

TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2017

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

The Council met at 14:01.

The House Chairperson (Mr A J Nyambi) took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS - see col 000.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr D L XIMBI: Chair, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting day of the Council, I shall move on behalf of the ANC:

That the Council—

- (1) debates the illumining publicity around the birthday parties of Western Cape human settlements MEC Bonginkosi Madikizela and his partner, health MEC NomaFrench Mbombo, who reportedly celebrated their birthdays in expensive hotels attended by and paid for by service providers, contractors, or tenders of the provincial government;

- (2) notes that these parties were co-ordinated by the MECs or their private offices that sought or solicited sponsorships to pay for the unlimited menu choices, open bar, and even a cake to the value of R3 000 for Madikizela; and
- (3) institutes an investigation to get to the bottom of this apparent abuse of government resources, nepotistic actions, and corrupt exploitation of appointed consultants to entertain these DA MECs, their friends, and party benefactors.

Ms E PRINS: Chair, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting day of the Council, I shall move on behalf of the ANC:

That the Council—

- (1) debates Premier Helen Zille's support for colonialism and her lavish and extravagant trip to Singapore that cost the taxpayer more than R1,1 million in just over a week;
- (2) notes that the Western Cape provincial government also paid an amount of more than R500 000 to Wesgro, which is an entity that has its own budget, with the question being how the money was spent and how the province accounts for the money; and

- (3) further notes that the premier went on a visit to Singapore in search of economic opportunities, but the MEC for economic development was conspicuous in his absence from this important visit.

Mr C J DE BEER: Chair, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting day of the Council, I shall move on behalf of the ANC:

That the Council—

- (1) debates the increase in card fraud, resulting in over R600 million a year that continues to rob South Africans of their hard-earned income;
- (2) notes that, according to the latest card fraud statistics released by the SA Banking Risk Information Centre, credit card fraud has increased by 13% from R331,4 million in 2015 to R375,4 million in 2016, whilst debit card fraud has increased by 3,1% from R333,2 million to R343,5 million; and
- (3) further notes that 52% of debit card fraud in South Africa occurs at automated teller machines, ATMs, in contrast to 3% for credit cards, and that credit card not present, CNP, fraud on credit cards has increased by 18,9% from the previous year and accounts for 66,8% of the losses.

Ms B A ENGELBRECHT: Chair, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting day of the Council, I shall move on behalf of the DA:

That the Council—

- (1) expresses its huge dismay and sadness at the rape and strangulation until death of 10-year-old Princess Ngobeni at the Free and Fair settlement in Cullinan, Tshwane;
- (2) debates solutions to prevent the conditions that have led to the senseless rapes and killings of women and children in this country; and
- (3) mourns with the Ngobeni family at the terrible loss they are experiencing.

May they experience God's touch and his healing.

Mr G MICHALAKIS: Chair, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting day of the Council, I shall move on behalf of the DA:

That the Council debates the need for hon members such as the hon Ximbi to have training on the difference between a notice of motion and a motion without notice.

CONDEMNATION OF MINISTER BROWN FOR REINSTATING BRIAN MOLEFE

(Draft Resolution)

Mr W F FABER: Hon Chairperson, I hereby move without notice on behalf of the DA:

That the Council—

- (1) notes that, last week, the Eskom board announced that Mr Brian Molefe would be reinstated in his position as chief executive officer, following a dispute of the R30 million pension payout or separation package; and
- (2) strongly condemns Minister Brown's decision to agree to this redeployment, as it is obvious that Mr Molefe was, due to his relationship with the Gupta family, part and parcel of the report of state capture by the former Public Protector.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr A J Nyambi): Is there any objection to the motion?

HON MEMBERS: Yes!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr A J Nyambi): In light of the objection, the motion may not be proceeded with. The motion without notice will now become a notice of motion on the Order Paper.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST PREMIER MABUZA'S BLUE LIGHT CONVOY

(Draft Resolution)

Mr F ESSACK: Hon Chairperson, I hereby move without notice on behalf of the DA:

That the Council—

- (1) notes that a pedestrian was killed by Premier Mabuza of Mpumalanga's blue light convoy;
- (2) further notes that Premier Mabuza's blue light brigade continues to be a menace on the province's roads in Mpumalanga;
- (3) also notes that the DA has continuously called for the banning of blue light brigades in the province, as you can see in the Western Cape government that functions and works;
- (4) conveys its deepest condolences to the family of the deceased; and
- (5) calls upon the Independent Police Investigative Directorate to consider investigating Premier Mabuza of Mpumalanga and his blue light brigade.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr A J Nyambi): Is there any objection to the motion?

HON MEMBERS: Yes!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr A J Nyambi): In light of the objection, the motion may not be proceeded with. The motion without notice will now become a notice of motion on the Order Paper.

DEPUTY MINISTER THABANG MAKWETLA HIJACKED

(Draft Resolution)

Mr M T MHLANGA: Hon Chairperson, I hereby move without notice on behalf of the ANC:

That the Council—

(1) notes with concern that Deputy Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Thabang Makwetla was hijacked at gun point on Sunday night ...

Mr M KHAWULA: Chairperson, I wanted to find out if we now have a new party called "NNNC" in the House?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr A J Nyambi): No, hon Khawula. You are out of order. Continue, hon Mhlanga.

Mr M T MHLANGA: Chair, I move that:

The Council—

- (2) further notes that the hijackers forced him into the back seat of his car and the hospital security guard into the boot of the car and ran to the nearby ATM to withdraw his money after having taken his wallet and cellphone;
- (3) also notes that this criminal incident occurred whilst the Deputy Minister was visiting poet and ANC stalwart Mongane Wally Serote at a hospital;
- (4) understands that they were later found unharmed and dumped in Brits, North West;
- (5) gives praise to the Almighty that they were unharmed; and
- (6) calls upon law enforcement agencies to do their best to apprehend the culprits.

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

MALARIA OUTBREAK IN LIMPOPO

(Draft Resolution)

Ms B T MATHEVULA: Hon Chairperson, I hereby move without notice on behalf of the EFF:

That the Council—

- (1) notes the outbreak of malaria in Limpopo;
- (2) further notes that more people have died due to malaria;
- (3) recognises that more patients are not receiving treatment because of a lack of beds; and
- (4) sends special condolences to the Mabunda family from Thomo Village in Giyani who lost a three-year-old child due to malaria.

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

25 UNIVERSITY DISTINCTIONS FOR GRADUATE

(Draft Resolution)

Ms G M MANOPOLE: Hon Chairperson, I hereby move without notice on behalf of the ANC:

That the Council—

- (1) notes with elation the astonishing achievement of Mr Sizwe Maguni, a 23-year-old student from the University of Zululand, who graduated his Bachelor of Education degree with an astonishing 25 university distinctions;
- (2) further notes that Mr Maguni who is currently teaching at Mphethi Mahlatsi Secondary School in Johannesburg was orphaned at the age of 18 months and raised by his granny and aunt on their social grants;
- (3) takes this opportunity to congratulate Mr Maguni for his exceptional achievement; and
- (4) extends well wishes and profound appreciation to his grandmother and aunt for the sacrifices that they made to ensure that their son gets an education.

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

UPSURGE IN KILLING OF GIRLS AND WOMEN

(Draft Resolution)

Ms L C DLAMINI: Hon Chairperson, I hereby move without notice on behalf of the ANC:

That the Council—

- (1) notes the upsurge in incidents involving the killing of young girls and women by either their partners or boyfriends over the recent weeks;
- (2) further notes that the killings happen to unsuspecting and innocent young girls and women, and these incidents happen behind closed doors or in awkward places;
- (3) calls upon citizens to be aware and take necessary precautions to safeguard and protect women and girls; and
- (4) calls upon the SA Police Service, SAPS, and the Department of Justice and Correctional Services to bring to book all suspects in these heinous crimes and embark on community awareness programmes to make citizens understand the rule of law.

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

STUART BAXTER APPOINTED BAFANA BAFANA COACH

(Draft Resolution)

Ms T K MAMPURU: Hon Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the Council—

- (1) notes and welcomes the announcement by the SA Football Association, Safa, of Stuart Baxter as the new Bafana Bafana head coach at Safa House today, after confirming his appointment at the helm on 4 May 2017;
- (2) further notes that this appointment comes long after Shakes Mashaba's dismissal from the national team;
- (3) also notes that the South African footballing fraternity can finally look ahead as the saga of finding the next best man for the job has finally been put to bed, and the main focus can now be fully shifted to the country's upcoming Africa Cup of Nations, the African Nations Championship, and the 2018 Fifa World Cup qualifiers;
- (4) understands that Stuart Baxter, as a tried and tested coach, is immediately charged with the task of preparing for Bafana

Bafana's upcoming Africa Cup of Nations opening qualifier against Nigeria on the weekend of 9 to 11 June; and

- (5) wishes to congratulate Mr Stuart Baxter on his new duties and also to bid him and his team all of the best in their campaign for the upcoming international tournaments.

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

**THREE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SITTING CHAMBER OF NCOP IN FIFTH
PARLIAMENT**

(Draft Resolution)

Mr A S SINGH: Hon Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the Council—

- (1) notes that yesterday, 22 May, marked the third year since the formal constitution of the third sitting Chamber of the National Council of Provinces in the fifth democratic Parliament in 2014;
- (2) further notes that, on 22 May 2014, delegates from various provinces were sworn in as members of the NCOP and then elected the hon Ms Thandi Modise as the Chairperson of this

Council, the hon Tau as the Deputy Chairperson of this Council, and the hon Mateme as the Chief Whip of this Council; and

- (3) congratulates itself for reaching this milestone, as members continue with their constitutional duty to represent the interests of provinces and ensure that the Council remains the epicentre of the representation of provincial interests.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr A J Nyambi): Is there any objection to the motion?

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr A J Nyambi): In light of the objection, the motion may not be proceeded with. The motion without notice will now become a notice of motion on the Order Paper.

GLOBAL WANNACRY CYBERATTACKS

(Draft Resolution)

Mr G MICHALAKIS: Hon Chairperson, it is a sorry day when we congratulate people when work is not done properly. On behalf of the DA, I hereby move without notice:

That the Council—

- (1) notes the recent global WannaCry cyberattacks which have also affected South Africa;
- (2) further notes that these attacks are a symptom of a larger global threat;
- (3) also notes that, according to various sources, South Africa is the country that is the third most at risk and, in November 2016, was among the top 40 targeted countries with regard to cyberattacks; and
- (4) calls for a briefing, in light of this continuing threat to our national security, by all relevant state departments to both the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence and the Select Committee on Security and Justice as to the readiness of South Africa to deal with these threats.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr A J Nyambi): Is there any objection to the motion?

