

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 1

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

---

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE VIRTUAL MINI PLENARY SESSION**

---

Members of the mini plenary session met on the virtual platform at 10:00.

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

The House Chairperson (Mr C T Frolick) announced that the virtual mini plenary sitting constituted a meeting of the National Assembly.

**ENSURING ETHICAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN STATE**

**INSTITUTIONS**

(Subject for Discussion)

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr M Manyi): Greetings to everyone in the House. My name is Mzwanele Manyi, a proud

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 2**

deployee of the MK party. I am supposed to be in KwaZulu-Natal celebrating the decisive victory of the MK party for winning Richmond Ward. But instead, I am here rising to discuss lapses in ethical governance and to expose the shameless abuse of power that continues to rob our people of true accountability. The so-called Government of National Unity - the forced pact between the ANC, the DA, and others has reduced governance to nothing more than a corrupt game where political elites trade accountability and transparency for blue lights and VIP status, while the people suffer under lawlessness and impunity.

We have spoken before about the Phala Phala scandal, and we will not allow it to be buried. The Section 89 Independent Panel chaired by a retired Chief Justice Sandile Ngcobo found that Mr Ramaphosa had a case to answer. He still has not answered that case. That report was never reviewed or set aside by any court of law; therefore, it is still valid, and yet the institutions whose heads are appointed and handpicked by Mr Ramaphosa himself, the Sars, the Reserve Bank, the Public Protector, and the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, have all miraculously reached conclusion that absolve him. This is not accountability. It is a blatant abuse of state institutions to protect one man.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 3

A capture of our institutions does not end here. Recently, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid, was asked by a progressive sister organisation, the ATM, to compile a report detailing how the senior SAPS generals unlawfully assisted in covering up Phala Phala, but instead ...

[Inaudible.] ... transparency and accountability, this report was classified as top-secret. Here is a contradiction, if Parliament itself has accepted that Phala Phala is a private matter, then how does a report on a private matter suddenly become a threat to the national security? The answer is clear. This government is determined to hide the truth from the people. And what about the biggest economic scandals of our time - the Steinhoffs, the Glencores, the ... [Inaudible.] ... of this world? Or are these just mere accounting irregularities as we are told? Take Glencore, for instance, a company where Mr Ramaphosa was once a director. This company's rogue activities at Eskom were exposed by former CEO of Eskom, Mr Brian Molefe, whilst under oath at the Zondo Commission, yet when the final report was released, Glencore's name was nowhere to be found in the adverse findings. This is a kind of justice system that we have. Instead, black executives and politicians were criminalised, while white monopoly capital escaped unscathed. We must ask: Why was President Zuma incarcerated for refusing to continue his appearance at the

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 4**

Zondo Commission, yet white business elites who completely ignored summons, walked away untouched? Why were the captains of commerce, industry, and other economic gatekeepers never compelled to answer for their roles in the state capture? Instead, NPA made deals with them. Some even funded the NPA to enable investigation of themselves. How absurd? It is bizarre that His Excellent President Zuma is facing arms deal charges, yet he was just a mere MEC in KwaZulu-Natal - when the looting happened at national level. This is not about justice, this is about protecting the interests of white monopoly capital and their stooges, while punishing those who challenge it.

As if this was not enough, we are receiving disturbing reports from the Pan-African Parliament, PAP, through our MK Party designate. The very principles of governance are being undermined there too. The African Union has a clear policy on regular leadership rotation for the head of PAP, yet we are seeing clear attempts to extend terms irregularly and with impunity. This is an assault on democratic principles and another example of how those in power manipulate systems to serve their own interests. The MK party refuses to accept this culture of impunity. We cannot allow institutions that are

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 5

meant to serve the people to be hijacked for personal and political gains.

The MK party is calling for a fundamental shift. The heads of Sars, the heads of the SA Reserve Bank, the Public Protector, and the National Prosecuting Authority. Heads of these institutions must no longer be appointed by the President. The heads of this of these institutions must be appointed by Parliament and be accountable to Parliament, not to one man who uses them as a shield for his own protection.

The so-called Government of National Unity is nothing more than a government of bills and coalition of corruption designed to protect the elite, while the people suffer. We reject this betrayal, and we demand a South Africa where accountability is not selective, where justice is real, and where no one, no matter how powerful he is, is above the law. The MK party is the only beacon of hope. It is the only organisation that continues to push the agenda of the poor. And we continue to say no to any value added tax, VAT, increase. Everybody say, Amen. Thank you, Chair.

[Interjections.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 6

Ms W TIKANA-GXOTHIWE: Hon House Chair, I am trying to switch on the video, but it does not connect.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): You may proceed without the video, hon member. I understand that sometimes there is a problem with the bandwidth.

Ms W TIKANA-GXOTHIWE: Thank you, hon House Chair. The primacy of our constitutional framework and Batho Pele in realising the imperatives of the Freedom Charter that I quote, "the people shall govern" goes as follows:

The South African constitutional framework is premised on reversing the injustices of the past and ridding the state and society of the legacy of apartheid and colonialism. The system of colonialism and apartheid eroded good governance, ethics and accountability from the illegal state that it led. It excluded the majority of the people, not through laws only but through violence. Therefore, the apartheid state in short, lacked humanity and Ubuntu.

State resources were used without accountability to advance the empowerment of the white minority and to oppress the black majority. It is for this reason that when the democratic

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 7

government into power drafted the Constitution, whose preamble make a commitment to, I quote: "lay the foundation for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law".

Chapter 12 of our Constitution talks about the separation of powers of the three arms of the state - the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. While exercising oversight over each other on check and balances to sustain our constitutional democracy, the separation of powers also ensures there's ethical governance and accountability.

The code ... [Inaudible.] ... in section 98(1) requires that members of the Cabinet and Deputy Ministers must act in accordance with the code of ethics prescribed by the national legislation. This also extends to members of the executive council in provinces. Chapter 10 section 1(a) of the Constitution requires that public administration must be governed by the democratic values and principles enshrined in the Constitution, including, I quote: "a high standard of professional ethics must be promoted and maintained".

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 8**

Furthermore, for the ANC, integrity and ethics have always been part of our core values throughout its history and are what shapes our actions as the ANC cadres to put the people of our country first and to serve both them and our organisation.

In our 2024 ANC manifesto we assert the need for honest, dedicated and capable cadres to implement the manifesto. The challenges of our struggle for a better life for all are difficult and diverse. Transformation requires honest and dedicated leaders.

We have, on several occasions, stated publicly that we have made some mistakes as the ANC. Now the ANC is working hard to restore the trust and your confidence in us as the leaders of fundamental socioeconomic transformation in our society.

At its last two national conferences, the ANC vowed to address societal challenges and to serve the people with discipline and integrity. We have embedded the principles of Batho Pele in shaping our government to give expression to imperatives of the Constitution.

Our first democratic government in 1997 introduced Batho Pele for public service to improve the way government served the

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 9**

people. This was a commitment, not just a plan, and for many years, Batho Pele has been the foundation of our public service.

In the Fifth Administration we have introduced the professionalisation framework to further put into action Batho Pele principles. The implementation of the framework is already showing positive signs, and we hope to build on the work of the previous administration to fully implement the framework to restore the integrity of state and improve accountability.

We have strengthened public accountability through legislative interventions such as the Public Finance Management Act, Municipal Finance Management Act and the Public Service Act. We have introduced institutions of accountability known as Chapter 9 institutions, and we still have confidence in those institutions. In addition, this Parliament has powers to establish ad hoc committees.

The makeup of our country is such that no one is immune from accountability, and we have shown this through exposing state capture, corruption, and unethical behaviour. We established the Nugent Commission that focused on the SA Revenue Service,

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 10**

Sars. It was through our strong oversight and accountability challenges that we were able to tackle COVID-19 corruption and we continue to fight corruption whenever and wherever it has been detected.

Our society is changing like all societies. Sometimes these changes are good and sometimes they are bad. At times, our conduct as human beings become a threat to a greater good. This is why it is important that from time to time we reflect on the need to renew society, to arrest greed and corruption and ensure that we serve our people with Ubuntu. This will help us deal with corruption within public service and ensure that public servants are not compromised.

I am tempted to say I am sharing or presenting this as a proud member of the ANC who has never changed t-shirts four times, and I am proud to be a member of the ANC and serve the ANC in our government. Thank you.

Ms L R POTGIETER: Chair, it is our responsibility to address this critical issue, to reflect on how far we've come, if at all, and to consider how much further we still have to go to achieve true ethical governance.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 11

In 2010, the chairperson of the Public Service Commission, PSC, wrote a piece titled, *The State of Professional Ethics in the Public Service post-1994*. In it, he states:

Government has a duty to proactively promote a culture of honesty and good governance, which will in turn lead to effective and efficient service delivery. This requires a Public Service that is professional, ethical, and performs its duties and tasks with integrity.

While this statement could have easily come from the priorities of the current government of national unity, GNU, administration, it was penned 15 years ago. If we fast-forward to today, we find that much of what was warned against has come to fruition. Governance and service delivery in our country have deteriorated to the point where they are often synonymous with corruption, maladministration, mismanagement, inefficiency and dysfunction.

Although several key institutions were established to address ethics and accountability, and new ones were introduced to further these objectives, we are left asking ourselves, are they truly making a difference?

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 12**

Our Constitution outlines a variety of independent institutions tasked with upholding integrity, transparency and accountability in government. These include the Public Protector, which investigates misconduct in government and state institutions, focusing on maladministration and abuse of power; the Auditor-General, which conducts independent audits to ensure government's finances are managed with accountability and transparency; the PSC, which oversees ethics, integrity and professional standards in the Public Service; and the SA Human Rights Commission, which monitors human rights violations, including those related to governance and corruption.

In addition to these, we have a series of anticorruption and law enforcement agencies aimed at combatting unethical conduct. The Special Investigating Unit, SIU, investigates serious corruption and maladministration, with powers to initiate civil recovery proceedings; the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, prosecutes criminal offences, including corruption-related cases, through specialised units such as the Investigating Directorate; the Hawks focuses on organised crime, financial crimes and corruption; and the Financial Intelligence Centre monitors financial transactions to detect money laundering and corruption.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 13

Parliamentary committees, ethics committees and commissions such as the state capture commission or Zondo Commission, have worked to investigate and provide recommendations for reforms in response to widespread corruption. The Zondo Commission, in particular, laid bare the systematic rot in state institutions and provided a road map for actions.

Even more recently, we've seen new initiatives such as the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council, which advises the government on strengthening anticorruption measures, and the proposed independent PSC, through the Public Service Commission Amendment Bill, which seeks to establish the PSC as fully independent from executive influence.

As the DA, we have consistently championed these accountability measures, not just in words, but through concrete legislative proposals and governance practices in the areas where we lead. These developments signify a positive shift, but the challenge remains, is enforcement truly effective?

Despite the establishment of these bodies, corruption continues to undermine governance and service delivery,

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 14

leaving the question hanging, what tangible progress has government made in the past decade alone?

We must acknowledge that the public is tired. They are tired of speeches, they are tired of promises, they are tired of hearing about ethical governance, while corruption and mismanagement persist. People are frustrated with the lack of progress and they are tired of hearing nice words that fail to translate into real results.

The gap between rhetoric and reality is widening, and this erosion of public trust is not just damaging to our institutions, but it threatens to undermine the very foundation of our democracy.

The anatomy of fraud and corruption highlights that in order to combat fraud and corruption, we need to redesign and train organisations to strengthen their culture, making them more resilient to unethical practices. It is no longer enough to talk about ethics and accountability or create policies that go unnoticed.

We need measurable results to transform the way government functions on a daily basis. For Parliament to address this, it

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 15

must take a leading role in strengthening ethical governance through a stronger oversight of public institutions, by ensuring that all decisions are transparent, by making it clear that corruption will not be tolerated and by ensuring that all public servants are not only aware of the ethical codes, but are also regularly trained on how to uphold them in their daily work. Training should include real-life scenarios, helping them understand the importance of their roles in promoting integrity and transparency.

Firstly, we need to enhance mechanisms for whistle-blowers to ensure that individuals who expose corruption are protected and incentivised. Without this, there will be no real accountability;

Secondly, proactively monitor compliance with ethical standards, investigate violations and take swift action where necessary. When the public sees that unethical behaviours are addressed promptly, it builds trust in state institutions; and

Lastly, institutionalise accountability, so that it is not a one-time reaction, but a permanent feature of the government's operations.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 16**

Ethical governance should be woven into the fabric of public institutions, preventing unethical behaviour from becoming ingrained in the system. As Parliament, our strategic vision is clear – to build an effective People's Parliament that is responsive to the needs of the people. This vision needs to be driven by the ideal of realising a better quality of life for all South Africans, making sure that governance is grounded in ethical principles.

We must be guided by the realisation that good governance is not just about passing laws. It's about ensuring that those laws are enforced, making public institutions accountable and transforming the way that we serve our people.

In conclusion, the task ahead is not easy and the stakes are incredibly high, but we have the tools, we have the institutions and we have the mandate to create a governance system that works for the people and not for the corrupt.

This is a collective responsibility, and each one of us has a role to play to ensure that we create a system where ethical governance is the norm, not the exception. The corrupt few who have benefitted from this broken system must be held

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 17

accountable and we must put in place safeguards that prevent such abuses from happening again.

