has not been a single intervention to resolve their problems. That is the real state of the nation, President.

Your government's chronic incapacity to resolve the most basic service delivery problems. But, like the Roman Emperor Nero, you are fiddling while South Africa is burning. South Africa is not a lost cause. It needs leadership. It needs resolute leadership to restore land back to natives and provide support to them to utilise the land for productive purposes.

[Applause.] It needs leadership with foresight to put an end to gender-based violence and femicide, not ...

IsiXhosa:

... la mabali usibalisela wona ...

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English:

... for the past 80 years. It needs resolute leadership to strengthen our state-owned enterprises and repurpose them for intensive state-led infrastructural development programmes. We need leadership to expand the higher education sector so that all those children who successfully completed matric can get into institutions of higher learning. [Applause.] We need leadership to completely eradicate slums to ensure that every single family has a decent roof over their head. You do not possess such leadership, Mr President, and that leadership can only be found in the EFF. We urge all South African youth to register to vote so that we can rid our society of this extreme laziness and corruption in our government and introduce a government that will be responsive to the needs of our people. Thank you. [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: Speaker, last week's state of the nation address reminded us that South Africa has indeed entered a new chapter defined by shared commitment to delivery, to stability and to progress. The Government of National Unity, GNU is demonstrating that it is possible to work across political lines to stabilise the country, to grow the economy and to create jobs. It is possible to place the

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people at the heart of what we do. It is possible to commit ourselves to serve those who have waited way too long for change.

For the DA, the moment of entering the GNU was not a departure from our values, but an expression of them. When we got into government, we were guided by a clear purpose to help stabilise the country in a moment of profound uncertainty and drive meaningful reform that improves the lives of people. We could never allow the country we so love to fall into the hands of those who wish to throw away our Constitution into the bin for political clout. While political parties like the MK Party do not see the value of our hard-earned constitutional democracy, we certainly do. [Interjections.] We took an oath to serve the millions of South Africans who look to us to lead.

The President has correctly placed growth and jobs at the centre of the national agenda. But no country can grow without an education system that works. It is massive, it is complicated. However, it houses one of our most precious assets, our children. Education is where productivity begins. It is where young people gain the skills and the confidence to

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participate in a growing economy. And that is why we are proud of the highest matric pass rate of 88% at the class of 2025 achieved. [Applause.] And what is most inspiring is that over 60% of our bachelor passes come from no-fee schools. Talent and hard work reside even in the most rural and underserved areas.

Since taking office, my focus has been clear, improving foundational literacy and numeracy in South Africa. We know that when we do this, our learners can progress through their schooling career with confidence and strong foundations. They will be able to take on gateway subjects that respond to the needs of our economy. To achieve this, we have radically turned the education system on its head. We have been unrelenting in investing in early expansion of Early Child Development, ECD, strengthening accountability, supporting our teachers, and ensuring that schools are safe spaces for teaching and learning.

Last year, we set an ambitious target through the Bana Pele ECD Registration Drive to register 10 000 ECD centres by December. We reached that target by September and closed the year with 13 000 registered centres. [Applause.] What this

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means, hon members, is that over 1,3 million children have access to good nutrition, foundational learning, and safe places. We have set aside R10 billion over the next three years to support ECD, increasing the subsidy to R24 a day. That means in 2025 alone, we added 150 000 children to gain access to this subsidy.

Hon members, South Africa is not a poor country. Our children cannot die of hunger, and that is why we are including school nutrition in ECD centres. We will not stop until every child has access to early learning centre. With a warm meal, with structured lessons, and safe environments. In addition, we have established a nearly R500 million education outcomes fund to create 100 new thousand ECD spaces across three of our rural provinces, KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape, and Limpopo, the largest early childhood care education fund of its kind globally. We are determined that a child from Giyani, from Mkhanyakude and from Lusikisiki, must have the same start as a child from Bishop's Court and Sandton.

Speaker, tremendous progress is being made, even in the harshest fiscal constraints. Years of austerity measures have hamstrung our provincial education departments. But we are

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working closely with MECs to strengthen delivery in each province. Many of our corporate partners and philanthropic partners have reached ...

IsiXhosa:

... apho singafikeleli khona.

English:

Their generosity and their beliefs in our strategy have been investments in libraries, additional classrooms, kitchens, and the like.

IsiXhosa:

Umsebenzi wethu mkhulu kwaye udinga abantu abazimiseleyo ukusebenzela abantu beli lizwe. Yiyo loo nto sisithi akwanelanga nje ukuba abantwana baphumelele imatriki, sifuna abantwana bethu baphumelele emagqabini bakwazi ukungena kwiiyunivesithi ukuze benze umahluko kumakhaya abasuka kuwo.

English:

The real measure of success in an education system is having strong foundations of learning that leads to young adults who leave school equipped to study further, to train, to build

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businesses and to participate meaningfully in the economy. If we get the basics right of reading, writing, counting and supported teachers, we will close the gap between ...

IsiXhosa:

... abo bangathath'ntweni nabo bafumileyo.

English:

We will not stop until we get it right. Thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Ms N A GCALEKA-MAZIBUKO: Hon Chair, because of time constraints may I please rise on the established protocol.

IsiXhosa:

Phakama Mzantsi Afrika, phakama!

English:

You have done well for yourself. You have stood against oppressive systems like apartheid and spoke for the voiceless. You have saved lives, whilst big nations failed to save lives during world pandemic, called COVID-19. You have stood against bullies and made it your business to build better communities.

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IsiXhosa:

Phakama Mzantsi Afrika!

English:

As our President, His Excellency Mr Ramaphosa gracefully stated, it is you, South Africa that is able to remain focus and turn its economy around. To date, we have experienced four consecutive quarters of gross domestic product, GDP growth. To date, we have achieved two consecutive primary budget surpluses. In my home village ...

IsiXhosa:

... siye sithi sinemali.

English:

To date, our credit rating has improved and where I live in Johannesburg, its stock exchange is the largest stock exchange on the African continent and of course, it continues to perform.

IsiXhosa:

Phakama Mzantsi Afrika, phakama!

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English:

It is you, who has made transformation non-negotiable. You are building a developmental state that places industrial transformation and redistribution at the centre of economic policy planning. You have made it your business to change the life of Tintswalo, Thandi and Sipho. Not many can state that they want to achieve rapid inclusive and sustainable economic growth that aimed at ensuring the promotion of fixed capital investment and industrialisation, job-creation, transformation, livelihood support, land reform, infrastructure development, structural reforms, transformational change, fiscal sustainability, sustainable use of our national resources and endowments.

IsiXhosa:

Phakama Mzantsi Afrika.

English:

You are doing well.

As a country, we have one of the deepened financial markets on the continent with a financial sector with assets of over R22 trillion, demonstrating that South Africa does not

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necessarily have a resource scarcity but a redistribution and allocation problem. One of the targets of the Medium-Term Development Plan to stimulate economic growth is an investment target of R3 trillion, which is 15% of the asset capitalisation of our financial sector. So, we do not lack resources; the major question is how they are allocated and deployed, including the spatial factor of where.

To support our ambitions of increasing the industrialisation of our economy, asset allocation in the economy has to support manufacturing and other industrial sectors, as they are a major source of decent job creation. We need to recalibrate asset allocation exposure of pension funds and review the prudential limit to increase access to credit.

Mr President, as you are aware, many black-owned businesses and start-ups lack access to credit due to the restrictive credit regulations and policies. Our banks are among the most profitable in the world, lending where the markup is high on short-term credit finance, such as mortgages, vehicle finance, and credit cards, which are not necessarily productive.

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To address this challenge, we must establish accessible standards for co-operative banks, mutual banks and banks, particularly in the digital age of Fintech, including the Postbank.

South Africa, let us welcome the decision, by the ANC-led government to prioritise infrastructure development as reflected by the over R1 trillion allocation in the medium term for infrastructure. To support an increase in infrastructure investment, we should significantly increase the capitalisation of the Development Bank of South Africa.

This should be done in order to increase its reach and impact, which significantly supports municipalities, to improve access to water and sanitation, roads, and infrastructure and other infrastructure development. Furthermore the realisation of regulation 28 of the Pension Fund Act must non-negotiable.

IsiXhosa:

Phakama Mzantsi Afrika.

English:

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And make sure that the establishment of the Sovereign Wealth Fund happens in the short term. We have all the tools and capabilities to make it a reality. Firstly, we have the state capability through Public Investment Cooperation, which has increased its assets from over R2,5 trillion in 2023 to over R3 trillion in 2025. Secondly, the Public Investment Corporation, PIC can act as an incubator of a Sovereign Wealth Fund, which should be capitalised by the fiscal and various capital mechanisms. We should also create a linkage with resource rents.

As we rise, we must remember that we have the power to transform South Africa's financial architecture. We have no fear to enter spaces where many fear. We must debate, agree and change our monetary, fiscal and credit policy, so that they are inclusive and benefit all who live in South Africa.

IsiXhosa:

Phakama Mzantsi Afrika.

English:

Unleash the entrepreneurial energy of your people. Support them to compete locally and participate in trade. Break down

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the barriers and ensure that the people share the wealth of the country. As you rise, rise with your people, and leave no one behind. We are South Africa and South Africa is us. Madam Speaker, ...

IsiXhosa:

... uMzantsi Afrika uyabulela kuMongameli ...

English:

... for his action-driven state of the nation address. I want to repeat, for his action-driven state of the nation address. [Interjections.]

Tshivenda:

Ndo livhuwa nga maanda.

IsiXhosa:

Phakama Mzantsi Afrika, phakama! [Uwele-wele.]

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Malibongwe! [Praise!] In the name of the Almighty, the most gracious and the most merciful, hon Speaker, the Leader of Al Jama-ah, the Deputy Minister Ganief Hendricks, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, whom I

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have the highest respect for. The hero of perseverance in the face of adversity. We can look up to him in face of adversity. Also, the Deputy President, hon Paul Mashatile, respected Ministers and Chairpersons in this august House.

[Interjections.] Hon Chairperson, may I be protected, there is a lot of noise.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon members, can we please allow the speaker the opportunity to deliver his debate speech. You may continue hon member.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Thank you, hon Chairperson. Please record the second missed. Respected Ministers and Chairpersons in this august House, let us respect one another. Hon members, fellow beloved and patriotic South Africans.

In the face of adversity, on behalf of Al Jama-ah, I rise today to welcome and acknowledge the President's state of the nation address. We commend the President for clearly identifying the many complex challenges facing our beloved country, and for courageously presenting solutions and a vision for a South Africa in transition.

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As Al Jama-ah, our response is clear, social stability is the bedrock of economic prosperity. Our hon President has committed to ending corruption. We must now move rapidly into decisive and immediate action. The urgent dismissal and prosecution of officials implicated in criminal activities is essential and critical. Delays and weak implementation continue to damage public trust and undermine our nation's hope for a better future. To eradicate crime, we must ensure that no state official, including members of the SA Police Service is complicit in criminal networks. The rule of law must strictly prevail.

There are systemic failures and poor governance that continue to hamper the delivery of basic services and necessities which have been identified very well by our hon President. It is a known fact that communities are increasingly losing faith, trust, and confidence due to persistent breakdowns in water supply, housing delivery, electricity provision, sanitation, and prolonged delays in immigration and legal documentation processes. These are not privileges; they are constitutional rights.

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We commend the President for personally taking leadership of the National Water Crisis Committee. The estimated R400 billion required to address this crisis is substantial. We look forward to clarity in the budget regarding funding allocation, rollout plans, and firm timelines. The people of South Africa deserve immediate, reliable and uninterrupted access to clean water.

Fellow beloved South Africans, we are moving beyond crisis management and into an era of strategic human investment. The basic income grant, if implemented effectively, can serve as a catalyst for sustainable livelihoods. It must empower, uplift, and restore dignity, not merely act as a survival mechanism.

Al Jama-ah also acknowledges and welcomes the President's unwavering stance in support of the people of Palestine, Western Sahara, and all oppressed nations. We call upon government to take decisive action against South Africans serving ... [Time expired.] Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY (Mrs S J Graham-Maré): Mr President, Mr Deputy President, hon Chairperson, hon members, energy is the lifeblood of our economy. It is

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essential to growth, job creation and dignity. This is why the DA has consistently supported the establishment of a competitive liberalised electricity market that expands access, lowers costs and strengthens South Africa's industrial competitiveness.

We therefore welcome the President's clear endorsement of this policy direction and his commitment to keeping key energy reforms on track. The Energy Regulation Amendment Act provides a clear legal framework to unbundle and transform Eskom. This will not be easy, nor will it be quick, but it provides a clear pathway toward a modern and sustainable energy system.

I have full confidence in Team Energy - Minister Ramokgopa, departmental officials, the leadership and staff of Eskom, Sanedi, Nersa, Necsa, NRWDI, and the NNR - to drive implementation. Our shared responsibility is to translate national commitments into practical measurable progress. This year will see continued rollout of renewable energy projects and the launch of the SA Wholesale Electricity Market.

Alongside this, we are focusing on pragmatic industrialisation, expanded skills development, stronger

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municipal energy systems, and scaled-up energy efficiency and demand-side management. Together, these are building a modern energy system that supports growth, job creation and our long-term climate commitments.

These reforms also create a major opportunity to localise new energy value chains and build domestic manufacturing capacity. Cabinet's adoption of the SA Renewable Energy Masterplan, or Sarem, directly links the energy transition to industrial development. This is not simply a planning framework. It is an implementation platform.

Workstreams focused on manufacturing development, skills, and investment mobilisation are now operational. They are aligning public and private sector stakeholders around priority industrial opportunities and translating policy direction into investable manufacturing pathways.

Industry has identified more than 4 000 components across renewable energy value chains that could potentially be manufactured locally. This provides a clear roadmap for strengthening domestic industrial capacity, while maintaining investment certainty.

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As our reforms expand energy supply, we must expand access. Our G20 legacy programme on clean cooking is translating policy into practical delivery that directly improves lives. Clean cooking is about health, safety, dignity and opportunity. To date, 1 000 cook stoves have been delivered to households in Mpumalanga, building on Eskom's programmes targeting 3 000 households.

Last-mile LPG infrastructure has been installed and local small businesses trained to support rollout and maintenance. By year-end, we are targeting a Cabinet-approved national clean cooking roadmap, alongside implementation plans for every province based on a multi-fuel approach: Electric, gas, and bioenergy. Implementation is already under way. We are not waiting for plans to act.

South Africa's nuclear sector remains a strategic national asset, supporting energy security, advanced science, healthcare, skills development and industrial capability. Our country continues to demonstrate global leadership in nuclear technology, including world-leading radioisotope production that supports life-saving medical treatment worldwide.

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I am pleased to report continued clean audit outcomes across Necsa, NRWDI and the NNR, which reflects sustained improvements in governance and financial management. The Necsa has returned to profitability and is attracting R1,2 billion in investment, not grants, from National Treasury for the new Multi-Purpose Reactor.

This will expand isotope production and strengthen South Africa's position in global nuclear medicine supply chains. Together with future nuclear build programmes, this positions South Africa to develop a strong pipeline of technical skills and local manufacturing capability able to compete internationally.

We have made steady progress, but reform must continue. With commitment, partnership and sustained implementation, we can build an energy system that supports growth, inclusion and long-term national capability. So, let's get to work. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr K CEZA (Maiden Speech in JS): The Chairperson of National Council of Provinces, revolutionary greetings to the commander-in-chief and president of the EFF, Commissar Julius

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Sello Malema, commissars, fighters and ground forces of the EFF.

Today, we rise not to defend the indefensible, not to massage the failures of this GNU, but to expose the rot in local government and to reject the falsehood and punitive government that is hellbent at withholding funding to municipalities.

President Ramaphosa, Frantz Fanon warned us about you! In *The Pitfalls of National Consciousness*, Fanon described a national bourgeoisie that does nothing but mimic colonial masters, focusing on personal enrichment while the masses starve.

This culture of dispossession is evident across all your nine provinces, but most particularly so in Amathole District Municipality and in Giyani since 2016.

Like the colonialists before you, you treat rural our mothers as invisible, forcing a 60-year-old grandmother to trek 800 metres over dangerous terrain just to share filthy river water with livestock, whilst crushing her spine and her dignity under the weight of a 25-litre bucket.

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Mr President, you offer us 'reforms', which are not different from gradualism, but in Siyathuthuka Township in Belfast, women are raped in the dark because you cannot provide a single working streetlamp! We should not be surprised because, as for the ANC, a streetlamp in a village is an 'expense' but a blue-light brigade for a Minister is a 'necessity'.

And now, you have weaponised the National Treasury to launch a war against the poor! Mr President, you believe that starving municipalities will force accountability. We call this what it is: A neoliberal austerity trick. By invoking section 216 of the Constitution to withhold funds from 39 municipalities, you aren't punishing corrupt officials, you are strangling the people. [Applause.]

To withhold the equitable share is a constitutional crime. It is a neoliberal austerity trick designed to collapse the public sector so that your billionaire friends can privatise our water. You have done everything else humanly possible to be on the opposite side of the people.

The residents of Matlosana, Vereeniging, Vanderbijlpark, Sharpeville and Bophelong are drowning in raw sewage which is

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flowing down their streets and into their homes. Moreover, in Bushbuckridge, your officials are so brazen that they claimed a ten-year-old water leak as 'flood damage' just to loot the relief funds! While real families across this country were losing their roofs, their livestock and their lives to devastating floods, these officials saw not a tragedy, but an invoice. They didn't see suffering; they saw a 'get-rich-quick' scheme funded by the National Disaster Management Centre.

Meanwhile, in Nkomazi, the road infrastructure in Ward 11, KaHoyi, as we were there on Sunday, and in particular, Road D2953 has been in a 'permanent state of design' - build since 2025 but dilapidated for the last 15 years. The road becomes impassable during rainy seasons, cutting off the community from essential goods and services, access to emergency healthcare, education and safe public transport, leading to increased safety risks and fatalities during recent floods.