HON MEMBERS: Yes!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr A J Nyambi): In light of the objection, the motion may not be proceeded with. The motion without notice will now become a notice of motion on the Order Paper.

NQUTHU MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION

(Draft Resolution)

Mr J M MTHETHWA: Hon Chairperson, on behalf of the ANC, I hereby move without notice:

That the Council—

- (1) notes that tomorrow, 24 May 2017, the people of Nquthu will hold a crucial by-election to elect their public representative who will champion the delivery of basic services in Nquthu;
- (2) further notes that all parties had very robust and successful campaigns in the run up to this by-election;
- (3) takes this opportunity to wish all political parties a free and fair election for tomorrow and appeals to all political parties to continue with the tolerance they have shown since the beginning of the campaigning process; and

- (4) calls on the people of Nquthu to come out in their numbers to elect a public representative who will not only represent their interests but also champion development in Nquthu.

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

NCOP TAKING PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE IN FREE STATE

(Draft Resolution)

Ms Z V NCITHA: Hon Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the Council—

- (1) notes with pride the success of the pre-visits of the NCOP Taking Parliament to the People in the Xhariep district of the Free State;
- (2) further notes that despite the multiparty composition of the Council, issues of service delivery and the accompanying bottlenecks were confronted with open minds, without any fear or favour;
- (3) believes that the capacity to trigger prompt action by the executive is one of the critical, defining features of an

activist People's Parliament;

(4) resolves to process the preliminary reports of these visits and bring to the urgent attention of the Free State provincial government critical matters that require attention to improve service delivery; and

(5) resolves that a bilateral meeting with respective select committees be arranged to agree on a minimum programme of intervention to address the short- and medium-term issues as the countdown to the actual Taking Parliament to the People programme begins.

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

ABDUCTED GIRLS IN SPRINGS RESCUED BY POLICE

(Draft Resolution)

Ms T WANA: Hon Chairperson, I hereby move without notice on behalf of the ANC:

That the Council—

- (1) notes with profound concern that five abducted girls were found by the police in a flat in the Springs central business district last weekend;
- (2) further notes that these teenagers were abducted by a Nigerian national for human trafficking;
- (3) also notes that two of the girls are 14 years old, one is 15, and another is 17, whilst the oldest is 19 years old, and four of them are from Balfour in Mpumalanga, whilst the 19-year-old is from KwaThema in Springs;
- (4) understands that the culprit was out on bail for the rape and kidnapping of a 19-year-old girl from KwaThema and was found in possession of pornographic material and drugs; and
- (5) calls on the public to report suspicious activities and applauds the prompt reaction by our police to this effect.

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

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE – DRAFT
AMENDMENT TO SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS IN TERMS OF SECTION
169(2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT: MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2003**

Mr C J DE BEER: Hon Chairperson and hon members, Regulation 44 of the Local Government: Municipal Financial Management Act Supply Chain Management Regulations of 2005 reads that the supply chain policy of a municipality must state that no tender may be awarded to a person who is in the service of the state.

Regulation 1 defines "in the service of the state" to include a member of the accounting authority of any national or provincial public entity.

What is the reason for the amendment? The inclusion of a nonexecutive director of a national or provincial entity in the definition was challenged in the case of *Schneider Electric (Pty) Ltd v Minister of Finance and Others*.

Regulation 44 prohibited the director of the company who was at the time a nonexecutive director of a national public entity to tender for work at a municipality. Senior counsel advised that there is no rational reason for regarding a nonexecutive director to be in the service of the state and therefore barred from participating in municipal tenders.

The following process was followed. National Treasury initiated a process to amend the definition "in the service of the state" to exclude nonexecutive directors or national and provincial public entities. The SA Local Government Association, Salga, was consulted.

The draft amendment to the regulations was published for comment. The Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs concurred with the amendment to the definition, as required by section 168(1) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act. The Minister of Finance approved the amendment, and it was gazetted on 20 January 2017.

The Select Committee on Finance received a briefing from the National Treasury on 15 February 2017. The committee tabled and considered the report on the amendment to the Supply Chain Management Regulations on 15 February 2017.

Hon Chairperson, I table this report and amendment for consideration by the House. Thank you.

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

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

Report accordingly adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS –
OVERSIGHT VISIT TO MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROJECTS IN
SALDANHA BAY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE**

Mr S J MOHAI: House Chair, the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, Mig, is a conditional grant transferred to municipalities and administered by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. Its purpose is to provide specific capital finance for eradicating basic municipal infrastructure backlogs for poor households, microenterprises, and social institutions serving poor communities.

The grant funds basic services, such as water and sanitation infrastructure, access roads, and solid waste disposal. The grant is also used for the refurbishment of projects subject to proof of proper maintenance of assets. The grant is used for various other purposes in the informal settlements.

The objective of the oversight was to assess the appropriateness of the infrastructure build, to assess whether the projects have met the objectives of increased access and delivery of basic services to poor households, and to elicit whether the Mig fund was complemented by any other grant funding, such as the Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, and integrated grants for municipalities, and, if so, the number of people from communities who benefited from working on the infrastructure projects. The oversight visit also aimed to

assess whether municipalities have maintenance plans in place for the infrastructure delivery to ensure that its lifespan is extended to its optimum.

Although the Western Cape municipalities' average Mig expenditure compares favourably with the national average for the period under review, the committee however noted some unevenness with certain municipalities that, whilst a total of 13 municipalities have spent about 40% of benchmark set by the department, about 11 municipalities have spent below this benchmark and would be assisted by the relevant department – in this case the local government department.

Reasons for underexpenditure were stated and appear elaborately in our committee report. I will not dwell on those reasons, but it is safe to highlight just two – supply chain management delays and issues of municipalities having to reprioritise their detailed project implementation plan due to high water losses.

The municipality needs to improve in the following areas as identified by the committee: making basic services accessible to the poor communities as well as unlocking the economic growth opportunities in these localities; ensuring that all community infrastructure projects are compliant with public participation principles through their Integrated Development Plan, IDP, priority processes; and locating community infrastructure in a manner that

allows easy access for all community members. Here, we are making a point that the location of infrastructure is important. It is not a socially neutral activity. Infrastructure that is located in our communities should be solving community problems.

The committee also noted the issue of occupational health and safety measures at the Vredenburg wastewater treatment plant, as well as possible long-term effects on the health of employees permanently stationed at wastewater treatment work plants. This is a matter that requires urgent attention, and it has been highlighted to relevant authorities.

In conclusion, Chair, we table the report in the House for consideration. I thank you.

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

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

Report accordingly adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

APPROPRIATION BILL

(Policy debate)

Vote No 15 – Higher Education and Training:

The MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING: Hon Chairperson of the House ...

... siyabonga ukuthi nelamadoda igama liyabongwa. [Uhleko.] Akulona elomama kuphela. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows)*.

[... we are grateful that the name of men is also being appreciated. [Laughter.] It is not of the women only.]

Cabinet colleagues, Deputy Ministers, our Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training Mr Mduduzi Manana, Chairperson of the Select Committee on Education and Training the hon Zwane and members of the select committee, hon members of the NCOP, director-general and staff of the department, heads of our postschool organisations and institutions, honoured guests, my special guests from Bulumko and Cape Town High Schools as well as Oude Molen Technical High School who have joined us today, good afternoon. Would you mind standing up and waving? [Applause.] You are most welcome. This is part of our programme of bringing the girl-child to the workplace. [Applause.]

This year we celebrate the year of O R Tambo, the longest serving president of the ANC, someone who had a deep passion for education

and who understood that education is a key driver for development. Oliver Tambo was a mathematics and science teacher who firmly believed that a liberated South Africa would require a well-educated populace to govern the new democratic state.

We also deliver this Budget Vote against the background of very rapid technological changes, including what is referred to as the Fourth Industrial Revolution which took centre stage at the recently concluded World Economic Forum on Africa in eThekweni. The key challenge for us, and the rest of our continent, is determining what type of colleges, universities, and curricula we need in order to respond to our developmental needs and adjust to these rapid technological changes.

We have achieved a lot, hon members, since our department was established in 2009, building on the earlier achievements of the ANC-led government since 1994. We have seen the establishment of three new universities. We have strengthened and incorporated the Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET, colleges into the postschool education and training system, including migrating their staff into our department. We have also approved massive infrastructure developments across the system as well as improved access, participation, and throughput rates. We have also developed a TVET turnaround strategy.

These achievements notwithstanding, one of the biggest challenges I need to put before this House is the need to provide financial resources in order to build a vibrant, dynamic TVET college sector capable of absorbing millions of our unemployed youth and providing much-needed skills for our economy. In fact, failure to adequately resource our TVET colleges may well be the single biggest undoing in growing and developing an inclusive economy in our country. TVET colleges are important vehicles for provincial and local economic development, and the National Plan for Postschool Education and Training, which will be completed by the end of this financial year, will further affirm that. The NCOP, I would urge, hon Chair and hon members, needs to pay even closer attention to the TVET colleges.

It is also important to note that we still await the recommendations of the presidential Commission of Inquiry into Higher Education and Training that is looking into the feasibility of fee-free higher education and training for the poor and working class.

Since the inception of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, as the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa, Tefsa, in 1991, NSFAS has awarded about R72 billion in loans and bursaries. Despite what the cynics say, more than two million students studying at South Africa's public universities and TVET, colleges have been funded by NSFAS.

A total of 194 353 university students, of which 115 940 are returning students, has thus far been supported in the 2017 academic year. Similarly, 123 332 TVET college students have already received support this year. The National Student Financial Aid Scheme is one of the most significant success stories in the history of the democratic South Africa. [Applause.]

We are also acutely aware of the administrative challenges facing NSFAS, and we are working together with the board to address these as a matter of urgency. I want to state clearly that there is absolutely no intention to privatise or hand over NSFAS to the banks, contrary to some malicious rumours in this regard. I call upon all stakeholders to engage meaningfully and in good faith with the discussion document for funding the missing middle that has been released for public comment.

While significant additional amounts of funding have been injected into NSFAS, there is still insufficient funding to support all students who require financial aid. Hence, we are also piloting a scheme for the missing middle, which is not yet a final product. Nevertheless, we appreciate the R138 million contributed by the private sector to support this pilot. They have committed to support these students until they finish, irrespective of whether government accepts this model or not.