If those responsible for the failures of governance within our institutions are ineffective, they need to be removed from their positions and replacements who will serve the public interest must be found ... and lost ... and to create a future where our governance works for the people, sustainably, fairly and with integrity. The time for speeches is over. It's time for change. Thank you.

Mr J A MNGXITAM: Chairperson, I hope I am audible. We must thank the MKP for suggesting the topic of debate today. A clean, ethical, and accountable government is critical to addressing the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality.

It is an indictment on the entire political leadership of the country that 30 years into democracy, 55% of the population is living below the poverty line. Our people experience food insecurity in the land of plenty. According to the 2022 Census, 25,8% of the population or approximately 15 million individuals suffer from food insecurity, whilst

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 18

11,4% or approximately 6,8 million individuals experience severe food insecurity.

South Africa faces extremely high levels of income and wealth inequality, with the top 10% holding a disproportionate share of the national income and wealth, whilst the bottom half struggles with poverty and limited access to resources. The same levels of disparity manifest in the land ownership patterns. These conditions make South Africans' lives very difficult, especially the poor.

A corrupt, weak, and inefficient state that fails to hold the corrupt accountable is a state incapable of addressing these challenges. It is a national disgrace that we have incidents such as Phala Phala, corruption, and concealment by multiple institutions, from Parliament and the Public Protector to the bizarre classification by the police of the report on Phala Phala.

An MKP-led government will prioritise a clean government by holding accountable all those involved in corruption. An amount of R500 billion provisioned for COVID-19 funds remains unaccounted for, indicating the institutionalisation of corruption. That is where the revenue shortfall should come

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 19**

from, not from punishing the poor with more taxation. Arrest the culprits and let them pay.

A focus on white monopoly capital corruption is key to ending all corruption. The Stellenbosch mafia sought to capture the state, hence the R1 billion donation to the CR17 campaign. The same white monopoly capital has allegedly corrupted the judiciary, as we have seen with the judgment to conceal the CR17 donors. There is no transparency in the state, hence the multiplication of corruption which has reach unsustainable levels. An MKP-led government will make sure that corruption is dealt with harshly and without any favours.

A discussion on corruption in the public discourse of clean government is highly influenced by our history of racism, which shields from view the biggest corruption generators who end up benefiting from corrupting the state. The MKP agitates and struggles for a transparent government that puts the people first. Such a government will deal with all corruption evenly. A glaring example of the different treatment of white and black corruption is in the handling of the Gupta-linked Waterkloof military base landing and, on the other hand, the acquisition of the private international airport by the Oppenheimers. The media and the so-called anticorruption civil

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 20**

society were correctly up in arms about the Waterkloof landing but are totally silent on the alleged unethical acquisition of the Fireblade Aviation private airport by the Oppenheimers. Another example is Markus Jooste of Steinhoff who should be the face of corruption in South Africa.

We must remember the mother of all corruption in South Africa is land theft by whites. That is the blueprint of all subsequent corruption. Addressing the land question is the start of addressing corruption. Until white monopoly capital is disciplined, dealing with state corruption is going to be near impossible. A transparent and ethical state will crack the whip on white monopoly capital corruption. That is exactly what an MKP-led government will do.

An ethical, accountable, transparent government is not just a nice-to-have thing. It is foundational to addressing the triple challenges of poverty, inequality, and unemployment. Without a clean government, there are no prospects of a thriving economy and transformation. The Government of National Unity, GNU, or the so-called GNU, is by design incapable of constructing an ethical government. Only an MKP-led government can develop an ethical, responsive state that puts the people first. I thank you, Chair.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 21

Ms N J NOLUTSHUNGU: Chairperson, in October 2016, former Public Protector Thuli Madonsela released a report that was to change the manner our society understands the corrosive impact of power on ethical governance. Madonsela's report, aptly titled *State of Capture*, provided a chilling account of how the entire fabric of the state was corrupted for the benefit of just one man and a group of Indian businesspeople who were his benefactors and who had thoroughly captured whatever revolutionary ethics was left in him.

Subsequent to that report, we saw Parliament and the then ruling party going to great lengths to defend the conduct of a man whose greed and disregard of the law risked making this country the laughing stock of the world. People such as Nathi Nhleko who is today the chairperson of the MKP, enabled by the majoritarian posture of the ANC at the time, reduced this Parliament to a circus when they undermined the Public Protector and told everyone that a swimming pool built with taxpayers' money in Nkandla was a fire pool.

That report was never reviewed and set aside and remains an authority to this day. As a consequence of that report, the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture was established, and more of that rot that was

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 22

institutionalised under the Zuma administration was to be revealed. We now know for a fact that the sponsor of this very motion, Mr Manyi, was at the centre of the rot discovered by Zondo at the commission of inquiry and was one of Zuma's implicated enforcers. We know for a fact that many other people who are now firmly in the benches of the party that sponsored this motion were implicated in the findings of the judicial commission of inquiry. The commission recommended a number of implicated individuals be investigated further and possibly prosecuted for their involvement in state capture.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Nolutshungu ... Hon member, just give me a moment, please. I see the hand of the hon Reddy. Hon Reddy, why do you want to be recognised?

Mr V G REDDY: Chairperson, I think the rules of the ... [Inaudible.] ... debate, and I want you to call upon the speaker to please refrain from referring to non-concluded ... [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Reddy, you are not audible. I cannot hear you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 23

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr M Manyi): I can assist him, Chair. I think he wants to ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, no. The hon Reddy took the point of order, so I must recognise him. Hon Reddy, can you close your video? Close the video link so that we can hear what your point of order is. The hon Reddy is not capable of doing so. Before I go to the hon Manyi, I also see the hand of the hon Mahlaule.

Mr V G REDDY: Sorry, Chairperson. I didn't hear you. I did not hear you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, hon Reddy, I said you must close your video ...

Mr V G REDDY: Close the video?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): ... so that I can hear what the point of order is because your audio connection got lost.

Mr V G REDDY: Is that better? Can you hear me now?

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 24

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): That is better, yes.  
That is better.

Mr V G REDDY: Thank you very much. Chairperson, the issue here simply relates to the fact that the Rules of the National Assembly will apply even on this virtual platform, and I think I would like you to rule that the previous member is making references to commissions like the Zondo Commission whose findings have been questionable, where even Shamila Batohi has declared that ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Reddy, what is the point of order? Let's not go into the substance.

Mr V G REDDY: The point of order is that the House is being misled because we are not talking about the disruptions caused by them in Parliament where they threw chairs and that kinds of things. We are not talking about those disruptions here.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you.

Mr V G REDDY: So, I would like you to urge members to keep the decorum, and let's avoid ...

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 25**

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Reddy, you have now made your point. This is a debate, and there are different views around these matters. These reports that are being referred to are in the public domain, and they are at different stages of being processed or whatever it is. It is a political debate, and the speaker who sponsored the motion will have the opportunity at the end to respond to the debate. That is why I am not inclined to restrict the members in terms of reports that are already in the public domain. It falls outside of the Rules at this stage, and I want the hon member to continue, but I see another two hands – the hon Manyi, your hand went down, and the hon Ntlangwini.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Chair, you recognised me.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Yes, your hand went down. Hon Reddy, can you lower your hand?

Mr M G MAHLAULE: Chair, I was going to rise in terms of Rule 85.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Chair, you recognised me.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 26

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon members, I will recognise the members in order of the hands that were raised, but, if you lower your hand, it means you no longer want to be recognised.

Mr M G MAHLAULE: Somebody lowered my hand. I never lowered my hand.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Mahlaule, what is your point of order.

Mr M G MAHLAULE: Chair, I wanted to raise a point of order on the hon Reddy. It can't be that when the hon Manyi makes reference to the Zondo Commission about the incarceration of former President Zuma and then makes an opinion that it was wrong, and then, when the hon Nolutshungu made the same reference, it is wrong. It can't be.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Mahlaule, I have ruled on the matter. Why are you reopening the matter now?

Mr M G MAHLAULE: My hand was raised, Chair, before you ruled.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 27

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): I have ruled on the matter. The hon Ntlangwini.

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: Chair, no, you have ruled on the matter.

*IsiXhosa:*

Phezu kwakhe Mbhexeshi oyiNtloko, phezu kwakhe.

*English:*

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you. The hon Manyi.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Chair, I am rising in terms of Rule 85.

Ms M DLAMINI: You like disrupting people, man. Can you keep quiet and let us carry on with the debate?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Dlamini!

Ms N J NOLUTSHUNGU: Can you allow me to continue, Chair?

Ms M DLAMINI: Time is up, man!

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 28

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon members, let us allow this debate to continue. Hon Manyi, you will get an opportunity at the end also to respond.

Ms N J NOLUTSHUNGU: You must stop, Manyi. It is not ...

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Yes, but I am raising a point of order, Chair. I am raising a point of order.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): What is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: I am rising in terms of Rule 85 that, during the debate, members must not cast aspersions. The member is casting aspersions without a substantive motion, so can you please rule on that, Chair?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Yes, hon members, when we debate, let us, especially for those who are sitting Members of Parliament, if you have any information at your disposal, instead of just raising it, it must be raised through a substantive motion that must be submitted to the Office of the Speaker, where a determination will then be made in terms of the voracity of the allegations that you are

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 29

raising against another member. It is not in the Rules of debate just to raise a matter that is pertaining to another member without submitting a substantive motion. Let us proceed in that manner. Hon Nolutshungu, you are on the platform. You may continue.

Ms N J NOLUTSHUNGU: Chairperson, the commission recommended that a number of implicated individuals be investigated further and possibly prosecuted for their involvement in state capture, mostly concerning charges of fraud, corruption, money-laundering, contravention of the Public Finance Management Act, the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, and Prevention of Organised Crime Act, and racketeering. Some of the high-profile individuals were the late Dudu Myeni, Brian Molefe, Salim Essa, Eric Wood, Anoj Singh, Siyabonga Gama, Matshela Koko, Lucky Montana, Arthur Fraser, members of the Gupta family, Duduzane Zuma, and Jacob Zuma himself. Parliament then enabled this conduct to be embedded and institutionalised in the state. It is important that we remember the role played by everyone in protecting and enabling the corrupt practices sponsored by Mr Zuma.

Today, Parliament is doing the very same thing. We now know for a fact that Mr Ramaphosa is no different from Mr Zuma and

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 30

that, in fact, he may be worse. We now know the millions of dollars that got into this country illegally were stuffed inside sofas at his farm. We know that he used resources of the state to find those who stole the millions in illicit money from his farm. We know that the South African Reserve Bank, the Public Protector, and this very Parliament saw nothing wrong with this conduct by Mr Ramaphosa. It cannot be that you all conveniently condemn Zuma for this corruption, whilst you are protecting an even worse corrupt individual now occupying the Union Buildings.

To win this fight against corruption and embedded unethical conduct across the state, we must fight against crime in all its manifestations and not only against faces we dislike. The less said about the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, the better. The NPA has not initiated a single state capture case and seen it to its end successfully. The head of the NPA, Shamila Batohi, is one of the most thoroughly useless National Directors of Public Prosecutions ever appointed in the democratic South Africa.

The EFF has long maintained that the true capture of the state, the most classic examples of unethical conduct in government, is found in the relations ... [Inaudible.] ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 31

nationalist bourgeoisie has with the white, racist captains of industry. The very existence of this sham Government of National Unity is as a result of the ANC being forced by those who have them by their balls to work with racists. Ethics at the core entails a responsive and responsible government, one that prioritises the needs of the majority of dispossessed black people in the country. Only through a takeover of the state by revolutionary forces will we see ethical governance in this country, and only the EFF can deliver that sort of government. Thank you.

Mr K P SITHOLE: Hon Chairperson, as the IFP, we firmly believe that good governance is the foundation of a prosperous society. Without ethics and accountability, state institutions lost their integrity, and ultimately, it is the people of South Africa who suffer.

We cannot ignore the reality before us. Corruption, maladministration, and the lack of accountability have become epidemic in many of our state institutions. Year after year, the Auditor General's report highlights fruitless and wasteful expenditure, mismanagement, and outright fraud.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 32

Billions of rands that should be used to uplift the lives of our people are lost to corruption. Where there is accountability, there is justice. Where there is no justice, public trust is eroded.

This is not just a political issue, it is a crisis that affects every South African, from the poorest to the wealthiest. It is undermining services delivery, stifling economic growth, and deepening inequality. The IFP has always championed ethical leadership.

Our party was founded on the principle of honesty, integrity, and service to the people. These values were embodied by our late founder, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who consistently put the needs of South Africans before personal gain. As a party, we strongly advocate for a government that is transparent, accountable and responsive to the needs of the people.

We believe that ethical governance must not be an exception, it must be standard. To install ethical governance in our state institutions, such as the Special Investigating Unit, the Public Protector, and the National Prosecuting Authority must be fully empowered and resourced to investigate and

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 33**

prosecute corruption. Political interference in these institutions must be eliminated. The failure to act against corrupt officials embodied in wrongdoing must be eliminated. We must ensure that those who steal from the people, face the full might of the law.