Despite being placed in the design phase for the 2025-2026 provincial budget, we are concerned by the systemic derailment of this road infrastructure project. For there seems to be a linkage between the derailment and the October 2022 by-

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election results in Ward 11, where the EFF won in that ward. This is not, "Renewal", which you promised, but a systematic rot of a dying regime!

The EFF correctly asserts, as we did in our founding manifesto, that the crisis we see today is not merely 'bad management', it is a deep structural crisis. You cannot have meaningful municipalities on a foundation of dispossession. Our municipalities are failing because they were designed to be unsustainable enclaves. We warned you back then that as long as land is not expropriated without compensation, our municipalities would remain 'landless' authorities, unable to provide housing, sanitation or dignity to the African majority. [Applause.]

The raw sewage running through the streets of Emfuleni and the ten-year leaks in Bushbuckridge are not accidents; they are the inevitable result of a 'neoliberal' model that prioritises debt collection over human life. Municipalities must become engines of production, not just administrators of decline; not of clean audits but dirty lives.

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We don't want your EPWP crumbs; we want industrialisation! We don't want your half-a-loaf is better than no bread politics; we want an equal share in the entire loaf! We want industrial parks in every rural municipality and paving on every road in quality so that our people won't die in the mud on the way to clinics; not a perpetual rurality of rural development but true development.

We want the state to stop sabotaging municipal wards won by the EFF just because you fear our success and fortitude!

[Applause.] You should win the confidence of the people through persuasion; not by sabotaging their services! Ensure the completion of dysfunctional reservoirs and sewer plants in Emakhazeni, at Govan Mbeki and Dr JS Moroka chronic water shortages.

We call on this pretentious GNU to end the boardroom talk-shops. Pave all rural internal roads for economic access to clinics. Support local cooperatives and small manufacturers through municipal procurement. Build resilient houses that can withstand disasters; built differently this time.

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The solution is not to withhold funds from the people of Makhanda or Mafube. The solution is the seven non-negotiable pillars of the EFF. We need the insourcing of engineers and technicians so that a ten-year leak in Bushbuckridge is fixed in ten hours; and not turned into a looting scheme.

We need the total overhaul of the local government fiscal framework. We need the nationalisation of the land so that municipalities can plan without begging developers. We told you this in 2013. You didn't listen then. Now, the streets flow with filth, and the Treasury is closing the taps. Mr President, you are not fixing the crisis; you are the crisis! Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Ms F HASSAN: Hon Chairperson, Mr President, 70 years after women like Mama Sophie de Bruyn, and thousands more marched, I stand here as proof that their courage moved our country forward towards power and dignity for women. It is 50 years after the youth of 1976, whose courage demanded a better future with opportunity. Thirty years into our democracy, I am living proof that a nonracial, nonsexist society is possible, but democracy cannot end at the ballot box. It must reach the mine gate, the factory floor and the household meter. Ten

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years after #Fees Must Fall, the struggle continues, as students are fighting for access to institutions of higher learning at this very moment.

All these milestones culminate in this particular moment. Our generation must build a united and prosperous South Africa with jobs and opportunities for the youth.

The President reminded us that our strength lies in our natural endowments, the minerals beneath our soil and the riches of our land, but if we remain trapped in extracting and exporting raw minerals, we are not building a democratic economy; we are managing a colonial one.

As the world shifts to green energy and clean tech, South Africa holds many of the critical minerals needed for this transition, alongside world-class solar and wind resources. It is not just a statistic, it is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reindustrialise, to add value through beneficiation, and to ensure that communities where mining happens are the first to benefit, not the last to be remembered.

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Mr President, you were correct in categorising mining as a sunrise industry. We possess what the world desperately needs - 88% of global platinum-group metals, 70% of chromium and 32% of manganese. Mining contributes some 6% to the GDP, employs over 474 000 and constitutes a major portion of our exports. In a town under the shadow of a chrome mine, Nomsa watched trucks leave each day, heavy with ore, light on hope. The wealth beneath their feet left raw and returned as expensive goods they could barely afford.

Then policy changed and a furnace rose. Chrome became ferrochrome, ferrochrome became stainless steel and suddenly work appeared where there was only waiting - apprenticeships, workshops, suppliers, pay checks, community ownership models turned Nomsa's mining town into a development zone.

Her brother became an apprentice. Her mother's spaza shop became a supplier. And at home, holding a stainless-steel spoon made from their own ground resources, Nomsa understood beneficiation is when a country stops exporting its future and starts building dignity.

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Our resources must not be an input to a system that generates wealth in other countries. They must be the foundation of a developmental economic model and it is the ANC that has worked to seize the opportunity. By modernising the mining cadastral system, we can unlock R30 billion in new investment. We can increase the speed of licensing and removing corruption and bottlenecks. We can increase funding for geological mapping and exploration and support junior miners to expand. We can preserve existing industrial capacity in downstream industries and support them.

Of course, there is a very important point that must be made on energy and we appreciate the stability that has been brought to Eskom and the hard work. Our energy availability factor has risen to over 65% from an all-time low of 48%. However, we must be honest about the next fight - affordability.

President, the commitment to eradicate load reduction by next year must be treated not just as a delivery target, not as a talking point, but as a necessity. And in the same breath, we must confront the cost-of-living crisis. Electricity prices are too high for many township and rural households. Our

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indigent programmes must be strengthened. The Free Basic Electricity grant must be increased from 50 to 150 kilowatts. Innovative off-grid small-scale energy solutions must be rolled out. Addressing the municipal debt crisis and fixing the distribution systems must be prioritised.

Therefore, the reform of our energy system is important to provide cheaper power for every South African. By introducing competition and enabling investment in a diverse energy mix, we can bring down costs while ensuring a reliable supply into the future. ANC Minister Ramokgopa and his team must be commended for this work.

We must also recognise progress. The Presidential Employment Stimulus has created 2,5 million opportunities. Another R2,5 billion has been set aside for women- and youth-led SMEs. The YES programme has created more than 200 000 places for young people. There has been a shift in the skills revolution.

President Ramaphosa, I must now speak plainly as a young Member of Parliament here. The youth of South Africa are done begging for a place in an economy built on our exclusion. We

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were told to be patient and wait our turn, but you cannot feed a generation with patience.

So, here is the demand from us as young people: Treat youth unemployment like a national emergency, not with speeches, but with state power; with a wartime approach that mobilises every department, public entity, municipality and every private company in this country with targets, timelines, and consequences.

We are done with an economy of extraction. There can be no licence without beneficiation, no tender without youth jobs and no incentive without training and decent work. And to the young people watching, your struggle is the struggle of this Republic. We are not asking for charity; we are demanding justice.

So, let us be remembered as the generation that created a thriving economy built on abundant, low-cost energy and a society that works for all. Let us turn our mineral riches into a diverse economy, our schools and universities into centres of opportunity. Let us turn freedom into economic dignity now. I thank you. [Applause.]

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Mr B J FARMER: Hon President and hon members, I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, the God who died for us on a wooden cross.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Order, hon members! Can we allow him to address the House, please? You may proceed, hon Farmer.

Mr B J FARMER: first and foremost, let me thank Parliament that had the audacity to invite Ria Reen to do the praise singing for us at the Sona. It was really appreciated.

[Applause.]

!Ke e: /xarra //ke [diverse people unite] are etched into South Africa's national Coat of Arms. They are written in the /Xam language of the San people, and they mean diverse people unite. Yet, while these words represent the soul of our nation, the people who spoke these words, the first inhabitants of this land, remain among the most marginalised.

Today, we speak about the Khoe and the San. For over 100 000 years, the San lived as hunter-gatherers, and for 2 000 years, the Khoe flourished as pastoralists. They are the first nations of Southern Africa, possessing the oldest DNA on

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earth. [Applause.] However, their history is not just one of ancient heritage; it is a story of centuries-long struggle for recognition, land and the right to exist as a distinct people.

The struggle began with the arrival of European settlers in 1652. The Khoe and San were the first to face the brunt of colonial expansion. Their grazing lands were seized, their water sources were fenced off, and they were subjected to what many historians now recognise as genocidal campaigns.

But perhaps the most insidious blow came later, under the apartheid regime. The Khoe and San were stripped of their indigenous identity entirely. They were forcibly reclassified under the coloured racial category. This was not just a label; it was an attempt at erasure. By being absorbed into a broader racial group, their unique languages, their traditional leadership structures, and their status as first nations were legally wiped from the record. For decades, they were made socially and politically invisible.

When democracy arrived in 1994, many hoped for a restoration of dignity, but for the Khoe-San, the new South Africa brought new barriers.

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At last, we need to thank the President again for allowing the Army to come and help secure our Cape Flats, as coloured lives do matter.

Take the issue of land restitution. Current South African law generally limits land claims to dispossession that occurred after 19 June 1913. But the Khoe and San lost the vast majority of their ancestral territories centuries before that date. Because the law does not fully account for pre-1913 colonial theft, many communities remain landless in the very places where their ancestors' rock art still marks the caves.

Then there is the struggle for legal recognition. While the 1996 Constitution protects indigenous languages, the 11 official languages initially recognised were all Bantu or European. Khoe and San languages like N/u or Khoekhoegowab were relegated to a subclause, and many are now on the brink of extinction. Without official status, these languages cannot be taught effectively in schools, further severing the umbilical cord between the youth and their heritage.

The struggle continues in our courtrooms today. In recent years, the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act attempted

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to finally recognise Khoe-San leaders. However, it has faced massive legal challenges, because many activists feel it still does not go far enough in granting true autonomy over land and resources.

In places like the Kalahari, communities like the #Khomani San fight for access to basic water and sanitation on the very lands they won back in land claims. They face a double-edged sword. They are celebrated as tourist icons for their traditional knowledge of tracking and medicine, yet they often live in deep poverty, marginalised from the modern economy.

Yet we see incredible resilience. We see a Khoisan Revivalist movement where thousands of South Africans are reclaiming their heritage, refusing to be defined simply as coloured, and instead standing proud as Khoe and San. We see landmark victories, like the 2019 Rooibos benefit-sharing agreement, where the industry finally acknowledged that the knowledge of this tea belongs to the Khoe-San people.

To honour the Khoe and San is not just to admire their ancient rock art or use their words on our currency. It is to

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recognise that they are a living, breathing part of our present.

Their struggle is a mirror held up to our democracy. It asks us: Can a nation be truly free if its first people are still fighting for the right to be named? As we move forward, let us ensure that “!ke e: /xarra //ke” [diverse people unite] is not just a motto, but a promise of land, a promise of language, and above all, a promise of the dignity restored to the true natives of this beautiful land.

Afrikaans:

Agb President, moenie baiza [huiwer] nie.

English:

Salute.

The PREMIER OF MPUMALANGA (Mr M Ndlovu): Speaker of the National Assembly hon Thoko Didiza, Chairperson of the NCOP hon Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, hon President Cyril Ramaphosa, Deputy President Paul Mashatile, and hon members, in times of uncertainty and challenge, leadership is defined by the willingness to lead from the front. Mr President, such

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leadership provides stability, serves as an anchor for the collective, and fosters confidence, loyalty, and pride among the people.

We therefore welcome your decision to lead from the front in addressing the country's water challenges. Our people have responded positively to this decisive leadership and draw reassurance from your direct engagement, which reinforces their confidence in government and its commitment to service delivery. We saw you, hon President, in the provinces of Limpopo and Mpumalanga, when our communities were plunged into sorrow and despair as a result of heavy rains and devastating floods. Even in those difficult moments, you led from the front, standing shoulder to shoulder with affected families.

In Mpumalanga, the torrential downpour resulted in the tragic loss of 20 lives, the displacement of many families, and widespread damage to infrastructure. We extend our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. We further wish to express our sincere appreciation for the swift support and decisive intervention by the hon President. Our provincial government reprioritised R288 million to repair the disaster damages. We also appreciate the reprioritisation of

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R100 million by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Department of Human Settlements, at R50 million each. The spirit of co-operative governance between the different spheres of government is a living and practical expression of our constitutional commitment to work together in the best interest of the people of South Africa.

Hon President, we accept your call and join you in honouring and saluting the brave women of 1956, izimbokodo [rocks], who stood firm and fought for the total emancipation and the freedom of our people in South Africa. As a champion of gender transformation, you have set the standard for inclusive and progressive leadership in our country. We have taken a cue from your example. Our director-general is a woman ...

HON MEMBERS: Malibongwe! [Praise!]

The PREMIER OF MPUMALANGA (Mr M Ndlovu): ... and more than 50% of top-level managers are women.

IsiXhosa:

Igama lamakhosikazi! Malibongwe! [The name of women! Praise!]

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English:

According to the Oxfam report, 89,8% of Mpumalanga's population depends on the public health system. The province is accelerating the employment of health professionals and advancing the roll-out of a single electronic patient record system. Of our public health care facilities, 93,8% are accredited by the Office of Health Standards Compliance. Mpumalanga is ready to implement the National Health Insurance and enhance access to clinical care with the recently appointed 25 medical doctors to be placed in community health centres across the province. This brings the total number to 36 community health centres with full-time doctors, whilst an additional 10 are supported by contracted doctors.

We will complete seven clinics and construct six new clinics during the current financial year. We have also completed the high-tech Middelburg regional hospital, which has been fully operational and is waiting for you, hon President, to open it. [Interjections.] In addition, the state-of-the-art Mapulaneng Hospital is scheduled for practical completion in this financial year.

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We have launched the uBuhle bezulu e-learning programme, which is designed to bridge the digital divide through the distribution of smart devices. Sixty thousand tablets were distributed to Grade 12 learners at R312 million in 2025. For the 2026 academic year, we will be distributing 80 000 tablets to Grade 10 learners, for them to utilise these gadgets for three years. [Applause.] The tablets come with a three-year warranty. We are in the process of offering reliable Internet connections to our schools for our learners to be able to utilise their tablets. Our children will be able to compete locally and globally.

We are consolidating a solid foundation for learning. Therefore, early childhood development, ECD, remains a priority, and 1 300 community ECD centres have been registered and funded. We are currently constructing 29 new schools across the province, of which 10 will replace all community-built schools ... [Interjections.] ... ensuring that our learners are taught in a safe, dignified, and modern learning environment. We remain firmly committed to eradicating all pit latrine toilets in our schools. We have built seven state-of-the-art boarding schools to expand opportunities for learners from farm schools and disadvantaged communities. We are busy

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finalising plans for the Mpumalanga School of the Deaf and Blind. We are ready to go to the market.

The trial run conducted in Mpumalanga province in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality in Leandra on capturing carbon dioxide from industrial sources and storing it underground is certain. We invite mining companies, which tend to benefit from the research, to invest in this project. Research done in Bethal by an Australian renewable energy company, Windlab, showed that the Bethal area in our province has the most consistent wind flow in South Africa. As a result, Seriti Green is currently building a wind farm that has already created 2 000 jobs during construction and will create 600 permanent jobs after completion.

We will soon be signing a memorandum of understanding with the University of Mpumalanga to be a core partner in the recently signed agreement between the university and the Hainan province in South China to pilot the large-scale production of hybrid rice in Mpumalanga, which is estimated to create over 380 000 jobs and contribute approximately R4,32 billion annually to the provincial economy. [Interjections.]

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Hon President, indeed, your comprehensive and compelling state of the nation address drew wide attention across the political and policy spectrum. Even one of your most vocal critics, the Institute for Economic Justice, acknowledged in its response that your address was clear in outlining the challenges confronting our nation. Even where there may be differences regarding the proposed solutions, this recognition affirms that the issues facing our country were articulated with honesty and clarity.

Hon President, we thank you for your continued commitment to serving the people of South Africa in times of complexity ...
[Time expired.] [Interjections.]

BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT 15:56 AND RESUMED AT 16:15.

Dr P RAMATHUBA (Limpopo): House Chair, allow me to stand on the already protocol established. Today we stand before you with immense pride as we respond to the state of the nation address delivered by His Excellency President, Mr. Matamela Ramaphosa on 12 February 2026.

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Mr. President, there is no doubt that the depth of your utterings was accompanied by your comfortable posture, assurance of your tone and the sternness of your pronouncements. As it is custom in our province, especially towards the festive season, we pray for rain, so that it waters the land to give us harvest at the appropriate time. Unfortunately, when rain clouds gathered, we did not carry enough shoes on our back to stop its anger as it tore our province into pieces, levelling, in its wake, what was once a village full of life to a mere ground with just two RDP houses remaining standing out. This was after water had subsided to show the kind of quality housing you have often spoken about, strong and adaptive to climate change.

Mr. President, you witnessed personally first-hand the villages that were turned into dams, streets turned into dongas, yet you saw hope in the eyes of communities who came to welcome you as you reached out to them in Tshakhuma, Giyani and Mbaula areas as an example.

Indeed, like the true father you are, you went back noting that the devastation you witnessed was beyond comprehension,

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requiring more money, dedication and immediate action to help those trapped as well as rebuilding peoples' lives.

Mr. President, this reminded us as a province of the clarion call you made in April 2022, when disaster like this nature struck KwaZulu-Natal, those who have got small memory, that at the same time the country should put a hand in supporting the people of KwaZulu-Natal. As a province at a time, we were at the process of establishing our search and rescue emergency services unit which we sent to assist the people of KwaZulu-Natal. We also had our churches including our ruling party, the ANC in the province sending trucks full of clothes and non-perishable items to for relief to the people of KwaZulu-Natal. We responded to your clarion call. Today that expertise, that expertise has come in handy so that as a province we were able to avert the worst loss of lives except the 27. May their souls rest in peace which we were not able to save, indeed one life lost is too many.