I want to reiterate that government remains committed to finding the resources to support students from poor, working-class, and missing middle families in their quest to access higher education and training.

We would have loved to ensure that TVET enrolments are equitably distributed among provinces from the uneven provisioning that we inherited. For example, Gauteng covers 27% of TVET enrolments and the North West only 2%. Unfortunately, due to fiscal constraints, all enrolments in TVET colleges have been frozen to the 2015 enrolment figure of 660 000, of which funding covers only 57% of the costs.

The National Development Plan, NDP, targets for the coming Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF, will thus, unfortunately, not be reached, hon members. The freeze in the student national headcount enrolment is primarily attributed to the following factors, amongst others: insufficient funding, inadequate physical infrastructure, a lack of relevant teaching and learning equipment, and a shortage of student accommodation.

We are raising this with this House in particular because it is this Parliament that actually passes the budget. I am relying on this Parliament to really stand firm. We can have no radical economic transformation if we don't fund the TVET colleges. [Applause.] We

are not going to be able to address the many problems facing our provinces if we do not ensure that there is money invested ...

... kulamakolishi okuyiwona azonika izingane zakithi amathuba okuthi bathole amakhono ukuze baqashwe emisebenzini noma baziqalele imisebenzi yabo. (*Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.*)

[... in these townships to give our youth the opportunities to obtain skills in order for them to be employed or to be self-employed.]

The total student headcount enrolment of 710 535 reflects Gauteng as having the highest enrolment, as I have said. As part of the implementation of the turnaround strategy for TVET colleges, my department has allocated R5,5 million towards the professional development of campus managers over a period of three years because it is on these campuses – including campuses in rural areas – that learning and teaching takes place. The majority of people we selected were largely from rural campuses, and we are beginning to see the emergence of a strong community of practice across provinces. In the speech that I will be leaving, hon members, I have listed how the R9,3 billion TVET budget is distributed. Gauteng, at 23,12%, gets the most, whilst the Northern Cape gets 1,73%.

In terms of infrastructure, plans for commencement of the new campus sites and refurbishments projects in the third quarter of 2017 are

under way, pending sufficient budget. These include Balfour in Mpumalanga; Giyani in Limpopo; Ngqungqushe in Lusikisiki; Aliwal North, Sterkspruit, and Graaff-Reinet in the Eastern Cape; and Umzimkhulu, Greytown, Msinga, and site B of Nkandla in KwaZulu-Natal.

On the certification backlog, I am happy to report that, of the backlog of 236 821 the department inherited, only 84 certificates remain unissued. This backlog, including the National Accredited Technical Education Diploma, NATED, backlog, will be cleared by June 2017. As I have already said here, hon members, one certificate outstanding is an injustice because no student should sit for an examination and not get his or her certificate, or results, for that matter.

In 2017, we will also be working to fix the dysfunctional elements in the national examinations function. We have also started piloting community colleges that bring together the community learning centres in each province in order to accelerate the provision of Adult Basic Education and Training, Abet, especially to address the needs of those South Africans who either did not go to school or never finished schooling.

The current focus on university education is to improve participation rates by black students. We need to build capacity to transform the institutional culture and curriculum, in line with the

calls for decolonisation. What is crucial is that we are not going to have decolonisation of higher education when 66% of our professors are still white and largely male. We do need to produce black academics and black professors. It is for this reason that I will be establishing a ministerial task team headed by a former Deputy Vice Chancellor of Unisa, Prof David Mosoma, to investigate what is preventing adequate numbers of black academics being produced in South Africa, more specifically black South African academics, which is what we need in big numbers.

We have also committed to dealing with backlogs in historically disadvantaged universities, and we have put aside funding of approximately R2,5 billion over a five-year period in order to do this.

We are making steady progress on student housing in our joint work with the Department of Public Works to identify underutilised government buildings to be converted into student accommodation. We also request members who know of a Public Works building that is either unused or underutilised to please bring that to our attention so that we can work towards converting those buildings into student accommodation. Also, because we are concerned, we want to do an audit. We do not have adequate university-owned accommodation. We are still using privately owned accommodation. We want to know who owns these private accommodation spaces. Is there enough participation by black South Africans, black Africans, youth, women,

and co-operatives? We have to ensure that this important task is not only fulfilled by a minority in our community.

We continue to give money for university-owned accommodation. For instance, we have allocated R1,2 billion over the next four years for infrastructure development at Sefako Makgatho University. The University of the Western Cape will also get a new student village with more than 2 600 beds on its Bellville campus.

On skills development, NSFAS continues to be the largest skills levy institution, not because this matter is unimportant. Because it is important, I will be leaving with you an annexure which details some of the National Skills Fund, NSF, and sector education and training authority, Seta, projects in the provinces that you can look at in your own time to see what the skills fund is actually doing. We have an additional focus on the youth, with a specialised programme for young people to be developed so that they can benefit from the Strategic Integrated Projects, SIPs.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the President, my Cabinet colleagues, the select committee here for the ongoing support, our Deputy Minister, the director-general, and staff from the department and our entities. Without you, none of this work would have been possible. Thank you, Chairperson. [Applause.]

Ms L L ZWANE: Chairperson, hon Minister of Higher Education and Training, Deputy Minister the hon Manana, hon Members of Parliament, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen in the gallery, and students that are actually attending this important sitting today, let me thank you for having been given the opportunity to participate in this very important debate of Higher Education and Training, Budget Vote No 15.

On behalf of the Select Committee on Education and Recreation, I am proud to report that we have always enjoyed maximum co-operation with the Department of Higher Education and Training from the political leadership of the department, as well as the administrative leadership. I particularly want to thank the hon Minister, Dr Nzimande, for the time that you took during the time of protests, where you criss-crossed the country in an attempt to put out the fires that were there.

Some of us managed to attend some of the sessions, and it was really a difficult time for the department, but you braved it. You stood strong. You engaged the parents and the students, and you were assisted by the other stakeholders like the religious sector, the parent body, and all education-loving citizens of the country. We all managed to put out all the fires. I do want to congratulate you for that. [Applause.]

To the Deputy Minister, the hon Manana, I also want to thank you for your assistance. When we had problems relating to National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, we were referred to your office for you to help us penetrate and resolve some of the challenges of students who had not received their allocations in due time because of the problems that the Minister alluded to, of the inception of the new student-centred model. You obliged and assisted those students. They are now in different universities furthering their studies to get their degrees. Thank you very much for that intervention.

Since the advent of democratic government in 1994, South Africa has been building a new education and training system whose goal has been to meet the needs of a democratic society, and policy developments have been aimed at ensuring a democratised education system, overcoming unfair discrimination, expanding access to education and training opportunities, and improving the quality of education, training, and research.

Important policy instruments have been developed, including legislation – the Green Paper and the White Paper. The basic principles of democracy, equality, quality, expansion of education and training opportunities, and the integration of education and training, as set out in these documents, are generally consistent with the principles guiding this White Paper on Postschool Education and Training.

With regard to the budget debated today, the Budget Vote No 15 of Higher Education and Training, as the Select Committee on Education and Recreation, we did have adequate opportunity to participate in a co-sitting with the portfolio committee in the National Assembly to engage the department on the strategic plan as well as the reviewed strategic plan and also to verify alignment with the National Development Plan, the Constitution, the White Paper on Postschool Education and Training, the state of the nation address, and other relevant protocols and instruments. As the select committee, we were satisfied that the department is on the right track.

An allocation of R68 billion, R949 million, and R95 000 is certainly not enough as a budget for a department with such a broad mandate and enormous responsibility. Just to give clarity to the enormity of the task, the Department of Higher Education and Training is responsible for 26 public universities and 50 Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET, colleges. I hope the number is increasing, as we are completing the new campuses. The community education and training colleges have been developed in each and every province, one in each province. The one in KwaZulu-Natal is in Pietermaritzburg, on the campus that used to be Indumiso Teachers' College. It is also responsible for 21 sector education training authorities, Setas, and the quality councils like the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations, the Council for Higher Education, the SA Qualifications Authority, Saqa, and many other quality councils.

An important body is being established by your department in terms of the White Paper – the SA Institute for Vocational and Continuing Education and Training. One is looking forward to this body being fully established as it is going to assist in terms of supporting the TVET colleges and developing innovative curricula for those colleges.

Insofar as the TVET colleges are concerned, Minister, you have said a mouthful, indicating that funding of this sector is not adequate. The Department of Higher Education and Training's highest priority is to strengthen and expand the public TVET colleges and turn them into attractive institutions of choice, but I don't know if the Department of Higher Education and Training has done enough to ensure that they really become institutions of choice. Along with that comes a paradox because, whilst we want to promote them as the institutions of choice, we have budget constraints.

If many students were to focus on going to acquire skills from those colleges, then, again, we are going to be sitting with a huge problem of funding for those particular students. As we speak, the TVET colleges are actually funded at roughly 54% as opposed to 80% that they should be receiving for funding. Some of the students are going to be taken care of by NSFAS whilst TVET colleges have to take care of quite a substantial number of students, but they have to go out and look for funding in order to ensure that they provide quality education for the students.

That is concerning because it is very important that, as a nation, we pool our resources together to ensure that we raise funds in whatever way we can, to ensure that TVET colleges get adequate funding. There have been problems, hon Minister, in the TVET colleges relating to the qualifications of tutors and the TVET lecturers, and I think that we still have to run intensive programmes in ensuring that we assist the tutors and the lecturers to get appropriate qualifications.

However, I was happy at our engagement when you did explain that, in actual fact, there is one university that is now paying focused attention to providing qualifications for the lecturers that are underqualified and want to upgrade their qualifications. I want to believe that that is going to be mandatory because everybody that is not adequately or appropriately qualified for the fields that they are handling must go for additional training.

The equipment that is used in the TVET colleges to train the artisans is a bit worrying because you find that, when they finish, it becomes difficult for them to be absorbed by the industry. This happens because maybe the equipment that they used during training sessions was not relevant to the requirements of the industry.

Hon Minister, you have raised a critical issue of accommodation in the TVET colleges as well as the universities. I do want to say that we need to lobby the private sector to come to the party. It cannot

be the burden of only government. The private sector must come to the party, with the proviso that they are not going to charge exorbitantly for accommodation, to the extent that parents cannot afford it. As the donation to education, they must build student accommodation houses in the TVET colleges and the universities, and charge minimal prices for accommodation, as a way of making a contribution to the education of our nation.