The awarding of government contracts has become a breeding ground for corruption. We need transparency in the procurement process, to prevent inequalities and ensure that state contracts benefit the people, not the politically connected. Citizens and whistleblowers play a vital role in exposing corruption.

However, many face threats and intimidation. We must strengthen whistleblowers' protection laws and create a safe environment for those who expose wrongdoing. Ethical governance is not a privilege, it is a fundamental requirement for a functional democracy.

The IFP stands firm in our commitment to ensure that state institutions serve the people with honesty, transparency and integrity. Let us build a South Africa where state institutions are trusted, respected, have true accountability to the people. The time for empty promises is over. South

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 34

Africans deserve real action and ethical leadership. I thank you.

Mr A SAULS: Hon Chair, greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*Khoisan:*

Noitke Ahuneke.

*English:*

Ensuring ethical governance and accountability in South Africa and South Africa's state institutions is complex. That demands a multifaceted approach. Here are some considerations from the PA. Number one, we must bring God back. When we feel ultimate accountability stops at the legal instruments, then all that will be required is to find loopholes in the law, to continue unethical behaviour. But when we posture ourselves as ultimately being accountable to God, who sees all, then seeking to please God will result in ethical governance, placing people above profits and principles above personalities.

Number two, we need to build stronger legal frameworks. We must strengthen our legal frameworks to support ethical

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 35**

governance, a move from the logic that the discipline of law is exclusively to determine what is legal, and not always what is right. Because not everything that is legal is right. Apartheid was legal, but it was not right. In addition, we need transparent processes, we need to strengthen independent oversight bodies, more public engagement and oversight, stronger whistleblower protection, regular audits and assessments, and speedy prosecutions of those found to be corrupt.

We believe, as the PA that the GNU model of governance is a step in the right direction for ethical governance, because it allows for partner parties to hold each other accountable. The national Budget is a clear example. The fact that the Minister of Finance showed humility in revisiting the 2% VAT increase decision in order to further consider inputs from other parties speaks volumes.

His Excellency, the President Ramaphosa, doing his best to navigate through different party policy positions in his attempt to find the perfect balance is not easy, but it is commendable. Islam teaches, with difficulty comes ease. South Africa shall prosper.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 36

And one day, as a nation, black, white, coloured, and Indians shall live as Africans, in particular, all of us in one country. And we shall experience ethical governance, as is already happening through the GNU. Salute. Thank you.

Mrs H DENNER: Hon House Chair, when investigator, Paul Holden, appeared before the Zondo Commission on Monday, 24 May 2021, he detailed the flow of money from government entities into the Gupta's money laundering network, where R49 157 323 233,68, to be exact, could be traced, but he warned, the true value was much higher. And he was right, because the South African people are still paying the price for state capture in the nine last years under the Zuma-ANC administration.

On Tuesday, 15 January 2019, the former President Zuma published a 1 000-word statement on Twitter, defending his legacy and attempting to highlight the successes of his tenure, much like what hon Hlophe tried to do in his speech during this year's Sona debate.

What he and the MK conveniently forgot to admit was the following that happened under their President's watchful eye: the economic growth rate between 2009 and 2017 barely exceeded

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 37

1,5%. Unemployment rose from 22,5% in 2008 to 27,5% in 2017; public debt, as a percentage of nominal GDP, went from 26,5% in 2008 to 53% in 2017, probably to mostly fund state capture; the price of electricity ballooned 350% from 2008 to 2017; the South African economy was at its lowest growth point since 1945; and poverty was increasingly visible on every street corner, while the Gupta-Zuma alliance was plundering the fiscus, and South Africans were suffering, and are still suffering, due to its effects.

Aside from this unending list, government entities bearing the brunt of the plundering included Eskom, ask the MK's hon Brian Molefe; Transnet, ask the MK's hon Siyabonga Gama; Prasa, ask the MK's hon Lucky Montana, as well as SAA; Denel; Safcol; SABC; SA Express, and the IDC, to name but a few. I don't even mention the number of provincial and national government departments.

So, all in all, we have heard a lot of the pot calling the kettle black from the MK speakers today. That is why we find the topic of today's debate, namely, ensuring ethical governance and accountability in state institutions, coming from MK, to be the epitome of hypocrisy.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 38

The ANC should not consider themselves innocent or absolved either. Many of the ANC leadership today were ANC leadership then.

*Afrikaans:*

Dit was immers aan die hef van die ANC en onder die ANC-regering wat hierdie skandvlek van staatskaping en algehele verval plaasgevind het. Daar was nie verantwoordbaarheid en etiese leierskap in staatsentiteite en in die regering nie.

Daarom het Suid-Afrikaners hulle stem verlede jaar by die stembus dik gemaak en het ons vandag die Regering van Nasionale Eenheid, RNE, wat hierdie skip moet omdraai. Die RNE werp reeds vrugte af, soos ons gesien het met die Begroting, maar die ANC sal moet besef dat hy nie meer alleen in regering staan nie. En dit is met goeie rede en die MK sal moet besef dat hy nooit weer in regering kan of mag staan nie. Ons moet immers uit die geskiedenis leer.

Dis 'n groot skip om om te draai, maar ons, veral die ANC, is dit aan die mense van Suid-Afrika verskuldig, om as 'n Regering van Nasionale Eenheid, etiese en verantwoordbare regering te verseker.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 39

Waar vennote soos die VF Plus in die verlede, anders as die MK vandag, deel gevorm het van werklike, effektiewe opposisie, sal ons die teenwigte in die RNE voorsien en verseker dat daar uit die foute van die regerings voor ons geleer word. Ek dank u.

Ms D E JAMES: Hon members, I begin with the immortal words of Nelson Mandela: We must use time wisely and forever realise that the time is always ripe to do right. These words remind us that ethical governance is not an option, it is a duty we owe to every South African. Every week in Parliament I sit in portfolio committee meetings where the state institutions present reports riddled with corruption, mismanagement and waste. Whether it is our police stations crumbling under neglect, our correctional services failing the very people they serve or while social development programmes are misappropriated by those in power.

One fact remains undeniable, there is no culture of accountability or consequence management. The problem is not a lack of funding, it is the systematic looting of public funds with impunity. Corruption today is not merely an act of betrayal it is abuse of political power, price gouging in public procurement and gross negligence that undermines the

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 40**

fabric of our society. That is why, ActionSA, is stepping forward with our zero-tolerance Corruption Bill. This legislation is designed to address the glaring limitations of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, PRECCA, by expanding the definition of corruption and closing key loopholes.

Our Bill will criminalise the nonreporting of corruption, extend liability to those who remain complicit through inaction and even hold the private sector accountable for corporate malfeasance. We are anchoring our proposal on three robust pillars. One, mandatory minimum sentences for corruption involving transactions exceeding R500,000; a minimum sentence of 15 years imprisonment will serve as a stark reminder that betraying public trust is a crime with no easy escape; robust sanctions for private sector corruption individuals and corporate corporations will all alike be held accountable by mandating the repayment of corruptly acquired funds alongside severe punitive measures.

Permanent disqualification. Anyone convicted of corruption will be barred permanently from holding public office serving as an accounting officer or working in any state registered nonprofit institution ensuring that they can never again abuse

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 41

public trust. Hon Speaker, let there be no mistake, the urgent reforms we propose should have the support of every party that claims to fight corruption and wastage. Our legislative action is a defining step towards restoring Parliament's vital role in our constitutional democracy where the interest of South Africans must always come first.

This week as we received the 2025 Budget, much has been said about which departments deserve more funding. However, let me be clear, it is not a question of money, the real issue is that public funds are being squandered and looted with impunity. We asked the Auditor-General: What single action would bring accountability? Her answer was as blunt as it was visionary, orange overalls for corrupt official! We stand on the threshold of a new era where ethical governance is not just preached but practiced. The time to act is now. South Africans are watching and we will not rest until every crooked deal is exposed and every corrupt official is held to account. I thank you.

*Xitsonga:*

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu, ndza mi xeweta na vaakatiko va Afrika-Dzonga. Mutshamaxitulu ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 42

*English:*

... there is my favourite quote by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, which says: "Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do". So, how does this relate to the discussion that we are having this morning? It is that we know what the problem is in this country and we have actually gone to the extent of drafting laws to try to deal with unethical behavior that we have in our country. However, drafting the laws on its own, whilst it might give the drafters and those that passed the law to say that we have done something, we have actually not done enough because those that continue to steal the hard earned money of South African people enjoy it. They go to Dubai, they build big houses, they buy cars and there is no consequence for that.

So, our problem, Chairperson, it is not the absence of laws. We can draft and write laws until the cows come home. If there is no implementation of the laws and there is no consequence of those that are deliberately doing the wrong things, then we will not win this battle. We find ourselves in a position where as a country we do not have enough money to do most of the things that we like to do, but the little money that we do have is being stolen, it is being used to go to Dubai and to

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 43

other places and it is being used to build mansions for people while the majority of South Africans go to bed hungry.

I must say, whilst I agree with hon James that those that steal must wear overalls, where I would differ slightly is that the colour of that overall must not be orange it ought to be lime green. Those that have been convicted of stealing the money of the South Africans, on weekends in their lime green uniform they must be cleaning the streets of South Africa so that we can show to South Africans that if you steal from the public you will be paraded out there every weekend as a way to discourage people from ever stealing the money that belongs to South Africans. They must get a different uniform colour from the other types of criminals. Every weekend they must be cleaning our streets.

If there is one law that I believe we have to make, is to deal with those that have been convicted of corruption. It must be to say, if you have stolen from the South Africans you cannot be even getting a pension. This is because one of the things that makes people to continue stealing is that; they steal, they collapse departments, they collapse state-owned entities and they walk away with a golden hand shake ... [Time expired.] ... These are the things, as Rise Mzansi, we believe

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 44

should be done to deter people and bring back ethical governance in our state institutions.

*Xitsonga:*

Ndza khensa swinene, Mutshamaxitulu.

Mr S I SUBRATHIE: Chairperson, *as-salaamu-alai-kum* and good morning. Thank you for this opportunity to engage on a topic that is foremost on the minds of all South Africans. Let me also thank the hon Manyi for allowing me this opportunity to reflect on the tireless efforts by the ANC in arresting the scourge of unethical conduct. I am sure the hon Manyi is aware of many individuals who were or are in the process of being brought to book for unethical conduct in terms of our laws without fear or favour. I found it strange that hon Manyi did not even mention those fugitives from justice, the Gupta family. They owe our country billions. Will hon Manyi support our government's attempts to extradite the Guptas? Because that would show integrity of the highest level in patriotism. Perhaps hon Manyi might want to reflect on that when he comes in at the end.

My presentation will cover three elements. One, I will place the issue of ethics as a societal responsibility. I will

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 45**

expend a substantial amount of time because the hon Gana wants to know about the laws. I will expend some time in terms of what the ANC has done legislatively to close the gap on unethical conduct. I will reflect then on the implementation and the successes. As I begin, I think the first speaker of the ANC had a few minutes left over, and I would like to utilise that time.

Over the past 31 years, our public service has been confronted with various challenges which have tested the resilience of our governance system. The levels of corruption, which involves public servants and those who are private players, such as businesspersons and citizens, generally has hidden levels of unethical conduct in our society. The Zondo Commission highlighted the complex interplay between private business, public service and public representatives. It is this complexity that requires a whole of society to tackle.

It is a societal matter that speaks to the reality of human behaviour. The impact of low levels of ethics in various facets of a society poses a risk to our social fabric. This requires all South Africans, across all races, all religions, all political and association lines, as the task of moral regeneration is a societal duty of all patriots. For public

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 46**

representatives, the oath we take should embody our psyche and actions. In doing so, we shall work united to build a better South Africa. One of the challenges we should overcome, as political parties, as public representatives, and those in executive, is to play our role without interfering with the administrative functions of public officials.

The political and administrative interface should be managed within the distinct role of executive authority on administrative authority. Coalitions that have led to the weakening of local government, for example, in Tshwane and in Johannesburg, have largely been about negotiations for executive council positions to interfere with administration. We are confident that the changes in both Johannesburg and Tshwane will contribute to strengthening governance in the city.

Let me respond to what the ANC has done in intervening. The ANC has always adapted legislation to respond to emerging challenges of governance with the sole purpose of strengthening and building an ethical and capable developmental state. This is also a priority of the Government of National Unity led by the ANC. The ANC introduced the professionalisation framework in the sixth administration,

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 47**

which is supported by various legislative amendments. In fact, the professionalisation framework is supported by various entities, such as the National School of Government, which has scaled up its training and has introduced courses which focus on ethics in public service. To this effect, the Department of Public Service and Administration directed government departments to ensure that officials enrol for the compulsory ethics in the public service online course offered by the National School of Government.

In the sixth administration, the ANC introduced legislation to strengthen public administration by introducing the Public Service Administration Amendment Bill and the Public Management Amendment Bill, including the devolution of administrative powers from executive authorities to heads of departments. The Public Service Commission Bill further expands the scope of the commission to focus on local government, which will contribute to ensuring that suitably appointed municipal officials are in place to reinforce the implementation of the professionalisation framework. The company's Second Amendment Act extends the period to disbar delinquent directors as recommended by the State Capture Commission.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 48**

In fact, it has extended it from 24 months to 60 months or five years, and that can be further expanded by court. To stabilise local government, the executive will introduce the Municipal Structures Amendment Bill, which will bring more stability and predictability in managing municipal executive council. To strengthen the capability of the state to take decisive measures in tackling corruption, the sixth administration, under the ANC, further amended the National Prosecuting Authority Amendment Act to enable the establishment of independent investigative directors to operate as an entity with prosecutorial capabilities and multidisciplinary capabilities.

