

**WEDNESDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2016**

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***PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY***

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The House met at 15:05.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS - see col 000.**

**ABSENCE OF EFF FROM THE HOUSE**

The SPEAKER: Order! Firstly, before I call upon the Deputy President, I would like to inform the House that I have received a letter from the EFF, who informed me that they will not be in the House today, because they will be participating in another activity.

Secondly, they pointed out that they do have a question on the Question Paper. We will entertain the question, in fact, because

it is scheduled on the Question Paper. We will answer the question and take supplementary questions.

**QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY**

**THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT:**

**Progress made with implementation of Arusha Peace Agreement and  
reunification in South Sudan**

15. Mr B A Radebe (ANC) asked the Deputy President:

With reference to his meeting, in his capacity as the President's Special Envoy to South Sudan, with the First Vice President of South Sudan, Mr Taban Deng Gai, on 13 September 2016, (a) what are the developments in the specified country with regard to progress that has been made with the implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement and (b) what steps will be taken by the task team that has been established to address the reasons for the failure to reunify the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and subsequently, the Government of South Sudan?

NO2534E

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, on 13 September 2016, I had the privilege of receiving and meeting the First Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan, Mr Taban Deng Gai, who, during our meeting, briefed me on recent developments in the country, including the fighting that had taken place over a number of days, but more specifically, in July 2016.

This fighting resulted in the deaths of many soldiers and also, in the subsequent flight of the then First Vice President, Dr Riek Machar. Vice President Deng Gai briefed me on the process that led to his appointment as First Vice President, a position he holds pending the return to the country of Dr Riek Machar.

It was instructive to learn that the transitional government of South Sudan that was put together following the peace agreement is proceeding with the implementation of the peace agreement and a number of other government programmes.

The security sector reform and economic reform are key challenges that face that country. First Vice President Taban Deng Gai, furthermore, conveyed the continued commitment of the government of South Sudan to supporting the joint monitoring process that is chaired by former President of Botswana, Festus Mogae.

In spite of the recent challenges that they face, such as the clashes that took place on 8 July and the subsequent split in the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, SPLM, in the opposition, all factions of the SPLM still believe that the Arusha Agreement that was struck the previous year remains an important tool in the resolution of the conflict in South Sudan. The members that were expelled from the SPLM, which is what led to the outbreak of the war, have also returned to South Sudan, and they have been reinstated to their previous positions.

On 7 January 2016, the first extraordinary meeting of the national convention was held, in which all three SPLM factions participated. So, at a party level, they are trying to find one another. South Africa, working together with Tanzania, will continue to assist the peace process in South Sudan and I, acting as President Zuma's envoy, will be assisting in all of this.

We hope that, with the assistance from all the countries in the region, particularly the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Igad, countries, in the end, the people of South Sudan will find the peace they deserve. Thank you.

Mr B A RADEBE: Hon Speaker, to the Deputy President: The African Union, AU, has made two clarion calls for peace. The first is that the guns must be silenced in Africa, by 2020. The second is that there can be no peace without development and there can be no development without peace.

Now that the SPLM factions have agreed to work together, have the donor countries been taken on board in this process since they have suspended their official development assistance? What developmental programmes are planned for the displaced people who are in the refugee camps around Juba?

Lastly, what measures are being put in place to have a single army, since, even here, in South Africa, during our transitional phase, all the armies were put together into a single army under the Transitional Executive Council. Is there such a plan for the South Sudanese liberation army factions? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, yes, it is important that the peace process should go hand in hand with economic development, and this is even truer for a country like South Sudan. The African Union has taken a number of very progressive decisions in this regard and has placed economic development as a priority area that needs to be attended to.

In South Sudan, and particularly in my discussions with First Vice President Deng, the key issue that they are now focusing on is economic development but, more importantly, infrastructure development throughout the country. First Vice President Deng has been travelling around the world, meeting with various development donor countries and trying to convince them that they should continue funding South Sudan and not give up on assisting South Sudan.

Indeed, South Sudan does need to be assisted as much as possible because with the oil price having declined as much as it has, it has had a very negative impact on their economy. And so, they need all the assistance that countries around the world can give them.

When it comes to consolidating their armies into one single army, that is work in progress. With the outbreak of hostilities, recently, it has become a little bit more difficult. However, we are convinced that when they do find peace, once again, they will be able to implement the peace agreements that were signed, because those peace agreements do address the issue on how South Sudan's various armies can be put together into one army so that the country can move forward towards peace. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Ms C DUDLEY: Madam Speaker, to the Deputy President: Will South Africa continue with post-conflict reconstruction and development projects? How does South Africa assist with Sudan's need for skilled civil servants to provide basic services to the people of the emerging state? And is this placing any strain on South African budgets and capacity?

Has South Africa been pursuing economic and investment opportunities in the new Republic of South Sudan? If so, what are the relevant details? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, yes, South Africa has committed itself to assisting South Sudan in every way possible and affordable.

When it comes to skills development, we have, in the past, assisted quite a number of South Sudanese government officials, who have either come here for training or have been assisted with training by some of our people who have been to South Sudan. South Sudan has valued this a great deal and has been greatly thankful.

Has this had an adverse effect on our own resources? I would like to think not - because we have not been committing hundreds

and hundreds of millions of rand. We have been doing it within the budget of our Department of International Relations and Co-operation. It has been meaningful assistance at an affordable pace and level, and we think we should continue doing so.

A number of South African companies continue to travel to South Sudan to look for opportunities. Our embassy there is continuously assisting South African companies by opening doors for them wherever it is possible. We now have a number of companies from South Africa almost permanently based there, doing business or trying to do business.

South Sudan is an open frontier with opportunities aplenty for South African companies, and we believe that they should take up those opportunities. And South Sudan has a very warm and friendly disposition towards South Africa. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The hon Msibi?

Prof N M KHUBISA: Speaker, I am sorry, it's me, and I have a follow-up question.

Hon Deputy President, last week, we saw some soldiers, who have been in the trenches for a long time, being paraded by the

UN Envoy. And it was indicated that they will have to be integrated back into their country. It was also indicated that, because they have been in a war for a long time, they will be given some psychological or psychiatric care so that they may be in a position to live in the country.

I would like to know how many other countries have come forward with specific programmes to assist them with integrating these soldiers into their country, Sudan - if there are any?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, there are quite a number of countries from various continents of the world that are assisting South Sudan. I know, for sure, that from East Asia, there are a number of countries. China is one of them. From northern Europe, particularly, the Nordic countries are giving a great deal of assistance. And, of course, a number of African countries are involved in assisting South Sudan.

South Sudan has accumulated a number of good friends, friends that are willing to assist in rebuilding the country from the ravages of its war and also, to rebuild their economy. So, assistance is plentiful, also at the military level.

Regarding the issue you are talking about, we have found that a number of countries are willing to give military assistance and, also, to assist in the reintegration of soldiers who may well have been displaced by the war.

Mr S MOKGALAPA: Hon Speaker, to the Deputy President: In light of the reported gross human rights violations, displacements, torture, and persecution of opposition parties by the government of South Sudan, aimed purely at creating a one-party state by suppressing a multiparty democracy, would you agree with me - yes or no, sir - that South Africa's withdrawal from the International Criminal Court, ICC, is an indication that your government has turned its back on a human rights-based approach to foreign policy and has lost all credibility? [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No, Madam Speaker, South Africa has not turned its back on human rights, at all. In fact, we were recently regarded as the fourth-placed country in the world that upholds human rights. [Applause.] That flies in the face of what the hon member is saying, because when world bodies look at South Africa in terms of adherence to human rights and say we are fourth ... Being fourth in class does not mean that you have failed; it means there is something good that you are doing.

The issue of the withdrawal from the ICC will be properly discussed by this Parliament. The government has taken this decision and, of course, Parliament is going to have a great opportunity to discuss all the aspects and parameters of this matter. Thank you very much.

**Particulars regarding progress made in the promotion of labour stability in process occurring under the auspices of Nedlac**

16. Ms B T Ngcobo (ANC) asked the Deputy President:

With reference to the process taking place under the auspices of the National Economic Development and Labour Council, Nedlac, on the promotion of labour stability, (a) what measures is the Government considering to reduce the protracted and violent nature of strikes and (b) what progress has been made in reaching agreement among the constituencies represented in Nedlac?

NO2535E

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, the issue that we have been dealing with, together with the social partners in the National Economic Development and Labour Council, Nedlac, that deal with labour stability and how we can bring an end to the violent nature and duration of strikes, has been going on for quite a

while, and I am happy to report that quite a lot of progress has been made.

This work has been undertaken by Nedlac, as I said, but through a technical task team that reports to the Committee of Principals. This committee is made up of the top leaders of the various components of the various social partners that make up Nedlac. A separate task team has been discussing the issue of wage inequality that was raised here in this Parliament during the state of the nation address by the President. It has also been discussing the introduction of a national minimum wage.

Deliberations on labour stability are nearing completion. A meeting of the Committee of Principals, on 22 October, found common ground in most of the areas that are being negotiated. In fact, I can report that 95% of the issues that have been discussed have been agreed on, and only a few of those issues, amounting to about 5%, or less, still need to be finalised.

The issues that have been under discussion include the Code of Good Practice: Collective Bargaining, Industrial Action and Picketing. The code aims to strengthen and promote orderly collective bargaining and provide clear guidelines to both employees and employers - employees, obviously, being guided and

led by their trade unions. It includes a code on picketing which, among other things, provides generic rules for picketing.

The social partners are also close to finalising an accord in which all parties represented in Nedlac will be able to commit themselves to promoting the constitutional rights of all collective bargaining and peaceful industrial action. The draft accord also contains a declaration that violence, intimidation, and damage to property is unacceptable during industrial action. It also deals with issues such as the conduct of the police and private security during industrial action. It also involves the role of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration in facilitating and mediating strike actions, and it also has to do with the labour relations amendments that are envisaged. All of these aim to strengthen the dispute resolution process and to give effect to the measures contained in the Code of Good Practice.

The work that is being done by the technical team is actually quite promising, and we hope that when it finally agrees, it will come up with a new labour relations dispensation in our country. It has also tackled some of the most challenging and contentious issues in our labour market environment and

developed sustainable solutions that have the support of all social partners.

