

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2024

1. The House met at 15:00.
2. The Speaker took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation.
3. [15:01] Questions – Cluster 3: Governance.
4. [18:03] Decision of question on draft resolution by Mr J S Malema: That the House –
 - (1) notes that South Africa generally has a pervasive crime problem, and that individuals, households, and businesses are all under the stranglehold of rampant criminals;
 - (2) further notes that the state is showing signs of having lost the fight against criminality, and that citizens themselves have lost confidence in the ability of the police to prevent and investigate crime;
 - (3) acknowledges that criminals are finding new ways of advancing their criminal networks and have now targeted vulnerable groupings in both urban and peri-urban areas;
 - (4) further acknowledges that amongst the most vulnerable groupings of people targeted by criminals are small business owners and even informal businesses in townships and villages;
 - (5) recognises that the new phenomenon of a “protection fee” in terms of which criminals demand to be paid a certain percentage of the income that businesses make, is extortion—a vile form of crime that destabilizes businesses and endangers lives;

- (6) further recognises that this form of extortion has been cited as the main reason some businesses, such as Beerhouse in Cape Town, have closed down because known gang leaders in Cape Town wanted to forcefully take the ownership of the business through this extortion racket;
- (7) understands that in the townships of Cape Town, many lives have been lost because of this extortion racket, and that the racket has now spread to the Eastern Cape, forcing schools to close because criminals are demanding extortion fees even from teachers;
- (8) believes that if this phenomenon is allowed to continue, no one will ever be able to do business free from criminal persecution in this country; and
- (9) resolves to establish an ad hoc committee in terms of Rule 253(1)(a), the committee to –
 - (a) investigate the impact of this form of criminality in South Africa, with specific focus on the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal;
 - (b) conduct public hearings to get the views of ordinary South Africans, small businesses, informal businesses, security experts, policymakers, civil society organizations, and academics about the factors that enable this extortion crime, and measures to be taken to completely eradicate this form of crime phenomenon in society;
 - (c) propose the necessary policy and legislative interventions to be made, including clear oversight mechanisms for Parliament to oversee the implementation of interventions by government aimed at eliminating this form of crime in society;
 - (d) exercise those powers in Rule 167 that may assist it in carrying out its task;
 - (e) consist of 11 members, as follows: ANC 4, DA 2, MK 2, EFF 1, and other parties 2; and
 - (f) report to the House by 30 November 2024.

The decision of question on the motion in the name of Mr J S Malema postponed in terms of Assembly Rule 99.

5. The House adjourned at 18:04.

Xolile George
Secretary to Parliament