We have as a province re-prioritized our needs and committed R800 million towards rebuilding efforts, alongside the anticipated support from Minister Godongwana from the national government.

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We recognise that the journey requires more than just physical reconstruction; it demands community healing and the restoration of hope. Limpopo lies in ruins, but we shall build the walls, and we shall restore the dignity.

As we reflect upon the key priorities outlined in the Medium-Term Development Plan - our inclusive growth, reducing poverty and curbing the high cost of living, and building an ethical, capable and developmental state - we are pleased to affirm our alignment with your bold vision, Mr. President.

We are witnessing a positive economic outlook in our country. Let us stand resolute in the confidence that progress in South Africa is not temporary. Limpopo is a testament to that, despite scepticism, real and lasting progress is possible. Hon Nzimande, let me remind you of the latest Income and Expenditure Survey which showed that poverty in Limpopo is declining from 66% to 47,6%, a leading reduction nationally. Just yesterday, the 2025 Quarter 4 Labour Force Survey was released, and it showed that Limpopo's unemployment rate has further declined to 28,2%, following a significant drop from 35% to 29,8% in Quarter 3 of 2025. However, with nearly half of our residents still living in poverty and carrying the

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weight of unemployment, accelerating inclusive growth and job creation remains an urgent priority. Where there is increased economic activity, there is development, where there is development, jobs are created and communities' flourish.

Limpopo is not merely surviving but growing contrary to your views. Our GDP contribution has risen for the first time from 6,9% to 7,8%. Numbers don't lie. This is statistics. This growth demonstrates tangible economic activity transforming the lives of our people. We are shifting towards becoming an urbanised rural region, where development is felt in the most distant villages. This is not an accident, Mr. President, but a result of your deliberate planning and action which we would like to see drop even to below 20% by 2030.

While we are registering progress, we must also indicate that we are not happy with the small pace, the current situation which we saw two days ago where many young people from all over the country queuing at the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, site in Thohoyandou to submit their CVs is a wake-up call to those of us that you have deployed with responsibilities to turn the lives of our people.

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We are aware of the challenges that persist, especially in ensuring consistent water supply. In response, we have established what we call the premier's war room on water in the Mopani District, the popular Giyani. Out of the 20 villages, we are left with five to complete the projects. They would be having running water. Similar structures have been established in Capricorn, Mopani and Vhembe District.

We want to applaud your insistence, Mr. President, on infrastructure investment as the bedrock of economic growth. Initiatives such as the rollout of solar smart technology in rural villages. Yes indeed, Minister Ramokgopa came on your behalf and switched on the lights at Madimbo Village bridging the digital divide, providing our children with access to modern technology and educational resources.

Last year, we shared our positive story with you on public-private partnership. But today, we are constructing Steelpoort Bridge in Sekhukhune. Today as we speak, we are waiting for Minister Mantashe to join us as we cut the ribbon because the bridge is completed.

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As the government, we spent 10% and the mines spent 90%. While we are waiting to cut that ribbon, we have also signed on the side-lines of the Mining Indaba last week. We have signed another agreement to construct D212 in Sekhukhune District because we believe that development is achieved through partnerships and unity.

Mr. President, we want to applaud you on your bold pronouncement that you are going to revitalize George Mukhari Hospital. This will be the third academic hospital to be built since 1994. Let us remind hon members in this corner. The first one was built by President Mandela, which is Chief Albert Luthuli. The second one, which is at 40% completion, is the one that you pronounce in this august House, which is Limpopo Academic Hospital, built by you. The third one will also be built by you. It will happen because you are not a man of promises, but a man of commitment, and you deliver on your commitment.

Mr. President, when we established the medical school at the University of Limpopo some few years ago, many people say over our dead body, I am surprised they are still breathing oxygen. Why are they not yet dead? It was meant to bring a pool of

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specialist surgeons to get back to the province. I must tell you, Mr. President, they are back in the province. Just two weeks ago, we delivered two conjoined twins.

Prof Tshifularo, a first black paediatric surgeon, is leading the team. We are going to rewrite history under your leadership when the conjoined twins will be separated in a rural hospital called Limpopo, under your leadership.

Tshivenda:

Miloro yavho i a wedza, Singo.

English:

So, Mr. President, we also would want to commend you for your unwavering commitment on the Limpopo-Gauteng high-speed rail project. [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon House Chair, hon President, hon Deputy President, hon Speaker of the National Assembly, hon Chairperson of the NCOP, hon Hlabisa, the president of the IFP and fellow South Africans, the state of the nation address invites us not only to reflect on the state of the nation, but to examine whether government action is

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keeping pace with the expectations of the people we represent. Our responsibility is task-urged in our ability to ensure practical changes in the lived realities of all South Africans.

Whilst we recognise the developmental progress recorded as a result of the government of national unity governance structure, we must also recognise the real struggles of ordinary people. Our continued struggle is the slow implementation of sound policies that government proposes but fails to implement effectively and timeously. The National Planning Commission's continued analysis states that several challenges still pose a risk to the prospects of a viable functioning state. These include the weakening of government and key institutional structures, the Public Service performance and the erosion of confidence and trust across society. Political leadership needs to focus on the issues raised by the National Development Plan, NDP, in a sustained and targeted manner.

The NCOP has a critical role to play in addressing these challenges. The NCOP would therefore advance the implementation of plans as pronounced in the President's state

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of the nation address by addressing three sphere planning, weaknesses and disjuncture and focus on advancing the transformation priorities of the provinces, metros and districts. Yesterday, I was pleased to hear the hon Mamabolo acknowledging the importance of the three sphere planning. I wish to encourage all provinces to recognise the value of the three sphere planning in order to achieve the objectives of a developmental state.

Mr President, the IFP will ensure that the NCOP plays an effective role in overseeing the implementation of plans announced in your 2026 state of the nation address.

As we reflect on the challenges facing our nation we must focus on how to ensure that national priorities are effectively cascades through provincial, district and local municipalities. We must also reflect on whether our plans reach the constituencies and communities with sufficient speed and consistency. From this perspective, the state of the nation address must not be defined as a policy ambition alone. It must be defined by whether a household receives water and whether a young person can find work without leaving the province.

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In regard to taking positive steps to cause correct, we congratulate the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Cogta, on reviewing the White Paper on Local Government framework. The outcomes of the review process will go beyond administrative adjustment and confront difficult questions about institutional capability. The review of this address will have long standing challenges at the coalface of service delivery.

Mr President, the intensified focus on organised crime and gang violence is welcomed. I must sadly say that soon after we concluded I was sitting here last night. Three people were shot and killed at Athlone here in Cape Town. One of them was a nine-month-old baby. The two others were women. This is a sad reality in our country. This needs to be stopped.

Communities across all provinces are anxiously looking forward to the outcomes of the Madlanga Commission. Citizens expect swift and decisive actions towards strengthening the weaknesses in the criminal justice system. Young people are not only unemployed, many feel excluded from the economic future being discussed at national level. Skills development must respond to local labour markets. Through inclusive

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economic development as a unifying goal, we as South Africans will begin to shake off the shackles of poverty.

We acknowledge the focus on greater border management. The years of porous borders have caused a threat to our local economy in which illegal and undocumented foreigners are unjustly benefiting from the limited opportunities that we have.

Hon President, I acknowledge your pronouncement on infrastructure prioritisation which raises expectations of ending poverty, unemployment and inequality. Public confidence depends not only on plans announced, but on projects that are completed. As the IFP we call on Parliament to intensify its oversight to ensure that infrastructure commitments translate into complete functioning assets.

The government of national unity offers an opportunity for co-operative governance and co-operation must be seen to yield positive outcomes. As the IFP we stand ready to play our role to ensure that national priorities become provincial realities and the provincial realities restore confidence in democratic governance. I thank you, hon House Chair.

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The PREMIER OF THE WESTERN CAPE (Mr A Winde): Hon Chairperson, Mr President, Mr Deputy President, hon Ministers, hon members, thank you very much for the opportunity to address this House on the President's Opening or state of the nation address. I do so on behalf of the residents of the Western Cape. One would think that I would speak about jobs, basically following the Quarter Labour Force Survey, QLFS, where the Western Cape now has an unemployment rate of just on 18%, the lowest by far in South Africa. However, Mr President, I am not going to speak about jobs; I am not going to speak about the 31 000 jobs in manufacturing, 48 000 jobs in trade, 22 000 jobs in agriculture, 22 000 jobs in construction, or perhaps the 360 000 jobs out of 400 000 net jobs in South Africa in the last five years, that came from the Western Cape.

Mr President, like you, I want to dedicate this time to speaking about crime, and I thank you for focusing on crime. I stand here before you on behalf of that young baby whom we have just heard about, at nine months old, who was shot yesterday in Athlone. I am here on behalf of the 345 people who were murdered just in January this year, in this province. We have some out-of-control crime in our country, and I support you in the focus. I support you in the deployment of

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the military. However, what I do say is that it cannot just be a Band-Aid. Last week I met with the Acting Minister of Police to say, we must learn the lessons of 2019. We had an eight-month deployment of the military in 2019, and we did not get the traction of the force multiplier that we should have. We need to make sure that the SA Police Service, SAPS, with the military, and included in it, the joint operation commands, there is the Metro police, law enforcement, the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan, LEAP, officers, the dog units and the traffic officials, both provincial and local.

The Community Policing Forums, CPFs, must be consulted. We need to work out on how neighbourhood watchers can be involved, because if we do not approach this differently, we are going to have the same results as in 2019, and gangsterism will continue. Mr President, I also support you in the lifestyle audits. With the Madlanga Commission and the ad hoc committee, we are busy rooting out those bad cops. Let us get that done; let us support the good policemen and women in our system, and what better way than starting with lifestyle audits? Judge Thulare said that gangsterism is at the top table of crime management at the SA Police Service, SAPS. In this province, the gangsters sit at the top table. Let us make

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sure that lifestyle audits deal with that question, and that there are no corrupt deals at the top table of policing. So, I absolutely support you in it. We've got to make sure, Mr President, that we resource those police officers. You know, the commissions and the ad hocs are putting a lot of question marks around our police service. Therefore, we've got to make sure that they get the wherewithal to do their job.

In 2019, when I first became the Premier, we had 200 000 police men and women in our country. Now, we've got 180 000. In this province of the Western Cape, we had 20 000 police officers. I have 12 908 active police officers now on duty in this province. Those numbers are going down, and that is unacceptable. We also need to make sure that we get two areas of focus. The first is detectives, and the second is the anti-gang unit or fighting gangsterism and fighting extortion. Mr President, when it comes to detectives in South Africa, there are 8 500 vacancies. In this province of the Western Cape, there are just under 1 000 vacancies. We need to fill those vacancies, because it doesn't help to arrest someone and take a firearm from that person who has just shot someone in the community, but the next day, they are back on the street. We are not putting quality dockets into the court system.

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The other day, I went to the Kraaifontein Police Station, they have 62 detectives at that police station. They have 38 vacancies. You know, those detectives have one computer that is in the captain's office. The captain prints out the e-mail and hands it to the officers by hand. They have no cell phones, not one. In Khayelitsha, it is not much different, except they have five cell phones amongst 92 detectives. This cannot be how we resource our officers enabling them to do their job. The same thing in Mitchell's Plane, Mr President. You know, the scary part about Mitchell's Plane is that it is a presidential designated gang police station that needs to be extra resourced. At the gang stations that you have designated, you now have got one colonel and three captains when there should be four colonels and eight captains. That is just in the management, let alone the vacancies and the detectives there. They have only 28 detectives who don't have the wherewithal to do their job.

Now, that is where we as the province and the city have said we will help. Let us help. I've got a document here for the Acting Minister of Police, that is going to enable us to help to add in this Government of National Unity, GNU. We are putting our hand up to say, we will help. Let us make sure we

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resource these people. Lastly, what I want to say, Mr President, and you know you've said that it is time to be bold. So, I want to talk about the budget. The budget for police. This is Vote 28, page 527 of the budget book. In that budget, it says that VIP security is R4,264 billion. An amount of R4,2 billion, Mr President. Do you know how long it takes to count R4,2 billion? It takes 133 years. But at the same time, you can't find a line item for the anti-gang unit. There is no budget line item for the anti-gang unit. The question to Parliament is, what kind of resources does the anti-gang unit have? In the 2023-24 year, it was R34 million, not even 1% of the VIP security budget; not even 1%.

In the last five years, the anti-gang unit's operational budget or operational costs have been in 2019-20, R12 million, in 2020-21, R22 million, 2021-22, 24 million, 2022-23, 28 million, and in 2023-24, R34 million. Together, that is R130 million as opposed to R4,2 billion. Here is a bold choice, Mr President, why don't you swap the two budgets around? Give the budget that protects the politicians to protecting the people; and give the budget that you allocate to fighting gangs and extortion to VIP security. That would be

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a bold move. Let us protect the people; let us not protect the politicians. I thank you.

Mr N NDHLELA: Madam Speaker, I'd like to welcome to the House, the legendary president of the people, President Jacob Zuma and the national officials of Mkhonto weSizwe Party and the President of the Republic Mr Ramaphosa stood before the nation to deliver his so-called state of the nation address. South Africans expected leadership. What we received instead was a tired recital of neoliberal cliches and an empty hymn to markets, rating agencies for global approval.

This was not the state of the nation address. This was the state of the neoliberal agenda. [Applause.] Mr President, you spoke of progress while the country burns with unemployment. You spoke of reform while poverty tightens its grip. You spoke of renewal while inequality has become a permanent scar on the face of our people. The people are not fooled. Let us begin with the foundation of democracy itself. The 2024 elections were deeply contested and millions of South Africans, of course, believe Mkhonto weSizwe was robbed of this election. [Applause.] They were robbed of their right ... [Interjections.]

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We will not be gaslit. We will not be silenced. The will of the people is sacred, and no administrative manipulation or institutional bias of the elite packed will bury the truth. The fact is the elections were rigged and then came this so-called GNU. Remember, we referred to, by the way, the ANC of Ramaphosa. We should call this the GNU of you. A coalition not of conscience but of convenience. A grand boardroom major of political elites for just the privilege. A cult of white monopoly capital. A celebration of Roman Dutch law legally orthodox while African majority remain landless.

An HON MEMBER: Order.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Ndhlela, can you resume your seat please. Please, there's a point of order there. Can you take your seat, Mr Ndhlela. What are you rising on?

An HON MEMBER: Hon member, take a seat. Not, can you take a seat.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): What are you rising on?

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The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Ms N Mhlauli): On a point of order: Can hon Ndhlela please tell us about the president of his party and the Epstein files while he's debating? [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): That's not a point of order.

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Inganekwane leyo. Inganekwane yodwa.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Continue, Mr Ndhlela.

Ms K L N SANGONI: Point of order, Chair.

An HON MEMEBR: What is the meaning of act?

Mr N NDHLELA: These are the kind of discussions that they have when they're having meetings. That is why this country is the worst ... [Inaudible.] That's why I just can't use ...
[Inaudible.]

Ms K L N SANGONI: Order, Chair. Point of order.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Mr Ndhlela, resume your seat, please. There's a point of order there.

An HON MEMBER: Sit down Sit down!

Ms K L N SANGONI: Thank you very much, hon House, Chairperson. Mr Ndhlela is misleading the House. He has come here and told us that it is a fact that the elections were rigged. They tried. They failed. The elections were free and fair. He must withdraw that statement.

IsiZulu:

Ukhuluma inganekwane.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon member, that's a point of discussion. I think a member is able to rebut that. Over to you, Mr Ndhlela.

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Imali ye-COVID iphi?

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Inganekwane.

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English:

Mr N NDHLELA: I'm saying they celebrate Roman Dutch law, orthodoxy, while African majority remain landless. You celebrate the Constitution of 30 years, rooted in Roman Dutch law, as if it fell from heaven. But we ask: Where is the African soul in it? Where is the restorative justice of the land that was stolen? Where is the living authority of the kings and queens, and the chiefs who governed this land long before the borders were drawn?

An Hon MEMBER: Ask Zuma. Where was Zuma?

Mr N NDHLELA: This restoration of traditional leadership is not ceremonial. It is revolutionary. Empowered kings, queens and amakhosi are custodians of land and identity. [Applause.] Their restoration to meaningful authority is the pathway to securing land back for black people through not speeches, but through power.

You speak of accountability, Mr President. Then, let us begin at the top of the judiciary. We demand lifestyle audits for judges. Transparency cannot stop politicians. If corruption is

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to be uprooted, no sacred cows must remain. Not in the executive, not in Parliament, and certainly not on the bench.

You speak of opportunity while young people sit idle in townships and villages. Unemployment has become a structure. Poverty has become an inheritance of the black child.

Inequality has become normalised. As MK party, we say free decolonised higher education must be a non-negotiable.

[Applause.] It is a non-negotiable right. Not a slogan of every recycled February Sona. You cannot speak of economic reform while education remains commodified.

We further say, introduce structural national conscription, not necessarily for militarisation, but for the nation-building, and that's what is important. Let our youth serve in infrastructure brigades, water restoration programmes, agricultural development, and community safety initiatives.

[Applause.] Build true discipline. Let's build true skills. Let's build true identity and let's build true unity.

On water and electricity, the basics of civilisation, your government has failed and failed spectacularly so. Communities queue at water tankers like refugees on their own land.

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Electricity is either unaffordable or unavailable. Years of promises. Endless task teams. No consequence. A capable state, Mr President, does not beg private sector or private monopolies to do its work.

A sovereign state builds, owns, and controls strategic infrastructure. Let us speak frankly about immigration. South Africans are not xenophobic. They are desperate and sick and tired of the state that cannot manage its borders and cannot manage its economy. Immigration policy must balance Pan-African solidarity with national interest. South Africans come first. Order is not hatred. Lawlessness is not prejudice.