I would like to thank all those who are involved in the Nedlac process - business, labour, government, and communities - for the very positive approach that they have all had in trying to reach agreement on all of this. They have been doing so from a solution-oriented process, hoping that they will be able to reach agreement. And I am hoping that agreement will be reached soon - in fact, before the end of the year.

The same applies to the national minimum wage discussions. Those have been proceeding well. We are waiting for a report from the panel of advisers that we appointed. That panel should be giving us their report before the end of November. Thereafter, the Committee of Principals will be able to get together to discuss the report that comes from the advisory panel and finally, agree on a national minimum wage, which we will be able to implement as time goes on. Thank you very much.

Ms B T NGCOBO: Speaker, I thank the Deputy President very much. What measures will be implemented by the social partners to ensure adherence to the guidelines they have set for themselves for the purpose of maintaining labour stability? What measures

and strategies will be employed to counter job losses and promote job creation, including youth employment? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, the measures that will be taken by the social partners will, no doubt, be enshrined in the agreements that will be reached by the social partners. Part of those agreements will finally be turned into legislation. For instance, the various accords that will be struck will lead to amendments to the Labour Relations Act. Once that is done, then that becomes a law. No doubt, everyone will be required to abide by the laws of our country. That, in itself, is a very, very good starting point - to get the people who are themselves role-players in the economic sector who will be playing key roles in everything that they do for themselves to reach agreements, to bring it here to Parliament to be discussed and debated by the representatives of our people here, and finally, reach agreement and pass the legislation.

With regard to job losses, are there any strategies that the social partners have been thinking about? Yes, I am able to say that, as the social partners themselves have been meeting in various forums, including the presidential working group that the President set up with labour and with business, there have

been discussions on what we do to stamp out the job losses that continue to haemorrhage our economy. One of those has been to hold a summit - a jobs summit. That is a matter that is being discussed and being strategised on, and I am sure, at the right time, that, too, will happen.

When it comes to youth employment, proposals have been put forward to various role-players in our economy, business, and labour, to see how best we can address the issue of youth employment. There is a very exciting proposal on the table being discussed right now. This could lead to the creation of an opportunity for young people to be trained and brought into learnerships, internships, and mentorships, and to be trained on the job. That could affect up to a million young people.

Once that proposal is finalised, I think it will open up great opportunities for young people in our country and prepare them for the world of work, where many of them, having acquired knowledge and skills and capability in all these initiatives that are being mooted, will be able to get jobs and be able to be actively involved in the economy. Thank you very much.

Mr I M OLLIS: Speaker and Deputy President, we are glad to hear that there is some progress on addressing strike violence.

However, Deputy President, in 1987, you whipped up a crowd of National Union of Mineworkers workers with your loudhailer and sent them out onto the streets in protest action. Eleven people lost their lives in that strike, but you did nothing.

In 1987, in the railway and harbour strike, the ANC called for mobile units to stop scab labour. Five people were murdered by necklacing, but you did nothing. In 1989, scab workers were thrown out of moving trains and 30 people died, but you did nothing. [Interjections.]

In 2006, in the SA Transport and Allied Workers Union strike, 57 people died, and you did nothing. In 2012, when Cosatu survey indicated that 50% of workers believed that with no violence, they would not get their pay increase, you did nothing.

How can we then conclude that the only reason that you are finally taking some action on strike violence now is in order to become President? You have realised that you have got to get the blood of Marikana off your hands and you have got to stop the sovereign rating downgrade by Standard & Poor's.

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, I fail to find out what the question is.

HON MEMBERS: Yes! Yes!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Quite frankly, I thought that he wanted me to answer a question. And I would ask him an interesting question myself: What did he do when the apartheid regime was slaughtering our people? [Applause.]

That is the question I would ask, because as I check, he is white, and being white means that he is one of those who supported the apartheid regime ... [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: On a point of order ...

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: ... and he voted. Unless, today, he says that he is one of those who did not vote for apartheid. Now, I don't see what the question is.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, Deputy President! There is a point of order. [Interjections.] Yes, hon Steenhuisen? Hon Ollis, can you please take your seat? [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: On a point of order, Madam Speaker: There have been several rulings made in this House, including one by you when you were the Deputy Speaker in that Chair, about racial stereotyping. [Interjections.] To say that all white people supported apartheid is racial stereotyping. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, let us hear the point of order of the hon Steenhuisen.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: To say that all white people supported apartheid is not only untrue ... [Interjections.] ... but it is the most disgusting form of racial stereotyping. I would ask you to rule that that is out of order. And you confirm that racial stereotyping has no place in this Parliament. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Indeed, hon Deputy President, we don't make statements that racially characterise members of the House. [Interjections.] Would the Deputy President, indeed, like to withdraw?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, I am quite happy to withdraw ...

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: ... and I would like to say to the hon Ollis that I withdraw and I am sorry to use that reference. But what I will say is that he was a privileged citizen of this country that ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy President, your chance to answer has passed, actually.

Yes, hon Waters? Hon Ollis, please take your seat.

Mr M WATERS: Madam Speaker, when one withdraws a comment, one does so unconditionally and not with a proviso. [Interjections.]

The Deputy President had a proviso and a condition to that.

The SPEAKER: The hon the Deputy President actually withdrew, and then he went on to make another statement and I restricted him from continuing.

Mr B A RADEBE: Hon Speaker, before we pass the issue of the hon Ollis, the hon Ollis violated Rule 84 and Rule 85, whereby he said that the Deputy President has the blood of the people of Marikana on his hands. He must withdraw that. It did not happen.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Speaker ...

The SPEAKER: Hon Steenhuisen, please, let me address the hon Ollis. Hon Ollis, can you please withdraw the words that said the hon Deputy President has blood on his hands?

[Interjections.]

Mr I M OLLIS: Speaker, I will withdraw those words.

[Interjections.] May I address you on another matter?

The SPEAKER: Have you withdrawn?

Mr I M OLLIS: I have withdrawn those words.

The SPEAKER: Now, I would like to continue to honour the hon Steenhuisen, who was on his feet.

Mr I M OLLIS: Speaker, may I just address you on a point of personal explanation, which is ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: No. Hon Ollis, please, we are presently busy with questions to the Deputy President.

Mr I M OLLIS: I understand that, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: So, let us talk about your personal explanation separately, outside of this particular sitting.

Mr I M OLLIS: No, unfortunately, we can't do that, Speaker, because when you have been personally attacked, you have the right to explain.

The SPEAKER: No, thank you, hon Ollis, please.

Mr I M OLLIS: It is in the Rules, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Please, take your seat.

Mr I M OLLIS: It is in the Rules. You can't just ...

The SPEAKER: Take your seat, hon Ollis.

Mr I M OLLIS: What you are doing is breaking the Rules of the House.

The SPEAKER: We would like to proceed to the supplementary question by the hon Mncwango.

Mr M A MNCWANGO: Madam Speaker and hon Deputy President, South Africa is well known, internationally, for its labour unrest and violent and unprotected strike actions. It goes without saying that this matter is a deterrent to our being able to attract foreign investment and business to the country.

My question is: Are you in engagement with Cosatu, specifically, as the ruling party's tripartite alliance partner, as regards steps that are immediately implementable to promote labour stability in South Africa, going forward? Kindly advise this House on those deliberations, if any. Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, the discussions that we are having at Nedlac level with the social partners involve not only Cosatu, but all the federations that represent working people in our country. Those discussions are aimed at entrenching labour stability in our country.

Indeed, we should be mindful that we should actually applaud labour for the role that it continues to play, even in these trying economic times, as they have been working together with government, business, and community organisations to try and find answers and solutions to some of the challenges that working people in our country have faced - solutions on problems

that have led them to go on strike, from time to time. In these discussions, we are grappling with very important propositions that will lead to solutions.

Labour has been playing a very, very positive role, up to and including travelling with delegations from Treasury and business, going to various capitals of the world to stress the fact that South Africa is a very good investment destination and that labour stability is something that we have embraced; and that if there are disputes, as is bound to happen, they will be resolved in terms of the agreements and in terms of the rules and regulations that we are seeking to arrive at.

So, there needs to be great applause for the role that labour is playing, because it is playing a very, very positive role, indeed. I would like everyone in our country to realise that we have a labour movement that is very, very responsible. It is a labour movement that seeks to assist our economy to grow. They want many more people to be employed, and this fact, that we have got a labour movement that has this type of approach and disposition, is something that we, as South Africans, should see as a great boon, a great pillar of our democracy.

So, yes, hon member, the labour movement is participating very positively.

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Hon Speaker and Deputy President, I must agree with you that our people, today, get a lot more value for the work they do than they ever got in the apartheid days.

It is a norm in the country that, together with strikes, there must be violence and there must be damage to property. In your negotiations and deliberations, have you ever discussed the issue of recovering any costs from the organisations that partake in these strikes? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, the issue has not surfaced in the way that the hon member is possibly articulating it. What we are seeking to do is to set up rules that are going to ensure that strikes and any public manifestations that people get involved in are done in an orderly manner. If there is a picket, it will comply with picket rules, and if there is a demonstration, it will comply with those rules. We will be seeking to get all the attendant partners in all of this - be they the police, private security, management, or various actors - to comply with the rules and agreements that we will have struck.

We have not yet advanced to that level. It is, indeed, a very important one - that if there is damage to any property, there needs to be some measure of accountability. And I am sure that we will be moving towards addressing challenges such as those. Thank you very much.

**Particulars regarding steps taken to address causes of  
instability within the government in advancement of sectoral  
engagement with social partners**

17. The Leader of the Opposition (DA) asked the Deputy President:

With reference to his statement made during the 21st Annual National Economic Development and Labour Council meeting, held on 9 September 2016, that the Government cannot expect social partners to achieve a stable labour environment when the Government itself cannot maintain a stable state, since a well-functioning government should not be at war with itself, what (a) are the causes of the perceived war within the Government that he referred to and (b) steps has he taken to ensure that the causes of instability within the Government are addressed in the advancement of sectoral engagement with social partners?

NO2539E

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, in my address at the Nedlac Annual Summit on 9 September, I suggested that all social partners have a responsibility to contribute towards a stable economic and social environment. I said that all social partners should be prepared to acknowledge where they may be falling short in meeting and living up to that responsibility. As a representative of government at that summit, I acknowledged and recognised the concerns that were raised by a number of delegates. The delegates who are our social partners had articulated a concern on their part that there appears to be a lack of coherence within government and a perception that different institutions of government were in conflict with one other.