I do want to touch a bit on the universities as a sector. In general, the universities have embraced the concept of an integrated postschool system. Some universities have already begun to build strong partnership with other postschool institutions, particularly the TVET colleges. I also want to make mention of just a few universities like Limpopo. The University of Limpopo has increased its pass percentage to 85,1%, which is a good return on investment. When you invest money, there has to be a good return.

About the beautiful, state-of-the-art University of Mpumalanga that we visited as the select committee, I want to tell the students out there that that university and all other universities are not to be burnt by fire. They are a national asset that has to be preserved for generations to come. Those that are perpetrators must be dealt with in terms of the laws of the country. It is a beautiful university that has increased its enrolment steadily from only 169 in 2014 up to 1 770 in 2017.

The university also aspires to introduce other faculties like sciences and other health-related sciences, and I hope that they will get support. There are also problems of venues to accommodate students for the lectures in other universities, like the University of Venda. In some instances, you'll find that 300 students are taking a certain module, only to find that the venue provided for that module can only seat 200 students. So, the universities that are struggling in this regard must please be assisted with additional lecture halls or extended lecture halls so the students can be properly accommodated. I'm again proud of the success rate of that particular university which is sitting at 82,9%.

The University of KwaZulu-Natal, UKZN, has actually enrolled 46 566 students in 2016, and 26 649 of those are females, and 19 917 are males. We are overtaking the male sector, and we are running as females.

Hon Minister, for the University of Zululand, I want to humbly plead with you that you pay focused attention to that university. Things are not going alright at that university, and it didn't used to be like that. Today, you are the Minister of Higher Education and Training, a doctor, and a product of the University of Zululand. During those times, it was one of the preferred universities. I don't know what is happening now, but a dysfunctional council cannot run a university. The problems in the faculty of education need to be attended to. The lifestyle of some of the people that are in

leadership and the management of the university needs to be looked into. It is not about certain individuals but the future of the students attending that university. We don't want that university to lose its reputation, as it was once a good university. I think that they need extra support and focused attention with a view to turning the situation around.

In conclusion, I want to remind the students of what Pope said:

Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian Spring: There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain, and drinking largely sobers us again.

I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr C HATTINGH: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, and hon members, our country is in a state where loaded phrases such as "state capture" and words such as, *inter alia*, Tegeta, Trillian, Saxonwold, and the nuclear deal are dominating the media, all pointing to an insatiable greed that is tightening its grip on the South African economy with dire consequences, especially for the vulnerable. Linked is the blatantly mismanaged and fraud-ridden state-owned enterprises where billions are being siphoned off and wasted.

On the other hand, we have an escalating crisis in higher education, which today must be regarded as the biggest and growing underfunded

mandate of the government. While we welcomed the 2013 announcement that funding had been secured to build 12 Technical, Vocational Education and Training, TVET, colleges, one which is operational and another two opening this year, we need a further focus on infrastructure at existing colleges.

A departmental report provided to the portfolio committee indicated serious underfunding in every output facet of the Department of Higher Education and Training, setting the department up for failure in its efforts to meet the goals set in the National Development Plan.

According to the report, TVET colleges need an additional R11,8 billion to reach established enrolment targets. Due to the shortfall, notwithstanding the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, funding, it can be expected that the #FeesMustFall campaign will be escalated to TVET colleges during this year. TVET colleges can simply not be sustained at the current funding levels, and an increased funding commitment is critical.

At present, the department is only providing 54% of the operating budgets that TVET colleges are entitled to. A staggering amount of R23,2 billion in additional funding will be required to support TVET students with their tuition fees, accommodation and meals, as well as to provide travel allowances for eligible students. The majority of students in the TVET system will fall below the R600 000

household income and will therefore be eligible for revised financial assistance based on academic merit, putting even more pressure on funding. Yet months into the academic year, reports are still being received of students struggling to access the NSFAS due to administrative hurdles such as the inability of institutions, even at this stage, to provide results obtained in previous academic years. We still see reports, as on yesterday's front page, of students selling their book vouchers for a mere R50 or R100 to survive.

A further burden on the system is the low rate of students graduating from universities – which is 27% – within three years after initial enrolment. The other 73% obviously also includes the dropouts. For university education, there is a shortfall of R10,082 billion. The current crisis in university education is mostly a result of insufficient subsidy funding to universities not keeping up with enrolments, thus resulting in institutions increasing their fees and university fees becoming more and more unaffordable, not only for the poor and working class but also for middle-class families. While funding has increased over the years both in nominal and real terms, the increases in enrolment in the system, together with inflation rising at the Higher Education Price Index at about 1,8% above the consumer price index, CPI, has meant an ongoing erosion of the available funding per student.

The estimated community education and training sector funding shortfall for 2017 is R13,15 billion as provided by the department. The following question would thus arise: How can the Department of Higher Education and Training, in responding to the demands of the NDP, of our economy, of our youth demanding a worthwhile and quality education, and of the demands that are associated with our entry into the Fourth Industrial Revolution, free itself from the quagmire that it is sinking into?

Hon Minister, this is most probably your second last budget that you will see being implemented. You have only about 715 days left. Then change will come ... [Interjections.] ... and, if you are still surviving after expressing yourself about state capture and looting the fiscus, your third and last budget will be amended in 2019 to liberate our education from the ANC's stranglehold imposed on all our people, especially on our students. After that, there will be a government that is more responsive to the needs of the people, more transparent and accountable to those it serves, and more efficient in delivering services, specifically education in all its facets.

We believe that the following are non-negotiable prerequisites for Higher Education and Training: appropriate subsidies for institutions of higher learning; stability and change in our TVET colleges; a drastically improved NSFAS system while ensuring that funds are made available for the support of the missing middle; and restructured sector education and training authorities, Setas, to

ensure that we produce an adequate supply of skilled individuals required by business and the wider economy as we enter the Fourth Industrial Revolution. I thank you.

Moh T K MAMPURU: Mohl Modulasetulo, Tona le Motlatšatona, ke kgopela go le botša mantšu a a latelago: "Pudi ge e palelwa ke go tswala e re mokaka ke wo monnyane." Tona, ge o be o eme fa o re hlaloseditše se sengwe le se sengwe se Kgoro ya Thuto le Tlhahlo ya Godingwana e lebanego le sona. Ge re be re bolela ka tša meago o re hlaloseditše gore kua Yunibesiting ya Sefako Makgatho, o na le mašelang ao o tlilego go agela baithuti mo ba ka kgonago go dula gona. Ga ke tsebe gore naa ba ba ka mo letsogong la ka la mpati, se ba se bolelago, ba se bolela ba lebišitše kae. Fela a re se feleng pelo.

Modulasetulo, go lla ga go thuše, kudukudu ge ditaba e le tša gago. Rena re leboga seo mmušo wa rena o re abetšego sona go Kgoro ya Thuto le Tlhahlo tša Godingwana. Maloba le maabane, bomakgolokhukhu le bomakgolo le bao ba re tswetšego, magomo a thuto e be e le mphato wa boselela. *(Translation of Sepedi paragraphs follows.)*

[Ms T K MAMPURU: Hon Chairperson, the Minister, and the Deputy Minister, let me say this: When you do not want to do something, you will find an excuse. Hon Minister, while you were at the podium, you elaborated on all the challenges that the Department of Higher Education and Training is dealing with. You further explained how your department is working with the money set aside to improve the

infrastructure at Sefako Makgatho University and create adequate student accommodation. I have no idea what the people seated on the left are talking about, but let us be patient with them.

Chairperson, complaining does not help, especially when you are faced with a crisis. Our gratitude goes to the government for the sterling work done by the Department of Higher Education and Training. In the past, during the times of our grandparents and our parents, the highest standard of education was Standard 6.]

The SACP is not wrong to sing, "My mother was a kitchen girl. My father was a garden boy. That's why I'm a communist."

A re tšweleng pele go šireletša mananeo ao a tlišitšwego ke dinyakišišo tša mohlako wa rena ka bana ba bagaditšong go tloga ka 1652. (*Translation of Sepedi paragraph follows.*)

[Let us continue to rally behind the programmes aimed at defeating the social injustices that started in 1652.]

Education is a necessity, not a luxury. Let's pull up our socks and join hands for the sake of our future academics. Yes, Minister, there is gatekeeping for PhD academia, as even those who are there mostly received them internationally, for example, at Harvard University.

When the late former leader of the ANC Women's League Mme Charlotte Maxeke was in Britain, she noted with dismay that she would be the first black woman to study for a degree. Prior to her departure, she said to her father that one day she would go to Britain and learn what the British teach their children and would come back home and do the same thing. This happened because her father was illiterate. The reason was primarily fighting for land which was taken from our forefathers.

Go bana ba rena ba Afrika-Borwa molaetša ke gore ba swanetše ba theeletše. Moetapele wa rena wa mengwageng ya maloba, Tsietsi Mashinini, o lwetše gore le humane thuto ye kaone. Kudukudu, o lwetše gore thuto e se ke ya hwetšwa ka leleme la SeAfrikanse. Hlokomelang, le se fiše meago, le se fiše dibuka ka kua bokgobapuku, le se senye ditsela, le se fiše dikoloi tša maphodisa, lebaka e le go llela go hwetša thuto ntle le tefelo. Kgato ka kgato, mmogo, re tla fihlelela tšeo re di labalabelago. A re duleng fase re hlompheg b-omohu Comrade Chris Hani, Ntate Moses Kotane, Ntate Mandela - ka yena nka se bolele, ke magadigadi, gomme le tla bona dipelo tša dillo tša lena. *(Translation of Sepedi paragraph follows.)*

[To our South African children, the message is that they need to listen attentively. Tsietsi Mashinini, our leader of all times, died in the fight for better education. He mainly fought against the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction at schools. Be careful not to burn buildings, books, libraries, and police vehicles, and do not

damage roads on the pretext of fighting for free education. Slowly but surely, we will get there. Let us pay tribute to the late Comrade Chris Hani, Ntate Moses Kotane, and Ntate Mandela – an icon. Everything will work out for the greater good.]

Libambeni lingashoni. *(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)*

[Make sure it does not get dark because the person might do something bad to you or something bad might happen to you.]

Today, 23 May, is Students' Day in Mexico. The day commemorates the violent beating of students by police in a protest march in 1929 at the national university in Mexico City where the students were protesting over political involvement at the university. The day has been kept as a reminder of educational freedom fought for over the years, and it honours all the students throughout Mexico. Today, as we debate the Budget Vote on Higher Education and Training, we should ask ourselves what this budget means for our students at tertiary institutions. This is more so because of the student protests we witnessed recently against financial exclusions.