Mr President, you, by the way, remain stuck in the past when it comes to foreign policy. On the Western Sahara, I know you guys are going to complain. Your administration continues to parrot outdated positions while the continent moves on. On the 31st of October, just last year, 2025, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2797 with the majority support and no objections from the same BRICS that we are part of, our partners, affirming autonomy proposals for the most feasible solution to end this 50-year conflict. But you are still behind. Guided by President Zuma's engagement, by the way, in

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2017, when he was in your seat doing a far better job than you. He met his majesty Mohammed, and the MK party has supported the autonomy proposal as a practical solution that preserves African unity and presents the further balkanisation based on colonial borders.

Peace talks commenced in Madrid just last week, 2026, between Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, and the Polisario Front. Direct implementation of the 2797 Resolution was discussed. The process is moving whilst you stay behind.

The autonomy framework is detailed. The peace track is alive. We call on this government to align with these developments and support the lasting solution, guided by realism, not outdated ideology rigidity.

Mr President, your GNU celebrates market confidence, while township ... [Time expired.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Ndhlela, your time has expired. [Applause.]

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Ms J A BASSON: Mr President, I never understood the slogan on a black shirt until I went to the ground and witnessed the senseless killings of hundreds of coloured people from Cape Town to Eldorado Park to the northern areas of Nelson Mandela Bay. I saw the pain in mother's eyes. I saw families bury their loved ones. I saw tears in final goodbyes that should have never happened.

On behalf of every patriot, I thank you for hearing and granting our leader, Gayton Mckenzie's request to deploy the army to protect our communities. Thank you, Mr President. Too many lives have been lost. Too many families have suffered. Today, the slogan carries true meaning. Coloured lives do matter. I thank you, Sir. [Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Are you rising on a point of order?

Ms J A BASSON: No, we are done.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): What are you rising on?

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Mr G E KOBANE: I want to know people who say Mozambique when someone speaks. It means you are promoting tribalism. You never talk about Lesotho. You never talk about Swaziland. You never talk about Zimbabwe. You are tribalistic.

An HON MEMBER: Why are you crying?

The Hon MEMBERS: [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon members, please adhere to the joint rules of the House. You can only rise to a point of order. Please don't do what they ... [Inaudible.].

Mr L MPHITHI: Thank you very much, House Chairperson. I greet the President and the Deputy President. I begin with a quote:

Johannesburg today faces enormous challenges ranging from financial and governance instability to rapidly deteriorating infrastructure. Water and electricity interruptions have become the norm. This has an enormous impact on the quality of life of citizens and operations of business.

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These words were spoken by you, Mr President, while you were delivering your remarks on the 7th of March 2025 at the Johannesburg City Council Chambers. Today, we are forced to pause on these very words. These very words, hon members, that ring truer and truer each and every day for the people of Johannesburg.

Joburgers who catch taxis in the morning to go to work. Those who wake up late to open doors of their businesses. Those who wake up each and every day to drive where they drive.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: House Chair, it's me here.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Mphithi, can you take your seat, please? What are you rising on, hon Maotwe?

Ms O M C MAOTWE: No, that one of the premiers was sitting on the wrong chair.

IsiXhosa:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILEYO: Hayi, musa ukuphapha wena.

English:

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Ms O M C MAOTWE: I think, we must induct these Premiers who come here clueless about what must happen.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): That's not a point of order.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: No, Chair, it's a point of order. He can't sit on that chair. That chair is for the speaker who's on the podium. He was sitting there. He's sitting on the podium. He was sitting there.

IsiXhosa:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILEYO: Akayazi kaloku.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Over to you, hon Mphithi.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Okay, I can come and sit there. He's sitting on the podium. He was sitting there.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): You can continue.

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Ms L A MATTHYS: Chairperson, you mustn't sleep today like you were yesterday. So, pay attention.

Mr L MPHITHI: House Chairperson, as I continue, Joburgers who catch taxis in the morning to go to work. Those who wake up early to open doors of their businesses. Those who wake up every day to drive to their jobs. The elderly, the unemployed, school kids, the creatives. All of us who have woken up without water in Johannesburg. We have seen the breakdown of the city, brick by brick, and day by day.

We are slowly realising that a vote in an election is not a quick five minutes for a five-year-term. It is deciding as a South African, a resident, who will sit across the room from you when you do not have water. Who will sit across the room from you when your roads are falling apart. Effectively, it is deciding whether you'll have a champion or an opponent across the room from you.

Joburgers are realising that we have had an opponent all along in the Mayor of Johannesburg. We are literally watching and presiding over the death of Johannesburg as we speak. A water crisis in the economic capital of the country is shameless. A

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city mismanaged to the precipice of collapse is shameless. We are tired of politics that speaks to us with condescension. A politics where those we have given power to can escape the carnage that they've created and go to hotels and take showers. A politics where those have been elected, the Mayor of Johannesburg, says to us, don't expect too much improvement while I'm in charge. A politics where the parties who have never had an internal election in their very own organisation want to lead Johannesburg tomorrow.

We are not going to have that, hon members. Maya Angelou puts this quite clearly. "If someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time."

These politicians have shown us who they are, and it's time for us to believe them. The people of Johannesburg love their city, and they are waiting for their city to love them back. This pain too shared by you, Mr President, in the lead up to the G20 when you said, and I quote, "I found the city filthy". It is a painful sight to go through to the city centre. You have a number of abandoned buildings, buildings that have been hijacked, that are not paying their taxes.

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This is why the DA in Johannesburg threw the best-ranked mayor in the world in 2008, the former mayor of the best-run province, premier in the country, probably the most experienced public servant in the country. The mayoral candidate of Johannesburg, Helen Zille, had decided to take action, take the City of Johannesburg to court to compel them to fund and implement the water turnaround strategy approved by council two years ago. This is because the DA believes in Johannesburg. We are ready to put tangible solutions for the people of Johannesburg.

Hon Chairperson, last month I conducted an oversight in Johannesburg to the Springbok, Electron, and Lindokuhle and East Road informal settlements where these sites have been illegally invaded. This land has been taken, and this is why the DA has put a bill in Parliament to stop land invasions. My colleague, hon Emma Powell, who has fought day and night to put this legislation here in Parliament, has ensured that this House can consider that we stop land invasions in our country that are growing each and every day. Mr President, this needs urgent attention.

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So, in a debate about service delivery, let us not shy away from calling our failures out and presenting tangible solutions. In a debate about mediocrity, let's be honest to South Africans, if we cannot do the job, so that those that can do the job. Where the DA governs, it governs the best. The best-run province, the Western Cape, the best-run municipalities, the City of Cape Town and Midvaal, and the time goes on and on. We have proven this time and time again, and that's why we are saying, believe in Johannesburg, believe in the DA, we have proven it, we have shown them, we can get it done. Thank you very much.

THE PREMIER OF NORTHERN CAPE (Dr Z Saul): House Chair, let me greet His Excellency, the President of SA, His Excellency, the Deputy President, hon members of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me start by wishing the more than 4 million Catholics a blessed Lent period.

Let me also congratulate His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa, on delivering a decisive and action-orientated state of the nation address. This is a clear indication of a

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president deeply in touch with the general mood of South Africans.

What is admirable about the President is his consistent display of gravitas despite the avalanche of distractions. This is the kind of leadership our country really deserves.

Regrettably, the address by the President was delivered during an election year. During this season, which is marked by elections, the opposition benches are heavily spiced with politics of self-deception and thereby miss an opportunity to substantively engage with the address.

In a chorus yesterday and today, the opposition parties deceptively see nothing, hear nothing and feel nothing that is positive about the country. They are completely numb to any positive developments, and this is due to election anaesthesia. This is a crude form of politics of self-deception and is self-defeating, and it is modern-day politics of brinkmanship.

What South Africans can see is a desperate opposition that convince themselves of false narratives. Opposition parties

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twisting facts, playing a blame game, creating alternative truths, Monday morning quarter backs, and loyal disciples of empty rhetoric. This is called bluffing, an exclusive focus on headlines than trend lines.

Hon Ndhlela, supporting the oppressed Sahrawi people of Western Sahara can never be an outdated position. To think like that is a worst form of political bankruptcy. Supporting the Sahrawi people is timeless and is progressive internationalism.

Notwithstanding this awkward display of politics of self-deception and bankruptcy, the truth must be told. The truth is that South Africans are confronted with multitude of challenges from different fronts, and the President sincerely acknowledged this in his address. However, this cannot erase the fact that on the developmental front there are major strides and positive indicators that suggest that the country is moving in a right direction.

In the Northern Cape our governance model is deliberate; it is not an unguided rift, results-driven, people-centred and achieves outcomes. In 2019 the province started with only

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three clean Public Finance Management Act, PFMA, audit outcomes. Today, out of 13 auditees we have nine clean audits. [Applause.] This signals an improved accountability ecosystem.

There has been a steady growth in the Northern Cape's gross domestic product, GDP. In 2019 it was R117 billion, and today as we are speaking here, the GDP of the province is R166 billion. A clear sign of resilience and progress in the face of global economic crisis. This growth in the gross domestic product comes with massive job opportunities for the people of the Northern Cape. I have learned from this that there is no such thing called a jobless growth.

Yesterday's Statistics SA ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon premier, can you take your seat? What are you rising on, Mr Skosana?

IsiNdebele:

Nom D M SKOSANA: Sihlalo, undlukulu we-Northern Cape uyakhuluma nanyana singamuzwa bonyana uthini. ISoweto yikulu ukudlula i-Northern Cape, angazi bonyana uyakwazi lokho na. Ngiyathokoza.

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English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): That is not a point of order. Hon premier, can you resume your position? ...

[Interjections.]

Hon premier, can you resume your position?

THE PREMIER OF NORTHERN CAPE (Dr Z Saul): Thank you very much. Yesterday's Statistics SA unemployment report shows encouraging progress, with the Northern Cape recording a notable 4,1% reduction in official unemployment in quarter 4 of 2025. These are 18 000 new jobs created. This is the highest decline in unemployment in the whole country. This improvement places the Northern Cape as the second province with the lowest unemployment rate at 27,1%.

The province has set the following economic targets to achieve: R200 billion by 2030, and the creation of an additional 60 000 jobs.

Our province produces nearly three times more renewable energy than what it consumes. We account for 60% of the country's renewable energy projects. We have also been allocated the

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largest share of the grid expansion under the current allocation, with nearly 900 km of the total 1 400 km. This will enable us to contribute even more to the South African energy economy.

South Africa is the sixth largest iron ore producer in the world and 80% of the global manganese resources are located in our province. The combination of renewable energy and mineral resources enable green steel and green manganese production. Therefore, the commitment we have from Vedanta Zinc International, Kgalagadi Manganese, Frontier Rare Earths, and Kamal Cisco will strengthen our beneficiation capacity towards economic empowerment and employment.

The completion of R1,5 billion phase one of the Gamagara pipeline helped to improve water supply to our communities in the John Taolo Gaetsewe, ZF Mgcawu District ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon premier, can you please ... On what are you rising, Mr Ndhlela?

Mr N NDHLELA: Hon House Chairperson, we wanted to know if the hon premier here has any property at the Orania enclave, and

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what is he going to do about dealing with that instead of telling us everything else? Tell us about the enclave in Orania ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): That is definitely not a point of order ... [Interjections.]

THE PREMIER OF NORTHERN CAPE (Dr Z Saul): This is the kind of bankruptcy that has infested the opposition.

Over the past five years we marked a massive improvement in the National Senior Certificate, NSC, pass rate, with an increase from 66% in 2020 to 88% in 2025, a rise of over 22% in six years. We deserve a round of applause for this.

[Applause.]

We have a total of 551 schools, including the 11 special needs schools ...

An HON MEMBER: Speaker?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Can you resume your seat? On what are you rising, hon member?

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Mr J S NGUBANE: House Chairperson, I want to know if the premier is willing to take a question about Zamani Lake ...
[Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon premier, are you prepared to take a question? ... [Interjections.]

No, you can't ask a question. Are you prepared to take a question? Can you resume your position?

THE PREMIER OF NORTHERN CAPE (Dr Z Saul): Hon House Chairperson, all key indicators in public health show significant improvements in the province. Eighty seven percent of Northern Cape population uses the public health care. Life expectancy for both males and females continue to increase, specifically the life expectancy for males rose from 50 to 60 years by 2025. For females, life expectancy increased from 54 to 66 in 2025. The infant mortality rate has gone down, and maternal mortality rate has also gone down, all due to increase in the number of medical doctors in our public health care system from 420 to 522 doctors.

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The HIV positivity rate has gone down, from 4,5% in 2019 to 2,4% in 2023. Sexual offenses have gone down over the past five years. We are currently at 3,4%, which is lower than the rest of the country.

Care and treatment for people living with HIV/Aids as well as retention of antiretroviral treatment has gone up from 62 000 to 68 000 in 2023.

In conclusion, the best antidote ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon premier, unfortunately your tie has expired ... [Interjections.]

THE PREMIER OF NORTHERN CAPE (Dr Z Saul): The best antidote for ... [Interjections.]

Mr M M PETER: Hon Chairperson, hon President of the Republic of South Africa, Bantubonke Holomis, members of this House, the UDM supports the state of the nation address, as tabled by His Excellency the President, Matamela Ramaphosa. However, support does not mean silence. In the true interest of serving the people of South Africa, we rise to sharpen, strengthen and

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submit proposals that move this nation from promise to performance.

No country survives without law. Mr President, on the issue of illegal immigrants, the UDM wishes to commend as follows. Firstly, no country can function if its laws are optional. And anyone who comes to this country legally must be prepared to abide by the law, or they will be shipped out.

Fellow South Africans, you deserve a state that works, a system that speaks to each other and early warning mechanisms that stop crime before it spread.

Without accurate Financial Intelligence Centre Act, Fica, registration, Sars cannot collect the revenue from all traders operating in our economy. Furthermore, law enforcement cannot properly trace or dismantle criminal syndicates operating in the underworld. South Africa urgently needs a co-ordinated security response plan with timeframes and the strengthening of the NPA to be functional.

South Africa's liberation history teaches us solidarity, but protection must be credible and enforceable. If a person is

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granted asylum, yet voluntary returns to the very country, they claim to have fled from during holiday season, it must be reviewed. You cannot be in danger today and on holiday tomorrow.

IsiXhosa:

Khanibe ningxola, nizizibhoxi. Ngumsebenzi wenu ukungxola.

English:

Accountability is not hostility. It is fairness. It is security. It is sovereignty.

We welcome the review of the sector education and training, Setas, as a collective measure to ensure that skills funding delivers measurable results. Within the Department of Defence, the SA National Service Institute, recently passed out over 500 young people.

Mr President, do consider ring-fencing and redirecting Seta funding towards standardised study guides in mathematics, languages, accounting and entrepreneurship; and towards mandatory practical and technical skills components.

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In 2001, hon President of the Republic of South Africa, Deputy President, Mr Holomisa, Matt Matthys, a mathematics teacher, Chantal Mulder, the CEO of the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants, SAICA, and the then President of SAICA, Ignatius Sehoole spearheaded the Thuthuka Project, providing English, mathematics, and accounting study guides for Grades 9 to Grade 12. Today, that project has produced over 2 000 black chartered accountants. We may need to have a tailor-made or similar setup into skills development.

Mr President, in 2023, you called on the Minister of Finance to address the pension queries of former civil servants. The affected community is still waiting for feedback and progress reports. People are dying while the system drags its feet, and each day of delay is a day of injustice.

It is even more painful to see that the funds meant to secure these pensions are being looted by the elite through the Isibaya Fund at the Public Investment Corporation, PIC. Resources meant for ordinary South Africans are being diverted to enrich a few, deepening inequality and betraying public trust.

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How we wish that money could instead be invested in South Africa's infrastructure, generating real returns for the country and creating jobs. This is a guaranteed investment in the nation, not in private greed. The people deserve accountability and action, not corruption.

IsiXhosa:

Mongameli welizwe, uthethe kamnandi kwintetho yobume besizwe usitsho ukuba amajoni uza kuwahlwayela kweli lizwe. Sicela ukuba uqale ngeBhayi, abantu bayabulawa. Andikwazi ukuhamba eBhayi, abantu babhubhile. Enkosi. [Kwaphela ixesha.]

Mr S LONZI: Commander-in-chief of the EFF, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, today we will not hide behind crammed coats and flowery words as your Minister of Higher Education, Buti Manamela did yesterday. How can the Minister of Higher Education publicly declare that there is no plan or solution to absorb all the learners that pass matric in postsecondary education.

During your state of the nation address, Mr President, you proudly announced that this is the highest number of matric passes in this country's history. But what is the point of celebrating statistics when you know deep down that thousands

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of these learners are going back home because there is no space in postsecondary education?

What was even more worrying is that, when we asked the Minister of Higher Education about additional spaces, he spoke to us about community, education and training, CET centres. CET centres are primarily designed for community education to serve adults who want to write matric or redo their examinations. They are simply not structured, funded or even mandated to absorb the large numbers of learners who have already passed matric and are seeking postsecondary education.

I don't know where Minister Nzimande is. Can you please educate the young man? Clearly, he does not know anything about higher education.

We were also not surprised when hon Khusela Diko attempted to steal the victory of the EFF on data. Unfortunately for her, the people of South Africa know that it is the EFF that fought for data to expire in South Africa. But what do we expect from someone who was implicated in stealing PPEs, while our people were dying during COVID-19? The data victory of the EFF is not PPE, Minister. It cannot be stolen.

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We will not entertain Minister Ndabeni's statements about Economics 101. Because we know that she is inspired by the CEO of ...