While there is a very concerted effort by some in our country to accentuate even the slightest hint of disagreement between state institutions, we must acknowledge that certain events, understandably, have been giving rise to this concern - a concern that was raised by our social partners, as well.

We have witnessed public statements on policy that appear to be contradictory, and those are the public statements that have given people concern. We have witnessed, in the public arena, seemingly heated disagreements between state institutions,

including between state-owned entities and government departments. Where they have arisen, steps have been taken to resolve them and, in most cases, they have been resolved.

Another matter that has caused concern in many quarters is the investigation of the Minister of Finance and, specifically, the manner in which it was conducted. The withdrawal of the charges against Minister Gordhan provides us with an opportunity to rebuild the confidence in our economy and in our public institutions. Despite the concern that this matter has understandably caused, government retains its confidence in the country's criminal justice system and the fair and just judicial processes which have defined our democratic era.

The situation requires all of us, as South Africans, to demonstrate unity in defence of our constitutional values, the integrity of our legal system, and the objective of setting South Africa on a path of sustainable and inclusive economic growth. I am convinced that we are solving, on an ongoing basis, what may have caused all these issues in the past, and we are finding unity of purpose within government. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: The hon Steenhuisen will take the follow-up question on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Speaker, through you to the Deputy President: I am sure you would agree with me that the undermining of Chapter 9 institutions is also leading to this perception of instability.

Now, does the Deputy President agree that President Zuma's frivolous and vexatious interdict against the Public Protector's state capture report, which she had to, embarrassingly, withdraw before court today, was nothing but an attempt to undermine this Chapter 9 institution?

Does the Deputy President agree that the President, and not the people of South Africa, should pick up the bill for this vexatious litigation? Or perhaps he would agree that the South African taxpayer should continue to fund President Zuma's attempts to evade accountability?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, the issue of our state institutions, particularly Chapter 9 institutions, is regulated by our Constitution, and the various rights that people of South Africa have are also regulated by our Constitution. So,

individuals, be they officials, politicians, or ordinary citizens, all have rights that they exercise in terms of our Constitution. That is the beauty of our Constitution.

[Applause.]

Our Constitution gives ordinary citizens the right to go to whatever court or institution to get justice, to get their rights redefined and clarified; and that right must be available, even to the President of the country. So, we should not sit here and say that there are certain rights for certain people and there are different rights for other people. The rights that are enshrined in our Constitution are there for all. The matter of the President having sought to exercise his rights is a matter that he exercises as a citizen of this country.

Now, when it comes to the issue of costs, I am sure - because this matter is going to be determined by the courts of law - the courts themselves will be able to adjudicate on that. I think, in the end, we should not sit here and second-guess the courts. Let us wait for what a court of law determines, and the President, or whoever it should be, once the court has made the determination, has to abide by the judgment of the court. Thank you very much.

Ms F S LOLIWE: Hon Speaker, I thank the Deputy President for the comprehensive response. [Interjections.] It assisted even those who don't have a voice at Nedlac.

My question is as follows: What role is played by government to strengthen working relations among stakeholders at Nedlac? We understand that the constituents there are government, labour, business, and the community. So, some are not represented there. Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, I would like to believe that a broad section of South African society is actually represented at Nedlac, because Nedlac represents working people, as represented by their various federations.

At Nedlac, we sit with three federations: the National Council of Trade Unions, Nactu, the Federation of Unions of South Africa, Fedusa, and Cosatu. Together, they represent millions and millions of the working people in our country in the various sectors of our economy.

Government is represented, as well, through various Ministries, particularly those that have to do with the economic sector, but even the social sector is also represented. Business is

represented through its various business associations, and communities are represented by a plethora of community-based organisations that represent a number of formations in our country.

Now, the make-up and architecture of Nedlac is an envy to many countries when they behold what we do in Nedlac and how Nedlac is constituted. I would like to believe that there is no sector that could say that it is not represented.

If people are in the rural areas, the community-based organisations represent them. If people are traditional leaders, the community sector does represent them, and a wide range of other subsectors is also represented. I am sure that if there are shortcomings, these are shortcomings in terms of the architecture that can be looked at, and we can make sure that they are represented.

Government itself is committed to making sure that the broad-sector representation of our country in Nedlac continues to expand and increase so that Nedlac continues to represent the views of our people as it deals with all the important matters that it deals with. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Mr J A ESTERHUIZEN: Hon Speaker, through you to the hon Deputy President: Don't you agree that the use of populist politics and the conflicts within the ruling party are not only deterring foreign investment, but also have a negative effect on credit ratings?

You just mentioned business in your previous answer. The National Development Plan, NDP, which was embraced by business in South Africa, now finds itself floundering because of instability in government. What are you doing to assure business that government remains committed to the NDP and a stable South Africa?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, I think it could be a mistaken belief that the so-called populist politics in the ruling party is making business move away and not invest in our country.

Truth be told, South Africa is, and has often been, the leading country that attracts investments greatly in Africa, as a whole. Investors are flocking to our doors ... [Interjections.] As they do, they bring billions and billions. The attraction that we have for foreign investors is quite phenomenal, even in these

very trying economic times and even in these generally trying times.

We are finding that investors keep coming to our country to invest. In fact, we have got like the A-Class of investors. The top class of investors who come to this country are companies that are blue chip. Blue-chip companies often say that they invest in this country because they have got great confidence in this country and its future. They are willing to invest, and having done so, pour billions of rand into this country.

Our policies have not been the type of policies that have driven businesses away. The fact that we continue to have companies such as the German companies, Mercedes-Benz, BMW, and Volkswagen, coming to invest here, and a number of other companies that keep coming to these shores, means that we are doing something good; and only those with eyes can see that something good is being done in South Africa. [Applause.]

Now, is the NDP floundering?

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The NDP is not floundering. The NDP is continuously being strengthened by the various initiatives that we embark upon. The Nine-Point Plan, for instance, is a great one. [Interjections.] The Nine-Point Plan was put in place to bolster and support the NDP. Through the Nine-Point Plan, we are making a great deal of progress. Just to name one sector ...

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, can you make them listen for a minute?

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order! Please proceed, Deputy President.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Now, I have never seen this: people who ask a question and then howl when you are answering it. It means that they do not want to hear the answer. [Interjections.] So, why bother to ask the question? They are so facetious - all of them - because they just make a noise. It is almost like they ask the question just to continue, you know, their activities as Members of Parliament. They are not really seeking answers. They

just want to make a noise in Parliament. So, stop making a noise and listen to the answers! [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Deputy President, I must say that the hon Esterhuizen is not making a noise at all. [Interjections.]

Mr M A PLOUAMMA: Hon Speaker, through you to the hon Deputy President: How do you keep your moral principles in check when you are the Deputy to President Zuma, whose Presidency is characterised by looting and plunder? Don't you think you must lead us and ask the President to resign?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, I do not think that is a question that deserves an answer from me. The hon member knows what the processes are. He is not a member of the ANC and I think that is his problem. If he were a member of the ANC, he would know how things get done in the ANC. Thank you very much.

**Particulars regarding plans to recover money lost because of  
conduct of senior managers of SA Post Office**

18. Ms N V Mente (EFF) asked the Deputy President:

Whether, in view of the deep institutional challenges and conduct by former senior managers over a period of 10 years, which resulted in the SA Post Office, Sapo, losing billions of rand, and with reference to his reply to oral Question 4 on 2 March 2016, there are any plans in place to recover money lost because of the conduct of senior managers of Sapo; if not, in each case, why not; if so, what amount of money has been recovered since his reply? NO2538E

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, I've been advised by the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services that the SA Post Office, Sapo, is addressing the findings of the Special Investigating Unit, SIU, and the Public Protector on irregular expenditure relating to the renting of buildings by the SA Post Office.

The recommendations relating to the current and former employees who have been found to have been involved in all the irregular activities are being implemented; internal processes have been instituted against two current senior employees; criminal complaints have been laid against former senior employees with the SA Police Service and the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA.

In the case of the lease of Echo Point Park, two former senior employees are being investigated by the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, one of whom is the subject of an Asset Forfeiture Unit process. Since these legal processes are still under way, no amount of money has been recovered, as yet; and I think we should allow these processes to ensue for us to see what all these various agencies that are working on this problem are going to come up with, in terms of solutions. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, as I explained at the beginning of the sitting, we are taking this question and supplementary questions from other hon members who are in the House. I will then call the name of the hon Mackenzie of the DA to pose his follow-up question.

Mr C MACKENZIE: Hon Speaker, I want to ask the Deputy President this follow-up question, as follows: Paradoxically, it was the middle and the lower management at the SA Post Office who, in spite of being threatened, intimidated, and violently attacked during the 2014 strike, stayed at their posts during that four-month strike which caused Sapo hundreds of millions of rand in lost revenue, and which is very unlikely to return.

Meanwhile, during the strike, the directors of the SA Post Office board sat on their hands and drew millions of rand in massive salaries, while the Post Office and its future burnt to the ground. As a unionist yourself turned businessman, perhaps you can identify with the two union members that sat on that board, supposedly representing labour interests, who were forced to resign, along with the rest of the directors, after the SA Post Office was put under administration.

Now, Deputy President, as you know, given your proximity, a fish rots from the head down. Will you acknowledge that all of these directors had a fiduciary responsibility to the SA Post Office? And will you personally hold them to account under the Companies Act for the billions lost as a result of their criminal inactions? Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, as I have explained - and perhaps, I should explain it again - there are a number of processes that are under way. This matter is being handled by a number of agencies. The SIU has investigated this matter; the Public Protector has investigated this matter, and there is a report to that effect. Various other processes are now under way, and we have identified some of the people who are also involved in all these processes.

Now, the extent to which people were either on the board, or so, were either liable, or whatever, would have been discussed and investigated by the Public Protector, and she would have arrived at a particular view. That is a matter that has been so extensively investigated and discussed that we should leave it to these processes that are already under way.

I'm saying this because this has not been swept under the carpet. It is a matter that is being discussed and looked at continuously. I think that we have agencies that are best able to deal with this matter. That is where we should leave it, in the full knowledge that from the Public Protector, the NPA, and the SIU, as well as the Asset Forfeiture Unit to the SA Police Service, all are involved in trying to get to the bottom of what happened in the Post Office and during the strike.