O e hlalošitše Tona, re go kwele ka ditsebe tše pedi - ke maikarabelo a gago. *(Translation of Sepedi sentence follows.)*

[Hon Minister, you have explained it well. Your message is loud and clear. It is your responsibility.]

We are happy.

Re a go thekga. Godimo ga moo re a tseba gore o tla tšwela pele.

(Translation of Sepedi sentence follows.)

[We support you. We are also confident that you will succeed.]

According to the Budget presented in February, spending on postschool education is the second fastest growing item in the Budget, after debt costs. This has to be commended, but we know that much still needs to be done. This is so because there are still some challenges that need our urgent attention. These include, but are not limited to, an issue of entry to tertiary institutions where students who have passed matric still find it difficult to access these institutions, the financial difficulties associated with the issue of the missing middle, and the issue of improper administration of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme.

Hon Chairperson, higher education is a highly emotive and complex subject, as recurrent student protests have attested. The emotive and complex part of this subject is in part because many of the students experience higher education at a particularly intense period of their lives – when they are ceasing to be children dependent on their parents and are becoming independent adults. This also means a change in home environment, living situations, or conditions for many of these students, and we know that change gives

us a different perspective. So, it is not too surprising that students would sometimes react in a manner that we have seen our students reacting in when protesting at tertiary institutions.

The protests have taken different forms. At the University of the Western Cape, students joined forces with trade unions to protest about debt and low wages. At the University of the Free State, a rugby match erupted in violence as spectators attacked student demonstrators. [Interjections.] At the University of Pretoria – homola wena [keep quiet]; you must listen. [Laughter.] – students clashed violently over the policy for the language of instruction, and a shortage of student housing at the University of Cape Town led to a bus and artworks being burned and raw sewage thrown into lecture rooms. North West University was ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Order, hon Mpambo-Sibhukwana. Order! Hon Mpambo-Sibhukwana, please don't drown out the speaker.

Ms T K MAMPURU: Mpambo-Sibhukwana, you must listen because all these challenges were brought by the political party that you have joined. You better keep quiet and listen, hon Mpambo-Sibhukwana. However, these protests have a common thread, which is inequality and its consequences for student funding. As we know, South Africa is now one of the most unequal countries in the world and has a high and growing level of unemployment, because of them.

Ba tšere lefase, ba tšere dihlongwa - ke gore ba tšere tšohle tšeo e lego tša rena. (*Translation of Sepedi sentence follows.*)

[They took the land; they took the institutions - they have taken everything that belonged to us.]

Today, they stand here and complain, saying ...

.. rena re le Afrika-Borwa re palelwa ke go thekga bana ba ka mašelang. Re thekga bjang bana ba rena ka mašelang ka lebaka la gore re amogilwe ke bona lefa la rena? (*Translation of Sepedi paragraph follows.*)

[... as South Africans, we fail to give financial support to these children. How can we give financial support to our children when they have taken away our heritage?]

They must listen. We are not happy about this. This is the story of our country and a far cry from the country envisaged by Oliver Tambo, whose centenary birthday we are celebrating this year. When addressing the Business International Conference on 27 May 1987 in London, the then president of the ANC, Oliver Tambo, had this to say:

Let it be said clearly: the African National Congress is committed to bringing about fundamental change to the entire socioeconomic

and political formation which constitutes the South Africa of today.

These words Oliver Tambo may have said more than 30 years ago, but they are as true as they were back then. The ANC is committed to bringing about fundamental change to the entire socioeconomic and political formation which constitutes the South Africa of today, and one way of achieving this is through education, especially tertiary education. This is why the ANC-led government has come up with the National Development Plan that envisages an education system that has the following attributes, among others: higher education and further education training that provides people with real opportunities to reach their full potential; an expanding higher education sector that is able to contribute towards rising incomes, higher productivity, and the move towards a more knowledge-intensive economy; and a wider system of innovation that links key public institutions with areas of the economy, consistent with our economic priorities.

This was done with the understanding that higher education is essential for our economy. For most people, it means advanced technical or professional skills, and, in the current competitive world, it is what gives potential employees the edge. If you have tertiary education, you are more employable than the next person who does not. Tertiary education is also academic in that it involves solving new problems, for example by discovering innovations in

engineering, thinking critically about how practice can be improved, for instance in nursing, teaching, or business, or understanding how a sector fits within society, like fashion design for people with disabilities. That's why you cry most of the time.

So, for a middle-income country with significant economic and social challenges like ours, higher education is far more of a public good than a private benefit. Education is not a private benefit. However, we have to recognise that, if we want to thrive in a difficult world, we will have to accept that higher education cannot stay the same as when we were young – however comforting. It must change to meet the changing needs of a world in transition. For example, today's world is a digital world, with the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and we must not be left behind in this digital world.

Tertiary education plays a big role in this respect. I therefore hope some of the money allocated to this department will be channelled to this cause, as you have elaborated, Minister.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Hon member, your time has expired.

Modulasetulo, ke thekga tekanyetšo ye. Ke e thekga ka 100%.

(Translation of Sepedi sentence follows.)

[Chairperson, I support this Budget Vote 100%.]

Ms B T MATHEVULA: Chairperson, the EFF rejects Budget Vote No 15 on Higher Education and Training. Firstly, I wish to pay tribute to the EFF student command and its members along with students throughout the country in the struggle for free, decolonised education and the end of outsourcing in all institutions of higher education. Mention must also be made of the more than 500 students arrested and hundreds of workers fired in the continued struggle, with Bonginkosi Khanyile, a student who, despite having spent six months in jail after being denied bail, unlike two racist Boers from Coligny, still graduating.

As the EFF, we fully support the student command, and all students engaged in the struggle for free, decolonised education for all. It is one of our non-negotiable pillars. We don't simply support this call to oppose the ANC. We support this call because the resources are available, and it is primarily a way to liberate our people. The inability and fear to use these resources is the reason we are partly unable to address the racial and economic inequalities in our country and the patterns of ownership, why we have a lack of skills in all sectors of the country, why we have bright, energetic South Africans with no future who turn to crime and drugs, and why we don't have the necessary skills to deliver services to our people. Whilst we have a Finance Minister who continues to preach radical economic transformation, he has failed to once mention free education or to suggest that, as Finance Minister, he would ensure that Treasury allocates the necessary funding to make free education

a reality. This simple fact exposes the ANC plans of stealing the EFF's style while leaving behind our substance.

Any talk of radical economic transformation cannot happen without having a conversation around industrialising the economy so that we are more self-reliant and have true economic independence.

Why is only R7,4 billion of the budget allocated for the Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET, colleges? It is obvious that as long as we do not equip South Africans with the necessary vocational skills and the idea of an industrialised economy that can support itself, we will continue to remain nothing more than ideas and slogans in stadiums. Why was no learnership programme properly budgeted for? How are we meant to integrate students into the economy? Germany, one of the ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Order, hon Mathevula. Please take your seat. Hon Dlamini?

Ms L C DLAMINI: On a point of order, Chair: Is it parliamentary that a speaker can debate and eat Chappies at the same time?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Hon Dlamini, you are out of order. Continue, hon Mathevula.

Ms B T MATHEVULA: Germany is one of the most developed economies in the world. It has an education system which is largely free and has 60% of its young people becoming apprentices. In a country like ours, defined as experiencing racial economic inequality, where we have the triple threats of lack of skills, unemployed graduates, and youth unemployment, a structured and well-funded programme aimed at co-ordinating the skills requirements of the state and industries in universities ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Hon Mathevula, please take your seat. Hon Wana?

Ms T WANA: Is the speaker ready to take a question?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Hon member, are you willing to take a question?

Ms B T MATHEVULA: Ndzi ta xi teka vhiki le ri taka. [I will take it next week.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): She is not ready.

Ms B T MATHEVULA: When we talk about free, quality, decolonised education for all, we do not only talk about school fees. We are also talking about the study environment which will allow students to prosper and maximise their capacity. White students can ask their

parents to support them in their lifestyle. Black students, on the other hand, largely rely on the state for not only their fees but also for food, a place to study, and necessary studying tools such as the Internet, textbooks, and laptops that the state cannot generally provide. Because of the lack of budget and theft of food vouchers, students are forced to rely on their families to provide what they can, which is often not enough. It is because of this reality that only 8% of black students finish their degrees in the allocated time. As the EFF, we will continue to reject any budget, as we do, as long as it does not provide free, quality, decolonised education for all. Thank you, Chair.

Mnu M KHAWULA: Sihlalo, mhlonishwa Nqgongqoshe, mhlonishwa iSekela likaNgqongqoshe, yihlazo leli Sihlalo ukuthi awungiboni ngimkhulu kangaka. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[Mr M KHAWULA: Chairperson, hon Minister, and hon Deputy Minister, it is disappointing that you do not see me, yet I am so visible.]

I'm so visible.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): My apology, hon Khawula. I will wear my spectacles next time.

Mr M KHAWULA: I was not inviting the Chair to debate with me at the podium.

Hon Minister, I did say it at the select committee, and I am repeating this. I am afraid that we seem to be so much in agreement, you and me, these days, and I don't know what is happening. You know, the IFP thinking has so much incorporated itself into your thinking. Something is happening because even the ideas I will be tabulating here are issues that the Minister has also touched on.

The department has centralised the administration of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, in trying to do away with corruption and undeserving benefiting students from the programme. We still await reports to see if this move is paying the required dividends, but the slow pace by the fund, and recovering loans due to the fund, is unacceptable. Also, the slow pace by the fund to approve applications at the beginning of the academic year, sometimes leading to protest actions in some institutions, must be attended to. When the select committee visited Mpumalanga University in March this year, we encountered students who had been sent home due to protest. The protest was caused by delays of the fund in responding to the debts dating back to 2016, not even 2017.

The continued underfunding of technical and vocational education and training, TVET colleges in the country remains cause for concern. One still has to establish whether these TVET colleges' underfunding is caused by the department to the colleges or whether it is caused by the Treasury underfunding the department. Whatever the case may be, this underfunding of TVET colleges has resulted in TVET college

programmes being underrated either psychologically, practically, or even both. The Financial and Fiscal Commission reports the following challenges in the TVET college programme of the department. Firstly, few TVET colleges have qualified teaching staff or staff with adequate teaching and technical skills. This should come as no surprise when considering that only one university in the country offers accredited TVET college lecturer qualifications. Secondly, overall outcomes at TVET colleges are very poor. Lastly, the Financial and Fiscal Commission reports that there are delays in some students receiving their certificates after completing their courses.