The hon Gana alluded to and spoke about consequences and what has been the outcome of legislation. Let's reflect upon it. Since inception, the Asset Forfeiture Unit has frozen R30,38 billion rands. Yes, R30,38 billion. It has confiscated and forfeited R12,98 billion rands, and it has recovered R11,78 billion rands, of which R6,8 billion was returned to victims and R4,89 billion was paid into the Criminal Assets Recovery Account, otherwise known as Cara. Further, since the current National Director of Public Prosecutions, NDPP's, appointment, the Asset Forfeiture Unit has frozen R14,13 billion, confiscated and forfeited R4,8 billion, and

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 49**

recovered R5,9 billion, almost half, 46% of all freezing orders, 37% of all confiscations and forfeiture orders, and 44% of all recoveries were attained in the last five years.

Over the past five years, 39 high profile state-captured corruption matters were enrolled by the Investigating Directorate Against Corruption, almost 700 government officials and over 1 000 private sector individuals have been convicted of corruption. The ANC has called for the prioritisation of the local government sphere to respond to the basic service challenges which continue to impact a number of communities in South Africa. As the ANC, we have further supported the Auditor-General to contribute through the exercise of her audit mandate after the Public Audit Act of 2018 to take measures to tackle material irregularities by stopping procurements which are non-compliant with legislation, saving the state funds and also recouping funds from accounting offices and third parties.

The Auditor-General, in its annual report for 2023-24 has made identified 626 material irregularities on non-compliance and suspected fraud, resulting in 500 cases with material financial losses estimated at R21,68 billion and 182 matters resolved and 192 having appropriate action taken to resolve

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 50**

the problem. A total in excess of R3 billion was either recovered in the process of recovery or losses were prevented. This is a tangible impact of legislative amendment by the ANC. We must continue our legislation to strengthen measures to tackle unethical conduct. All these measures, with actions taken by the ANC government to tackle a problem we have identified are in keeping with what the Constitution requires from the exercise of state power.

As I conclude, the ANC has responded to the call of society to tackle the scourge of corruption and to improve public service. It is a people's task that we should work together to ensure that we transform the social fabric of our society to truly reach the heights envisaged by the Freedom Charter and Constitution. It is ultimately the responsibility of voters to ensure that they vote only for the most ethical leaders. It is the collective responsibility of political parties and government to ensure that their employees and officials are of the highest ethical calibre so that as a country, lesser time and money is spent monitoring ethical behaviours and more of our energy and our money is expended in serving our people. Thank you, Chairperson.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 51**

Mr F ESSACK: Hon House Chairperson and fellow South Africans, the MK Party has only decided on their debate topic late on Wednesday. Whereas debate topics have thus far this term been submitted timeously by the rest of this Parliament. But be that as it may, they have chosen a very fitting subject for discussion, especially considering the composition of their caucus. I find it difficult that the debate on ethics and accountability has been sponsored by the very same party that counts amongst its members, the first judge to ever be impeached in our democracy. Now the impeach judge is contesting his impeachment by this very House. How ethical, how accountable? I must ask.

On Wednesday, the Minister of Finance tabled a budget proposal where he mentioned that our national debt will increase beyond forecast. We will now pay some 22c for every Rand of debt, which is more than the budgets for the Departments of Police, Health and Basic Education combined. The opposition has either forgotten recent history or they simply just choose not to care. Having wasted nine precious years of South African's lives. And considering that my colleagues have now opened the door, let us discuss their own legacy of the ethical and accountable leadership that they have shown.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 52**

To a former head of both Eskom and Transnet. I hope you are very happy having driven both the entities to the ground for your gain and that of your cronies. I would like to propose to the public, including, of course, the fourth estate, that as opposed to referring to our country's energy and locomotive crisis, we rather now use the term "Breakers Legacy", so as to be more precise.

Next, to the former head of Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa, Prasa, after successfully breaking our passenger rail, leaving commuters stranded, it is surprising that you do not bring the same vigour to our parliamentary work. You are barely in committee. We know why South Africans struggle to commute to their jobs. But I wonder what is your excuse for not making to work on time? And then, of course, the former head of Government Communications and Information Systems, a spokesperson to various crooks by profession, he enjoys camouflaging, having won three political hats recently. I wonder which one he will don next. South Africans, please, have a look at the Official Opposition and assess for yourselves whether you wish to be governed by this lot.

Your government may have its disagreements, but that is certainly a better way than the alternative. At least we are

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 53**

building when they only seek to break. Now, having clarified the reality, allow me then to articulate what ethical governance and accountability actually looks like. As a minimum, we need a cadre-free professional and independent public service that serves South Africans first and not politicians. There must be no political meddling in the recruitment and selection of those entrusted with the taxpayer's money.

Secondly, if you are found guilty of corruption and malfeasance, you should not serve as a public representative. End of story. Thirdly, if you fail to deliver results for South Africans, you are tossed from your job, not shuffled around to bigger and better things as we have seen in the past. Chairperson, we must have regular lifestyle audits, for public representatives and government officials. There must be a parliamentary committee to oversee the Presidency, which we trust, of course, that our ANC partners will now sign on to. Of course, after they have overcome some stages of their grief. That is understandable.

We believe that the recommendations of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud in the Public Sector including Organs of State under

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 54

former Chief Justice Zondo must be implemented in full, as articulated by some other colleagues. I cannot agree more with the remarks of my colleague, hon Naude. The public is tired, Chairperson. The public is tired of hearing the same tired refrain of ethical governments, when corruption runs rampant of accountable leadership then no one gets arrested for stealing from the poor of a caring government. When they open their taps and not even a drop of water appears.

The breakers will never have their chance at doing what they do best. All we need from our opposition colleagues is to get out of our way and let the builders begin to do their jobs. I thank you, Chair.

Mr N MADUNA: Hon Chair, good morning to hon members, fellow South Africans. I must just say, now, as I begin, that I will use the word 'first' many-er of times during this debate as ... it's become clear that those that brought this debate have many 'firsts' within their ranks.

Today, let us, as we deliberate here, reflect on the pillar of our democracy, our Chapter 9 Institutions, as we do so at the backdrop of our movement's 113th anniversary of the formation of the ANC. The people's movement for freedom, that continues

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 55

to unite our country in a national effort to transform our country into a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and a prosperous society.

The efforts by ... let's load also the efforts by the ultra-rights Afrikaner organization that continues to paddle misinformation internationally about our country. This is very sad and it's very sad that some of hon members ... or it appears that they support some of these misinformation.

The year 2025 serves as a milestone of the 70th anniversary of the Freedom Charter. We are all here today riding on this mantra that 'the people shall govern'.

Therefore, we commend our government for having made noticeable efforts to boost accountability through, among other things, following the institutions that are designed to safeguard our rights, ensure accountability and ensure that our Constitution is protected.

Chair, I will just make mention of a few ... as I said I will use the word 'first' a lot.... it must be noted that the Public Protector's office has constantly demonstrated

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 56**

commitment to investigating complex cases of maladministration.

The Public Protector has brought to light instances of high level of corruption leading to significant public discourse, and in many cases legal action. One of these examples is the state capture, that was first exposed by this Office of the Public Protector.

As well as ... we must note that among the members of those that brought this debate, they had the first Public Protector to ever be impeached. That is why I said I will use this word 'first' a lot, because it appears like those who appear to be an index of the State Capture Report are standing on high grounds today, speaking about accountability, while they were in echelons of power while this country was being sold to some family.

This commitment by Public Protector to hold power accountable is a testament to their dedication to the rule of law.

The SA Human Rights Commission, SAHRC, has been instrumental, as well, in promoting and protecting the rights of the vulnerable groups. The commission has conducted numerous and

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 57

extensive inquiries into issues such as access to water, healthcare and exposing attention to inequality in the systems in our country.

Perhaps, they should look at, also, the remarks by the President of those that brought this debate that all teenagers who get pregnant must be sent to Robben Island, as this would be a direct violation of human rights of the people of our country as envisaged and as written in the Constitution of the country.

The commission for promotion and protection ... and Chair, it was for the first time that we hear former President making such reckless statements.

The Commission for Promotion and Protection of Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities has and continues to play a pivotal role in mitigating disputes between communities ... [Inaudible.] ... preventing potential conflicts within our country. Their work in promoting intercultural dialogue has significantly contributed to the project that is outlined in the national democratic revolution of the social cohesion and diversity in our country. The non-racist society that the ANC seeks to achieve.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 58**

The Commission for Gender Equality, CGE, has been a driving force behind the legislative reforms aimed at promoting gender equality and their advocacy continues to increase over gender-based violence, GBV, and the need for stronger protection for women. And we have seen many lobbying that they've made that have led to the President of country declaring the instances of gender-based violence to be a priority and something that must be dealt with urgently.

The Auditor-General, AG, has done a marvellous work to ensure that financial accountability has been scrutinised in identifying irregularities and preventing corruption within all levels of government and ensure that it provides insights into the performance of government departments and state-owned enterprises, SOEs. For instance, the 2022-23 AG report highlighted that there's gradual improvements in municipal audit outcomes, with the reduction of disclaimer from 27 in the previous year to 23. This shows a positive progress, which is as a result of the ANC local government interventions.

This reflects ongoing efforts to ensure that financial management at local level, through significant challenges, remain ... though remains significantly challenging as evidenced by R166,85 billion irregular expenditure. These

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 59**

reports are integral to Parliament's oversight, particularly the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Scopa, which utilises these findings to ensure that we hold government ... We, however, should note the improvement that has been happening ... we know that ANC, wherever it touches, we see good things.

The Independent Electoral Commission, IEC, has consistently delivered free and fair elections, earning the trust of South Africans and the international community. Their efficient management of electoral process is a cornerstone of our democracy. We commend the work they do every elections, most recently after 2021 local government elections, that continued into the recent 2024 national elections, which was peaceful.

Again, the MKP was the first political party to say that they were robbed in the elections. However, we have seen in by-elections that they are continuing to lose, which means it was just a fallacy that they would have won 65% of elections.

Parliament must be commended by the continuous demonstration of its capacity for oversight through various interventions. The inquiries into the collapse of African Bank, Eskom, SA Airways, SAA, Board, state capture, which exposed many of

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 60**

those that today are standing on high ground and are speaking about ethical leadership and ethics in government. And these also led to recommendation for reforms.

The establishment ad hoc committees to investigate specific issues, supported by detailed reports, public hearings, shows the transparency ... which were presented to Parliament show transparency and accountability.

The Zondo Commission report, which was presented to Parliament, contained significant findings and recommendations that Parliament has a duty to ... [Inaudible.] ... Additionally, our Parliament oversight is further strengthened by the legislative framework that supports public participation; the Municipal Structures Act, Act 117 of 1998, and the Municipal Systems Act, Act 32 of 2000, which mandate the ward committees and the development of integrated development plans, IDPs.

Statistics SA's general household survey data shows that while participation varies, a significant percentage of households engage with local government services, including the level of interaction.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 61**

Reports from the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, CoGTA, indicate that efforts to improve alignment with national priorities. For example, CoGTA's 2022-23 annual report detailed capacity building programme and enhancing municipality planning and implementation and showcasing continuous drive to improve.

Hon members, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, DPME, led by the Minister, have developed the development of national evaluation system which is a structured approach to evaluate government programmes.

The DPME published the evaluation reports, now, evidence-based into policy effectiveness. For instance, the effectiveness of early childhood has informed policy adjustment.

The shift towards outcome-based performance indicators is evidence that the department's performance information framework, government departments are increasingly required to report on the impact of their programmes, not just activities.

The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation's outcomes report further details the information on progress

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 62

towards the national development goals, allowing citizens to track government's performance over time.

The DPME is also involved in continuous improvement of the National Development Plan, NDP, 2030 monitoring to ensure government efforts are aligned with the national development agenda and the progress measured against common set of indicators.

The department's efforts to ensure intergovernmental coordination and evaluation are also not ... [Inaudible.] ... as they are working to build capacity and evaluation at the provincial and the municipal level ... [Inaudible.] ... performance has been collected across all spheres of government.

Hon Chair ... [Inaudible.] ... I must state that it should be very ... I believe that it's very difficult when as a leader or as a Chief Whip you are leading a political party whereby ... [Time expired.] ... thank you, Chair.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr M Manyi): House  
Chairperson, I'm not going to waste time with the desperate comments from Ms Gxotiwe, that's why ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 63

*IsiXhosa:*

... egxothiwe eMpuma Koloni.

*English:*

She mumbled something about the Freedom Charter and yet today we sit with no land, we sit with no wealth, we sit with no work, we sit with no security, we sit with no universal health access. So, she just makes platitude of something she has no comprehension of.

And also, Mr Subrathie, your brothers there in Dubai have no warrant of arrest, Batohi keeps lying to you and saying they are fugitives. They are not fugitives; they are free people out there. There was a judgement in March 2023 in Dubai where the judge said 'where is the warrant?' There is no warrant. Go and argue with Batohi there.