So, saying anything further or even attempting to do anything further would, actually, mess things up. So, we'd better leave it to those who are best able to deal with these sorts of matters. That is why they were appointed to their jobs. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr M HLENGWA: Hon Speaker, my follow-up question to the hon Deputy President is as follows: One of the things that is a

problem in the SA Post Office is, of course, the issue of cash flow in order for it to continue to be viable and operational in a satisfactory business manner.

In May 2015, the then acting chief executive officer of Sapo, Mr Mathonsi, appeared before Parliament, stating that Sapo would be working on a planning model that included obtaining at least 30% of all government business, where applicable; and that this had been agreed to as a decision of Cabinet. Last week, we then had the current chief executive officer, Mr Barnes, saying that, despite government's commitment to 30% of business being channelled through the Post Office, this has not yet transpired.

So, the question is, hon Deputy President: Does the government not see Sapo as a dependable service provider or a viable entity any longer; and when are these commitments going to come to pass? I'm asking this because Sapo is in desperate need of this cash flow, and if the government regresses on its own commitments, then we are bound to conflate the problems which the SA Post Office finds itself in. So, when is this process going to be applied? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, I have interacted with people in the SA Post Office about this very matter and I have

said that they should put their best foot forward. They should not necessarily expect the customer, who would be the government, in this regard, to come forward with proposals. They are the vendor. They are the businesspeople and they should be acting like really smart marketeers and coming forward to the government, as their potential customer, and putting proposals before them.

I've even given them a lot of examples of the things that I learnt when I was also in business - you put your best foot forward. You go to your potential customer with a clear proposition and tell them why they should use you. And I've said they've got low-hanging fruit; just go and pluck the fruit! So, as for waiting, we all know that the government moves slowly because it is big, and all that, and that any enterprise that seeks to deal with the government must just move forward, even if it moves forward on an unsolicited basis. Move forward, put propositions on the table, and expect that it will be dealt with. This is better than waiting and waiting, because it may never happen.

So, I am saying this, once again - and I will say it again when I meet the Post Office - that they should go to government. Government has made a commitment. Come forward with the

propositions. People should also come to my Office with propositions and suggest what my Office should do with 30% of my postage, and so forth.

We are about to send Christmas cards. They should come to my Office and say that they want all those Christmas cards that we are going to send; tell us how they are going to send them around the world on our behalf; and indicate what the charge will be. That is what I would do, as a businessman - which I'm not anymore. But that is what I expect them to do. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Nks N N MAFU: Sekela Mongameli, sibamba ngazo zozibini ngale nkcazelo usinike yona. Siyazi kananjalo into yokuba iiposi zethu kweli lizwe sazifumana ziqhwalela ziphantsi kwengcinezelo oko sathi sathatha iintambo zolulawula kweli lizwe. Sekela Mongameli, ingaba inayo imigaqo yokusebenza ngokwexesha elimiselweyo - le nto ke ibizwa ngokuba yi-turnaround strategy - seyibonakalisa ubungcono na okanye ingaba ikhona kusini na into ebonakalayo neyenzekayo apha kwezi posi? Okwesibini, ingaba siyinika ixesha elingakanani na phambi kokuba ibonise iziphumo? Okwesithathu, umsebenzi weeposi uthini na ngoku kule meko sikuyo nakweli xesha siphila kulo, ingaba utshintshile kusini na kwaye

wenza izinto ezijongene nale mpilo siyiphilayo kweli xesha?

Enkosi.

SEKELA MONGAMELI: Ewe lungu elihloniphekileyo, iposi inayo imigaqo yokusebenza ngokwexesha elimiselweyo - turnaround strategy kwaye le migaqo kusetyenzwa ngayo iphucukile kakhulu. Abaphathi abakhoyo ngoku nale bhodi ikhoyo ngoku eposini.

*(Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.)*

[Ms N N MAFU: Deputy President, thank you very much for the statement you have just made. We know that when we took power in this country, we found the Post Office underperforming and under pressure. Has the Post Office been set any operating regulations - what is called the turnaround strategy; are there any signs of improvement in the Post Office? Secondly, how much time do we allow in order for it to show results? Thirdly, what are the functions of the Post Office in the current situation; have the functions changed in any way so that they are now in line with conditions that prevail, currently? Thank you.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, hon member, the SA Post Office does have set operating regulations - the turnaround strategy - and these are much improved regulations. The current management and current board of the Post Office ...]

... have clear strategies on what they should do to turn the SA Post Office around. In fact, they see the SA Post Office as a national jewel, a jewel that is spread throughout the country, and that even goes to the deep rural areas of our country. They also want this jewel to work for our people. They want to be there, to be of service to our people, and they've been making a great deal of progress.

Okwangoku basenamatyala amaninzi kodwa baye baphumelela ukuya ebhankini ngeenjongo zokunyusa imali-mboleko. [Currently, they have a huge debt, but they have managed to raise a loan from a bank.]

In the past, they weren't even able to go to the banks to raise a loan of above the R6 billion, or so, that they have needed. They have been able to do that now because the banks have confidence in their turnaround strategy. Their customers also have confidence in continuing to give them work, and that means that the Post Office has a bright future, going forward.

I particularly like the energy that has been unleashed in the SA Post Office since the new management and the new board have come in. We can now say that, in no time, the SA Post Office

will be turned around, and it will be the true jewel of the South African public enterprises.

They are benchmarking themselves against a number of other post offices around the world. They have looked at how the Japanese and the Germans run their post offices, and they have said that that is exactly where they want to be.

So, we are soon going to see a post office of the future - a SA Post Office that is going to be so well modernised, so well attuned to the modern way of doing business, and a SA Post Office which will soon turn profitable. It will not happen immediately, because they are starting right at the bottom, but in no time, we are going to see their cash flows turning into profit.

We are also going to see their earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation, Ebitda, beginning to rise. So, that means that the management and the board that are in place are going to be working most fervently to increase our national fortunes in the Post Office. Thank you very much.

Prof N M KHUBISA: Speaker, my follow-up question to the hon Deputy President is as follows: It does happen, sometimes, that

people who have committed crimes, or who are still under investigation, are migrated to other senior positions, or to critical positions within the department. In your response, you have alluded to the net being thrown wide, and that it has also caught some of the people who were also part of the criminal activities.

Are there any people, whether in middle or lower management, who have been migrated to other, critical, senior positions within the department? I ask because that is also a scourge that does not assist us, as a nation.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Speaker, I'm not aware of anyone in middle or top management who, having served in the SA Post Office and possibly having been liable for some of the wrongdoing, has been moved, or escalated to higher positions elsewhere in the government. So, I don't have line of sight of that. However, I would like to say that the people who do wrong should not, in my view, be moved out and given cushy jobs elsewhere.

If a person does wrong, he or she must be accountable and must be dealt with. And dealing with them means that they have to be moved out of the positions that they occupy if, indeed, they are

liable for the types of misdemeanours that the people who are sited in the SA Post Office have committed. Thank you very much.

**Position regarding adequacy of functioning of current electoral system in promoting social cohesion**

19. Mr A F Madella (ANC) asked the Deputy President:

Whether, in view of his responsibility for social cohesion in the Republic, he has found that the functioning of the current electoral system does permit for the will of the majority to prevail through proportional representation whilst the voices of the minority are heard and represented; if not, how does his Office envisage addressing incongruences presented by the current electoral system in promoting social cohesion; if so, what are his findings?

NO2536E

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, this is about the electoral system of the current proportional representation that was adopted during the multiparty talks which preceded the 1993 interim Constitution, and which subsequently became enshrined in the 1996 Constitution of our country. This was done with the express intention of ensuring that there is representivity and

inclusivity in our democracy. As a country emerging from a divided past, it was important that South Africans of all political persuasions be represented in Parliament, at national Parliament level, in the provincial legislatures, and in the municipal councils.

Proportional representation, I would like to believe, has served our country well because it has ensured that there is inclusivity and participation. With no threshold to participation in institutions like the National Assembly, the current electoral system has ensured that several of the smaller parties are also able to participate in the legislative processes and in holding the executive to account. Some of those have even found their way, small as they might have been, into the executive. From time to time, Presidents of our country have also invited small, tiny parties into the executive. This they did because they wanted to ensure inclusivity and representivity.

Proportional representation has helped to forge institutions that reflect the diversity of our country while affirming the principles of representative democracy. This has contributed significantly to social cohesion and nation-building.

While there will always be debate about the respective merits and disadvantages of different electoral systems, we should always be mindful of the past from which we have come and the society we are still trying to build. As we engage in such debates, we should also consider the important contribution that our current electoral system makes to national inclusivity and nation-building.

Difficult as it might seem to be, this system of inclusiveness has served our country well. It has served it so well that, from the ANC point of view, we can say with great pride we have really been pleased that various, even smaller, political parties which were part of the revolution movement, like the PAC, Azapo, and the APC, have been part of shaping the democracy of our country. Small as they are - and we are proud they were part of the liberation process in our country - they were not excluded. All this happened because of the proportional electoral system that we've got.

So, as we think and toss around a number of ideas, let us just remember the role that this system has played in bringing us to where we are. Thank you, Madam Speaker. [Applause.]

Mr A F MADELLA: Madam Speaker, I thank the hon Deputy President for the very eloquent answer. Not taking away from all the positive attributes the Deputy President has indicated the proportional representative system has brought this country, we wish to ask the following: Is it not the right time now for us to review the formula used during local government elections in allocating proportional representative seats? [Interjections.]

HON MEMBERS: No! No! What a sore loser!

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr A F MADELLA: What I am saying, hon Deputy President, is that proportional votes must be counted and used only for proportional seats. It is not amending, changing, or taking away proportional representivity from the electoral system. In addition, we should move away from what we are doing currently, that is, combining Ward and proportional representation voting systems in determining the proportional seats to different parties. Thank you very much. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: What a sore loser!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, our democracy is work in progress.

An HON MEMBER: Fascists!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: As our democracy moves towards maturity, there will always be a number of propositions and proposals that will be made for us to look at the journey that we have traversed. The electoral system is certainly a particular journey that we have traversed, and when proposals are made and thoughts brought to the fore that we should look at the efficacy and effectiveness of the system that we have put in place, we should not shy away, look away, or run away. We should be willing and brave enough to engage with the issue and see whether or not it still serves us as well as it did in the past.