Mr G J SKOSANA: Hon Chair, I am rising on Rule 53 of the Joint Rules. The hon member is casting aspersion on hon Diko. He says hon Diko is implicated in the stealing of PPEs. So, he knows that he is supposed to bring a substantive motion for such a matter.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon Skosana. Order! I accept that that is a point of debate. Please, continue.

Mr S LONZI: It is all over the news. We are not going to entertain Minister Ndabeni's praise for creating jobs, because just yesterday, the youth of Venda lined up in Thohoyandou Stadium to submit their CVs to the SA National Defence Force. You should know this, Minister, because you come from that same community in Venda. But as the President of the EFF often says, when consciousness leaves you, it does not say goodbye.

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Today, Mr President, we have been sent to deliver a simple message to you, one that the praise singers have no courage to tell you. On my right are CVs of youth, inclusive of graduates who have been looking for jobs without success. It is a lie that they are lazy. It is a lie that they sit at home and bask under the sun like hon Gwede Mantashe suggests. They wake up every morning. They ask their families for the last cent. They must choose between buying bread or buying a bus ticket. They must choose between buying electricity or buying data.

I listened attentively to you, President, when you said, during your days you used to go door to door to look for a job, as if the youth of this country has not walked all the streets and stood by each and every traffic light looking for a job in South Africa. What an insult to the young people who stand in long lines to get a job as a waiter, as a bottle girl, as a call centre agent! What an insult to the more than 900 000 youth who applied for the mere 5 000 available posts in the South African Police Service training programme! What an insult to the unemployed doctors, the young educators and teachers who have spent many years equipping themselves to serve this nation!

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Why do you brag to us about going door-to-door during your time? Do you know how many young people in this country have sleepless nights, are depressed, anxious, refreshing their emails, refreshing their spam emails, trying to look for that one positive e-mail out of the 100 interviews that they participated in during that particular week.

Mr President, these are just a few CVs, which are gathering dust in our communities, but there are many other millions of CVs of young people who are unemployed in this country. And from now onwards, we are going to rally the youth of South Africa to physically deliver CVs at the doors of the Union Buildings, at the doors of Parliament, and at the office of hon Gwede Mantashe. We are going to publicly share your official e-mail addresses, not the fake ones you put on Google, so that the youth can send you all their CVs each and every day, until you take the struggle of joblessness serious in South Africa.

Mr President, on my left is the box that carries the cases of students who have completed all their academic qualifications or requirements. But universities are withholding their degrees because they owe the university money. Why do you

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withhold the degree of a student that owes you money? It is the very degree that must be the key that unlocks employment opportunities for them to be able to have a monthly income. Give them their degree, so that they can go and seek a job.

We want to take this opportunity, President, to tell you that these boxes are very heavy. They are heavy with disappointment. They are heavy with anger. They are heavy with hunger. They are heavy with the false hope and the fake dreams that you have been selling the youth of South Africa.

We want to thank all the key stakeholders that have participated in the final draft of the Student Debt Relief Bill of the EFF. We are now ready and prepared to present the Bill before this House. We want to see, Mr President, who you are going to stand with in the struggle of student debt? Who are you going to stand with? Are you going to be with the students? Are you going to be with the youth of South Africa, or are you going to abandon them? We are submitting these CVs to you, even though you ... [Time expired.] The Deputy President will give them to you.

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Mr R ODENDAAL (Eastern Cape): Hon House Chairperson, hon President, members of the House, I rise to address this House on behalf of the people of the Eastern Cape. The Eastern Cape is consistently an afterthought.

The president's state of the nation address was just another example of this. The people in the Eastern Cape marched on Monday to demand the deployment of the SA National Defence Force, SANDF in gang-riddled Nelson Mandela Bay communities after the metro was left out of the President's speech.

And whilst our calls have now been answered, it should never have taken a march. The people of the Eastern Cape matter as much as any other South African matters in this country. Crime in our province is out of control. Annual statistics show that we are still more likely to get raped and murdered in the Eastern Cape than anywhere else in the country.

The SA Police Service, SAPS, is failing at every turn due to catastrophic underfunding and lack of resources. Nelson Mandela Bay should have featured in Sona, but the people of the Eastern Cape are all too familiar with broken promises and

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policy cycles and band-aid solutions that do not address systemic failures of governance.

The Eastern Cape is a province of extraordinary resilience; it is the birthplace of giants ...

An HON MEMBER: Are you from Eastern Cape?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members, the next member that unmutes without being recognised.

Mr R ODENDAAL: ... it is the birthplace of giants, rich in history, culture, and natural beauty. It is home to agricultural strength, manufacturing potential, world-class ports, and an automotive sector that anchors Nelson Mandela Bay and Buffalo City.

But just because we are resilient does not mean we can be an afterthought or completely ignored. Nelson Mandela Bay is the economic powerhouse of the Eastern Cape, backed by several powerful industries that employ tens of thousands of people.

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It is uniquely positioned between two harbours, including the Ngqura Deep-Water Port and the Coega Special Economic Zone.

But a city's potential cannot be realised without leadership that delivers, budgets that work, and accountability that means something. Over the last two financial years, Nelson Mandela Bay has sent back more than R1 billion in unconditional grant funding.

The leadership gets the money, but they cannot spend it. It now faces a further RR440 million withdrawal from the national Department of Human Settlements because of severe underspending. It is unforgivable!

The Midterm Performance Report tells the story. The city has only met 16,67% of its basic service delivery targets. A sure sign of weak and disinterested leadership.

Most recently there was almost city-wide week-long power outage due to the collapse of pylons which had rusted all the way through.

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Unemployment remains painfully high. Our youth unemployment is even higher. The latest statistics show that over half our population cannot find work. Over the past two years, more than 6,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost in Nelson Mandela Bay alone!

Service delivery failures have eroded trust. Councils across the province are collapsing. In many towns, waste collection, reliable power and maintained roads are now only pipe dreams.

In most municipalities, infrastructure is not being replaced or maintained. Criminals constantly vandalize the little functional infrastructure that we have left. And in some areas, it is starting to resemble a warzone.

Water insecurity is no longer a distant threat; it is the norm. And most of this is caused by inept municipalities who cannot maintain their infrastructure.

Mr President, imagine a city where you have massive water, electricity and sanitation infrastructure backlogs, where you have the money to address the problem, but it is sent back to National Treasury. Now, imagine having a 70 000-housing unit

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backlog in the same city and you can't spend that money even poorer is getting poorer in Nelson Mandela Bay. But it's not a funding problem. It is a governance problem; it is a management problem.

Nelson Mandela Bay has seen no less than 48 Municipal Managers since 2009—roughly one every three months. Our current City Manager has been suspended, sitting at home since October 2023 earning in excess of R7 Million during that time.

We are witnessing a dangerous brain drain from government, particularly at local level. In Nelson Mandela Bay, even highly competent senior officials who have delivered financial stability and clean governance have been driven from office by intimidation and political interference.

To get local government working again, we need skilled, nonpartisan engineers, town planners, artisans, plumbers, electricians, auditors. People who get the work done, regardless of politics, not because of it.

And we need a new, ethical, values-driven leaders.

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Leaders who know what the problems are and are relentless in pursuing them. We need DA leadership. Budgets mean nothing without competence.

The President has rightfully acknowledged many of these challenges in his address. And if water is the single most important issue, then let the Eastern Cape see immediate, measurable intervention in failing systems.

If municipal dysfunction is acknowledged, then let professional appointments replace cadre deployment. If procurement is the root of corruption, then let every tender be transparent, defensible, and free from manipulation.

The fight against corruption must reach municipal offices, procurement units, and those who have treated public resources as personal opportunity.

The infrastructure investment programme must translate into working rail, efficient ports, reliable electricity, and maintained water systems in our province as well.

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And the small and medium enterprises, SME, funding must reach township entrepreneurs, not just those connected with politicians.

The electronic vehicle incentives must support the automotive value chain in our region, protecting and expanding jobs in Nelson Mandela Bay as well as Buffalo City. And the professionalisation of local government cannot be optional.

The Eastern Cape does not lack talent; it lacks consistent governance. Imagine what this province could be under a disciplined, ethical, and competent administration. Imagine a Nelson Mandela Bay that works under a DA-led administration. A city with functioning infrastructure, safe public spaces, efficient port logistics, and thriving small businesses.

Imagine young artisans trained through a reformed skills system feeding directly into manufacturing plants. Imagine municipal finances managed transparently, with revenue reinvested into maintenance instead of diverted to patronage networks. These things are possible.

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The DA has shown what can be achieved through good governance where it governs. But it requires political will, administrative courage, and relentless oversight.

Hon President, the Eastern Cape has given this country business and political leaders of formidable stature. We have to stand back for no-one. But our people have been patient, they will no longer be fooled, they are hopeful, but they are not naïve.

In the end, history will not judge this administration by the elegance of its speeches. It will judge it by whether taps run, whether streets are safe, whether jobs exist, and whether hope is restored. The Eastern Cape is ready to shine. Nelson Mandela Bay stands ready to lead.

What we require is governance that matches our potential. Let us get Nelson Mandela Bay, and the Eastern Cape, working again.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Minister, please take a seat for a moment. Hon Malema, why do you want to be recognized?

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Mr J S MALEMA: House Chairperson, I rise on a point of order: Mr President, when you were outside, young people left curriculum vitae, CVs and their debts on your table. The Speaker took care of them, please attend to them. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon Malema. That's not an intervention in terms of our rules. Hon Minister, please continue.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT: Hon Speaker, Mr President, fellow members, this year we celebrate our democratic constitution which 30-years-ago, President Nelson Mandela signed into law.

Our Constitution requires government to pursue transformation policies that meet people's socioeconomic needs and redress the injustices and inequalities created by colonialism, apartheid, and patriarchy, so that we continuously strive to "improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person."

An effective and efficient transport and logistics system will ensure that citizens can access their socioeconomic needs.

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Our country's transport system must preserve and facilitate job creation; promote inclusive economic growth and ensure the affordable, safe and timely movement of both people and goods.

Across the world and indeed on our own continent new forces are shaping the transport and logistics sector. The uncertain geopolitical context offers both new opportunities and risks.

Rail infrastructure corridors and port upgrades in the Southern African Development Community, SADC, region offer new regionalised trade routes for Southern Africa.

Decarbonisation, digitisation and eCommerce are driving a technological revolution which we must embrace and join.

Accordingly, transport sector reform in our own country is urgent and imperative.

While we are happy, the hon Lonzi, to note that the transport sector created 28 000 jobs net jobs in the last quarter of 2025, we still feel there is little time to delay.

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The National Rail Policy of SA aims to position the rail sector as the backbone of the transport value chain. Trucking, buses and taxis will always play a significant role in an integrated transport system.

In this year we will release for public comment the National Rail Masterplan to give expression to our long-term vision for the role of rail

The Roadmap for The Freight Logistics System in South Africa clarifies that strategic infrastructure such as rail lines and ports will remain in public ownership, as assets belonging to the South African people as a whole.

To this end we must assure the country that we will do all in our power to rebuild and modernise the capabilities, operational effectiveness and competitiveness of our state-owned freight logistics operator.

We are pleased that in November we were allocated R8 billion by the budget facility for infrastructure to upgrade the iron ore and coal lines.

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Our third-party access framework is anchored by the Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager, Trim, who published the first iteration of the Network Statement on 20 December 2024.

This milestone provided the industry with an opportunity to have complete information about the state of the entire rail network. We are now on course to publish the second iteration.

In the new financial year, we will formally establish the Transport Economic Regulator so that going forward port and rail fees are independently determined to ensure a level playing field for all operators.

To date Trim has conditionally awarded train slots covering 24 million tons per annum to 11 South African-owned Train Operating Companies the first of which will start operating April 2027.

Open access to the rail network will allow train operating companies to increase the volume of goods transported by rail.

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This will ensure that South African minerals, vehicles and agricultural produce reach SADC, African and International markets, securing jobs and earning much needed revenue.

[Applause.]

As there are limited state resources to upgrade our rail network, this makes private sector infrastructure network critical.

Transnet is working hard to ensure they draw up requests for proposals based on the information we received last year.

As things stand, the targeted requests: Richards Bay Dry Bulk Terminal will go out this month, the Manganese Corridor which runs from the Northern Cape to the Eastern Cape and which when completed will ensure will ensure that we take all the dust out of the town of Gqeberha and move that operation to the Port of Ngqurha will go out in mid-year, and the Container Corridor towards the end of 2026.

To decrease backlogs and increase port volumes, Transnet has embarked on an extensive upgrading and maintenance of our port

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infrastructure that has increased tonnage 252 million tons in this financial year compared with 239 million last year.

The Passenger Rail Agency has restored nearly 37 out of 40 priority corridors and has put 300 South African manufactured trains to carry a 106 million passenger journeys this year on the Passenger Rail Agency of SA, Prasa, network.

Because signalling remains the most abiding constraint, we are taking advice as we upgrade signalling on how we will improve the current system and run up to four trains per hour that will dramatically increase the number of passengers we carry on the current conditions.

Last year in September we launched the Request for Information for passenger rail. Specifically, for included here is rapid regional rail between Gauteng, Musina, Mbombela and eThekweni. Mr President it is our wish to find a financially sustainable, and affordable model to enable us to reintroduce rapid long-distance rail. It's a difficult task; you have given us.

However, we will spare no effort because we know that many citizens would find it much much more convenient to travel regionally by rail.

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The SA National Road Agency Limited, Sanral, is responsible for 31 000 km of our national road network. They have extensive programmes including the R537 Moloto road upgrade, the N2 and the N3 upgrade in KwaZulu-Natal.

Hon members, let me say that the upgrade to the N2 is the biggest single investment that Sanral has made over the last couple of years. By the time that road is finished it would substantially improve safety and cut down on travel costs.

Not only does Sanral produce great road infrastructure, but last year they created 35 000 job opportunities. Provided support to over 2 000 small and medium enterprises and a lot of technical training to young graduates so that dozens and dozens of them can find formal employment with what they have learnt.

Mr President, we have indeed turned a corner. Reforms in the transport sector are moving, and we will ensure that they move with ever greater speed. I thank you. [Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon Minister.

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Before I call on the next speaker, the hon Reddy right at the back why do you want to be recognised?

Mr V G REDDY: Hon House Chairperson, I rise on the point of procedure.

The matter has been raised with the table staff, and we were assured this would be corrected during the course of this sitting. Unfortunately, it has not.

The point that we want to raise is that the MK party is the Official Opposition. If you look at past editions whenever the Sona debates took place it was the Official Opposition that had the final right of reply before the executive. That is not corrected. I urge you to correct that now. Thank you.

[Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): "Ja." Thank you, hon Reddy. Look I am aware that of course in terms of our speaking order the Official Opposition not necessarily the Second Largest Party always have the right to follow the first speaker in the debate after the executive has introduced the matter. My understanding has always been that that is part of the

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political agreements to give effect to the fact that we are having a political debate.

My understanding is not being that that necessarily extends to the closure of the debate. I would however advice that this is a joint sitting and we have a Joint Rules Committee which meets and well there are Rules Committees in the different Houses, which ultimately can contribute towards the Joint Rules Committee. If there is a strong feeling that this must be institutionalised my advice is to take it to the different Rules Committees.

So, for now, as the presiding officer I am not in a position to turn nor swop around speakers on the speakers list or the order of speakers. Thank you.

The next speaker - I see further hands.

The hon Dugmore, why do you want to be recognised and is that a new matter?

Mr C M DUGMORE: Hon Chairperson, yes. It is directly related to your response.

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The hon member through you, is part of the structure called the Chief Whips Forum of the National Assembly. He has never raised this issue. I think the problem we are dealing with here is that no one knows who is the Chief Whip of the MKP. That is the problem.

[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): The hon Dugmore, you are now not assisting.

Firstly, I have made a ruling. So, I do not need assistance with the ruling, and your remark thereof is not assisting the process. I see further hands.

Mr S NOMVALO: How many Chief Whips do they have?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order!

Dr Letlape.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: Hon House Chairperson, I think what might assist is to ensure that things are put in order.

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When you walk through the Marks Building, you see the DA labelled as the Official Opposition.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): "Ja."

Dr T K S LETLAPE: That is part of the confusion.

So, can we ensure that as we correct these things, that the DA is properly placed as part of government and the official Opposition is the MK party.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): "Ja."

Hon members, I have been patient now and now the hon Mathys also want a bite at the cherry.

I have been very patient.

The hon Mathys I will give you the opportunity just now.

Ms L MATHYS: Hon Chairperson thank you. You are always patient with me. I appreciate it. But House Chairperson ...!

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): "Ja." I know just wait a minute let me address what the hon member has raised.

Ms L MATHYS: Alright. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): This is also not assisting, hon Letlape. The matter around signage or whatever can be attended to, but it is of no relevance to us here today.

I am going to have the hon Mathys and then we must move on with the debate.

Ms L MATHYS: Hon Chairperson, it is better to move on after the EFF. However, hon House Chairperson we do have a problem because the DA is in government. Even yesterday there is now a title called "Second Largest Party." It has never existed and we are here in public, so the whole public is seeing this Second Largest Party of which we do not know. There is no Second Largest Party. So, it must just be noted. We do not know. The hon Steenhuisen has even put up his hand that he is about to even exit the DA. So, I do not know why he is here. Thank you.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Mathys, thank you.

An UNIDENTIFIED ANC FEMALE MEMBER: There is only one largest party which is the ANC.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon members, we are still busy with the debate on the Sona.

The hon Skosana, unless you are going to rise on a new point of order.

An UNIDENTIFIED ANC MALE MEMBER: There is nothing he is going to raise.

IsiNdebele:

Nom D M SKOSANA: Sihlalo, uyavuma bona ihlagano ye-MK iyihlangano esemthethweni ephikisako lapha ngaphakathi na?

English:

We must agree on that Chairperson! You cannot deny that, Chairperson!