The DA is just busy here with the apartheid nostalgia. These are the opportunists of this world, they are just chasing VIP status and blue lights. They have absolutely nothing to add to the society.

FF-Plus, I think those ones are ... they've just reminded me that we should get back Nuremberg ... [Inaudible.] ... trials.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 64

The National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, as we currently sit ... before I even get there ... there's nothing much more to say about the jukebox. The less said about them, the better.

Fact of the matter is that South Africa was better when Zuma was in charge. Transnet was better when Gama was in charge. Passenger Rail Agency of SA, Prasa, had moving trains when Montana was in charge. Eskom had no loadshedding when Brian was in charge. Those are the facts.

We are sitting here with people talking stuff about the commission. The commission is contributing only 0,01% of the NPA cash load. There's absolutely nothing prosecutable from all that nonsense of what was happening in the Zondo Commission. So, we don't put any credence in that.

By the way, that commission or any other commission has no binding legal effect. So, the noise made about the Zondo Commission is totally misplaced.

We are sitting here as MKP, as a beacon of hope, as the only party that is growing.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 65

Mr Maduna here talks about being the first. Yes, indeed, let's continue with the first notion. We are the first party to drop the ANC from 50% to below 40%, we are the first party to do that. The first party to bring the ANC to its knees and we continue to do this.

So, indeed, House Chairperson, it's very clear here ... I'm struggling to ... [Sound glitch.] ... here, people were just mumbling things that they had no coherence in what they were saying.

So, we continue to say let's hold governance and accountability as high as we can and stop this pretence. The DA here keeps posturing as a party that respects constitutionalism and yet they are the first people to make deals on very serious stuff that relates to governance.

House Chairperson, I think I really have ... [Inaudible.] ... nothing to respond to here. Our topic is very proper. We are the only party here that the people of South Africa are waiting for and we are ready to take over government. Thank you very much.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 66

**INVESTING IN CAPACITY BUILDING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND LEGISLATIVE  
REFORM TO ADDRESS THE CRISIS OF WATER MANAGEMENT AND TO  
IMPROVE COMPLIANCE WITH BLUE, GREEN AND NO DROP STANDARD**

(Subject for Discussion)

Mr S L DITHEBE: Hon House Chairperson, hon members, I am here. I will shortly switch off my video, so that I can continue with my speech. Our topic for discussion today, Investing in capacity building, infrastructure and legislative reform to address the crisis of water management and to improve compliance with blue, green and nodrop standards, is the lofty goal that lies at the heart of the dignity we promise our citizens in our Constitution, as captured in section 27, which, among others, guarantees the right to water within the available resources of the state, to progressively realise this and many other rights.

While delivering the 2025 state of the nation address, the President made the following observations on the state of our water and sanitation, among others. He said that, in many cities, and towns across the country, roads are not maintained, water and electricity supply are often disrupted, refuse is not collected and sewage runs in the streets. He

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 67**

continued, in part, this has happened because many municipalities lack the technical skills and resources required to meet the people's needs.

He went on to say that many municipalities have not reinvested the revenue they earn from these services into the upkeep of infrastructure. Many people in our cities, towns and villages are experiencing more and more frequent water shortages, as a result of failing water infrastructure. He concluded by saying that it is impossible to live without water and it is impossible for the economy to grow without water.

We are in full agreement with the President and as the ANC, we urge the department to leave no stone unturned, to prod municipalities to turn the above-bleak situation around by doing everything in the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan to see to the well-being of all South Africans on the water and sanitation front.

Thus, I approach this debate with a renewed sense of hope and optimism, because only two days ago, the Minister of Finance tabled a very balanced budget, which prioritises investment in water and sanitation and institutional support to municipalities, to deliver quality, reliable water to

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 68**

communities and stop the endless flow of untreated sewage in our streets, as well as clean water, which constitutes a loss of revenue to municipalities, which are water service authorities.

Our communities have been on the receiving end of unreliable water supply and sewer spillages for too long and this debate is about assuring them that help is on the way.

With the strong support that we witness from the Department of Water and Sanitation, a point that all parties in the portfolio committee agreed on, our questions to the Minister on a wide range of concerns are often responded to in an informed, accurate, courteous and ethical manner, and where information is insufficient, honest follow-ups are always made.

Nevertheless, the ANC believes that the Minister and her department can help us to speedily end the inconvenience and challenge of unreliable supply of water, including built and unbuilt water losses, often referred to as non-revenue water, with municipalities playing their rightful role in this regard.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 69**

Thus, we remain hopeful and optimistic that an irreversible path to great and ongoing investment in water and sanitation has begun in earnest and that the nightmare of water unreliability and the indignity of unsafe, unhygienic and unhealthy sanitation will recede into the distant past.

To this end, our municipalities must, as a matter of urgency, invest in water services development plans and hire suitably skilled personnel who can and must run our waste management treatment plants and ensure that the water reticulation networks reliably supply water, and that water losses are drastically reduced to below 10% of the water provided to them by the water boards. Above all, these water boards must be paid regularly by municipalities and other users.

Investing in capacity regarding the technical skills, very few would argue that the pause in the issuance of the blue drop, green drop reports in 2013 and 2014, respectively, hugely undermined and harmed what is wholly accepted as a scientific way of managing the whole cycle of water and sanitation services.

We, however, commend the sensible and noble efforts of Minister Mchunu, the predecessor of Minister Majodina, for

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 70**

restoring in 2022, the blue and green drop reports, respectively, and no drop assessment in 2023. This very useful monitoring and evaluation tool of the consecutive steps, commonly known as the value chain, that go into our water and sanitation processes until the water reaches the consumer, as regulated by a very rigorous SABS standard 241, SANS 241, must be implemented without any let-up.

According to regulations, all process controllers and supervisors must be classified as per their qualifications and years of experience. The department is responsible for the classification of process controllers and plant personnel are required to register for classification through the integrated regulatory information system, Iris, and are provided with a classification certificate.

The green drop requirements make provision for sharing of supervisors for basic systems that are also small. This reduces the burden of small and remote wastewater treatment works, as a roaming supervisor, I can visit a number of facilities once or twice a week.

In addition, the green drop requirements outline the requirements for the plant maintenance team, to ensure

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 71**

effective maintenance of wastewater infrastructure for ongoing operations. Thus, the ANC insists that all technical compliance by wastewater treatment works in terms of skills, equipment, and practices must be strictly adhered to.

With the anticipated R940 billion investment in infrastructure overall and the R156,3 billion in water and sanitation, as per the Budget Speech on 13 March 2025, we hope for the best in addressing water losses within the reticulation networks of municipalities and water ports.

Thus, we must reverse the 2023 47% non-revenue water incidents in municipalities. We welcome the Water Partnerships Office in partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the South African Local Government Association to help municipalities define, create, deliver, and sustain value to their customers and stakeholders.

Thus, hundreds of billions of rand will be required to fix municipalities, to deliver on their legal and constitutional mandate. Every strategy is needed to achieve this, but so are the requisite logistics in this regard. All sensible people will agree with the Department of Water and Sanitation that

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 72

all current water service providers will have to apply for an operating license. [Time expired.] Thank you very much.

Mr V G REDDY: Hon Acting Chairperson, fellow Members of Parliament and the people of South Africa, I want you to picture this: An elderly woman, Gogo Marriam, wakes up before sunrise in the township of Umlazi. She walks to the street with an empty bucket hoping that today, just maybe, the water tanker will come.

The last time she had running water in her home was two weeks ago. She waits along with young children and struggling mothers in a long line under the scorching sun. Hours pass and the tanker doesn't arrive. Her frail body cannot take another trip up and down the road, but she has no choice because without water she cannot drink, cook or even bathe. This is not just Gogo Marriam's reality; it is the daily suffering of millions of South Africans under the so-called Government of National Unity, GNU.

They tell us that we are in a democracy, that the people come first, but how can we believe this when in eThekweni alone close to 60% of water is lost and unaccounted for. It is not reaching the taps of ordinary South Africans, instead, it

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 73**

flows onto the streets, seeps into the ground or vanishes due to the corruption, mismanagement and incompetence.

This crisis is not just about infrastructure; it is about dignity, life and death. The water crisis in South Africa is a direct consequence of a government that has failed to prioritise the most basic human right - access to clean water.

Let's be very clear, the ANC and the DA in their so-called GNU alliance must take full responsibility for this catastrophe. Poor management, corruption and failing infrastructure are crippling our country. Our cities and towns suffer daily water outages, yet Ministers sit in comfortable offices sipping imported bottled water.

Billions of rands meant for water infrastructure have vanished into the pockets of corrupt officials while children go to bed thirsty. We just heard the hon member from the ANC-DA coalition say that the Minister of Finance has allocated billions to Water and Sanitation. Where is this money going to go to when this Minister said to us yesterday that her department is not responsible for bringing water to the taps?

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 74**

We are watching our rivers and beaches become polluted and wasted because waste water treatment plants are either dysfunctional or neglected. No action, no accountability, no shame. This is a crime against our people.

We are told that South Africa is a water scarce country, but this is only half the truth. The real issue is that we are wasting and losing water on a catastrophic scale. Nonrevenue water - the water lost through leaks - theft and billing failures have reached nearly 60% in eThekweni alone, and up to 50% in many other areas. This means that for every two litres of water pumped, one litre is lost.

Think about this: South Africans are being told to use water sparingly while the government allows billions of litres to disappear daily. If a private business lost half of its product before it even reached customers, it would collapse overnight. Yet, this government treats this crisis with arrogance and indifference.

We cannot speak about statistics without speaking about people. We heard the previous speaker talk about a master plan. Master plans don't bring water into the taps of our people. Behind every failed water system is a child who cannot

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 75**

bathe before school, a hospital struggling to function and an elderly person unable to cook a meal.

In Hammarsdale, families queue for hours for water tankers that never arrive. In areas like Queensburgh, Phoenix, Amaoti, Tongaat and Umlazi in KwaZulu-Natal desperate citizens are now taking to the streets. Someone once said that the next war will not be fought over minerals or land but over water. We are sitting on a time bomb.

In Newcastle, sewage flows into rivers, making tap water unsafe. In Durban, beaches are declared unsafe because of their extreme E. coli levels. Raw sewage that's shit is flowing directly into the sea.

In the Eastern Cape, thousands rely on dirty boreholes because taps have run dry for months. Schools in Hammarsdale, which I have seen personally with my colleagues from the MK, are closed for days every week because there is no water. This is not a natural disaster; it is a result to government failure.

The MK Party does not just point fingers; we bring solutions because we believe that water is not a privilege but a right. It is one of the pillars of our commitment to restoring

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 76**

dignity to the people of South Africa. This is what we will do:

Firstly, we say declare water infrastructure a national emergency, stop the lies and excuses. Government must prioritise fixing leaks, upgrading waste water plants and securing water supply systems.

Secondly, end corruption in water management. No more tenders for politically connected businesses. Water contracts must go to competent professionals, not cronies.

Thirdly, hold municipalities accountable. Municipalities failing to deliver water must be placed under administration and their leaders must be removed. The Minister has the power to use section 62 and 63 of the Water Services Act to go and fix municipalities, but she has failed to do it.

Fourthly, invest in infrastructure and water recycling. The MK Party demands massive investments in water treatment, conservation and alternative supply methods. Cities like Singapore recycle almost 100% of waste water. Why is South Africa still dumping sewage into rivers?

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 77**

Fifthly, let's empower communities to monitor water supplies. Communities must have direct oversight over water supply systems to prevent mismanagement and hold officials accountable.

Friends enough is enough! We cannot allow another year of this suffering. We cannot accept a government that prioritises the profits of the rich over the survival of the poor. We cannot allow thieves and liars to rob our people of water while blaming climate change or technical issues.

The MK Party stands with every South African, like our leader, President Zuma who is the voice of the downtrodden in this country, the people who have suffered because of these water failures, corruption and government incompetence. We will fight and we will not rest until every home, every school and every hospital has clean running water.

The bottom line is that the buck stops with this Minister of Water and Sanitation who keeps passing the blame. She must go! Pemmy must go, because without water there is no life and without justice there is no democracy. I thank you.

Mr M G MAHLAULE: On a point of order, Chair.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 78

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Douglas): What point of order are you rising on?

Mr M G MAHLAULE: Chair, hon Reddy keeps referring to the Minister of Water and Sanitation as Pemmy and it is not allowed according to the Rules.

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Douglas): Okay. Thank you, your comment is noted. Hon Reddy, please note that you may not refer to anybody by their name; you need to maintain the quorum in the House. Thank you.

Mr V G REDDY: Acting Chair, the point should have been raised ...

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Douglas): Hon Reddy, please, you have not been recognised, and you are not rising on a point of order or anything else. The matter is over, I have ruled on it. Please let us move on.

Ms S MOSIKATSI: House Chair, can I switch off my video?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON: No problem. Please go ahead.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 79**

Ms S MOSIKATSI: Thank you, Chairperson. In restoring governance and improving the management and functioning of water service authorities, better management of their water and sanitation infrastructure, we need to strengthen the governance and accountability of water service authorities through the establishment of governance systems by ensuring the provision of water and sanitation services, regulation of water consumption by households and businesses, protection of water services, resources in our local government areas of jurisdiction, collection of water revenues and payment of water boards.