An HON MEMBER: It serves the ANC.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: When we inaugurated this system, it was for the purposes of building a nation and ensuring that there was social cohesion. We need to have a political analysis amongst ourselves and ask ourselves whether, or not, those objectives are still being served; and whether, or not, the

system that we've got still serves the overriding purpose we meant it to serve, be it at national, provincial or local level.

So, the idea that the hon member is putting forward is something that we need to engage in. We must not be shy to engage with the hon Madella's proposition and to look at it. I can say, most certainly, from the ANC's point of view, we are willing, prepared, and able to look at it and debate the matter. We also encourage others to do the same and to debate it more nationally, to see whether we can come up with answers that can continue to entrench our democracy. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

Mr B A RADEBE: Hon Speaker, on a point of order: The hon Krumbock has called the hon members of the ANC on this side "Fascists" - that we are Fascists on this side. So, he is in violation of Rule 84.

The SPEAKER: Who said "Fascists"?

Mr B A RADEBE: That one.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Speaker, may I draw your attention to precedence in this House? When one refers to a

party, rather than an individual, that is permitted.

[Interjections.] That side of the House has called this side of the House "a bunch of racists" on several occasions, and it's been sustained because it's not impugning on the dignity of an individual member. [Interjections.]

I would ask that if we are going to take up matters on Rules like that, that we are then consistent. So, when you guys call the DA a bunch of racists, we want to take the point, then, that you must withdraw. [Interjections.] You see, you want to dish out but you don't want to take. That is the problem.

The SPEAKER: Hon Steenhuisen, in actual fact, as a Chief Whip from that side of the House, you know that, when someone has put a point of order, you must not just rise and start addressing the House. [Interjections.] No, hon Steenhuisen.

Who said people were Fascists on this side? [Interjections.] So, you said it? I will consider this matter and I will come back to the House. I am thankful that you actually did own up.

Hon Filtane? Hon Filtane, are you no longer in the mood to ask your follow-up question?

Mr M L W FILTANE: I am, Madam Speaker! I just had to go through this lady.

Good afternoon, hon Deputy President. We have heard your responses to the initial question. My supplementary question is based on the practical reality that here, in Parliament, the voices of the minorities are only partially heard - in that the reports of the portfolio committees are not allowed to accommodate the views of the minorities.

This, then, is a suppression of their constitutional right to be heard. We are only allowed to verbally voice our feelings from the podium. They are not to be reflected in the reports themselves. Now, that means that there is no inclusivity, which you mentioned in your initial response. This, hon Deputy President, borders on the unconstitutionality of the practice, because it violates our rights.

My question is: What process would the Deputy President like to start - not resist, but start - in order to correct this, especially given that nowadays, under the current administration, one hardly finds a member of another party in the executive. I am not talking about Deputy Ministers. I am

talking about the executive. That is the seriousness of the exclusion of the minority voices.

So, when serious decisions about the country are being taken, there is no voice from the minorities. That borders on unconstitutionality. Give us our constitutional rights, please.

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, I would like to say to the hon Filtane that I think it is very unfortunate that minority parties that participate in committees feel that their views are not heeded or accommodated.

I always ask young people who come to me and say they want to start a business but they don't have funding whether they have prepared a good business plan or drafted a good business plan that they can take to a bank and make a bank whet its appetite to fund them. They have got to be persuasive, come up with their best proposition, their best proposal, and take it to whomever they are interacting with, get them to see their point of view, and persuade them of their argument or whatever it is they want to do.

I would say to the minority parties here, in Parliament, that what they should be doing is coming to the majority party with really effective proposals, winning proposals, not just proposals for the sake of it. I know that the ANC is always willing to listen. It's always willing to listen to good proposals. [Interjections.] If anyone brings a good proposal, the ANC will listen and will even take up that proposition. I have said this a few times in this Parliament.

I would say if I were in a minority party type of situation, I would always scratch my head to come up with the most unbelievable, out-of-the-box propositions, put them to the ANC, and persuade them to accept my proposals. That is what I would put to you as a challenge. I think you should do that, and if you want some help from me, I'm quite happy to come and assist you. [Interjections.]

Coming to this matter of not being included in the executive, there is no constitutional provision stating that minority parties should be included in the executive. It has always been done as a prerogative of the President of the Republic.

President Mandela did it. President Mbeki did it. President Zuma has also done it. Deputy Ministers are also members of the

executive. President Zuma has invited people, and he still has one of them in his executive.

So, it's not constitutional. It is done by the majority party - the ANC, in this case - to help build the nation, to enhance cohesion and inclusivity, and I think that should be appreciated. I don't think you should now say you have a constitutional right. There is no such constitutional right.

Mr M A MNCWANGO: Speaker, hon Deputy President, the very issue that the primary question on this matter raises was a question raised by the hon Prince Buthelezi when he was Minister of Home Affairs.

The hon Buthelezi mandated the Van Zyl Slabbert Commission to look into the electoral system. Subsequently, in their findings, it was proposed that at least half of the 400 Members of Parliament be elected directly by their constituencies instead of being deployed under the list system and a dual system be implemented. Its recommendations have not been acted on.

Is it not time to revisit the Van Zyl Slabbert Commission proposals in the interests of social cohesion and in the

public's then being able to hold their directly elected representatives to account? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Speaker, with great respect to Prince Buthelezi on this matter, I know that he is one of those who have held this view for quite a while. Indeed, when the Van Zyl Slabbert report came out, he came out in support of it. One respects that. We should also respect the fact that people hold different views.

There is a different view held by people in the majority party, here, in Parliament. Indeed, people should not feel shy about continuing to raise this matter, which should be part of the political discourse in our country. If there is a persuasive and compelling need to do something like that, it is something that can be looked at and embraced. For now, however, we have the system that gave birth to our democracy.

What is broken in this system? I see nothing broken in this system. Right now, it is yielding good results. It is a system that, if put to good effect, should continue yielding really good, democratic results for our country. So, if it ain't broke, don't fix it! Thank you very much.

Mrs C DUDLEY: Madam Speaker, as the Deputy President has said, South Africa's proportional representation system, selected for its inclusivity and its simplicity, also encourages participation.

Given that both leading political parties in past and recent elections promoted the premise that a vote for a smaller party is wasted - a premise that is contrary to the essence of our proportional representation system - is your Office taking any responsibility for better informing the electorate on this erroneous premise, in order to strengthen and protect our multiparty democracy through its multiparty representation? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We are *en pointe*, Madam Speaker, in continuing to spread the word that we have a very robust democratic system, one that is based on the best values that are enshrined in our Constitution. We are also *en pointe* in saying that every person's vote is valued and it counts; and also in encouraging our people to vote for whichever party they would like to support.

We have never veered from that. Indeed, members of the ANC do not veer away from that because we, having participated with

others to give rise to the democratic process in our country, are totally committed to strengthening democracy in our country. Strengthening it means that we have got to encourage our people to vote, and in doing so, voting for whomever they want to vote for. So, we have never weakened in our determination as far as spreading that message is concerned.

**Lessons learnt by government from Fees Must Fall protest action**

20. Mr M Hlengwa (IFP) asked the Deputy President:

With reference to his responsibility for social cohesion, (a) what lessons regarding nation-building and social cohesion has the Government learnt from the ongoing Fees Must Fall protest action at tertiary institutions and (b) how are these lessons being applied to advance social cohesion?

NO2537E

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, I just want to get my notes right. [Interjections.] [Laughter.] I had the wrong one. [Interjections.] Madam Speaker, thank you very much for your patience.

The recent protests at universities have challenged us all - not only to grapple with the funding of higher education. The protests have also provided lessons for our efforts to promote social cohesion and nation-building.

The right to peaceful protest and to freedom of expression and association are fundamental constitutional principles that contribute to the promotion of social cohesion in our country. We will not be able to build a united nation unless all our people have the opportunity to express themselves freely and unless we develop mechanisms to resolve differences.

The struggle for access to higher education for the poor is fundamental to the transformation of our society. It is for this reason that government has prioritised its achievement through the establishment of a judicial commission of inquiry into the feasibility of free higher education and through the massive expansion of state funding for poor students.

Genuine social cohesion is premised on social justice, economic inclusion, and equity. Unless poor people have equal access to educational and other opportunities, we will never be able to build a cohesive society. The Fees Must Fall movement has a significant contribution to make towards the promotion of social

cohesion. It has the potential to contribute to a fairer society in which the vast economic and social disparities in our country are progressively reduced and eradicated.

There are other lessons that we need to learn from these protests. The inability of some of the role-players to find common ground and resolve their differences demonstrates that we, as a society, need to improve our capacity to mediate conflict.

Another important lesson is that we must increase our ability to listen to one another. This morning, Bobby Godsell and his wife wrote a very stirring article about calling on our nation to listen to our children, to listen to what they have to say, to listen to the stone throwers, to listen to those who want to go university, and that to sit down and listen is what we should do. We also need to ensure that legitimate protest does not degenerate into violence, the destruction of property, and the disruption of academic learning.

It is clear that most stakeholders in our universities are committed to the resolution of these issues - and that includes the students themselves. In many ways, they would like to see a resolution to this conflict. They would also like to work with

government to address the funding of higher education in a sustainable manner.

We must do everything we can to support the efforts of those who are genuinely and constructively demanding free higher education for the poor. As government, we are committed - and that commitment has been demonstrated by the various initiatives that we have embarked upon: setting up the commission, the Minister of Higher Education and Training spending hours and hours trying to discuss this matter with a plethora of people, be they students, educators, the principals of universities, and businesspeople.

Minister Jeff Radebe, in his ministerial role, is leading the effort to try and find solutions to this. Indeed, we must also pay tribute to a number of other role-players - people in business, church or religious leaders, traditional leaders, parents, and many others. They have all been involved as stakeholders to ensure that this objective is achieved, and we applaud them for putting shoulder to the wheel and trying to find solutions. Most importantly, we must also say to those students who have been willing to engage, to talk, and get into various fora that have been set up, that we applaud the efforts

they have been making, and all this is working towards finding a more lasting solution.

I have no doubt whatsoever that we will soon find a lasting solution to all the challenges that we face right now, which will enhance social cohesion and advance our nation-building efforts. Thank you very much.