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Skosana, I have made the ruling. I have advised that the matter be taken to the two Rules Committees.

Mr D M SKOSANA: But do you agree that we are the Official Opposition Party here!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon members, we need to move on now!

Mr D M SKOSANA: No, but do you agree, Chairperson, I am asking you?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you.

An UNIDENTIFIED ANC MALE MEMBER: Go and ask him outside. We are busy here.

Mr D M SKOSANA: No, no, no, no!

No, House Chairperson!

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon members, I have dealt with the matter.

Even if all of you want to give me the power to swop around speakers, I am not authorised to do that.

I really want us to move on. There are still further members raising hands.

Hon members I have pleaded with you that unless it is a new matter, we must move on.

The hon Mantashe, is that a new matter?

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES: Hon House Chairperson, I am sorry. We are debating an issue that does not belong here. Please, lead us properly. We cannot just discuss anything put on the floor. We are debating the state of the nation address. That is what we are debating. Anything else ...

IsiXhosa:

... mayiye apho ifanele ukuya khona, emva koko ibuye ize apha.

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IsiNdebele:

Nom D M SKOSANA: Hlala phasi!

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon members, I cannot recognise members who want to relieve and litigate the matter.

I am to call the next speaker to the podium on the speakers list now.

The hon Mokoena-Zondi

Mr J S MALEMA: Hon House Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Malema, is that the new matter?

Mr J S MALEMA: Yes.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yes.

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Mr J S MALEMA: Hon House Chairperson, it is incorrect to suggest that the order of speakers is not a relevant question belonging to this House.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): No.

Mr J S MALEMA: We are not speaking in a sheep kraal. We are speaking in Parliament, and the matter has arisen here. Therefore, it is a relevant place to be raised.

However, you have made a ruling but the insinuation that the matter does not belong here is misleading.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Malema, thank you. We have structures and platforms in this Parliament which deals with our rules and our orders. It cannot be litigated in a full sitting.

The hon Mokoena-Zondi.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker and hon members, I make no apology as I rise to salute President Jacob Zuma, a leader they have vilified, a leader they have tried to

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destroy, yet a leader that the people of South Africa will never stop loving. Where I come from in KwaZulu-Natal ...

IsiZulu:

... ugogo wami ...

English:

... used to tell us about terrifying creatures called ...

IsiZulu:

... amazimuzimu, ...

English:

... monsters that eat everything in their path as they rule by fear.

Today, I stand in this House and say I have seen one with my very own eyes. He is ...

IsiZulu:

... izimuzimu ...

English:

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... that has eaten the ANC from the inside out, and in so doing, he has begun to consume the future of South Africa.

He stood here before this nation and promised a new dawn. What we are living today is a new dawn in long dark nights, a night of record unemployment, a night where economic growth exists only in speeches, a night where young ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Mokoena-Zondi, can you take a seat please? Please take a seat.

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Umakoti ngowethu!

English:

Mr G J SKOSANA: Hon Chair, I'm rising on Rule 52 of the Joint Rules on the use of unparliamentary language. The hon member is referring to the President as ...

IsiZulu:

... izimuzimu, ...

English:

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... [Interjections.] ... meaning that the President is a monster. Can you please rule on that. [Interjections.]

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Uyizimuzimu!

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, can we have order in the House please? [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: If the cap fits, let them wear it.
[Interjections.]

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Uyilona vele! Uyizimuzimu!
[Ubuwelewele.]

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, can I please make a ruling? [Interjections.]

IsiZulu:

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ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Uyilo! U-Ramaphosa uyizimuzimu!

[Ubuwelewele.]

English:

An HON MEMBER: Tiger! Tiger!

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Uyilo izimuzimu!

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, those of you who are choosing to unmute yourselves without being recognised, can you please immediately desist? Hon member, thank you for your point of order. I'm afraid with the level of noise in the Chamber I was unable to hear. We will have to consult the Hansard and listen for the comments that were made and we undertake to do so. Having said that, hon members, I do believe that we all know the Rules of the House as it relates to decorum and the manner in which we address each other, and I therefore ask you to continue with your speech, hon Mokoena-Zondi.

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The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: He stood here before the nation and promised a new dawn, but what we are living today, ladies and gentlemen, is not a new dawn. It is a long dark night. A night of record unemployment, a night where economic growth exists only in speeches, a night where young people have stopped believing that their lives will be better than that of their parents. He said thuma mina. His new name is ...

IsiZulu:

... Thula Du. [Ihlombe.]

English:

We sent you to create jobs and you sent back unemployment. We sent him to fix the state and he sent back commissions. We sent him to restore hope and he sent back load shedding. South Africa does not suffer from a shortage of plans. South Africa suffers from a shortage of leadership.

Three weeks ago the members of the MK Party embarked on what has now become the most successful back to school programme in South Africa. [Applause.] We restored dignity to our learners, bringing real relief to struggling families and reaching

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schools in government where they have been neglected for years.

IsiZulu:

Kwaze kwatatazela amasela, o-MECs noNgqongqoshe ...

English:

... all over the provinces trying to stop uMkhonto weSizwe.

It was a demonstration of organisational capacity ... the political will we have in uMkhonto weSizwe ... because you said you are the servant of the people, but a servant of the people does not perform a symbolic secrecy of hidden wealth. You, President, will forever be remembered for one image - dollars concealed in a sofa in Phala Phala.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Mokoena-Zondi, can I ask you to resume your seat again please? We have a point of order.

Mr W T LETSIE: House Chair, I did not want to do this, but is the member getting married after this debate? ... [Inaudible.]
[Interjections.]

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IsiZulu:

... uyisishimane phela wena.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon member, I think we all know that's not a point of order. Hon Mokoena, please continue with your speech. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Chair, where I come from we wear white when we go to funerals. Today ... is the burial site of the Government of National Unity, GNU. [Applause.]

From the moment, every word about ethics has lost meaning because of you, every promise to fight corruption sounded hollow, every ... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Mokoena, once again please take your seat. Hon Malema, on what are you rising?

Mr J S MALEMA: Chair, I thought you would rule on that point of order, where a man mocks the dress of a woman and those who laugh the loudest are women themselves.

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An HON MEMBER: Hey suka!

Mr J S MALEMA: It can't be that a man must be analysing how a woman is dressed in Parliament. It's the most sexist statement ever and you should've ruled on that. And women who claim to be feminists are the ones who are clapping the loudest. Shame on you!

An HON MEMBER: GBV!

An HON MEMBER: It's GNU women.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, it has been an engaging two days and we have shown remarkably good discipline for two days. We are in the last stretch before the end of the debate and I urge you to maintain that same level of discipline and decorum. Let's not throw accusations and rude remarks at one another, please. I do think we still need to address each other with respect in this House ... Joint Sitting. In the individual Houses we have a tradition of respect. Let's uphold that and let's remember that we should respect each other when we are addressing ... Can I then ask

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you to please continue, hon Mokoena? Hon Mokoena, I have another point of order. Please sit. Yes, ma'am?

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Chair, I think the honourable thing to do is to ask the member to withdraw that statement ...

[Interjections.] ... now that it has been clarified that what he said is wrong. We appeal to his conscience to withdraw that statement, in honour of the women of this country.

An HON MEMBER: When has Malema become a gender activist?

[Interjections.]

The MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY: Hon Chair, I do not know why we want to disempower the hon member. The hon member responded and said her dress code is a symbol of celebration because ...

[Interjections.] ... so that woman has taken the power. She does not need a man to fight ... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

... and also, the fact that you want to speak on behalf of the woman who is empowered and defended ... She's very strong. She has put her point across. Let's leave it ... [Inaudible.]

[Interjections.]

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Ms L A MATHYS: Don't take her agency away. No, you ...

[Inaudible.] ... you are even in the Office of the Presidency
... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: Sexist apologist!

An HON MEMBER: They started yesterday.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Nzimande?

IsiZulu:

Mnu E NZIMANDE: Sihlalo, sicela ukuthi bavele bahoxise ngoba
le nto abayenzayo ayilungile. Yingakho belahlekelwa
nangamavoti nje ngoba abanayo inhlonipho. [Ubuwelewele.]

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, I believe I
have made my ruling already. I requested all members to
continue treating each other with decorum and respect. I do
think that the hon Mokoena responded adequately and I think we
should continue, unless you have something new you'd like to
raise, hon Mathys.

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Ms L A MATHYS: Chair, you have not asked him to withdraw. He's even laughing there. He thinks he is at a bar here drinking ... [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Mathys, I think you should be addressing the Chair. Thank you.

Ms L A MATHYS: No, Chair, you are ... [Inaudible.] ... a point of order on you, Chair. You are not respecting the women here in this Parliament. You are not protecting us right here in Parliament. If its not Cyril Ramaphosa laughing at EFF members getting beaten up, you just say you've made a ruling. No, he must stand up and he must withdraw. He's laughing ... [Inaudible.]

An HON MEMBER: It's not Cyril Ramaphosa. It's President Cyril Ramaphosa.

An HON MEMBER: It's President to you. It's President to you. President to you.

Ms L A MATHYS: ... [Inaudible.] ... Mandisa, Mandisa and you didn't rule ... [Inaudible.]

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An HON MEMBER: President Ramaphosa to you.

Ms L A MATHYS: President Ramaphosa. ... even worse. He laughed while EFF women were beaten up ... [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Mathys, we cannot hear you. Your microphone is not ... [Inaudible.]

Ms L A MATHYS: ... [Inaudible.] ... Ja, because these ANC people are just talking ... [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): There you go. Hon Mathys, can I ask you to desist from addressing members directly?

Ms L A MATHYS: Okay, I'm going to talk slowly now. Chair, I'm calling an order on you. I'm looking at that hon member who is busy insulting women and then he still laughs, and you think it's okay. No, Chair, you think ... No, Chair, I'm still talking. You think that it's okay to just make a ruling and you are not asking him to stand up and apologise ... [Inaudible.] ... point of order. [Inaudible.]

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

Ms L A MATHYS: This GNU just continues abusing women here in Parliament and you do nothing about it.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Mathys, if I can ask you to turn off your microphone. Thank you very much. I have made my ruling, hon Mathys. If you have a problem with it, I think you know what the arrangements are for that and you can make the appropriate comments in writing to the Joint Rules Committee. Hon member, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: Chair, I want to suggest that, rather than allowing the House to degenerate, we should ask you to let the member proceed, but before we adjourn today, you listen to the Hansard and make a ruling on the matter.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Sorry, hon member, I have made my ruling already and I think the member should proceed. She also dealt with the matter. Let's allow hon Mokoena-Zondi to conclude her speech. Hon Mokoena-Zondi, please take the microphone.

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Ms O M C MAOTWE: Chair, you are protecting an R82 million fraudster there. That one. An R82 million fraudster. That's who you are protecting.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Chair ... where white monopoly capital remains untouched in this country because they own you. Spatial apartheid remains intact. The Western Cape is curated like a European enclave, while Gugulethu and Khayelitsha resemble war zones.

The GNU now wants to deploy the SA Defence Force while the economic structure that produces the violence remains protected. You want us to turn the province into a Palestine war zone there in Gugulethu and turn Gugulethu into Gaza. We say no to an economic geography that mirrors colonial design in the land of our forebears. This is not accidental. It is systematic. Deploy special task force elite units to confront the criminal networks in the Western Cape and Gauteng today.

As the MK Party, we reject a future where South Africa becomes a playground for the global elite while its people survive on its own social grind. We are a nation managed by rating agencies. We are managed by rating agencies. We demand land

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justice. We demand economic sovereignty. We demand free education. We demand disciplined nation-building. We demand water, electricity, the rights and privileges of people living with disadvantages. We demand secure borders and managed immigration. We demand the restoration of traditional authority.

IsiZulu:

Amakhosi ethu.

English:

We demand accountability across all our ... [Inaudible.] ... including the judiciary.

South Africa is not facing a temporary crisis. We are living through a lost decade. A decade when lights went out and never truly came back. A decade where the rail and ports stopped moving within this economy.

Ramaphosa, 25 000 Tongaat Hulett workers are preparing for unemployment under your economy. Entire communities of KwaZulu-Natal are watching their livelihoods collapse before your very own eyes, and you come to this House and speak to us

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about growth and renewal. You will go down in history as the President who can turn sugar into joblessness. Do not ask us to celebrate progress while 25 000 families are being put to poverty. Tongaat Hulett is not a balance sheet. It is the heartbeat of the rural towns of KwaZulu-Natal. It is small-scale growers and workers who have carried this industry through generations. Under your leadership, the heartbeat is being silenced. So, do not make a mockery of our pain.

IsiZulu:

Uthi kuthina umnotho uyakhula kanti empeleni uthatha ushukela uwuphendula izinyembezi zabantu.

English:

History will not remember you as the architect of a new dawn. History will remember you as the President of South Africa's lost decade, and the most truthful truth is that it was not done by you. It was done by you deliberately.

Through the school of uMkhonto weSizwe that was founded by President Jacob Zuma, we will continue teaching you how to govern. A school that understands that leadership is not theory. It is delivery.

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Our communities can rest assured that after the 2026 local government elections ...

IsiZulu:

... Izwe lizobuyela ebantwini. Alikho ilanga elingafiki.

English:

We are here in Parliament, and you never believed it would happen. However, because of the stolen votes, we managed to ... [Inaudible.] ... a few. We are here in Parliament ...

IsiZulu:

... asiyi ndawo.

English:

We are the voice. We will be the chilled and the instrument through power will return to its people. And, as our elders taught us in KwaZulu-Natal ...

IsiZulu:

... Inyoka ishayiwa ekhanda. Namhlanje sizonishaya emakhanda we-GNU.

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English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Mokoena-Zondi, can you take your seat please? Hon member, on what are you rising?

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Ms N B Mhlauli): Hon Chair, the member on the floor has again made an allegation that votes were stolen. That is something that she must bring through a substantive motion. Otherwise, she must withdraw that. There were no votes that were stolen. There were absolutely no votes that were stolen. The MK Party lost fair and square. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you, hon member. Hon members, if you can allow me space to make a ruling.

An HON MEMBER: It's not an allegation.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon member, I believe that is a point for debate and one that will be debated hotly in the recreation room at the back. Hon Mokoena-Zondi, if you can continue with your speech please.

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The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: As our elders taught us in KwaZulu-Natal ... Chair?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Mantashe, if you can resume your seat please.

Mr S NOMVALO: Sit down, Mantashe. Sit down, tiger.

An HON MEMBER: Kick him out! Kick him out! [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Mokoena-Zondi, please continue.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: As our elders taught us in KwaZulu-Natal ...

IsiZulu:

Inyoka ishayiwa ekhanda. Namhlanje sizonishaya emakhanda we-GNU

English:

... because when the head fails the whole nation suffers.

However ...

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IsiZulu:

... amazimuzimu ...

English:

... of our stories rule through fear, but they were always defeated the moment the people stood up, and this year in the local government elections the people will stand up and call you by your name. Today, we have called you by your name ...

IsiZulu:

... unguThula Du, ...

English:

... and the people of South Africa are no longer afraid of you. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr S NOMVALO: Chair, we are not happy with how you are treating members of the MK Party here. It was her maiden speech and you did not tell the House that.

Secondly, everytime that our members spoke at the podium, they got interrupted by ANC people. The ANC's people must keep

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quiet when we educate them. People with ... [Inaudible.] ... must keep quiet when we educate them.

An HON MEMBER: You keep quiet!

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES: That's not procedural. It's not procedural.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, if I can ask you to mute your microphones please. Hon member, when a maiden moves from one village ... or a lady moves from one village to another, she doesn't regrow her virtues. The hon member has made many speeches in the National Council of Provinces and this is not her maiden address. [Interjections.] Hon members, the next speaker at the podium will be the National Council of Province's ... [Inaudible.] ... in the Gauteng province, the hon Mananiso.

Mr N NDHELA: Hon Chair, I am very concerned that you used the example of a village for our member. Do you know anything about a village?

An HON MEMBER: What Rule are you rising on?

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Mr N NDHELA: You can't refer ... and use an example of villages. I think you must give a different example. Why ...
[Inaudible.]

An HON MEMBER: On what Rule, member? On what Rule?

Mr N NDHELA: Why are you using the example of a village?
[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon member, if you choose to look up my history ... I come from a village called Henley on Klip.

Ms J S MANANISO: Thank you, hon Ryder, hon members, hon President, Deputy President, all protocol observed. Members, I want to start by congratulating hon Mokoena. You look beautiful, though.

Hon President, I want to send the message from people of Sporong in Randfontein where I come from. Just to indicate to you that their request has been heard. They are the ones who have called for SANDF to come and intervene. I want to congratulate the councillor as well and the Rand West City for

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being there throughout. I was shocked when hon Desmond from West Rand couldn't petition the issues of the sinkholes' view and said nothing. But I want to tell you that it is important that tomorrow when you respond, you must tell us what is it that you can intervene with regards to the issues of the sinkholes in Merafong in the West Rand.

Hon Chairperson, one would want to indicate to the President that during his state of the nation address speech, you were very clear in terms of the challenges. And indeed, all members who came before here, they reiterated those particular challenges. The first step of a revolutionary is to tell the truth. Hon Lonzi, I want to tell you when hon Manamela was acknowledging and appreciating the challenges in his sector, it was not for the fact that he has failed, but to say that these are the challenges and this is what we need to respond to. You just spoke here, hon Lonzi, about hon Malema telling us that when consciousness leaves you, it doesn't tell you. Let me tell you, the person who actually said those words is President Kgalema Motlanthe. So I want to tell you, you can google, hon Kgalema Motlanthe told us that when consciousness leaves you, it doesn't tell you because he was emphasizing the fact that at all times, we must not divorce ourselves from our

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thinking. When we speak, we must connect the mind to the heart.