The fact of the matter is that some students go for years post completion without receiving their certificates. Worse than this is that some students end up not receiving their certificates at all after completion. Hon Minister, this is bad and is a disaster to the future of our youth and to the economy of the country.

The TVET College Governor's Council has also made a submission of their concerns to Parliament. They cite the concern of neglect of TVET colleges by the department as the major concern. They state that the funding made available to colleges by the department covers 62% of all students in all colleges. They also stated that the last time the colleges were provided infrastructural grants was in 2006, and, as a result, infrastructure at the colleges is collapsing.

Out of the total NSFAS allocation of R11,7 billion in 2016-17, an amount of R9,3 billion was allocated to universities, whilst only R2,4 billion was allocated to TVET colleges. Transfers to universities in 2016-17 amount to R29 billion, whilst transfers to TVET colleges in the same year amount to R1,53 billion. This is a situation that requires close scrutiny in order to bridge the huge gap of funding.

In conclusion, whilst one acknowledges that funding to universities is also equally low and inadequate, the situation is, however, blissful when one looks at allocations to TVET colleges. I thank you, Chair. [Time expired.]

Nksk P C SAMKA: Sekela Sihlalo, ndivumele ndithi: Ngqanga neentsiba zayo. Ngalo nyaka wokubhiyozela ikhulu leminyaka longasekhoyo uBawo u-Oliver Regionald Tambo, nabazali bakhe ababesithi xa bemtekisa nguSekindima, ndiyangqina ukuba indima yakhe iyabonakala, ingakumbi kumgama osele uhanjwe ngurhulumente ekuphakamiseni izinga lemfundo. Kungoko kuMqulu weNkululeko kukho umhlathi othi: Iingcango zemfundo ziyakuvuleleka kuye wonke ubani.

Umbutho we-ANC uyayixhasa le Voti yoHlahlo-lwabiwo-mali ye-15, yeMfundo ePhakamileyo. Kolu xhaso lohlahlo-lwabiwo-mali ndiza kunyathele kakhulu kumba wee-TVET kholeji, uProgramme 4. Imali ebekelwe bucala kulo nyaka-mali xa uthelekisa neminyaka edlulileyo

yehlile kakhulu. Loo nto yenze ukuba isebe lingakwazi ukuziphumeza izingcwangiso ebelizibekele yona.

Masikhumbule ukuba ezi kholeji ziluncedo kakhulu kwiindawo ezihlelelekileyo nekungelula ukufikelela kuzo. Ezi ndawo zidinga ukwakhelwa iihostele zokuhlala abafundi kwaye namagumbi okufundela angqongophele, loo nto ifuna imali ethe xhaxhe. Abazali nabo bazimisele ukufundisa abantwana babo kwezi kholeji kuba bona bengafundanga. Siyazi sonke ukuba imfundo isisitshixo sokuvula ingomso, kuloko sisizwe kufuneka sizingce ngemfundo yabantwana baseMzantsi Afrika.

Ngoko ke, kuza kufuneka sicenge iSebe LezeZimali ukuba libone ukuba kungancediswa njani ukukhangela abatyali zimali ukuhlangabezana nalo mceli mngeni ukuze kuphucuke izinga lezemfundo nokwakhiwa kwezakhiwo ezikumgangatho weli xesha. Ukungabikho kweebhedi kula ezihostele yenye yezinto esiye sayiqaphela xa besijikeleza kula maphondo. Yonke loo nto ifuna kongezwe abahlohli kwezi kholeji ukwenza utshintsho kwikamva labantwana bethu kuba isizwe esinganamgqeku okhulayo asisizwe eso.

Kwakhona uProgramme 5, yenye yeenqubo ezibalulekileyo xa ujonge i-National Development Plan kuba ukhupha ezona ngcali ezinezakhono neziluncedo kwezi TVET kholeji zethu. Ezi zakhono zinceda abantwana bethu ukuba bakwazi ukuzimela kwixesha elizayo. Ulutsha luyinxanelwe imfundo kungoko kubalulekile ukuba siluncedise ukuze lungabi ngabo

oodinga esithubeni. Kufuneka lukwazi ukuvelisa amathuba engqesho nezakhono ukuze lungaxhomekeki kurhulumente.

Xa ndigqibezela, mandimncome uGq uBlade Nzimande ebambisene nesifundisi, iiNkosi zelizwe lakowethu kunye nabezoshishino ukuzisa uzinzo ngexesha lezidubedube ebezayame ezemfundo. Ndithi ke, ngxatsho ke mathole anyongande kudlelana; ze nisoloko nithe gqolo ukwenza njalo, kufa ayayo kakade.

Xa sithetha ngeSebe leZemfundo ePhakamileyo, iikholeji kwakunye needyunivesiti esinazo kweli xesha sikulo ngoku ziphucuke kakhulu. BesiseMpumalanga, umntu othi akabonanga ngongenawo amehlo. Xa umntu esiya ezilalini uyakuphawula ukuba indima edlalwe ngulo Mphathiswa ebambisene noSekela Mphathiswa wakhe, umnumzana uManana, inkulu kakhulu ekuzameni ukuzisa elona zinga liphezulu nokutshintsha imeko yabantwana bethu kwimeko abebefudula bephila phantsi kwayo. Yiyo loo nto sisithi sibamba ngazo zozibini singumbutho i-ANC. Siyanicela ukuba ningasihlazi kwaye ningabuyi umva koko sele nikwenzile. Enkosi Sihlala. [Kwaqhwyatywa.] *(Translation of isiXhosa speech follows.)*

[Ms P C SAMKA: Hon Chairperson, allow me to say all protocol observed. During the year of the centenary celebrations of the late Bawo Oliver Reginald Tambo, even his parents gave him a nickname, Sekindima. I agree his legacy is visible, especially in the role played by government in uplifting the standard of education. That is

why there is a phrase in the Freedom Charter that says that the doors of education are open for everyone.

The ANC supports Budget Vote No 15: Higher Education and Training. In supporting the budget, I will emphasise on Technical Education and Vocational Training, TVET, colleges, Programme 4. The budget allocation this financial year is far less compared to the previous years. This makes the department not fulfil its plans.

Let us remember that these colleges are useful in disadvantaged areas that are not easy to reach. These areas need hostels which need to be built for students to reside in, and, also, the classrooms are few. That needs more budget. Parents, as well, are committed to educating their children in these colleges because they didn't get this opportunity to get an education. We all know that education is the key to the future. That is why, as the nation, we need to be proud of the education of children of South Africa.

Therefore, we need to appeal to the Department of Finance to see how it can help in searching for investors in order to overcome this challenge so that we improve the standard of education and construct buildings that are at the standard of today. Hostels that have no beds is the other challenge that we have noticed when we were visiting these provinces. The number of lecturers needs to be increased in these colleges to make a change in the future of our

children because a nation without a growing generation is not a nation.

Programme 5 is one of the important programmes when you are looking at the National Development Plan because it brings experts with skills who are helpful in our TVET colleges. These skills help our children to be independent in future. The youth needs education, and it is important for us to help them so that they aren't idle with nothing to do. They must be able to create job opportunities and skills so that they do not depend on government.

In conclusion, let me commend Dr Blade Nzimande in partnership with ministers of religion, our chiefs, and businessmen, for bringing stability during the time of student protests. I say thank you, and keep up the good work.

When we talk about the Department of Higher Education and Training, we can see the colleges and universities have improved from our time. We were in Mpumalanga. Anyone who couldn't see improvement must not have eyes. When you go to rural areas, you will notice the role played by this Minister in partnership with his deputy, Mr Manana, is very big in trying to bring the highest level of change to the conditions our children used to live in. That is why we say, as the ANC, thank you. Please don't disappoint us. Keep up the good work that you have already done. Thank you, Chairperson.

[Applause.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING: Hon Chairperson, Minister of Higher Education and Training Dr Nzimande, chairperson of the select committee the hon Zwane and members of the select committee, members of the NCOP, director-general, senior officials, staff members from the department, heads and executives of all our postschool entities and institutions, honoured guests, comrades and friends, we rise to present the 2017-18 budget and programme plans of the department during the year of Oliver Tambo, one of the greatest leaders of our movement and our country who never got to enjoy the fruits of his toil. This year, president Tambo would have celebrated a century of selfless struggle – a struggle waged by men and women of lofty thoughts and higher purpose, patriots who envisioned and dreamt of a better South Africa.

It is no political rhetoric that we come from a painful and shameful past, characterised by unequal distribution of resources and educational opportunities. There are no conditions under which the past can be glorified, for it deliberately blocked the career aspirations of many of our African people. The apartheid system did not acknowledge that choosing a career is a human rights matter, and president Tambo had this to say as he himself was deprived of an opportunity to pursue a career of his own choice:

I didn't really want to be a teacher, but there was nothing else I could be. Most of those who went to the university became teachers. It was just the racial restriction on Africans.

Inherent in this quote is the picture of the status of the apartheid education and its restrictive nature. Upon acquiring freedom, we embarked on the process of rewriting history. We re-engineered our education system, and we have since put in place legislative frameworks to guide us on our new trajectory. These are the proceeds of democracy. The legislative and policy frameworks that we have introduced play a crucial role in redressing the past and landscaping the future we so much desire.

The White Paper for Postschool Education and Training, in particular, is our expression of the future we aspire to for our system, and it instructs us to establish, amongst other things, career counselling as an integral component of the postschool education and training system. In October 2014, a fully fledged career development service was established in the department, and there is no doubt that this will go a long way in guiding our young people as they proceed to institutions of higher learning. Our view is that no child should enter institutions of higher learning without a clear career direction, and, to mitigate this challenge, we have been rolling out youth expos across the length and breadth of the country, targeting rural and remote areas in order to provide

guidance to our learners and out-of-school youth on which careers to pursue if indeed their employment prospects are to be improved.

Coupled with these efforts, we have started rolling out the 2017 leg of the Apply Now campaign, where we are visiting rural and townships schools across the country, disseminating information on the need for matriculants to apply on time to institutions of higher learning. Two years ago, we launched and declared 2014 to 2024 as the decade of the artisan with the sole aim of creating a pipeline of qualified artisans who can play a crucial role in growing the emerging sectors of our economy and, in turn, create massive employment for our youth.