By ensuring integrated planning and co-ordinating of water and sanitation projects through the enforcement of the District Development Model, we need to involve water service users, and stakeholders in the decision-making process. And it is also important that communities are provided water in an equitable manner and other users.

In enhancing the performance and impact through collaboration with retired professionals, which is universities and technical, vocational, and training colleges in water and sanitation sector with the aim of sharing knowledge and expertise. To enhance effectiveness and efficiency of water

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 80

services provision, stakeholders' participation is very critical in decision-making.

It is important that the municipalities capacity is being built so that they can be able to implement and monitor legislation to ensure sustainable and water service delivery.

In improving the management of operation of water and wastewater treatment works, we will improve water conservation and water resources management through raising widespread awareness in our communities on water services and ecosystems, by passing and enforcing regulations and bylaws in our municipalities. Recycling or redirecting of water sources and collection of revenue for water uses is very important. Thank you, Chairperson.

Mr S J MOORE: Thank you, hon Chairperson. Hon members, water is a basic human right. It is essential for life, health, and economic development, creating jobs and economic growth. Yet across South Africa millions of people experience dry taps, waterborne illnesses, and collapsing infrastructure, not because of drought or natural disasters, but because of political failures at the municipal level. Year after year, we have received damning blue, green, and no-drop reports and

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 81**

similar reports like them, exposing how water infrastructure is crumbling, how wastewater treatment works are polluting our rivers, and how municipalities are losing up to 40% of their water through leaks. The problem is not a lack of solutions, it is a lack of political will to implement them and a lack of consequences for those responsible.

Hon Chairperson, all too often we hear that municipal officials lack the technical skills to manage water services effectively. And that may be true in some cases. But let us be very clear. The real problem is not weak officials, but weak leadership. The problem is that the very politicians who are supposed to oversee water services are instead prioritising patronage over service delivery, protecting cadres instead of competent civil servants, and tolerating corruption instead of ensuring accountability.

South Africa does not lack engineers and planners or professionals capable of fixing our water crisis. What we lack is the political leadership to ensure that competent people are hired, that budgets are spent wisely, and that failing municipalities face real consequences.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 82**

Consider the City of Makanda, which is formerly known as Grahamstown, once a vibrant educational hub, it has been plagued by chronic water shortages due to financial mismanagement and underspending on infrastructure. Residents have endured prolonged periods without water, leading to service delivery protests and legal action against the municipality.

I studied at Rhodes University, and the town's economy is reliant on the education sector, including the university and the many excellent schools. These water outages are a threat to this amazing educational city, which is fair. What parent sends their children knowingly to a place without safe and secure water? This must change.

In Johannesburg, the situation is equally dire. In December 2024, the city experienced severe water supply cuts, lasting up to 86 hours at a time, disrupting daily life and critical services, including hospitals and the constitutional court, the highest court in the land. These outages were attributed to poor management, infrastructure failures and corruption within the local government.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 83**

In September 2024, the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital faced a water crisis that led to the cancellation of non-emergency surgeries and compromised patient care. The hospital was forced to divert surgeries to nearby facilities, highlighting the vulnerability of our healthcare institutions to municipal failures. These examples are not isolated incidents. They are symptomatic of a broader leadership crisis in our municipalities.

We can pour billions into water infrastructure, but if corrupt and incompetent leaders remain in charge, that money will be wasted. We have seen this pattern before. Wasteful spending on our water projects that never materialise, tenders that are awarded to politically connected individuals with no expertise, and budgets that vanish when communities go without water.

The time has come to hold leaders accountable for their water failures. This means charging municipal managers and officials with misconduct if they repeatedly ignore water infrastructure maintenance, declaring water failures a governance emergency, allowing for immediate interventions in municipalities that fall below acceptable service delivery standards, and voting out mayors and councillors in nonperforming municipalities if

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 84**

water services do not improve. Without real consequences, we will be back here next year reading another Blue Drop report filled with the same failures and making the same excuses.

Hon members, we need a national commitment to ending impunity in water management. Every official, every politician, and every government department responsible for water services must know that failure will no longer be tolerated. If a wastewater plant pollutes our rivers, someone must be fired. If a town runs dry due to mismanagement, someone must be prosecuted. If billions in water infrastructure funding disappear, someone must go to jail. It is time to put the people first and make water provision a non-negotiable priority.

Hon Chairperson and hon members, if South Africa does not get its water management in order, we will fail. No matter how much money we invest in infrastructure or how many civil servants we train, the reality is simple: without consequences, nothing will change. This Parliament should send a clear message. Water is not optional. Service delivery is not optional. And accountability is not optional. South Africans deserve better, and it is our duty to make sure they get it. Thank you.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 85**

Ms M DLAMINI: Chairperson, as the factions of the ANC in the form of the MK and the ANC engage in mudsling matches, allow us to give this House much needed guidance to the Department of Water and Sanitation. A South African crisis is a direct consequence of years of mismanagement, corruption and underinvestment in critical water infrastructure. The 2022-23 No Drop report highlights a sharp decline in water loss management practices across municipalities, exposing the failures of a system that lacks accountability and enforcement.

The EFF firmly argues that the water infrastructure must never be surrendered to private capital. Instead, the state must take full control to ensure equitable access, quality service delivery and sustainable water management. Water is a basic human right and the public good that should never be commodified for profit.

The global trend of privatisation in water management has proven to be disastrous, often resulting in a higher cost for consumers, service exclusion for the poor, and a decline in quality of water systems. South Africa must reject any attempts to hand over this vital resource to private corporations whose primary interest is profit maximisation

rather than the well-being of the people. Historical cases worldwide demonstrate that privatisation leads to deteriorating infrastructure and private entities cut costs to maximise profit.

The government must reinforce its role as the sole provider of water services, ensuring that the needs of the people, particularly those in rural and underdeveloped areas, take precedence over financial gain. The Department of Water and Sanitation must prioritise the strengthening of governance and legislation to reinforce accountability in water management.

Reports indicates that 56% of wastewater treatment plants are in critical state or poor condition, leading to environmental degradation and public health crisis such as the Hammanskraal cholera outbreak. This failure stems from inadequate government oversight and regulatory non-compliance. To address this, the state must establish independent monitoring agencies to oversee water management and prevent corruption, introduce stricter penitence for municipalities and officials failing to meet water quality and infrastructure standards, ensure transparency in all water related projects to prevent further fiscal maladministration such as the Giyani water project debacle, and strengthen local government structures to ensure

municipalities have the technical capacity to manage water infrastructure effectively.

The government must take decisive action by directing public funds into expansion and modernization of infrastructure, prioritising the rehabilitation of water treatment plants to meet Blue, Green and no job compliance standards, the reduction of water losses by repairing and replacing outdated pipelines and distribution networks, the implementation of smart water metering systems to check consumption and prevent wastage, and the expansion of wastewater treatment capacity to prevent pollution and protect natural water resources. Rather than outsourcing these projects to private companies, the government must develop state-owned construction and engineering firms to lead the infrastructure renewal efforts ensuring cost, efficiency and accountability.

One of the fundamental challenges in effective water management is the shortage of skilled personnel in municipalities. Nearly 40% of local government lack the technical capacity to manage water infrastructure properly. The EFF calls for increased investment in training and development programmes for engineers, scientists and water management professionals in collaboration with universities

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 88**

and technical institutions to design specialised courses in water infrastructure management and mandatory reskilling of municipal staff to enhance compliance with standards and improve service delivery. By equipping professionals with these necessary skills, the state can build a workforce capable of maintaining and improving water infrastructure without reliance on external private entities.

The government's intervention in water management must prioritise equitable access, particularly in rural areas. Disparities in water infrastructure between urban centres and rural communities remain a significant concern. Rural populations, often the most affected by poor service delivery, face frequent water shortages and unsafe drinking water.

The EFF demands that the government initiatives prioritise rural development by constructing new water treatment plants in underdeveloped areas, expanding reticulation systems to reach remote communities, and providing free basic water for indigent households as a constitutional right.

Water access must never be a privilege dictated by market forces. It is the state's responsibility to ensure that every citizen, regardless of geographical location or economic

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 89**

status, has access to clean and safe drinking water. The ongoing water crisis in South Africa is not merely an infrastructure problem, but a governance failure that demands urgent state intervention.

The EFF rejects any notion of privatisation of water services and insists that water infrastructure management remains in the hands of the government. Through legislative reforms, significant public investment, enhanced capacity building, and a commitment to equitable access, South Africa can ensure that water is not wasted. The time for both government-led action decisions is now before this crisis deepens any further. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr W M Douglas): The next speaker is hon Mathopa from the PA. Hon Mathapo, are you there?

Ms M L MATHOPA: Hon Chair, I am here. Let me just switch on my video. Hon Chair, hon members, the North West province faces a severe water crisis due to prolonged droughts, ageing infrastructure and poor resource management. Many communities nationally ...

Mr K P SITHOLE: Hon Chair!

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 90

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr W M Douglas): Yes, what Rule are you rising on?

Mr K P SITHOLE: I am sorry hon member for interrupting you. I think the member that is supposed to follow is hon Hadebe.

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr W M Douglas): Okay, let me just check with the table staff. Give me a second. I'm just checking. Okay, you are correct. Would you mind, hon Mathopa, if we get the correct speaker?

Ms M L MATHOPA: I wouldn't mind Chair. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr W M Douglas): Thank you very much. Apologies there for the slip up, hon members. Can the hon Hadebe please take the floor? Thank you.

Mr N M HADEBE: Hon Chairperson, our Constitution afford everyone the right to have access to sufficient water. The right is further enshrined in the Water Services Amendment Act of 2004. In the year 2015 in the Sustainable Development Goals, our country and many others agreed jointly to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water. We agreed to improve water quality and wastewater

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 91**

treatment by 2030. This is outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 6. This has been our call to resource municipalities financially and through capacity building so they can efficiently provide clean running water sustainably. We have also called for a national water audit quality wherein damaged and ageing water infrastructure can be repaired or replaced.

As the IFP, we recognise that some of the water challenges we face are not just due to ageing infrastructure but are deliberate acts of criminality. There have been cases where water infrastructure is intentionally damaged so that emergency repair contracts can be awarded to specific companies. To address this, we call for stricter and more robust bylaws that will impose severe penalties on those found guilty of sabotaging water infrastructure.

The IFP applauds government's legislative efforts, including the recent assenting of the National Water Resource Infrastructure Agency Act which aims to strengthen the management and development of critical water infrastructure. We also recognise the importance of public-private partnerships in mobilising resources and expertise to address South Africa's ongoing water challenges. These initiatives mark a significant step towards improving water security. The

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 92**

Blue, Green, and No Drop programmes are crucial in ensuring the safety and quality of South Africa's drinking water and wastewater treatment.

The 2023 Blue Drop report reveals a concerning decline in drinking water quality since the last assessment in 2014. Several municipalities have experienced significant drops in their Blue Drop scores, indicating deteriorating water quality management practices. Immediate interventions are needed to safeguard public health and ensure access to safe drinking water.

We urge that greater investment and support be extended to municipalities. These must include water specialists, personnel, and sizable grants to improve water infrastructure. South Africa is a water scarce country. Let us use water sparingly. Let us reuse it and let us conserve it. Thank you, hon Chairperson.

Ms M L MATHOPA: Hon Chair and hon members, the North West province faces a severe water crisis due to prolonged droughts, ageing infrastructure and poor resource management. Nationally, many communities experience water shortages, impacting daily life, agriculture and health. Rivers and dams

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 93

are drying up, exacerbating the situation. Rural areas are particularly affected, with residents often relying on unsafe water resources. Minister ...

*IsiXhosa:*

... uchazile kabanzi izolo wade waphindaphinda. Siyabulela ngomsebenzi owenzayo kodwa akwanelanga. Ibuhlungu lento yokuswela amanzi ngabantu. Mphathiswa, amanzi yimpilo.

*English:*

Last week, in Zeerust, Lehurutshe, in the North West ...

*IsiXhosa:*

... abantu abadala, oomakhulu nootat'omkhulu bavale indlela bekhazela amanzi ...

*English:*

... in wheelchairs and crutches.

*IsiXhosa:*

Baphendulwe ngeembumbulu xa bebecela amanzi. Mphathiswa, loo nto ibuhlungu kakhulu.

*English:*

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 94**

The crisis has led to protests and calls for government's stringent intervention.

Climate change further worsens the problem, reducing rainfall and increasing evaporation rates. Urgent action is needed to improve water infrastructure, implement sustainable management practices and ensure equitable access to clean water for all residents.

Water is the lifeblood of our nation. It sustains our communities, drives our economy and nourishes our environment. Yet, South Africa faces a growing water crisis, exacerbated by climate change, ageing infrastructure and increasing demand.

To secure our future, we must act decisively by investing in capacity-building, infrastructure and legislative reform to improve water management and ensure compliance with the Blue, Green and No Drop standards.