IsiNdebele:

Nom D M SKOSANA: Sihlalo, angikuthokoze. Bengibawa bona ...

Iye, abantu abanganasimilo abangakakhuliswa kuhle babonakala la.

Kwanjesi ilunga elihloniphekileko elijame ngaphambili, akhe ulitjele bona likhulume nesitjhaba lilise ukusitjela izinto elisitjela zonezi. Ngiyakuthokoza.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon member, think we are all aware that is not a point of order. Hon Mananiso, please continue.

Ms J S MANANISO: Thank you, hon Ryder. You never disappoint. You always say nothing. Hon members, I want to concentrate on issues of people that have petitions to me. I want to indicate as well to our fellow South Africans that the issue of the national disaster has been discussed in the previous

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Parliament - Sixth Parliament - in terms of what is it that we want to see as women of this country. And I can recall vividly so that multi-party caucus, one of the issues that we've been deliberating on is gender-based violence, GBV. In a sense that when you address issues of gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, you must ensure that you leave no one behind; being a disabled person, being LGBTQIA+ societies, being vulnerable, marginalized, and oppressed people. And indeed, in your speech, you were very clear in terms of those that you think that must be included and prioritized as we address gender-based violence and femicide.

Hon members and hon President, I want you to address the issue of the chronicles of Government of National Unity, GNU. When everything goes well, it's us as partners. But when it's bad, it's the ANC. So when you speak with them, when you speak on issues of statement of intent, you must touch on that issue.

Hon members, I want to indicate to your good selves that in terms of GBVF, we have 100 days programme of action that includes all the sectors. That includes the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security, JCPS. Those who are sitting at the Select Committee of Security and Justice understand what is it

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that I'm talking about. That sector seeks to address issues that we've been dealing with of duplication of programs, duplication of resources, yet not addressing the problem. So what is happening, hon members and fellow South Africans, in that particular multi-sectoral, integrated, program approach is that everybody identifies her pillar or his pillar as the department and speak on what is it that they will be doing in 100 days.

I can tell you President, one of the responses that 100 days has made is issues of maintenance. To us, issues of maintenance as women is not only issues of economic issues. They touch on socioeconomic issues of our real realities as black women in particular in South Africa. So you go now to any magistrate court, you can get a report that tells you of how far they are in terms of collection. And it is digital. The issues of protection order: We are no longer dealing with withdrawal of when you are in a honeymoon, then you go and withdraw. No! You go and withdraw, there are consequences. So it shows that we are very responsive in terms of dealing with GBVF.

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Hon President, I want to say to you that the narrative of a survivor and a beneficiary differ. Hon Nonceba when she was here, she was very correct to say that: Rise! [Phakama!]. That's what you said: "South Africa rise" Because as the President, you know the inability and the ability of people that you are leading.

Hon President, I want to petition to you and say, whatever that we did during G20, let us use all the modalities, the techniques, and every plan that we could have executed. Because if it worked when we were receiving many nations [ditšhabatšhaba], it can work every day to ensure that we build safer communities.

Hon Ryder, you know one of the programs that we conducted at the NCOP during our provincial week, it was to visit the Women's Living Monument in Tshwane. We visited the Women's Monument in Tshwane because we understand the significance of the role of women of South Africa in terms of the history. And I want to indicate to you, President, that we want your intervention that come March, as we celebrate International Women's Day, that monument is opened to honour Isithwalandwe, Sophie De Bruyn.

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Hon President, we are not bad as a country. South Africa is one of the countries that is co-ordinating issues of neighbouring countries in terms of common agenda, and where we think that neighbouring countries are a problem, we are a problem to them. And the reason why today as the NCOP we were dealing with the One-Stop Border Post Bill is because of we think that it's one of the critical Bills that can assist us to speak on immigration, to speak on citizenship, to speak on refugee. And we know that all those issues can be addressed if we have proper regularities and legislation that all of us can abide to. I want to share a story from where I come from in Mohlakeng.

Mr S NOMVALO: Thank you, House Chair. House Chair, the member has nothing to say. She must just sit down.

AN HON MEMBER: On which Rule?

Mr S NOMVALO: She is just singing for supper. [Interjections.]

AN HON MEMBER: What Rule are you rising on?

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Mr S NOMVALO: She is just singing for supper. She is not saying anything. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon member, I think you are aware that there is a Rule that relates to frivolous point of orders. Please allow the member to continue with her debate. Hon Mananiso, please remove ... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

isiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Unomona. Awunamahloni futhi.

English:

AN HON MEMBER: MK men are cowards. You are ... [Inaudible.]

Ms J S MANANISO: Thank you, hon Ryder.

IsiXhosa:

Siyaqhuba!

English:

We know them. They are like this. They will learn. I heard hon Mokoena speaking about the President's long dark nights. I was

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not shocked. They deal with night shifts. The leadership you are in today in the morning, at night then it changes. So that is why she was speaking about the dark night clouds. Hon Chair, I wanted to relate a story. Hon President, in Mohlakeng ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, please respect the speaker at the podium, especially if she's from your own party.

Ms J S MANANISO: Hon President, the people of Mohlakeng heard you clearly because they understand social sovereignty. That you cannot go and start somewhere like those who went to Russia. You start at home, you deal with domestic issues, and then you can go somewhere. Hon Lamola will speak on those issues. But I want to just share with the country in terms of what happened in Mohlakeng just immediately after your announcement. Just after your announcement, men and women, youth, sectors and people from the rural of Mohlakeng decided that SANDF and law enforcement agencies won't do this thing alone of dealing with safer communities and safer space. And then they decided to join hands.

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IsiNdebele:

Nom D M SKOSANA: Ilunga elihloniphekileko into eliyikhulumako ayizwakali. Into ayikhulumako ayikhambisani ne-Sona.

Siyabawa akahlale phasi, Sihlalo.

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Khipha amazinyo Skosana khona uzokwazi ukukhuluma kahle. Asikuzwa ukuthi uthini.

English:

Ms J S MANANISO: Thank you, hon Chair. As I said ...

Setswana:

... mokgwenyana ga nke a swabisa. [Tsenoganong.]

English:

AN HON MEMBER: Chair! Chair! [Interjections.]

AN HON MEMBER: Yes, hon Mananiso is right. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE SECOND LARGEST MINORITY PARTY

(Mrs D E Mpapane): Thank you, hon House Chairperson. I want to

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plead with you to protect our speaker on the podium. She didn't mention anyone's name. On a point of procedure, can you please protect her so that she can finish her debate? Those who do not want to listen to what she's saying, they can as well leave this House.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you, hon member. I believe I did protect the speaker, and I did ask her to continue with her speech.

AN HON MEMBER: You must not bully us.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Mananiso, so please, if you can resume your seat again.

Mr D M SKOSANA: Chair, the speaker is pointing fingers at us. Its unparliamentary, Chair. You can't point fingers at us. Respect us. [Interjections.]

IsiZulu:

LUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Thula Mkhwenyana!

English:

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): It is a debate. Matters are always debated in a debate. [Interjections.]

Mr D M SKOSANA: No, Chair. Protect us.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): You had an opportunity ... [Interjections.]

Mr D M SKOSANA: Our speaker was disrupted here. [Interjections.] She doesn't respect us. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): You can't dictate what another member puts in their speech. The member must continue with her speech. mentioned any names, as indicated, and she can continue in a protected manner.

Ms J S MANANISO: Thank you, hon Ryder. Hon President, one day when you are not busy; and Deputy President as a leader of government business, you must go to Mohlakeng. Pilot what they are doing as a society to say: Nothing About Us Without Us. They are part of the operations as I speak. When I go home, I need to pop out my R10 for a whistleblower, as well for other things that they need when they patron.

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Chairperson, I want to thank hon Malema. Hon Malema has made use of this debate. They have submitted their CVs, one. And two, he said yesterday that he has no choice but to support the issue of the SANDF. So, those are two submissions. So other are behind. They didn't petition or say anything, as expected.

Deputy President, President, I want to just say to you that people of South Africa, they are saying that South Africa does not compose only of 14 to 35, but 35. Thirty-five and above must be part of all our recruitment, job opportunities, and unemployment graduate programs. They are there waiting for you to open the system so that they can be absorbed.

Hon Chairperson, as a Gautenger, I want to say to you, we want to thank the Minister of Justice, working together with the Minister of Police, to ensure that we hire 9 600 AmaPanyaza. To those who doesn't understand the issues of inequalities, unemployment and poverty, they will think that we were campaigning. But I can tell you today, those young people are beneficiaries, and as well, they are breadwinners in their home. So, it is through the ANC-led government that others are in pain. That in Gauteng we have Provincial Government of

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Unity, PNU, and we are fine and we are safe. Hence, yesterday, people didn't want to take the apology of our Premier. But as ...

Setswana:

... le itse jaaka Batswana, wa e gapa o molato; wa e lesa o molato.

English:

As I conclude, President, I want to say:

Setswana:

... sedikwa ke ntšapedi ga se thata. Go raya gore mathata a otlhe, re tlile go a kgona. Re tlile go a fenya ka gonne re bereka mmogo.

English:

So it's up to you if you want to exclude yourself as a South African, as a parliamentarian, as a citizen. But lastly, all of us here who are women, starting from today moving forward, let us ask those who are doing our hair if they are legal here. Let us ask those who are designing for us if they are legal here. Let us even go to the backyards in our own

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streets, own corners, to ask if those who are here as immigrants are legal because South Africa belongs to all who lives in it. I thank you.

Mr S NOMVALO: No, Chair. We feel intimidated. This incompetent Member of Parliament is pointing at us. We feel intimidated. [Interjections.]

HON MEMBERS: What is the Rule? Rule! [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): That is not a point of order, hon member. Hon Mananiso, please conclude your speech.

Mr S NOMVALO: She is so incompetent.

Ms J S MANANISO: Hon Ryder, you see the one who's interrupting me. [Interjections.]

Setswana:

LELOKO LE LE TLOTLEGANG: O ya phapha wena Nomvalo.

English:

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Ms J S MANANISO: The was who is interrupting me, I understand the excitement. [Interjections.] There is a newspaper that has indicated that he is promising. So the person next to him is ... [Inaudible.] I thank you. [Laughter.]

IsiXhosa:

Mnu. B B NODADA: Sihlalo weNdlu, malungu ahloniphekileyo nabantu bakuthi boMzantsi Afrika, ndiyanibulisa ngale njikalanga, ndisithi molweni.

English:

Mr President, let me remind you that the DA joined the Government of National Unity, GNU, to fulfil our mission to rescue South Africa, arrest decline, build South Africa, ensure that the failed policies of the past are challenged with reasoning and to stop the MKP-EFF chaos. We are here to grow the economy and create employment opportunities for people left behind by decades of failure. We are here to fight corruption, cadre deployment, and the rising cost of living. We have done this but more needs to be done. It was the DA who stopped the 2% VAT hike that would have pushed more people into poverty and hunger.

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DA fought against corruption. DA Ministers exposed the Independent Development Trust, IDT, chief executive officer, CEO's R890 million tender, fired corrupt officials for issuing IDs to illegal foreigners, stopped the R9,8 billion school nutrition tender for cadres to eat while school children starve. DA Ministers opened export markets for South African products to improve economic growth and create jobs and removed luxury tax on smart devices below R2 500 to give low-income households access to economic opportunities. System offline will be a thing of the past. Thanks to the DA Home Affairs Minister, no more queues and returning tomorrow. We will now collect IDs from banks in our villages, our towns and our cities.

Hon Manamela, these things did not happen through osmosis. It is because of political will from DA Ministers. Mr President, the DA will continue to fight against bad ANC policy, harming the interests of South Africans. We are not in the GNU to get along. We are here for true reform that lifts people out of poverty into opportunity. The DA will definitely challenge Black Economic Empowerment, BEE, which is a cadre enrichment scheme, dressed up as redress. It must be replaced by the DA's empowerment model that focusses on poverty as a matrix of

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empowerment. Those who need redress the most come from my village, rather than enriching the corrupt and criminal Edwin Sodis and Cat Matlalas of this world.

Sadly, Mr President, similar GNU successes are not felt in municipalities. Without DA governance, municipalities suffer. Life is demonstrably worse in municipalities where the ANC and the EFF, PA, Action SA-coalition of chaos governs.

Johannesburg residents suffered months without water. Traffic lights are broken. Roads are riddled with swimming pool-sized potholes. The EFF leader came here to complain about premier Lesufi's hotel showers, yet the EFF and MKP gave out-of-touch Lesufi to the people of Gauteng. No surprise there, since the last political leader linked to a shower is now the president of MKP. The less said about the MK who are playing toy soldier in Russia, the better. We do not have another nine years to waste on them.

The EFF, PA and Action SA gave the people of Johannesburg incompetent Dada Morero. Now they are looking for somebody else to blame and it is them that gave them Dada Morero who is incompetent. Mr President, rural towns and villages ...

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Nodada, can I ask you to take your seat, please? Hon Nzimande, on what are you rising?

Mr E NZIMANDE: Hon House Chair, on a point of order: I am calling a point of order on a speaker because MKP has nothing to do...

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: On what rule? On what rule, hon Nzimande?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, I cannot hear the point of order.

Mr E NZIMANDE: He is misleading the House. It has got nothing to do with MKP. Thank you.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: You have sent them to Ukraine, not Russia.

Mr B B NODADA: Mr President, rural towns and villages still drink water with animals.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Nodada, I am sorry to interrupt you once again. If I can ask you to take your seat? yes,

Ms M P KOBE: House Chair. I would like to know if the speaker would like to take a question regarding DA's hypocrisy?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Nodada, will you take a question?

Mr B B NODADA: No. I know that the hon Trollip finished all the Action SA's time so ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Nodada, once again, please resume your seat. Hon member, on what are you rising?

Mr L D SELEPE: Hon House Chair, on a point of order: I am asking if the member on the podium whether the DA is still preparing to ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): I think he has already indicated he is not going to take a question, Hon member. Honourable members, can I just draw your attention ... Please

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do not speak over the Presiding Officer. If I can just draw your attention to Rule 57 of the Joint Rules, where it indicates that members may not disrupt proceedings by raising points of order that do not comply with this rule. I will ask you to stop raising frivolous points of order, allow the speakers at the podium to continue and further frivolous points of order will be dealt with harshly. Hon Nodada, if I can ask you to continue with your speech, please?

IsiXhosa:

Mnu. B B NODADA: Mongameli, abantu badikwe pece ngooceba be-ANC abaxokayo nabarhwaphilizayo. I-ANC ngumbutho woohl'esakhe babe abantu bebulawa yindlala. Uninzi lwabantu luhleli emakhaya, alusebenzi ngeloo xesha izihlobo nezalamane ze-ANC ziqashana zodwa. Iinkonzo azisayi eluntwini kuba kaloku nina niba nalena yamanzi imali, eyeendlela neyezindlu. Akukhonto bangayibiyo aba. La masela. Sigade nje bona apha kuRhulumente woBumbano kuZwelonke. Kunyanzelekile ukuba sibakhuphe phaya koomasipala.

English:

How you vote is directly linked to the quality of your life. It would determine whether you have a job or remain

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unemployed. It would determine whether your community is safe or is the one with crime. How you vote determine whether you have a capable municipality that uses its money to deliver services or a corrupt one with no water, electricity, roads or houses.

Fellow South Africans, it is time that we stand up against incompetent local governments. But, please, do not follow my advice, it is President Cyril Ramaphosa who told the country that political parties must learn from the DA. The DA is not perfect but, damn it gets things done. I thank you.

The MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CO-OPERATION: Your Excellency President Ramaphosa, Speaker of the National Assembly, colleagues in the executive, hon members, hon Nodada, everything you have just claimed here was initiated by the ANC's sixth administration. You cannot have your cake and eat it. The DA needs to decide whether it is in government or in opposition. You cannot be both. In this House, we are confronted by two dangerous extremes: one is the extreme left, and the other is the extreme right, both of which lead to destruction and polarisation of society.

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Africa's biggest son of literature Ben Okri warns us that and I quote:

To poison a nation, poison its stories, a demoralised nation tells demoralised stories to itself.

This is what the hon members of the opposition have been doing. The MK Party is shouting rhetoric about selling out claiming that private public partnership in the economy amounts to wholesale privatisation.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Order hon members!

The MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CO-OPERATION: Let me remind you, that some of your leaders, including your unelected supreme leader, was part of the generation of the ANC, that adopted the seminal ANC policy document ...

[Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Minister Lamola, please take your seat. On what point are you rising hon member?

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Mr S NOMVALO: Why did you keep quiet when Rupert said ...

[Interjections.]

HON MEMBERS: On what rule?

Mr S NOMVALO: ... You are an "ice boy" of Rupert.

An HON MEMBER: You are also an ice boy!

Mr S NOMVALO: Rupert said you are good boy and you kept quiet

... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: Thank you, hon Chairperson. I am rising on Joint Rule 40, subrule 8, Grossly Disorderly Conduct. The MK Party members, hon House Chairperson are deliberately creating serious disorder and disruption in this House, which we cannot allow. So, if they do not want to sit here and listen to the debate, they can as well go home ... [Interjections.] ...

An HON MEMBER: No, no, no. We are here by the vote, not by your pleasure. We are here because of voters not because of you.

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The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: ... hon House Chairperson, what the Minister is talking about on the podium is a point of debate. They got their chance and debated in this platform, so no one stopped them. So, they should not try that with our members. Thank you.

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Hlala phansi wena.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you, Deputy Chief Whip. I am in agreement with your point. Hon members, if I can address the point. I will address the point; you can address me afterwards, thank you. Hon members, I have already said that you need to rise specifically on a point of order or to raise a question. Those are the only two matters in which you are permitted to rise and speak in terms of the Joint Sitting rules of the House. The manner in which that member rose and started to address the Minister - speaker at the podium directly is inappropriate in the extreme. It will not be tolerated, hon members. You have been warned. I ask you please, let us maintain the decorum of the House, let us

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adhere to the rules, and grossly disorderly conduct will be met with an invitation to evacuate the premises.