To date, the following are notable achievements on artisan development since 2009: the establishment of the National Artisan Moderation Body; the listing of trade occupation as per *Gazette* No 35626 in August 2012; implementing a policy for a generic national artisan learner grant funding and administration system; and the publishing of the Criteria and Guidelines for the implementation of Artisan Recognition of Prior Learning.

The Higher Education and Training HIV/Aids Programme is continuing to implement comprehensive programmes that respond to the impact of the dual epidemics in the higher education and training sector. Today, we report with a sigh of relief, confident that the measures

we have since put in place will result in better returns on investment and better student throughput rates.

We acknowledged that the 2016 nationwide student protests on issues of gender-based violence in our institutions were calling for action and leadership. In this connection, a technical task team has been appointed to address issues of sexual and gender-based violence in the postschool sector and develop a policy framework that aims to provide practical guidelines for all universities and colleges on the prevention and response to gender-based violence at all our institutions. A detailed report will be given to the select committee on the progress that we are making on this front.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Minister, the select committee, the ANC, and the President for entrusting this responsibility to us, as well as the director-general, senior official staff, and the Ministry staff for their unwavering support and continuous hard work. Thank you very much, Chair. [Applause.]

Mr L B GAEHLER: Chairperson, the UDM supports Budget Vote No 15: Higher Education and Training. The UDM would like to encourage the department to double its efforts in supporting this sector of skills and human capital development. We acknowledge the government's support of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET, colleges through the National Skills Fund. However, we call on the

government to pay more attention to the challenge of poor-quality facilities and administration at various campuses.

One of those colleges is the previously disadvantaged Walter Sisulu University. Over the years, budget has been allocated to it, but the infrastructure is decaying. I think I spoke to you, Deputy Minister, about that. It is very clear that the funding is not enough to address it. These are some of the colleges that have given this country some of the best accountants, lawyers, and so on.

Xa nikhokela elizweni, kufuneka ukhe uqale ngabantu bakho. Ezi kholeji zezi zazininixhasa, ohloniphekileyo Wana, ngexesha kwakunzima apha kweli lizwe. OoNjingalwazi Nkuhlu baphuma apha kwezi kholeji zenu, yenzani into ngeekholeji ezi zenu. *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.)*

[When you lead in the country, you need to start with your people. Hon Wana, these are the colleges that supported you when things were difficult in this country. Prof Nkuhlu and others are from your colleges, so do something with them.]

In 1948, when the National Party took over ...

... yaqala ngabantu abamhlophe yabanika izakhono. Nani jikani nijonge umva kwezi kholeji zenu ziphelayo. *(Translation of isiXhosa sentences follows.)*

[... it started with white people and gave them skills. You must also look back to your colleges that are collapsing.]

There must be a relationship between financial investment and these colleges and their performance. In other words, these colleges cannot be used to simply keep the youth off the streets. They must be centres of excellence to realise the dreams and future of the nation. To ensure absorption of the TVET college graduates, we suggest the following: that specific skills acquired from these colleges should be linked to skills required in various departments of governments and municipalities; and that the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework should be considered as a mechanism to ensure that both public and private sectors work together.

Eyona nto siyithethayo apha Mphathiswa kukuba ... *(Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.)*

[What we are talking about here, hon Deputy Minister, is ...]

... the fact that there are billions of rand in tenders. So, the Department of Higher Education and Training must talk to the Department of Public Works and say that, when you issue Gaehler a tender, in that document it must state he must employ our graduates from the TVET colleges so that these skilled youth can learn.

Uyandiva kakuhle ukuba ndithini Mphathiswa? (*Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.*)

[Do you hear clearly what I'm saying, hon Minister?]

Sit down with the other departments ...

... kuqeshwe abantwana bethu abahleli ezitalatweni bethengisa ngemizimba kuba kungekho misebenzi. (*Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.*)

[... and employ our children who are wandering in the streets doing prostitution because of unemployment.]

It must be a government policy.

Yayisenziwa ngabantu abamhlophe loo nto leyo. Kutheni nina ningakwazi ukuyenza loo nto? (*Translation of isiXhosa sentences follows.*)

[That was done by white people. Why can't you do it?]

It must be a government policy. When a person gets a tender from government ...

... kufuneka aqeshe aphinde abafundise abantu. (*Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.*)

[... he must employ and educate people.]

It is a simple government policy.

Lastly, the Department of Small Business Development should develop and implement programmes that target these graduates.

Ndibane ndiqabula ke apha. [Kwahlekwa.] (*Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.*)

[Let me take a sip. [Laughter.]]

More work has to be done to ensure that the private sector must recognise the pool of technical knowledge and use it to grow the commitment with businesses.

Mphathiswa, mandibulele kodwa ke ndicinga ukuba kufuneka nihlale phantsi nijonge abantu benu. Akusayi kunceda ukuqeqesha abantu baphinde bathathwe ngaphandle. (*Translation of isiXhosa sentences follows.*)

[Hon Minister, let me thank you, but I think you need to sit down and look after your people. It doesn't help to train people and get employed outside.]

It is not your fault, Minister, but sit down with the other departments so that these kids can be employed. They come from a poor background.

Kuba buhlungu xa uphaya ezilalini, udibane nomntu ephethe esatifiketi okanye umntu enesidanga sezolimo kube kusithiwa apha kufunwa abantu abanezifundo zolimo kodwa abaqeshwa abantwana bethu. Ncedani nihlale phantsi nilungiselele abantwana bethu. Enkosi.

(Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.)

[It is painful when you are in the rural areas and meet someone with a certificate or a degree in agriculture and hear that those people are needed, but our children are not employed. Please sit down and help our children. Thank you.]

Ms T G MPAMBO-SIBHUKWANA: Hon Chairperson, members, and fellow South Africans, education can be deemed as being one of the most important tools used in contemporary society in order to succeed. With this, I am taking the coal to Newcastle, to the Minister. He knows it very well.

Hon Chair, the historical context of our country is one that not only places importance on the right to education but is also essential in understanding why such a thing is so important that it should be deemed more as a right than a privilege afforded to the people of South Africa. The Constitution provides that everyone has the right to basic education and further provides that everyone is also afforded the right to further education, compelling the state to take reasonable measures in ensuring that this right is progressively available and accessible to all.

We are now 23 years into our democracy. It is important for us to critically examine the changes and progress in our state of education. Just recently, we, as a country, witnessed the start of civil unrest with regard to the state of the country's higher education and training. Although student protests included a number of issues such as the quality of education provided in higher institutions of learning and the remnants of the colonial past, the main focus was the issue of access to education.

Funding in education is both a historical and contemporary problem in South Africa. The question is: If citizens continue paying taxes that increase over time, where exactly does the problem lie? In the select committee, we had presented to us reports showing there has been an increase in the number of allocations for students who are funded in universities, from 205 000 in 2016 to 262 000 in 2017.

Although such figures are important, they do not provide the full picture of the situation.

The missing middle are the students who, on paper, are too rich for National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, funding but then again too poor to be able to fully cover their fees or their gap funding. Solutions can come from a basic level of revising the requirements for state coverage. The current household income to qualify for NSFAS is low, but we need to find a lasting solution for students who can't afford university but do not fall below the threshold required by the Department of Higher Education and Training.

Although there has been a general increase in the overall budget allocation and expenditure estimates in the 2017-18 financial year, there are still discrepancies in the numbers pertaining to the different programmes in the department's framework. Most of the time student numbers have increased but are not enough to meet government's targets, with some exceptional circumstances where the number is slightly over. Where funds are available, few people have access to those funds.

The government needs to provide transparency as to why this is an issue and, moreover, make it clear to each and every South African citizen as to what happens with the surplus funding. How exactly does the government plan to bridge the gap between the targeted

amounts and the actual amounts, as well as the students who are covered by state funding and those who are not yet covered?

With regard to the shortage of funding that goes to the TVET colleges, the Minister needs to bring democracy into perspective by making sure that TVET college students are treated like the university students. They can't be discriminated against and be getting less, whilst others get more.

The NCOP must, as the Minister said, deal with certain issues and all that. Let them take the DA's advice on affording the opportunities for students and bringing equality into perspective as per the constitutional right. [Interjections.] I also wish to reiterate to the Minister that we did see the state-of-the-art Mpumalanga University excelling. We do agree on that, but I want to make it clear that it is concentrated and must open doors and give opportunities for other courses to be taken, not only agriculture. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr B G NTHEBE: Hon House Chairperson, let's take this opportunity and welcome the presentation by the Minister. We thank you for your leadership. We want to also thank the Deputy Minister. When we talk about indigenising the indigenous education system that we want, you represent an embodiment of such – that young people in the ANC understand what ANC wants to do. That is why, as the ANC, as opposed to the previous speaker, we have declared education an Apex

Priority, not because we are told by anybody but because we understand that literacy is a weapon of social change, and we must then put it in the hands of our people so that we can liberate, moving forward.

It is not a weapon of social change in a contemporary world today because the DA says so, hon Mpambo-Sibhukwana. It is because the ANC has always been alive to that possibility, and we have worked towards the realisation of such a possibility. Minister, we also want to thank you because you articulated very well what O R Tambo represents, and he said that a well-educated nation should be ready to govern the South African democratic populace, and we want to do that. How do we do that? We do that by making sure that we liberate our people, and we indigenise our own education. We make sure that access and participation, as you said, are enhanced so that our people can advance. That's the education that we want to achieve.

Improvement of access and participation is a reality today. You also spoke about how we seek to absorb millions in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET, colleges, and we can only do that through resources. I am sure the hon Mpambo-Sibhukwana missed that you were the first speaker who spoke about resources that need to be pumped into that space so that we can say ... We cannot be told that you should be democratic and tell the DA about ... [Interjections.] ... and equate the landscape between TVET colleges and universities. The DA is also missing the point.

Technical and vocational education and training colleges are more important, and we must be able to sing in one voice when we tell our own young people that it is not fashionable to go to universities alone. TVETs play a critical role in the economy in making sure that we stimulate the skills that we need.

The private sector donated something like R138 million, and we want to welcome such a contribution, but we can do more. They can also do more by making sure that, when young people finish schooling, they should be absorbed, moving forward. You also acknowledged that there is a problem in terms of student accommodation, and we are making sure that we will be moving forward to address that. Mam Zwane, we want to thank you for saying that we should thank the department for acknowledging that. You know, we are a nation born out of a dialogue. It is through a dialogue that we find our strength and that we find each other. Through a dialogue, we will find solutions to the current difficulties that are facing the education system.