Firstly, capacity-building is essential. We must equip our water sector professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to manage this precious resource effectively.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 95

Training programmes, workshops and partnerships with academic institutions can foster innovation and expertise. Empowering local communities to participate in water conservation efforts will also ensure sustainable practices at the grassroots level;

Secondly, infrastructure investment is critical. Many of our water systems are outdated, leading to significant losses through leaks and inefficiencies. By modernising our infrastructure, we can reduce water wastage, improve distribution and ensure reliable access to clean water for all. Projects like wastewater treatment upgrades, dam maintenance and rainwater harvesting systems must be prioritised; and

Thirdly, legislative reform is necessary to strengthen governance and accountability. Our current laws must be updated to address emerging challenges such as pollution and overextraction. Clearer regulations, stricter enforcement and incentives for compliance with the Blue, Green and No Drop standards will drive better water management practices across industries and municipalities. [Time expired.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 96

Dr W J BOSHOFF: Hon Chair, the unique nature of water is due to two things. The one reason is because it's biologically essential. No plant life, animal life or any life can exist without water. The other thing is the extraordinary ability of water to clean up stuff.

The most important factor contributing to increased human longevity is indeed not food security, but waterborne sanitation. The fact ... that water which we polluted is taken somewhere where it is isolated and treated or just exposed to nature, and then all the pollutants, bacteria and stuff are ecologically broken down and it can either go back into the atmosphere or into water sources being released back in the ecology.

*Afrikaans:*

Oor al die eeue is dit maar hoe mense gemaak het. Jy het na die naaste waterbron, 'n stroompie, 'n dammetjie of selfs 'n put gegaan, water geskep, dit gebruik, dit vuil gemaak en die vuil water nou maar daar êrens gegooi, en die natuur het dit hanteer. Dit het nie 'n probleem geword nie todat ons so baie geword het, todat ons mense begin stede bou en jy nodig het om hierdie water weg te neem sodat dit behandel kan word en sodat ons ook die water wat ons nog wil gebruik skei van die water

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 97

wat ons reeds gebruik het. Die water wat ons wil gebruik moet natuurlik skoongemaak word. Dit moet vir menslike gebruik voorberei word. Dan moet dit met pype na huise toe gestuur word en as dit klaar gebruik is moet die vuil water weer met rioolpype terug na die rioolplase toe gaan. Dit is waar die Blou Druppel, Groen Druppel en Geen Druppel inkom.

Die Blou Druppel is goeie drinkbare water, die Groen Druppel doen weg met die besoedelde water op 'n manier waar dit nie weer in die menslike sisteem inkom nie en die Geen Druppel doen al hierdie sonder om water te mors en sonder dat dit wegraak.

Die probleem is dat hierdie goed ongelooflik kapitaalintensief is. Dit is duur om te bou, dit is duur om te onderhou en dit vereis voortdurende aandag. Soos almal al gesê het, die duiwel is in elke pyp. Die goed verstop en dan sit jy met nie net een huis se riool nie, soos wanneer jy 'n puttoilet het, maar met 50 of 100 huise se riool wat op een plek uitloop. Nou, 'n slim ou het op 'n dag gesê ...

*English:*

... the solution to pollution is distribution.

*Afrikaans:*

Hoe meer jy dit uitmekaar uit wegvat hoe minder besoedelend is dit. Nou, wat ons in werklikheid met rioolplase doen is die teenoorgestelde. Ons bring al die biologies gevaarlike riool bymekaar om dit te kan behandel, maar as ons dit nie behandel nie, dan skep ons 'n ramp.

Nou, die probleem is dat ons hele stedelike beplanning eintlik daarop ingestel is om van water ontslae te raak – water wat met reën val en water wat gebruik is, terwyl ons hierdie vuil water eintlik as 'n hulpbron moet beskou.

Hoekom is dit vuil? Dit is vuil omdat dit 'n hoë lading van voedingstowwe het. Dit is iets wat weer gebruik kan word. Die probleem is dat solank as wat jy 'n ding as 'n afval of as 'n pestilensie of as 'n plaag beskou, gaan dit altyd vir jou baie geld kos om dit te hanteer. Maar die oomblik as jy dit in 'n hulpbron omskep en waar jy byvoorbeeld biobrandstowwe of baie ander produkte daaruit kan vervaardig, het jy 'n hele paradigmaskuif gemaak wat die probleem in 'n hulpbron verander. Dit is iets waarvan jy op die ou end nie te veel het nie maar nooit genoeg van kan kry nie want jy het werk daarvoor. Dit is 'n nuwe manier van dink.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 99**

Ms M P KOBE: Hon Chair, the Vaal Dam achieved a significant milestone last Friday, as water levels reached exactly 100% capacity. This comes after steady rainfall throughout the entire week, marking a key milestone for water security in the region, as this was the first time the reservoir has been completely full since 2023.

It is, however, very regrettable that this very water lies in the most polluted river, witnessing a discharge of 1 500 million litres of effluent per day by the irresponsible 32 wastewater treatment works that are located in the Vaal River catchment area.

Further to this, what is more disheartening is that 47% of this water that is meant to reach residents will be lost as nonrevenue water through leaking distribution channels and illegal connections.

This paints a clear picture for us as South Africans that maybe we do not have a water supply crisis, but rather a water infrastructure crisis that is exacerbated by poor leadership and mismanagement.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 100**

The latest Blue Drop Report from the Department of Water and Sanitation highlights that nearly one third of the country's water supply systems are in a critical state, while the Green Drop Report also indicates that 64% of wastewater treatment works are at high or critical risk. This leads to partially treated or untreated water being discharged into our water resources, causing harm to aquatic life and the environment.

Hon Minister, something must be done. While we acknowledge that there are constitutional parameters, you remain at the head of the value chain. The buck must end with you.

It is a well-documented fact that our municipalities are failing in their role as water service authorities, with 50% of them providing unsafe water to our communities.

South Africans are desperate for solutions, and as Action SA, in the absence of these solutions, we will step in and propose comprehensive, multipronged solutions. We are calling for the professionalisation of municipalities and water boards.

Since the dawn of democracy, municipalities have never been professionalised. They have been a key centre for cadre deployment, where appointments are based on patronage rather

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 101**

than merit. Through this reform, we can ensure that municipal water services become professionally run and financially sustainable.

As Action SA, we will improve water-related service delivery by effectively managing South Africa's water infrastructure through the newly assented National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency, and roll out all these programmes right down to local level. We will enforce legislative reforms that will empower the department to play an effective oversight role over water service authorities by issuing operating licences only to those that meet required levels of capability and revoking them when they don't. The days of municipalities acting with absolute impunity must come to an end.

Finally, to avoid another Giyani Water Project, Action SA will be stepping forward with our Zero Tolerance Corruption Bill to address the corruption that has permeated the very fabric of this department. This legislation is designed to deal decisively with corrupt elements who have been at the heart of several project delays in this department. It is only through these reforms that the current crisis can be addressed to ensure a sustainable and equitable future for South Africa's water security.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 102**

Mr K S RAMAILA: Chairperson, greetings to the leadership. Chairperson, hon members and Minister and Deputy Ministers. Our hon President, Cyril Ramaphosa, in the state of the nation address, affirmed ANC's commitment to actively address the water crisis in the country, as he outlined several big water infrastructure projects that, once they are developed will expand access to communities without access to safe, clean drinking water as per the constitutional obligations.

Among the water infrastructure projects that the President Ramaphosa announced; are the construction of the Ntabelanga Dam that will be connected to the Umzimvubu River, to supply additional water to the former Transkei, mostly rural areas of Eastern Cape; the UMkhomazi Dam and the Polihale Dam, which will receive water from the Lesotho Highlands Water Project to feed into the water supply for several provinces for both domestic use and for irrigation.

Hon Chairperson, this big water infrastructure project adds to the existing projects that the department is implementing across the country through the regional bulk water infrastructure grant and the water services infrastructure grant, that are allocated annually to district metropolitan municipalities.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 103**

At least 91 regional bulk water infrastructure projects are currently under construction at various phases, with 10 already completed. The accomplishment is a clear demonstration of the ANC's commitment to actively addressing the water crisis, by expanding access through building infrastructure to ensure safe, clean, accessible water for all South Africans.

And we know the Minister now is a bit hamstrung by legislation. We know the intervention can be done through section 63 of the Service Act and through section 139 of the Constitution.

But Chair, the water reforms that have been proposed now and the Bill sitting with Parliament, once this is passed, the Minister will be empowered to act with the speed and time that is necessary to intervene where water service authorities who have sufficiently demonstrated failure to carry their function as water and service authorities and where projects are being stalled for too long.

But like in Giyani, like in Hammanskraal, the department through the Minister has demonstrated her efficiency to be able to intervene. But once the Bill is passed, I'm sure with

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 104**

this Minister, we will see more progress and more intervention, and more infrastructure will be enrolled.

As the ANC, we believe the existing compliance regulations and consequence management mechanisms are not effective. That is why we are now advocating stricter penalties for municipalities that fail to meet blue-green and no drop status. Stricter penalties for municipalities that don't meet blue-green, and no drop standards will help a lot to resolve the problems in local municipalities.

But we also need to look into other options that our government has, like using section 78 of the Municipal Systems Act, which lets the municipalities and communities decide how municipal services can be provided either by the municipality itself or by a service provider from outside the municipality.

As the ANC, we strongly advocate for the establishment of a special purpose vehicle in situations where local municipalities fail to provide adequate water and sanitation services. In other words, we will look at a situation where a water service authority should consider reinforcing the water services provision function. Either in sources or outsources, depending on the capacity of such municipalities.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 105**

Our support for creating a special purpose vehicle does not mean that it will be long term solution, instead, it is a short to medium term way to deal with the problems that are already there.

As the ANC, we will make sure that any established special purpose vehicle package includes the water service authorities, investment in building internal capacity through skilled training programmes and hiring qualified staff.

The move is in line with President Ramaphosa's announcement that his government for this year, will prioritize investing in skills development by increasing the production of artisans through Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET colleges.

This and other government efforts will progressively restore good governance and, by implication, improve the management and functionality of water sales authorities, to better manage their water and sanitation infrastructure.

The ANC calls upon the Minister Majodina to cease the opportunity opened by President Ramaphosa to commit investing heavily in the country's water resources. We are aware that

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 106**

the department has unfunded planned water and sanitation infrastructure projects. It is an opportunity for the department to tap into the more than 140 billion that would be made available over the next three years.

We hope that among the planned unfunded water projects, are projects that will broaden the country's water resources, such as desalination projects in coastal areas, and wastewater recycling projects, among others.

Lastly, as the ANC, we are calling on the department and generally, the government to move towards alternative technologies that can withstand natural disasters which have become a regular occurrence in our country. As evidenced by the recent flooding in certain parts of the country, like Gauteng and the Kwazulu-Natal provinces.

It is important that the government enhances disaster preparedness mechanisms to ensure our water and sanitation infrastructure becomes climate-change resilient.

As the ANC, we call upon the government to mainstream the mainstream climate change resilience as part of its resolution

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 107

to fix the management or functionality of water service authorities. Thank you. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION: Hon Chairperson, all hon members on this platform, the Deputy Chief Whip of the Largest Minority Party thank you very much. In welcoming this debate, it is a very good timing to bring this debate hon House Chair. This is a debate taking place during the human rights month, which is also regarded as the water month. We appreciate the fact that all Members of Parliament who have participated in this debate are very much concerned about water reliability and water access.

It is upon these lawmakers present in this debate today that we should fast-track the amendment of the laws, because what we have currently might have been unintended consequences that we find ourselves unable to move beyond where we are in terms of making ... [Inaudible] ... and taking over some responsibilities of municipalities. We are in a constitutional country, a country that is led through the laws. Therefore, we cannot act as if it is just a walk in the park.

Allow me to appreciate members who brought tangible recommendations. What hon Kobe said that the challenge is not

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 108

water supply in terms of the bulk supply, if it was correctly so as she has said, we were not going to meet any water on the street. Therefore, it means that water supply is there. What is lacking, as I said yesterday, is the reticulation and provision of water thereof. Allow me ...

*IsiXhosa:*

... ndingamthwali uthikoloshe entloko. Bakhona endingazikuba phendula apha abathunyeleweyo. Andisokuze ndibaphendule. Ndiza kuphendula abantu abayaziyo le nto yamanzi. Kukho abantu abangenalwazi kodwa babengooceba iminyaka kodwa abayazi ukuba isebe liqala phi liphele phi na. Andizi kubathwala entloko ke kuba baza kundikrobela. Mabaqhube nale nto yabo ithi ubani makawe ...

*English:*

... and must go ...

*IsiXhosa:*

... kodwa akayi ndawo. Andithunywanga ngabo ke bona abo.

On the Special Purpose Vehicle, SPV we are on track in terms of ensuring that the municipalities that want to be assisted with SPV ...

*IsiXhosa:*

... bayancediswa.

*English:*

House Chair, I might as well say ...

*IsiXhosa:*

... ezona zinto zibambekayo athe amaqabane eza nazo apha ...

*English:*

... is the delivery implementation model. That is what we are all about in terms of the reforms. Financing and viability of the water sector. That one we agree on and that is what we want to do. Institution and capacity building. That is what honest members who know exactly what is happening in municipalities know exactly who must do what and at what point.