Hon member, I must ask you please, if you have a valid point of order in terms of the rules, you may raise your hand, be recognised, and then advise on what rule you are rising and what the transgression is that you seek to address. Otherwise, you can ask to raise a question to the speaker at the podium, and that is all.

Hon member?

Mr V G REDDY: I rise on a point of order, Chairperson. You cannot see my hand here. I have had it raised for a long while. Right at the back.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Right at the back. Hon Reddy, yes, proceed.

Mr V G REDDY: Thank you very much. Hon House Chair, on a Point of Procedure, what we are witnessing here in this House is a pattern where opposition parties are being stifled. Ministers are allocated time in their executive capacity to reflect on

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their portfolios, yet they are repeatedly using that time to defend the GNU. Is this fair? Is this democratic, with these rules that we are having in this Parliament ...

[Interjections.] ...

An HON MEMBER: Do not worry hon Reddy you are still going to learn.

Mr V G REDDY: ... when they are supposed to talk about their portfolios, they are talking about GNU. That's not what they are here for. They are put there by people in this country ...

[Interjections.] ...

Sepedi:

LELOKO LE LE HLOMPHEGAGO: Mara Reddy, o a lapiša.

English:

Mr V G REDDY: ... to do a job in that portfolio. Talk about your portfolio not the GNU!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon member, you have made your point. Unfortunately, we cannot decide what a member puts in their speech or chooses to debate upon. The time is

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allocated to the Minister to speak as he wishes. Hon member, your point please!

Mr A NCHABELENG: Chair, on point 57, Rule 7, it says "no other member may raise another point of order before the presiding officer has ruled that it is not a point of order." We have seen an inconsistency. There are people interjecting when points of orders are being raised. As the Chair, you have not corrected this behaviour. It seems like you are encouraging it because it comes from certain quarters. Can you be fair as the Chair? We are just asking for that.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon member, if you can just take a look at the rules and read all the rules together, and not just the rules individually on their own. I will draw your attention to Rule 57,4, which says the presiding officer, and this part is important, may, at his or her discretion, allow members to address the presiding officer briefly on a point of order that has been raised. It's been consistently applied. Thank you, hon members. Hon Minister, if I can ask you to continue with your speech, please.

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The MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CO-OPERATION: ...

Thank you, House Chair. It is the only opportunity hon Nomvalo can speak. The ANC adopted a seminal document ready to govern just before the 1994 elections. It says and I quote:

With regards to the mixed economy, the balance of evidence will guide a decision for or against various economic policy measures. Such flexibility means assessing the balance of evidence and restructuring the public sector to carry out national goals.

The supreme unelected leader of the MK Party was part of the ANC leadership that adopted this policy document. It goes on to say, such a mixed economy will foster a new and constructive relationship between the people, the state, the trade union movement, and the private sector, and the markets. The mixed economy policy is not an invention of President Ramaphosa, as the MK Party is claiming today. If there is a sellout, it is the supreme unelected leader of the MK Party, for abandoning his principles. For political convenience, President Ramaphosa would never get tired of cleaning your supreme unelected leader's mess.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Minister Lamola, if I can ask you to take your seat, please. On what are you rising on of a member?

Mr S NOMVALO: Is Rupert's "ice boy" prepared to take a question ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon member, you are consistently breaching the rules. I have already told you, please, how you need to address this going forward. You can put your hand up, be recognised, and then tell me on what rule you are rising, and what you are wanting to say.

Unfortunately, you are making frivolous points of orders that are not covered in terms of the rules. You are discussing points of debate. The Minister is at the podium, it is his turn to debate, and I therefore invite him back to the microphone to continue. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CO-OPERATION: ...

Hon House Chair, if there was no game of chiefs of Sundowns and Pirates, I was going to take the question. President Ramaphosa will never get tired of cleaning the mess of your supreme unelected leader. He has cleaned the mess in state-

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owned enterprises, Eskom, Transnet, SARS. The list is endless. The ANC and societal renewal are in full swing and is irreversible.

IsiZulu:

NGQONGQOSHE WEZOBUDLELWANE NAMAZWE OMHLABA NOKUBAMBISANA:
Umongameli u-Ramaphosa ukhulumile nomongameli waseRashiya uBaba u-Putin ukuthi mabasebenzisana ukuletha izingane uBaba uZuma asidayisile, ezidayisela iRashiya. [Ubuwelewele.] Lezo zingane sezisendleleni eza ekhaya eNingizimu Afrika.
[Ubuwelewele.]

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Ugenaphi uZuma kuleyonto? NesiZulu esiphukile! [Ubuwelewele.]

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon members, let us respect the person raising the point of order and hear what he has to say please ...

[Interjections.] ...

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Mr D D D VAN ROOYEN: Chairperson, a reference to the specific rule on casting aspersions, a clear aspersion has been casted ... [Interjections.] ...

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Ziphatheni kahle ANC Ziphatheni kahle. Anisaphaphi! Anisaphaphi ma-ANC! [Ubuwelewele.]

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members please! Minister of Social Development please mute your microphone. Hon member, please continue.

Mr D D D VAN ROOYEN: ... Aspersion has been casted by mere mentioning of President Jacob Zuma by someone ... [Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Minister, please mute your microphone. You are a consistent offender, and I am asking you to mute again. Hon member, Mr Zuma is no longer a member of this House. And therefore, there is no such thing as casting aspersions in terms of our rules that can be drawn against him.

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Mr D D D VAN ROOYEN: ... Have you heard my submission, or you are just running in front of it?

An HON MEMBER: That Nkandla sellout!

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Thula! Weekend special.

Dkt K LITCHFIELD-TSHABALALA: Thulani nilalele.

English:

Mr D D D VAN ROOYEN: You seem to be too much ahead of yourself, Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): If you have something to add, hon member, you are welcome to continue.

Mr D D D VAN ROOYEN: I do not think you are handling this process fairly. You are very biased. And I think we will make an appropriate submission, because it's clear that you are biased. You cannot hide your bias ... [Interjections.]

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Minister, please continue.

Dr K LITCHFIELD-TSHABALALA: You are biased.

IsiZulu:

UNGQONGQOSHE WEZOBUDLELWANE NAMAZWE OMHLABA NOKUBAMBISANA:
Ubaba onjani odayisa izingane zakhe? [Ubuwelewele.]

English:

An HON MEMBER: You are out of order, Minister!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon member, please mute your microphone. You have not been recognised. Hon members you may not drown out the speaker at the podium ...

[Interjections.] Hon Mantashe, you have not been recognised.

Hon members, you may not drown out the speaker at the podium.

I see there is a hand at the back.

IsiZulu:

Mnu Z K A CELE: Sihlalo, ngicabanga ukuthi, uMnu u-Lamola laphayana uyaphambuka ... [Ubuwelewele.] ... aniphaphi, aniphaphi, nina ngapha nobubi!

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ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Thulani, lamasela lawa

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D Ryder): Hon members, order! Hon member, please repeat your point of order.

IsiZulu:

Mnu Z K A CELE: Sihlalo, ngicabanga ukuthi, uMnu u-Lamola ...
[Ubuwelewele.]

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D Ryder): Hon members, please mute your microphone. Hon Reddy, yes, I am recognising you.

Mr V G REDDY: Hon House Chair, I rise in terms of Rule 34(b), which says that members must conduct themselves with dignity and in accordance with the decorum of this House. The hon Minister that stood at this podium has displayed a tendency that has brought this House into complete disrepute ...

[Interjections.] ... I cannot speak; I am on the podium.
Please give me a chance to speak.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, please keep your microphones muted.

Mr V G REDDY: ... This is clearly disrespectful; The Minister must confine his response to Sona and his portfolio.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you, hon Reddy. You have made your point, and I think it goes back to the same ruling I made earlier. We may not determine what a member puts in their speech, and we will then go forward on the member in front. Thank you very much. Continue with your point of order.

Sesotho:

Dr K LITCHFIELD-TSHABALALA: Ke bana ba Rothschild, ba binela Rupert.

Mr S G MANTASHE: Abantwana base Ukraine.

English:

Mr M G MAHLAULE: Hon House Chairperson, I rise on Rule 57 of the Joint Rules, which is a point of order. And I am raising this point of order on you. People are just pressing the mic

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and speak. Without being pointed at, and they are raising frivolous ... [Interjections.] ...

An HON MEMBER: What about the ANC members?

Dr K LITCHFIELD-TSHABALALA: Even the ANC members were doing the same thing.

IsiZulu:

Thula!

English:

You started it.

Mr M G MAHLAULE: ... Hon Chairperson, there is a difference between a person who is howling and heckling ...

[Interjections.]

IsiZulu:

Dkt K LITCHFIELD-TSHABALALA: Ningayiqali into eningeke niyimele.

English:

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Mr M G MAHLAULE: That is the example of a person who is doing that, hon Litchfield. She just presses the mic and speaks. And we cannot tolerate that, and you know who is doing that. The mic can tell you who is doing that at that time, but you are not taking them into task. Some of them are raising orders on the NA Rules, which are not Joint Sitting rules. But you allow it, and you have been quiet all along. It cannot be tolerated, hon House Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you very much, hon member. I believe I have tried to be quite patient. I have allowed both sides to air their views vociferously. I am now going to ask, hon members. We have a few minutes left, not much. Please can I ask you to listen attentively to the speaker at the podium. Do not interrupt with frivolous points of orders. Do certainly not unmute your microphones when you have not been recognised. And to respect each other in order to ensure that we can get through the last seven and a half minutes of today's process. And we can then go home and come and hear the President's reply tomorrow. Hon members, please. Both sides, let us respect each other sufficiently to get the debate to conclusion. Hon Minister, please continue.

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IsiZulu:

UNGQONGQOSHE WEZOBUDLELWANE NAMAZWE OMHLABA NOKUBAMBISANA: I-MKP ... [Akuzwakali.] ... [Ubuwelewele.] ... kodwa i-ANC iyishayile induku laphaya kuMasipala waseMzumbe, lapho i-MKP beyino-40%, kodwa manje i-ANC ibuyile yathatha isigceme laphaya eMzumbe. I-MKP ithole nje kuphela u-16%. [Ubuwelewele.] Bayithela induku. Lokho kuyinkomba ukuthi ukhetho asilugolanga. Siweine kahle nje ngamalengiso. Ngakhoke siyawubonga umphakathi waseMzumbe laphaya KwaZulu-Natal ngokuthi niyeseke inhlangotho yabantu okuyi-ANC.

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Aniwina, kuwina inkatha eMzumbe!

UNGQONGQOSHE WEZOBUDLELWANE NAMAZWE OMHLABA NOKUBAMBISANA:
Umhlonishwa uZamani ...

English:

Hon Zamani, has sufficiently refilled the empty mind on Western Sahara that was displayed by hon Ndlela. The world today, at a time when the world was in throes of a cold war, the late Reverend Jesse Jackson said we should keep hope alive. May I take this opportunity to convey condolences to

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his family and the entire civil rights movement in the United States, US.

Hon President, when you delivered the State of the Nation address last Thursday, you spoke of a world in turmoil, a world where the strong bully the weak, and where the trade is used as a weapon.

Around that same time, hon Mulder and hon Trolley, the Munich Security Conference was taking place in Munich. At that gathering, we heard a clear message, a call to revive the old logic of empire through Mr Rubio, a longing for days of colonial domination, an appeal to build a new alliance rooted in conquest, invasion, and plunder, the very antithesis of the right to self-determination and recognition of our sovereignty.

As we debate the State of the Nation address and the direction of our country, those calls for a new Western century are too loud to ignore. Faced with these calls, we must reaffirm that we have always known Africa is our destiny and Africa is our future.

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We have reaffirmed this position through the G20, where we confirmed that critical minerals must benefit the people of Africa, a compact on artificial intelligence, AI, to benefit the youthful continent of Africa, that digital transformation must benefit the youth of this continent. We have done so for the African child.

Hon Mulder, unlike the FF+, our principled human rights outlook favours all South Africans, irrespective of colour. We do not only speak for the privileged white minority or only for black South Africans or for any coloured nationality. We speak for all South Africans because we have a responsibility to lead our country.

We speak for all South Africans on Gaza. We speak for all South Africans on Ukraine and Russia to build a peaceful society. We have been consistent even at the UN General Assembly to speak about the sovereignty in the UN Charter. You yourself, your party, only speak for white supremacists. We are very clear as the ANC-led government that our responsibility is to all South Africans and we will continue to do so to build a nation united in our diversity.

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To build a united nation means that we must ensure that the economy is inclusive. The World Bank's report has stated that a South African's economy is not inclusive because the majority of black South Africans are excluded from the economy. It is against this background that BEE must continue to empower and to bring into the economy the majority of the marginalised and the excluded. Therefore, BEE is a constitutional imperative. It cannot be abandoned at the altar of political expediency.

The GNU does not mean the bearing of black economic empowerment, BEE, neither does the GNU supersede the Constitution because BEE, affirmative action, is a constitutional imperative. This must sink in, even to the Democratic Alliance. We are in an alliance to transform this country in line with the Constitution. There is no document that supersedes the South African Constitution. Even the Statement of Intent.

It is against this background that all stats show that BEE has benefited the majority of South Africans, not as it was claimed in this podium that it has only benefited a few political allies. And the stats are there.

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The Banking Association of South Africa shows that since the 2000s, the JSE-listed companies have devoted about \$320 billion to BEE efforts. And this has benefited a broad range of South Africans, not just a few political allies. About two-thirds are strategic investments in partnerships, various individuals, and new businesses, 20% is community development, and 15% is staff benefits. These are a broad range of South Africans. Therefore, we must continue with our efforts of growing the economy.

We have also grown our exports through export and import diversification. Our strategy is yielding fruits in Southeast Asia, in Asia, in China, and across the globe, including in the African continent. Our main diversification is reining, gaining grounds. And our agricultural exports have also shown improvements ... [Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Please take your seat, Minister. what is your point of order?

Mr C M DUGMORE: Chair, my colleague, hon Mhlauli, raised a very clear point where he called a point of order on you. You are now seeing people speaking without recognising, and you

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are allowing it. You are actually undermining our speaker, because you are allowing people to do exactly what you have said you would not allow ... [Interjections.] ...

An HON MEMBER: Do not point fingers, we are not your boys.

Mr C M DUGMORE: ... There we are. So, can you please act and name the members?

An HON MEMBER: On what point are you raising?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon member, you have a pink line and scratching your head right now. It is your final warning, sir. Once more, and you will be out of the House. Thank you. What is your point of order, sir?

Mr S NOMVALO: Hon Chairperson, I appeal for your consistency. You are not applying those rules fairly ... [Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon member, I have been consistent throughout.

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Mr S NOMVALO: ... You do not know what I am going to say. This noise started on that side, and we have been telling you that it is disrupting our speakers. You did nothing. Now you are warning our members, whereas you did not warn the other members. You must be consistent as well ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon member, I did indicate members on this side of the House. When they are unmuted without permission, I have done so on this side of the House as well. I have tried to be as consistent as I possibly can, as I notice microphones being switched on. Hon member, your point?

Ms S THAMBO: Chairperson, all these Kaizer Chiefs fans must let us go. Can we conclude the business of the House? We have a game to watch at half-past seven. Please.

Sesotho:

MODULASETULO (Mr D R Ryder): Re tswela pele.

English:

Thank you, sir. Hon Minister, please continue.

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The MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CO-OPERATION: ...
Hon House Chairperson, leadership is not the art of chasing applause or inflaming anger. It is not about placing right overalls or stomping around in military cosplay. It requires a steady hand and the discipline to do the hard work of governing. It means making decisions that are not always popular but are necessary to protect the long-term interest of our people. That is the leadership President Ramaphosa has consistently demonstrated.

Leadership that unites South Africans, rejects populism, chooses responsibility over rhetoric, remains committed to the difficult task of building a truly united, democratic and prosperous South Africa. It is against this background that President Ramaphosa never buried his head in the sand when there are challenges in the criminal justice system. He appointed the Commission of Enquiry when there are challenges in the Western Cape. He is bringing the defence force. He is not saying, this is not my challenge. It is for the DA. It is a collective responsibility. We must all stand up and build a united South Africa together. Thank you. [Applause]

Mr M HLENGWA: Hon House Chairperson, on a point of order!

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder) Hon members, that was indeed the last input of the day. And I would like to thank the President for his attentive presence over the past two days. And also appreciate the inputs of all speakers. Thanks too to all hon members. Hon Hlengwa, what are you rising?

Mr M HLENGWA: Chair, I am rising in terms of Rule 47(a) of the Joint Rules ... [Interjections.] ...

isiZulu:

Mnu V SHONGWE: Sesivalile kodwa. Uyindoda noma ungashongo lutho.

English:

Mr M HLENGWA: ... If I may proceed, Chairperson?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Hlengwa, I cannot hear you clearly. Please speak to the microphone.

Mr M HLENGWA: I am rising in terms of Rule 47(a) of the Joint Rules.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D Ryder): Please continue, hon member.

Mr M HLENGWA: Chairperson, I did not want to enter the fray of the chaotic points of order. But I think for the benefit of the record of this House, it is the Inkatha Freedom Party that won in Mzumbe, not the ANC. Thank you.

isiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Hhayi, Mkhuleko, i-ANC yayiwina iwodi eMzumbe kukhetho lokuchibiyela lokuqala. [Ubuwelewele.]

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you to all hon members, hon delegates, representatives from Salga ...

[Inaudible.] This concludes the business of the day. The President will be reply to the debate tomorrow at 2pm. The House is adjourned. Thank you.