I want to respond to a few things that were raised by the hon Hattingh. The hon Hattingh spoke about state capture when we are talking about the importance of higher education. Probably, on another platform, we will teach him what a state represents ... [Interjections.] ... so that we take it to another level. He also said that we must stop fraud, but this is the new Ministry leadership that has taken fraud to a higher level, making sure that fraud does not exist in the department. If you know of fraudulent

activities that are happening, the Minister has a hotline number. You can just call and report so that we can see what to do. You are probably the first one from the DA to talk about the poor and the working class. I am sure you are going to have your membership suspended.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Order, hon Nthebe. Please take your seat. Hon Faber, why are you on your feet? Take your seat, hon Nthebe. Hon Faber, why are you standing?

Mr W F FABER: House Chairperson, I would like to know if the hon Nthebe would take a very good question.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Alright, take your seat. Hon Nthebe, are you ready to take a question?

Mr B G NTHEBE: Yes.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): He is ready, hon Faber.

Mr W F FABER: I am so glad, hon House Chair. Yes, I would like to ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Order, hon members.

Mr W F FABER: I would just like to say that this is the debate on Higher Education and Training, and I would like to ...

[Interjections.] House Chairperson, I am busy with my question. I would just like to know how many of this committee's meetings the hon Nthebe attended, given he is speaking on the subject.

[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): The question is irrelevant, but let me check with the hon Nthebe. Are you ready to respond?

Mr B G NTHEBE: House Chairperson, I am ready. This is the level and the kind of DA membership. Let's teach you. That's why the hon Hattingh and your caucus can talk about the escalating fees at the universities, but you are mum when it comes to institutional autonomies because you are seeking to close the access for young people to enter. [Interjections.] No, sit down so that I can answer. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Hon Faber, please take your seat. Take your seat, hon Faber. Take your seat. Continue, hon Nthebe.

Mr B G NTHEBE: Hon Faber, you must be the first one to stand up when we talk about decolonised and indigenised education so that you can understand ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Hon Faber, please take your seat. He is responding to your question. Take your seat, hon member. Take your seat! Take your seat, hon Faber. No, hon Faber! Take your seat. He is responding to your question. [Interjections.] Are you ... Hon Faber! [Interjections.]

Mr W F FABER: Chair, one, two? How many?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Hon Faber, please take your seat. Hon Nthebe, are you done with your response?

Mr B G NTHEBE: No, I am not done. [Interjections.] Let me also teach you. The ANC members are all around us. I don't need to sit in a select committee to understand issues of education.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Sorry, hon Nthebe. Hon Nthebe, take your seat. Hon member, why are you standing?

Ms B A ENGELBRECHT: Madam House Chair, thank you very much. The hon member offered to answer the question ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Hon member! Hon member! Hon member, you can't do that. No, you can't do that. You need to tell us what you want to say.

Ms B A ENGELBRECHT: Exactly that, Madam House Chair, that he needs to answer the question.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Why are you standing?

Ms B A ENGELBRECHT: That's my point of order, that he is not answering the question.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Is it a point of order?

Ms B A ENGELBRECHT: Yes.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): What is the point of order?

Ms B A ENGELBRECHT: That he is not answering the question after he offered to answer the question. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Alright. Are you done, hon member?

Ms B A ENGELBRECHT: Yes. He can answer the question.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Please take your seat.

[Interjections.] Please take your seat. Well, you rather give the hon Nthebe zero, but that's how he wanted to respond to the question. Continue, hon Nthebe.

Mr B G NTHEBE: Hon House Chair, we want to thank the ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Hon Nthebe ...

[Interjections.] Hon Nthebe, please take your seat. Hon Faber?

Mr W F FABER: House Chairperson, with due respect, you cannot answer his question. I asked him how many times – that's one, two, three ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Hon member ...

Mr W F FABER: He did not answer that.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Hon member, now you are out of order. He did respond to your question. [Interjections.] Please. Let's continue, hon member.

Mr B G NTHEBE: Let me repeat. I said ANC members are all around us. I don't need to attend the select committee meeting to understand issues of education. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Order, order, order, hon member! Order.

Mr B G NTHEBE: Hon House Chair, I will teach the hon Hattingh on another platform that education is just a string attached to wisdom. I can show you that empirical evidence. [Interjections.]

Hon Khawula, we want to thank you for the sentiments that you expressed. You raised positive issues that we need to take into discussion and surely the ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Hon Nthebe, please take your seat. Hon Faber, why are you standing?

Mr W F FABER: House Chairperson, on a point of order ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): What is the point of order?

Mr W F FABER: I asked a very clear question. [Interjections.] Is it zero, one, or two meetings? He is not answering me. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Hon Faber, please respect the House. I have ruled on that matter, and now we want to continue. Continue, hon Nthebe.

Mr B G NTHEBE: Hon Faber, I am not a member of the select committee. I attended zero. Are you happy now? [Interjections.]

Hon Khawula raised the following points – that we should be able to move with the necessary speed to address the shortage of properly qualified lecturers in some of the institutions, that we must also address some of the accreditations of the institutions, and we must also address the issues of the delay of the certificates, which the Minister has already undertaken. There is progress in that regard, and the Minister is further committing that these matters will be resolved.

The issue of infrastructure in our institutions is important, and, therefore, the Minister has also undertaken that such issues will be resolved. Minister, it is only on this platform that, when we contribute peacefully and immensely to the discussions both as students at universities and also as role-players in that space, we begin to shape the space that we want to see. It is not by being a rejectionist EFF that we are going to have free and decolonised education in South Africa. You don't do that. You don't reject everything that is before you. You contribute positively to the discourse so that you shape the outcome of the discourse. Now, you talk about decolonised education, but you reject the budget. So, when are we going to have that free and decolonised education? How are we going to have it?

You talked about ... and we want to thank ... and you have a clear example before you. You know that "Education" Khanyile represents the resilience of a young black person in the space that ...

[Interjections.] ... but you are sitting with a classic example before you, and you are unable to use it. [Interjections.] You cannot come here and reject the budget when you should be saying that here are some shortfalls, and this how we close the loopholes so that we move forward together as a country that understands that education is important. It is in all of us to contribute, moving forward.

As the ANC, hon House Chair, we want to bless the budget allocated. We want to say that we acknowledge that there are shortfalls, and they will be plugged. Moving forward, we want to thank the Ministry and all the leadership and say that we will be able to find each other through a dialogue, and we will find solutions to the problems. Thank you, House Chair. [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING: Hon Chairperson, my thanks go to you and to all who participated in this debate.

Let me start by thanking the ANC for its unwavering support of the budget, as well as all the other parties that supported the budget.

What I had wanted to say in my opening input, and I think that it is important, was the role of the Human Resource Development Council, which I think the NCOP needs to continue to engage with closely, including its programme of adopt-a-college to try and persuade the private sector to adopt certain programmes in colleges or colleges

themselves. I would also like to express my appreciation for the wonderful and sterling leadership provided by the Deputy President, Comrade Cyril Ramaphosa, and his leadership of the Human Resource Development Council.

Hon Zwane, we also wish to express our appreciation for your co-operation with the department but without, at the same time, letting us off the hook in terms of accounting, which is what we want, what we need, and that is what strengthens us.

On the issue of lecturer qualifications that has been raised by a number of members, we agree on that entirely. Much of what has been said is true, and there is only one university that, at the moment, has developed that. However, we are working with 11 other universities, and we are fairly advanced in developing college lecturer qualifications. Very soon, we may be having 12 universities that provide this because we actually need it. We are being assisted by the European Union in this regard. I do agree, hon Zwane, that the private sector must come to the party insofar student accommodation is concerned as well as moving students closer to the University of Zululand.

Hon Hattingh, we also strongly condemn this corruption with the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, as has been reported recently, and we are acting together with the National Student Financial Aid Scheme to deal with this. Let me assure you: Don't be

mistaken. The DA is not going to win the 2019 election, definitely not. [Laughter.] You know, whatever you may be seeing now as challenges in the movement – and we are old, more than 100 years old – can be dealt with. We can deal with whatever challenges we face because our people know that it is only the ANC-led alliance that is capable of taking forward all the advances we have made thus far.

Hon Mampuru, thank you very much for your words of wisdom, and we agree with you on the issue of gatekeeping with universities.

Perhaps that is why we should use this opportunity to congratulate Prof Thabiso Msibi who was appointed Dean and Head of the School of Education at UKZN at only 34 years of age to prove that ...

[Applause.] ... it doesn't take 20 years, as all the people say, to actually produce a professor.

I do not want to talk about the EFF because you oppose anything we say, not because it does not make sense but because it is being said by the ANC. That is why you are actually opposing it. I do agree with what was being said, but you unfortunately lost your focus.

Umhlonishwa uKhawula usehambile? Bengizosho kuyena ukuthi siyazibona lezi zinkinga ze-NSFAS ... *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[Has the hon Khawula left? I was going to say to him that we do notice the NSFAS challenges ...]

... as we centralise.

Njengoba ngishilo ukuthi siyabhekana nazo kakhulu. (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[As I said, we are fixing them.]

Hon Samka, thank you very much for emphasising the issue of funding Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET, colleges and for the acknowledgement of the work that was done.

Ilungu elihloniphekile uGaehler usehambile? [Ubuwelewele.] Ehene, ukhuluma kahle impela sengathi angafundisa umholi wakhe uJenene Holomisa ... [Uhleko.] ... ukuthi akhulume kamnandi njengawe, njengoba ukhuluma kamnandi uma uthi ... (*Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.*)

[Has the hon Gaehler left? [Interjections.] Yes, he speaks very well. I wish that he could teach his leader, Gen Holomisa ...

[Laughter.] ... to speak like him, as he speaks so well saying that ...]

... people who receive government tenders must provide workplace training. This is an important point. We agree with you that it is a good idea, and we are going to look at that.

Hon Nthebe, thank you very much for your wise words, and we say that, of course, you are right. The private sector can still do much more than what it has done.

Sihlalo namalungu ahloniphekile, ngibonge kakhulu ukuthi ngibe kule Ndlu nangokuthi sikwazi ukuzoxoxisana. Siyabonga. (*Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.*)

[Chairperson and hon members, it was a pleasure to be in this House and to participate in this debate. Thank you.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M C Dikgale): Thank you very much, hon Minister. Let me take this opportunity to really applaud our Deputy Minister and the Minister for making themselves available for this debate in our House. That is highly appreciated.

Debate concluded.

The Council adjourned at 16:13.

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