On the issue of partnership with government, labour, civil society, private sector and traditional leaders, hon Dlamini from the EFF spoke very well like hon Mosikatsi, hon Ramaila, hon Kobe, hon Mathupa who are saying, we acknowledge there is a challenge. However, we must fast-track whatever law that will make the environment conducive for intervention.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 110

Dealing with criminality and vandalism within the water sector. That is what the sponsor of the motion started with to say, once we deal with this and ensure that the funding model for municipalities is also adhered to ...

*IsiXhosa:*

Abantu abacinga ukuba baza kuzisa izinto zeeWadi apha ekubeni kukho ooceba noomasipala. Umasipala unendima yakhe. Singenelele kuMasipala oMbaxa waseThekwini, singenelele kuMasipala oMbaxa waseJohannesburg. Singenelela ngantoni? Bendiychazile izolo. Singenelela nge ...

*English:*

... Water Services Infrastructure Grant, Wsig and the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant, Rbig.

*IsiXhosa:*

Akukho ngxaki ...

*English:*

... in terms of supply.

*IsiXhosa:*

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 111

Apho siyavumelana ngaphandle komntu ongaboniyo kwaye ongafuniyo ukubona onxibe iindondo zelanga endlwini. Lowo akasokuze abone ukuba siyangenelela.

*English:*

The water treatment plants, the bulk water supply, the projects that hon Ramaila has just spoken about that there are projects that have been unlocked and unblocked ...

*IsiXhosa:*

... ukuze zinikezele ngamanzi. Xa sele kugqityiwe amanzi udibana nawo esitratweni. Kufuneka kwenziwe ntoni ke ngoku xa amanzi ebaleka esitratweni? Andikwzi ukuya kutshayela amanzi esitratweni kuba amanzi amele ukungena etephini. Ngoko ke, abantu abayaziyo le nto yamanzi abafiki apha basixelele ngokuba bawine iWadi ethile abantu bathini na. Thina iveki neveki sihamba phantsi siye ebantwini sibaqinisekise ukuba thina owethu umsebenzi siyawenza.

Ndibabonile ke besebenzisa izandla apha. Kuza kufuneka mna ndiphinde ndiziqoqoshe izandla zam ukuze ndingatyholwa ngokugrogrisa abantu. Kodwa ndibabonile baninzi besebenzisa izandla zabo apha. Thina ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 112

*English:*

... we are ready. The amendment is already with the Chief State Law Adviser.

*IsiXhosa:*

Xa isuka phaya iza kuya kwiKhabhinethi isuke apho ize apha ePalamente. Ndingwenela ukuba bonke abantu abathe bathetha apha basincedise ukuze ukhawuleze upase lo mthetho ukuze sikwazi ukungenelela ngoba ...

*Sesotho:*

... ka nako ena, re tshwerwe matsoho a tlamellwa ka morao. Ha re kgone ho kenella ho ya ka moo re lakatsang ka teng. Nna ke tswa mahaeng, mme lebatooeng le masepaleng wa ka ha hona metsi hobane ha hona hore lefapha le ka tlola masepala le lo kenella. Ke mmuso, ebile mmuso o tshwanetse o hlomphe puso ya kopanelo. Seo re batlang ho se etsa ke hore re sebedisane mmoho re thuse batho. Modulasetulo, ho bohlokwa ...

*IsiXhosa:*

... ukuba ndiyicacise into ethi amanzi - likhona ilungu elihloniphekileyo apha elithe abantu balinda iilori zamanzi kuba sathi xa sasisiya kunyulo ngowama-2024, bathatha ...

*English:*

... these water tankers and pasted their stickers ...

*IsiXhosa:*

... kuba befuna ukuvotelwa.

*English:*

They were hijacking water tankers and pasting their stickers.

*IsiXhosa:*

Namhlanje yile nto bakwaziyo ukuma apha baqine bathi makulindwe iilori zamanzi. Akufuneka zinqwelo zamatanki amanzi, umntu ubonakala ngokuza apha eze kuphakamisa iilori zamanzi. Asifuni nqwelo zamatanki amanzi, sifuna amanzi angena ngemibhobho kamasipala le bayonakalisayo ukuze kungene ezi nqwelo zamatanki amanzi.

Izolo ndiyicacisile into ethi sele bekhona abantu ababanjiweyo namatyala asele ephambili ezinkundleni. Sithi amziqhube ke ezo zinto.

*English:*

Apart from infrastructure, we are saying let us ringfence ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 114

*IsiXhosa:*

... le mali inikwa oomasipala khon'ukuze yenze le nto ...

*English:*

... that members were alluding to that, let there be operation, let there be maintenance, let there be correct billing, let us close the leaks. When I say "us", I mean government at a local level, because it is them, the infrastructure and their assets.

*IsiXhosa:*

Thina sijonge phambili kolu tshintsho Lubalulekile ke olu tshintsho ukuze sibone le nto ithethwe nguMongameli esithi amanzi ...

*English:*

... is priority number one. When that water is elevated to priority number one, it must ensure that it responds to the crisis. It was not out of thumb sucking when the president said the water must be elevated to priority number one because population has grown. When the population is growing, surely the demand of water ...

*IsiXhosa:*

... iza kugqitha ...

*English:*

... the supply. We will make sure that the water supply is enough ...

*IsiXhosa:*

... kodwa makuncediswe kwinto yokuba siza kungenelela njani xa kufuneka siqinisekise ukuba ...

*English:*

... the reticulation is happening.

*IsiXhosa:*

Sifuna ukwahlukanisa ...

*English:*

... as I said yesterday, the Water Service Authority as well as the water service providers. Because at the moment, you find that a service provider or authority do one at the same. We must be able to get someone who will make them to account. One of the hon members said so here to say, let's have an independent institution that will also oversee these people. We are launching the anti-forum structure, working with the

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 116

Special Investigating Unit, SIU at all levels to ensure that the communities take charge as well of ...

*IsiXhosa:*

... amazi kwaye babephaya ukugada la masela onakalisa imibhobho ingakumbi phaya eThekwini. Abanye abantu abalapha bangunobangela wala nto yenzeka phaya eThewini njengokuba bengxola apha nje. Xa ndigqibezela Sihlalo ...

*English:*

... the issue for water management ....

*IsiXhosa:*

... ibalulekile kakhulu. La manzi mawalawulwe ngendlela efanelekileyo.

*English:*

The fact is, once there is a lack of political willingness but there is a reality that the infrastructure at a local municipality level ...

*IsiXhosa:*

... ayikwazi ukumelana nomthamo wamanzi oziswa kuzo.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 117

*English:*

The infrastructure cannot take the volume of water because a few factors ... [Time expired.]

*IsiXhosa:*

Ndiyabulela.

Ms A M VAN ZYL: Hon House Chairperson, fellow members, and all those who cherish the very essence of life. Imagine waking up, reaching for a glass of water only to find nothing. Water is not just a resource, it is survival, it is dignity, and it is hope, yet we often take it for granted until it is gone. While I could share stories from all over South Africa, today, I want to tell you about my hometown, Burgersdorp, a small town in the northeastern part of the Eastern Cape, where just under 20 000 people call this place home. Yeah, like in many other parts of South Africa, we confront a critical issue impacting the health, environment, and economic stability of our nation. The crisis in municipal water management. Water shedding in Burgersdorp occurs every second day, with taps only open from 6:00 AM until noon, forcing families to scramble for the limited water available.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 118**

This situation is made worse by the Joe Gqabi District Municipality's failure to secure alternative water sources and address the multitude of leaks in the infrastructure. Months pass with water gushing from broken pipes while residents are left to ration with little they can collect. The situation is dire, as evidenced by the lack of investment in capacity-building programmes that would ensure skilled professionals manage our most precious resource.

The Department of Water and Sanitation has issued a total of 164 directives to municipalities for their failure in some other way, with water management. Yet the South African Local Government Association, Salga, has failed to translate capacity-building initiatives into improved municipal performance. Could the money spent on these initiatives not be better spent in addressing ageing infrastructure? What then, is the Salga doing to address the pressing issue of skills capacity in our municipalities? The answer is disheartening. We see a persistent gap between the need for qualified personnel and the actual capability of our local governments to manage water resources effectively. Moreover, we must emphasise the necessity of consequence management. It is a phrase that is easily used in meetings when perusing glossy presentations. Yet it remains unenforced. If you are

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 119**

responsible for forcing residents to share water with livestock from a river, you must bear the consequences. If you are the reason families go weeks without water, you must face the repercussions. If your negligence leads to schools closing early due to water shortages, you must be held accountable. As government, if you allow leaks to waste precious water for months in a water scarce environment, you must answer for that as well.

The root cause of these failures lies in political will, or the lack thereof. Cadres and corruption within our municipal administrations have led to an alarming culture of looking the other way while communities continue to suffer. This can be seen in Maluti-a-Phofung, where the mayor and the speaker, both from the same party running different factions that keeps the Council so tied up in their internal fights, that service delivery takes a beating. Yeah, when two bulls fight, all the residents suffer.

In Maluti-a-Phofung, the water board bill is nearly R1 billion. The Council is ineffective and while allowed to continue with no consequences taken on, and no political will to serve, the residents will continue to suffer. Another example is the City of Johannesburg, where residents bear the

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 120**

brunt of their uncaring ANC-led Council. The city is grappling with the severe water crisis characterised by frequent supply interruptions, decaying infrastructure, and allegations of mismanagement and corruption. These challenges have led communities having to take water from leaking pipes and businesses having to close. It is quite worrisome to see how blind eye to this failing government has led to the downfall of the once prestigious city. We also must wonder why this municipality has never been placed under a constitutional intervention, adding that the President now wants a Presidential Working Group to rectify the situation in the City of Johannesburg.

In contrast, the DA's City of Cape Town has proactively over the years addressed the water infrastructure challenges to save residents from a day-zero scenario. The city implemented comprehensive water demand strategies, achieving a remarkable reduction in water usage by more than 50%. Measures included enforcing personal water use limits, increasing tariffs for excessive consumption, and promoting public awareness campaigns, fostering a culture of water conservation amongst residents.

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 121**

We must never forget that water is a vital conduit for development and plays a key role in poverty alleviation. The dignity of our people, and the development of our nation is futile without a stable and reliable water infrastructure.

What government should do is to invest in infrastructure development to fix water leaks within a reasonable time, to possibly amend the National Water Act to impose financial penalties on municipalities that exceed a specific percentage of water loss due to leaks and mismanagement, to fast-track emergency procurement processes for water infrastructure repairs by exempting urgent water maintenance projects from a lengthy tender process, and to form partnerships with skilled expertise in the water management field.

Finally, we need to see the government act in these failing municipalities. We need to see more Municipal Infrastructure Grant, Mig, funding allocation under Schedule 6B that relates to indirect spending on projects to national departments or entities on behalf of municipalities. This will greatly assist in reducing infrastructure backlog and ease the situation for residents in these failing municipalities. These allocations are intended to address critical infrastructure needs within specified municipalities with the national government

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 122

overseeing the effective utilisation of the fund. This is a supportive measure to enhance service delivery in areas where municipal capacity is limited, thereby promoting equitable access to essential services across South Africa. Let us remember, without water, there is no life, no future, and no second chances. The time for second chances for ANC-run municipalities has also run out or crumbled like the ageing infrastructure. I thank you chair.

Mr S L DITHEBE: House Chair, let me say all the speakers, without exception, those in the opposition benches and those that are part of the Government of National Unity, GNU, agree with the ideals that we conceived 70 years ago, seventy years being the many years ago when the Freedom Charter was adopted. [Inaudible.] ... those were just ideals, but many of those ideals over the last 30 years have been translated into systems and institutions, which have seen the massive rollout of infrastructure in water and sanitation as aptly outlined by the Minister and several other speakers today.

I would like to say that, while thanking members, it is important that whatever misconceptions there may be, must be cleared. Firstly, hon Dlamini, there is no intent on the part of the ANC to privatise water or sanitation. We remain loyal

**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)**

**FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025**

**Page: 123**

to section 27 of the Constitution and all other policies and legislation that have been rolled out. To the DA's last speaker, if you want to see investment in infrastructure, let your party go and support the budget, where R156,3 billion has been put aside to do exactly what you said must be done. To hon Reddy, I know, all the time very dramatic, but the President has intervened in eThekweni and having intervened, everybody agrees that there are results. He is going to other metros like Johannesburg and others to ensure that everything as per the injunctions of the state of the nation address, everything in the water and sanitation sector is realised. Having said that, I would like to say that there is not a single speaker, those from the opposition, who has said anything novel, anything new from what the ANC has conceived through the last throughout the last 30 years and indeed the vision of the Freedom Charter, 70 years ago. We remain committed to writing whatever wrongs there may be. We do so because we recognise that there are certain wrongs.

Lastly, the marine outfalls in the City of Cape Town, Hout Bay, Green Point, etc, are a sign that this is not something that we should be playing politics with, that virtually every nook and cranny of our country is touched by one type of problem as far as water and sanitation is concerned, or the

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

Page: 124

other. So, there is no perfection as far as this is concerned. So, we regard South Africa as belonging to all who live in it, and we regard this problem of water and sanitation as something that must be tackled to ensure that the quality of life of our people is enhanced and that their wellbeing is guaranteed. Thank you very much.

Debate concluded.

The mini plenary rose at 12:52.