Mr M HLENGWA: Mhlonishwa Somlomo [Hon Speaker], Deputy President, at the heart of nation-building and social cohesion are governments that actually deliver on promises that they have made. I put it to the House last week, and I had, there, a little envelope for the Minister of Higher Education and Training that I displayed at the podium, reminding the ANC, in particular, that it had promised free education.

HON MEMBERS: Yes!

Mr M HLENGWA: Now, last year, hon Deputy President, I put it to you that had students not embarked on the Fees Must Fall protests, the issue of education, seemingly, would not have been on the radar of government. Your response was that you love students.

What we have seen over the past year has been inaction. So, the question I want to put to you, hon Deputy President, is that the risks involved in making promises in the absence of plans and implementation programmes will cause instability, and these are a threat to nation-building and social cohesion. This is attached to the fact that you made a promise going into the election and only commissioned the feasibility of education after the election.

So, the question is: When you actually promised free education, what was on your minds, and what was the initial plan?

Everything happening now is simply a knee-jerk reaction to something that was completely off your radar and that caught you by surprise.

Finally, hon Deputy President, serious weaknesses and shortcomings have been exposed in the policing as far as these protests have been concerned. What action is government taking to ensure that Public Order Police has the necessary capacity to deal with and handle violent protests, as opposed to heavy-handed reactions, which amount to and result in exacerbating the levels of violence and injury to students? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Speaker, the issue of free education was articulated in the Freedom Charter. If you read the Freedom Charter carefully, you will find that the clause that refers to education states that education must be free on merit. Now, that has to be read very carefully. Over time, no doubt, as expectations rise on everything, there has been a view that, yes, it has to be free education for all.

Free education for all, whilst it is a desirable notion, in South Africa, simply will not be affordable. That is why the government has gone out to address this issue. The President has done so, the Minister of Higher Education and Training has done so, Minister Jeff Radebe has done so, and a number of others have said that they totally agree with the notion of free education for the poor.

Now, we are also addressing the issue that has been raised prominently by students themselves. In this regard, we have to applaud them, because there is the missing middle whose cause, problems, and challenges they have raised very prominently and very effectively. There are those in the middle who do not qualify for the National Student Financial Aid Scheme and who, often, do not get bursaries. What do we do about them? That is being addressed, as well.

The response of government in laying out more money from last year to this year and raising the importance of education at a higher level is as a result of the various inputs that had been made by a number of people: students, as well as parents, university administrators, and academic leaders, like principals. We have a number of role-players who are not sleeping at the wheel and who are making a concerted effort to address this matter.

This is a national matter. It is not a matter that belongs to one party or one institution alone; and that is why the business community has also come to the fore.

Hon Hlengwa, I can tell you that a number of really exciting propositions are now being placed on the table. The students themselves ... I have actually been so impressed by accounting students at universities who have come with their calculators, have crunched the numbers, and have sat down with Treasury officials to show that, yes, it is possible if we do this or that, and so forth.

In the end, it all boils down to whether we can afford to pay for every student who goes to university, even the children of the people who are seated here. I would say the children of all

of us seated here should not get free education at university level. [Applause.] We shouldn't. The children of the poor people in our country should.

I certainly would not be happy if my children were to be paid for by the state to go to university, and nor should you be. We can afford to pay for our children. There are millions of our people out there who cannot afford it. Let us save the money that would ordinarily have been spent to fund even our children, so that it can be channelled to the children of the poor people in our country, including the missing middle.

A number of propositions are coming forward. People are crunching the numbers. People are coming forward with a lot of interesting and exciting, thinking-out-of-the-box type of propositions. I say that we should allow that to ensue, and with all the initiatives that are now under way, we are cascading towards a solution. We are cascading towards finding a solution, and I applaud students who are in the middle of this maelstrom who are still prepared to talk.

The one thing that we should also address is that we talk best, as South Africans, when we are not fighting. We talk best when we sit around the table. We talk less well when we are throwing

stones and burning buildings. It is therefore a call to young people, to students, to stop burning libraries and our lecture halls. Sit around the table, crunch the numbers, and we will find solutions. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr S C MOTAU: Speaker, through you to the hon Deputy President: I will just start where you ended. Indeed, to link up with what you are saying about throwing stones, I think there are very few people in this auditorium who would disagree with me that we are, today, far apart as a nation in terms of our nation-building effort, which is really taking a lot of strain and, by what you have just said here, you actually signify that.

I believe that we are so far apart that the rainbow in the South African rainbow nation has evaporated. [Interjections.] The simple issue is that during the Zuma administration, the country has become more racially intolerant.

Ms D P MANANA: Sell-out!

Mr S C MOTAU: Naked racism and xenophobia have become prevalent, and this afternoon, we saw a bit of racism rear its head. Yesterday, we couldn't agree on Madonsela. On Wednesday, Deputy President, here is a picture that will scare you if you haven't

seen it - it was in the *Sunday Times* - of the people who were outside here on the gate. The picture says something that is scary, and I will read it to you. The caption states ...

The SPEAKER: Hon member, please ask your supplementary question.

Mr S C MOTAU: ... "We have come to bury him" - meaning the Minister of Higher Education and Training. Now, that cannot be.

My question is: Having said what you have said, Deputy President, and you, as the patron of our moral regeneration effort and social cohesion, and all of that, what are you doing? Are you sleeping at the wheel, or what are you doing to make sure that we bring that rainbow back into the nation?

HON MEMBERS: Sell-out!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, I can tell the hon Motau with great clarity that I am not sleeping at the wheel and he will find no one on this side sleeping at the wheel either.

[Interjections.] We are all involved ... we are all involved in the process of nation-building.

We made a commitment to our people that when we come here to Parliament, one of the key things we are going to do is to make sure that we pass laws that are going to restore dignity to our people; that we pass laws that are going to advance their interests, reduce poverty, inequality, and unemployment, and more importantly, to have social cohesion and to build our nation. This is what we signed up for. So, we are not sleeping at the wheel. Do you see anybody sleeping right now? No. Thank you. [Interjections.]

Mr M WATERS: Speaker, I rise on a point of order in terms of Rule 85: While the hon Motau was asking the Deputy President a question, one of the ANC members - and I can point out and describe who it was - called him a "sell-out", several times. It's a lady in the back row behind the marble pillar, who is looking away now as if it wasn't ... looking behind her, right now. On several occasions in the past, she has been asked to withdraw insulting comments and I would ask you to get her to stand up and to withdraw the word "sell-out". She knows who she is. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Is there an hon member there at the back who was looking at the ...

Mr M WATERS: I don't think you're a lady, sir. It's the lady in front of you. In front. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, is there someone there who would like to own up to having said the word "sell-out"? [Interjections.]

Ms S V KALYAN: I can assist you, madam. It's the hon member next to the hon Luyenge. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Can I have the attention of the hon members at the back? Can I have the attention of those hon members? Is there someone there who would like to own up to having called the hon member a "sell-out"? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM (Mr M Skwatsha): On a point of order, hon Speaker ...

The SPEAKER: Hon Skwatsha, can I just finish dealing with this situation? I will attend to you. I will come back to you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM (Mr M Skwatsha): Perhaps before ...

The SPEAKER: No, I'm still dealing with those issues. Is there anyone owning up? [Interjections.] There's no one owning up and therefore I can't take the issue further than that. Hon Skwatsha?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM (Mr M Skwatsha): Thank you, hon Speaker. I wanted to know whether it's unparliamentary to say "sell-out".

The SPEAKER: Hon Skwatsha, I think I'd prefer to us to put that matter up for discussion and you and I will discuss it outside. [Laughter.] Where's the hon Gamede?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Speaker, I really must implore you to take a harder line on this. This is not the first time that this member has done it. She does it every time a person of colour from the opposition stands up. I have witnessed it on several occasions and in the past, I've asked your Whippery to deal with it. She knows who she is.

I really think it's quite instructive that the hon Krumbock admitted what he said but that the ANC members who are brave enough to shout this out don't have the guts to stand up and

admit it when they are called out on it. I would really ask that you take a harder line on this.

The member knows who she is and she knows she does it every time because she looks over and starts laughing once she has shouted it out. She knows exactly who she is. If that is how we are going to howl, we must all cover our mouths and shout insults across the floor, but that's not what this Parliament should be about. You have heard what the Deputy President said about finding each other.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Steenhuisen.

Mr M WATERS: Speaker, if I may help you? I have got the surname of the hon member - if I may I address you? Her name is the hon Manana. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Where's the hon Manana? [Interjections.] Hon Manana, talk to me. Did you shout the word, "sell-out"? The hon Manana is shaking her head.

Ms D P MANANA: No, Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: So, hon members, I would like to move past this issue. Take a seat, hon Manana.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Speaker ...

The SPEAKER: Hon Steenhuisen, we can't take the issue further.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Speaker, I'd like to make ...

The SPEAKER: I have heard what you have said. Can I proceed now? In fact, if you want to pursue it, we can talk about it.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Speaker, I can't pursue it outside of the House. However, what I am asking you to do is to please ask the Table Staff to examine the television footage from this afternoon to examine, at this time, whether it has been caught on the footage ... [Interjections.] ... because the hon Manana is not being honest with the House.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Steenhuisen. I will do so. Hon Gamede?

Mr D D GAMEDE: Thank you very much, Speaker. Deputy President, some of us - and most of us - really do appreciate the passion that you and the government have about the issue of education.

Deputy President, from your experience of the project on the revised funding framework for universities, which reviews the experiences of six years of partial and full implementation of the current funding framework and whether it has achieved the goals set at its inception, in your assessment, do you believe that the key stakeholders in the higher education sector understand the need for social cohesion and accept different views and opinions to ensure the success of the objectives and goals of the White Paper? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, I think there is an appreciation by various role-players in various sectors ... to appreciate the task that we have at hand to enhance social cohesion through education. The issue of funding has been widely entertained and looked at - principally, by the Minister of Higher Education, who has, from time to time, engaged a number of experts ... a number of people whom he has put on various committees to look at things like the funding of universities, the funding of historically disadvantaged universities, the issue of free education, and a whole lot of others. He has been

taking a lot of steps to address the issue of funding for higher education.

Of course, he has always come up against the tightness of our budgetary process where, yes, we must admit, not as much money as he would have wanted has gone towards funding higher education. However, at the same time, government has also been pumping in quite a bit of money, while increased demand for access to our educational institutions has widened and broadened. With greater access on the part of our young people, the resources that have been generated by our revenue systems have not been compatible with the level of increase that we have had. Therefore, we have always had to play catch-up.

Indeed, the system requires adequate funding. Now that we are grappling with the pointed issue of funding children from poor families and the missing middle, I believe that, with the participation of various components of our society, particularly business, we will be able to put together funding that is sufficient to assist all of us in making education free, indeed, for poor families in our country, and also to get quite a lot of funding to be pumped into assisting those in the missing middle.

So, I think a lot is being done to move the process forward, and it all adds up to nation-building and enhancing social cohesion in our country. Thank you very much.

Ms C N MAJEKE: Hon Speaker, hon Deputy President, it is clear that something must be done in focusing on educating, mentoring, and developing the youth of our country to become leaders. Can your Office plan to have bursaries ... perhaps 1 000, or 5 000, depending ... 5 000 students that you can give bursaries to for leadership courses? I'm saying this because if students are trained to be leaders, there are certain things that they are trained to do and not to do. This would probably help towards educating other students so that they don't destroy property whenever they demand something, either from government, or whomever.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. It was, actually, just today that we were talking about a concept like that - to put together a process where we can have as many young people as possible participating in leadership-enhancement courses and processes that we believe we can get funding for. So, that is precisely the issue that we thought would go down very well for the young people in our country, specifically, on the issue of leadership.

However, you may know that on the issue of broadening their skills and getting technical skills, we are forever trying to find opportunities for young people. As we travel around the world, both the President and I, including a number of Ministers, always want to open up opportunities for our young people.

It is always a joy when you travel to various countries, be it Sweden, Japan ... [Inaudible.] ... Singapore and you meet young, South African people who have taken up opportunities to go and learn. Some of the courses are long, while some are short, and they are taking up these opportunities in leaps and bounds. We really feel encouraged when that happens. To this effect, we are doing everything to spread them and to broaden them, and as we interface with a number of countries that have reached a certain level of development, we always ask them to open up spaces and opportunities for young, South African people.

Thank you very much for that suggestion. It is something that we are taking up. So, we will feel more emboldened now that you have also risen to support it.

The SPEAKER: That concludes Questions to the Deputy President. I thank the hon Deputy President ...

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I'd like to say something if I may, Madam Speaker. I got a letter – a love letter and a confession – from the hon Ollis, to which I would like to respond. He has written a really nice letter to me that deals with his own personal history in terms of how he participated in opposing apartheid, and I rather enjoyed reading this letter.

I would, once again, offer him my apology for having referred to him as a white South African, which I have withdrawn. This letter also goes to confirm, much as he hasn't written it here, his own withdrawal in the reference that he made in relation to my having blood on my hands. And he says that he has done his little bit ... he has done the little bit that he could. I really applaud that, and it warmed my heart that here is a fellow South African, to whom I referred wrongly, who says that, in all of this, he also did his little bit. I accept what he has written to me. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

See also **QUESTIONS AND REPLIES**.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy President. I will now hand over to the Deputy Speaker, who has been hovering in the background. [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see that deputies are in trouble today!  
The next item on the Order Paper is a motion in the name of the  
Chief Whip of the Majority Party.

**SUSPENSION OF RULE 36(2) REGARDING LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

(Draft Resolution)

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon Deputy Speaker, I move  
the draft resolution printed in my name on the Order Paper, as  
follows:

That the House, in terms of National Assembly Rule 4(1)  
suspends Rule 36(2), which deals with the granting of leave  
of absence by the Assembly, pending discussion of its  
application by the relevant structures.

Agreed to.

**CONSIDERATION OF BUDGETARY REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT OF  
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

There was no debate.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Deputy Speaker, I move:

That the Report be adopted.

Motion agreed to.

Report accordingly adopted.

**CONSIDERATION OF BUDGETARY REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT OF  
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS ON  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE**

**CONSIDERATION OF BUDGETARY REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT OF  
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS ON  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY VETERANS**

**CONSIDERATION OF BUDGETARY REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT OF  
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS ON CASTLE  
CONTROL BOARD AND ARMSCOR**

Mr N SINGH: Hon Deputy Speaker, I am sorry to take you back to the First Order of the Day. However, my member would like to make a declaration, and I understand that other members would also like to make their declarations. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: With due respect sir, we have passed.

Mr N SINGH: We passed so quickly, hon Deputy Speaker!

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That's the pace in the afternoon, sir.

Mr N SINGH: From the time we started with reports, it has been normal practice that members are allowed two minutes to make their declarations for every report. But if you say we have passed, then we have passed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We regret that you could not make your declarations, hon member.

There was no debate.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Deputy Speaker, I move:

That all these Reports be adopted by this House.

Thank you.

*Declarations of vote:*

Mr S J F MARAIS: Chairperson, the Department of Defence achieved an unqualified audit report, with 99% of the budget spent, and it also met most of the tick-box targets.

Dit beteken egter niks indien die departement nie die basiese vereiste van 'n nasionale verdedigingsmag kan nakom nie.

[However, it means nothing if the department cannot meet the basic requirements for a national defence force.]

Current budget priorities are irrational, with adverse implications for the sustainment of the defence capabilities, supporting and executing audit commitments, and human resources rejuvenation.

The Department of Defence is now considering two funding packages. The first package relates to those that the current budget allocations can accommodate. The committee specifically resolved that the department must reprioritise the budget allocations. This implies that the VIP jet acquisition must be cancelled, whether for lease at a cost of R96 million, or the purchase of a new one.

The needs of 28 Squadron and 35 Squadron must be prioritised. Spare parts funding for routine maintenance and snag repairs must be prioritised.

The second package is for those programmes that need additional funding. Despite 99% of the budget having been spent, we still find sea hours utilised underbudgeted. Total flying hours are under budget, while VIP hours are over budget.

Military health services is in a shambles. Fifty-five per cent of the budget is spent on human resources, compared to the Defence Review proposal of 40%.

The Auditor-General criticised the leadership of the Department of Defence and the Department of Military Veterans and their lack of accountability and oversight.

There is a critical skills shortage in the Department of Military Veterans, which is a serial underperformer. Again, the department received a qualified Auditor-General's report, which points out poor service delivery and support to all military veterans; a dysfunctional department; still no equal treatment of old statutory forces; and a database that is still incomplete. The Auditor-General also confirmed that the Minister

has failed dismally. It is back to the drawing board for the department.

What about the 8,9 million unemployed, who must be put into jobs? We must grow the economy, and these two departments must seriously reprioritise their expenditure. There is a saying: Cut the suit to fit the cloth. It is very important that with this ... [Interjections.]

We support the report, but it is appalling in terms of how this department has spent its budget. Thank you very much. [Time expired.]

Mr M A MNCWANGO: Deputy Speaker, the IFP would like to support the report. However, we would like to raise certain issues. The SA Defence Force, SANDF, remains at an inadequate level of resource funding in terms of its strategic resourcing, organisational renewal, human resources, and defence capability. Put simply, the SANDF is currently substandard in the event of it being called upon in respect of national defence or peace-keeping operations on the continent.

It is imperative that a phased-in implementation of the Defence Review begins in earnest. Rejuvenation of our Defence Force must

be prioritised. With an ageing leadership and little being done to foster the progression of younger staff through the military ranks, our Defence Force will suffer a gradual diminution of critical skills and institutional knowledge.

National service should be seriously looked at by the department. This will not only provide our unemployed youth with jobs but will also teach critical life skills and lead to the renewal and rejuvenation of skills in our Defence Force.

Discipline within the ranks of the Defence Force remains low. This inculcates a corresponding low morale amongst our soldiers and brings with it a lack of discipline.

In respect of our Department of Military Veterans, we would like to express our concern that, for a number of years now, this department has continued to receive qualified reports. This department is actually dysfunctional and could not spend its budget. It spent only half of its budget. So, the IFP says that attention should be given to this department. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dead on time! That is exemplary, hon Mncwango. Absolutely! You should follow suit, sir. I hope you follow the good example.

Mr S C MNCWABE: Hon Deputy Speaker, analysing the three reports under consideration today invokes in us a sense of despair. With the exception of the Castle Control Board, the observations and the recommendations of the portfolio committee paint a very bleak picture of the state of management in the Department of Defence and Military Veterans.

When we look at the rate at which key performance indicator goals are met, our sense of despair turns to alarm. In the budget of the Department of Military Veterans, only 50% of the goals were achieved. Only 65% of Defence budget targets were met.

Such low achievement figures ought to give rise to alarm. If this is the standard of management of our national defence capacity, then we should have serious concerns.

The NFP is particularly perturbed by the lack of efficient financial management within the department across the three budgets. The prevalence of irregular, unqualified, and wasteful expenditure, running into millions of rand, is absolutely scandalous and we question why stern actions are not taken against those involved.

However, the NFP will support the report and recommendations of the portfolio committee tabled today and urges the department to make every effort possible to implement these recommendations, without delay. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, sir. That is more than exemplary.

Mr D D GAMEDE: Deputy Speaker, the ANC would also like to make a declaration.

The Department of Military Veterans derives its mandate from the Military Veterans Act, which requires it to provide national policy and standards for socioeconomic support to military veterans and their dependants, including benefits and entitlements to help realise a dignified, unified, empowered, and self-sufficient community of military veterans.

The ANC, in supporting this report, commends the strides the department has made to improve its performance, particularly in relation to certain benefits, such as bursaries, health benefits, the 450 military veterans employed at the SA Social Security Agency, Sassa, the 56 veterans receiving compensation for injury in military services, the 1 700 military veterans who

will access job opportunities, and the exhumation and reburial of the remains of 15 military veterans.

We have noted the slow pace of delivery of houses and lack of progress on subsidised transport, which was raised as a serious concern in the committee. At the same time, we note the intention to use alternative models of delivery to deliver houses. We have recommended that the department should report back on the progress on provincial offices, as these are crucial to reach out to military veterans in the country.

The ANC supports the report.

Motion agreed to.

Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report on Department of Defence accordingly adopted.

Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report on Department of Military Veterans accordingly adopted.

Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report on Castle Control Board and Armscor accordingly adopted.

**CONSIDERATION OF BUDGETARY REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT OF  
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE PRESIDENCY**

There was no debate.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Deputy Speaker, I move:

That the Report be adopted.

*Declarations of vote:*

Ms N I TARABELLA MARCHESI: Deputy Speaker, it is sad, indeed, that time and time again, the DA must come to this podium and denounce the department's inability to produce a shred of evidence of work that has had a positive impact on the lives of women. What real justification can we give to our women for such endemic failures? Evidence of this is the Management Performance Assessment Tool, MPat, which showed that the score of the department has dropped from 73%, in 2014, to 66%, in 2015.

There is also the issue of spending within the department, where 67% of its budget is allocated towards salaries. It has a staff complement of 111, of which, 36 are senior managers. This gives it a manager to staff ratio of 1:2 - that is very concerning - and yet, the department has only achieved approximately 47% of

the targets. Yet, it has spent 95% of its budget. The committee, rightfully, brought into question the value for money, ability, and competence of the existing staff to deliver on the department's objectives.

There is also a concern with noncompliance with Treasury Regulations and the Public Finance Management Act. The specific matters related to supply chain in terms of procurement and contract management were unacceptable and should have been avoided. With that, we have, several times, received the assurance that compliance matters will be addressed.

Of particular concern, however, was the movement of funds from the core programmes to its administration. This has been a matter which has been consistently raised by the committee. Although we have approval from Treasury, the administration continues to receive a disproportionate amount of funding, compared to the core programmes. Thank you, Chair. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Deputy Speaker, it is the IFP's view that the Department of Women in the Presidency continues to be found wanting in many respects. In fact, I am still waiting to see any shred of evidence that this department is actually tangibly

making a difference in the lives of the most disadvantaged women in our society. And as I am speaking, the Minister is not even listening, but I will continue. [Interjections.]

Simply put, this department has performed poorly, with repeat findings from the Auditor-General. Critical areas of concern have not been addressed since the last financial year and in some instances, they have actually regressed.

Of particular concern is the fact that the department overspent on the compensation of employees. It has, again, moved funding from its core programmes to administration. Thus, the very bulk of the department's budget is being spent on paying salaries instead of actually executing its core business.

The department spent almost 100% of its budget but could only achieve less than 50% of its targets. It is simply not good enough. Yet, the Commission for Gender Equality, CGE, achieved close to 90% of its targets. Credit must therefore go to this commission, which continues to do good work on a shoestring budget.

In contrast, this department is still failing to successfully address women empowerment matters. One palpable example is the

fact that despite the existence of an entire department to fight for the rights of women and children, schoolgirls still go without access to sanitary pads, despite endless promises from this government. Nongovernmental organisations and the IFP have therefore stood in the gap to ensure the dignity of our schoolgirls. The IFP is honouring its promise and we have started rolling out free sanitary pads in our municipalities.

These are the types of projects this department must own and run with. Five years ago, President Zuma promised free sanitary pads to schoolgirls, but the Department of Women in the Presidency has failed to hold to account the Departments of Social Development, Health, and Basic Education to deliver on this promise. If this department starts with these basic interventions, one can live and hope that this department can become something more than an employment agency.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, I'm afraid your time has expired.

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: And the Minister didn't listen!

An HON MEMBER: Malibongwe!

Mr M WATERS: Well done.

Mr S C MNCWABE: Deputy Speaker, the NFP has serious reservations about the feasibility of this Department of Women in the Presidency. And we are of the opinion that taxpayers' money could be spent more wisely and fruitfully if this department were to merge with the Department of Social Development.

Among the myriad of management ills revealed in the portfolio committee report, one fact towers above all else. The department has, admirably, managed to spend 99,61% of its allocated budget, but it has only achieved 47% of its set-out goals. It would be remiss of the NFP if it did not express its outrage nor call on the Minister and senior management in the department to give a clear and unambiguous explanation for this sorry state of affairs.

We also note that despite the department getting a commendable, unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General, several of the observations point to the potential for slack financial management. It is imperative that the department moves swiftly to deal with these concerns expressed by the Auditor-General, in the interest of transparent and accountable governance.

In conclusion, despite our reservations, we will support this report and we urge the department to take immediate action on these recommendations. Thank you.

Mr M WATERS: Deputy Speaker, on a point of order before the next speaker takes the podium, I would just like to ask: Is it parliamentary for the Minister, whose report we are dealing with, to continuously talk while members are delivering their declarations? She spoke right through the DA declaration, the IFP declaration, and the UDM declaration, not giving a moment's notice to any of the speakers. I think it is indicative of the way she treats her department and women's issues.

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Deputy Speaker, I was on my feet before that hon member.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, hon member, go ahead.

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Might I also just put on record the IFP's disgust at the fact that while we were making declarations on a very important issue, the Minister kept talking throughout - which is, I think, actually indicative of a government that is not committed to women empowerment. [Applause.] She did not listen to any of the declarations and I think that it really

shows us that this department and this government are not serious about women's empowerment.

Mr H P CHAUKE: Deputy Speaker, I have a point of order: I do not know ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Majeke, just hold on.

Mr H P CHAUKE: ... on what Rule the hon Waters stood. And again, Deputy Speaker, you have allowed an attack on the Minister without intervening. [Interjections.] I do not think it is correct to allow members to attack the Minister in the House. It is not allowed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, take your seat. Hon members, the observations of Members of Parliament, however they feel, is their legitimate response.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN IN THE PRESIDENCY: Deputy Speaker, I listen with my ears, not with my eyes and my mouth ... [Interjections.] ... and if they want me to repeat what they have said, I can answer to that right now. I do not listen with my eyes. Had they wanted my attention, they should have mentioned that they needed my attention, but I was listening to

all the things they said. [Interjections.] I will respond to them at the appropriate time. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright, thank you.

Ms C N MAJEKE: Chairperson, whilst the reported achievements are appreciated, it is, however, a great concern that the targets with regard to the core business of the department have not been met. The department needs to develop and implement a proper monitoring system if it is to ensure that the resources allocated to its function are used effectively. The personnel expenditure of the department has to be controlled if overexpenditure is to be avoided and the department ...

Mr M L W FILTANE: On a point of order, Deputy Speaker ...

Ms C N MAJEKE: ... within the confines of its annual ...

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, hon member. Yes, what is the point of order, hon member?

Mr M L W FILTANE: Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: I do not think we need the kind of resistance that the Minister of Women

in the Presidency ... [Interjections.] She has continuously talked to her colleague four times while a member is deliberating and addressing her. Why doesn't she just leave the House if she is not interested in what is taking place here? She must just leave, right now! [Applause.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright. Hon Majeke, please proceed.

Ms C N MAJEKE: Accountability should be enforced to keep anyone responsible for the wasteful expenditure under check and to face the consequences of his or her own actions. Monthly controls should be implemented to make sure that expenditure does not exceed budget. Senior management should exercise adequate oversight over noncompliance matters, using the laws and regulations provided in the public sector to determine who should be held responsible.

Appropriate and practical participation and involvement of women and the girlchild in the planning and rolling out of the Women's Month programmes is missing and yet, it is essential. Lastly, women emancipation and empowerment is a daily matter. Therefore, we need more programmes that run throughout the year and do not only focus on 16 Days of Activism and August, etc.

The UDM supports this report. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members ...

Ms P BHENGU: Hon Deputy Speaker ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... the motion is that the report be ...

Ms P BHENGU: Hon Deputy Speaker, over here.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Go ahead, hon member. Oh, sorry! I am sorry.  
My apologies. Go ahead, hon Bhengu.

Nk P BHENGU: Sekela Somlomo, okokuqala kuzomele ngikhumbuze  
amalungu aleNdlu ukuthi lomnyango umsebenzi wawo ukusebenzisana  
neminye iminyango ukuthi ibhekelele ukuthi leminyango uma  
inikezwa izimali izisebenzisa kanjani ukubhekelela izinkinga  
ezibhekene nabantu besifazane. Akuwona umsebenzi womnyango  
ukunikezela ngamathawula enhlanzeko kodwa siyi-ANC simatasa nalo  
lelo hlelo lokuthi umnyango ukwazi ukuthi usebenzisane nemnyango  
enjengoMnyango Wezempilo noMnyango Wezenhlalakahle ukuthi  
kunikezelwe ngamathawula enhlanzeko kuleyo mphakathi noma kulabo  
bantwana abadinga lolo sizo ikakhulukazi ukwenzela ukuthi

izingane singakwazi ukuthi zilove ezikoleni ngenxa yokuthi zisuke zidinga amathawula enhlanzeko.

Futhi okunye esinakho la okokuthi umnyango wethu ...

*(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[Ms P BHENGU: Deputy Speaker, firstly, I would need to remind the hon members of this House that the duty of this department is to work with other departments to see how other departments use the funds that are allocated to them that are meant for looking out for women and their challenges. It is not the duty of this department to issue sanitary towels but as the ANC, we are busy with that programme, and the department will be able to work with departments like the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development in issuing sanitary towels to those communities or girls who need them, so that these girls should not miss school just because they do not have these sanitary towels.

The other thing that we have in this department is that our department ...]

... has received an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General with findings and that the department will be able to report to the committee on a quarterly basis.

Umnnyango wethu uphinde futhi usebenzisane neminyango ukuthi kunezinhlelo ezenziwayo njengamanje zokuthi umnyango uhambele yonke imiphakathi yaseNingizimu Afrika ihambisane nemnyango, CGE kanye nezinye izikhungo ezivikela uMthethosisekelo wentando yeningi ukuze kube nenkulomompikiswano kuzwelonke la abantu besifazane bezokwazi ukuthi baveze khona izinkinga zabo abanazo kulo mnyango. Njengamanje umnyango kuningi ozokwenza ukuze abantu baseNingizimu Afrika bakwazi ukuthi basizakale ezinkingeni zabo. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[Our department also works with other departments when there are programmes and currently, the department, together with the Commission for Gender Equality and the other Chapter 9 institutions has conducted oversight visits to the South African communities so that there can be a national dialogue where women will be able to bring forward their challenges. Currently, there is a lot that the department will do so that the people of South Africa can receive assistance with regard to their challenges.]

I would also like to congratulate the CGE on receiving a clean audit with no findings. It has also been able to achieve 90% of its targets. [Applause.]

The portfolio committee has been able to meet with the department on a quarterly basis to make sure that it aligns its strategic plan and annual performance plan with objectives and targets that are smart and cost appropriate.

So, the ANC supports the department and we also support the report. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Motion agreed to.

Report accordingly adopted.

The House adjourned at 17:30.

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