THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST 2026

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

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The Council met at 14:00.

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

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Hon delegates, I would like to remind delegates that the Rules, in particular subrules 21, 22, and 23 of Rule 103, will apply during the virtual sitting. In accordance with Council Rule 229(1), there will be no notices of motion or motions without notice.

Hon delegates, before we proceed to questions, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Ministers from the governance cluster, specifically the Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and the Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, as well as all permanent delegates,

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MECs and all special delegates, and the SA Local Government Association representatives to the House.

It makes me very happy today to welcome the two women Ministers at the beginning of this Women's Month for 2026. I would also like to remind delegates that, in terms of Rule 229 of the Council Rules, the time for reply by the Ministers to a question is five minutes. Only four supplementary questions are allowed per question. A member who has asked the initial question will be the first to be afforded an opportunity to ask a supplementary question. The time for asking supplementary questions is two minutes. The time for reply to a supplementary question is four minutes. The supplementary question must emanate from the initial question.

Hon delegates, I would now like to call upon the Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Minister Ramokgopa, to present an answer to Question 197 that was asked by the hon Molokomme, and the question relates directly to the impact assessment of the Mid-Term Development Plan, MTDP. Hon Minister, your response to that question, please.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

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Question 197:

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Good afternoon, Deputy Chairperson, Ministers, and Deputy Ministers. In particular, let me also greet all the hon members of the National Council of Provinces, NCOP, the permanent members and everybody else here. Indeed, our department is, of course, responsible for the MTDP, and we are in session right now trying to ensure that we finalise, on time, the assessment of all the departments at the national level as well as at the provincial level as it relates to the MTDP.

This review we are doing will give us a report that will assist us with our mid-term review of the performance of government. The performance of government, of course, we do twice a year. We call it a mid-term or a biannual assessment. Because we will now be preparing for the mid-term of this seventh administration, we will be able to give a longer report as it relates to the performance of different departments, especially at the national level as well as departments at a provincial level. What we've done as well is

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to arrange and partner with the Auditor-General's Office to ensure that, as and when they do an assessment of municipalities, of national government as well as provincial government, they should now request at least concurrence from ourselves as it relates to the issue of the annual performance plan of different departments actually being in line. Without that concurrence, the Auditor-General would not have a view as it relates to the performance of government.

We have seen in the cycle of assessment by the Auditor-General that this has been done. Many departments have been requested to ensure that they align with what we have said they need to do in terms of the MTDP and their annual performance plan so that, when an assessment is done of their different departments, it would be clear that we, as the department, had given it the go-ahead based on the MTDP itself. Of course, what we do with this commitment in terms of our priorities, we don't only look at the priorities, but we also look at the state of the municipality addresses and state of the province addresses.

We have realised that we still need to assist most of the provinces by ensuring that we capacitate the Office of the

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Premier because that is the office we work with as it relates to monitoring and evaluation of the MTDP itself. In a few provinces, we have recognised that there is still a lot that needs to be done in terms of capacitating those offices with human resources so that when we do our work, we would know the groundwork has already been done by different departments. We will be using, of course, this report as we finalise it, as we would then be able to ensure that it is utilised during the allocation of the budget, as well as ensure that, when we deal with the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, all the strategies and programmes are allocated for. We definitely do that.

We still need to capacitate different Offices of the Premier to ensure that they have what it takes to do the groundwork so that, when we come and do our evaluation, it would be done in such a way that we would know that, from the annual performance plans and the strategic plans of different departments and different provinces, everything has been done. That would be our response as it relates to this. Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson.

Ms K R MOLOKOMME: Good afternoon, Deputy Chair, hon Minister and everyone on the platform. We would like to wish every

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woman a happy Women's Day. Thank you, Minister, for the response. We appreciate that it has been a little over a year since the MTDP was approved by Cabinet. We also acknowledge your statement that the department is aiming to measure long-term impact.

I want to ask you, Minister, what positive outcomes you have observed since the implementation of interventions in the economy, such as Operation Vulindlela, which is associated with priority number one that you have indicated. Have there been any challenges in this context since you have adopted this, Minister? Thank you very much, Deputy Chair.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Thank you very much, hon Molokomme, but you were supposed to say, "Malibongwe! Igama lamakhosikazi!" [Let the name of women be praised!]

Ms K R MOLOKOMME: Malibongwe!

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Deputy Chair, I wish to thank the member for the question. Indeed, happy Women's Day. Malibongwe! Igama lamakhosikazi! I must

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mention that, indeed, we have been able to come up with what we call the results chain monitoring that focuses on assessing progress beyond performance outputs so that we can measure achievements that address different sectors, as opposed to just looking at performance of departments alone.

It is for this reason that, indeed, we have seen that, since we have started with the capacitating of different entities, we have seen at least a little bit of better co-ordination between departments as it relates to clusters. For example, the one that has been referred to would be the economics cluster because it focuses directly on the first priority of our government and of our seventh administration. Better co-ordination has assisted us to deal better with where service delivery actually happens.

We have been able to see local government and provincial government, as well as the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, for example, being able to come and work together on a District Development Model, DDM, level to ensure that some of the Special Economic Zones in different areas, most especially areas where you would have thought this is a rural province, are successful. We have been able to utilise this

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assessment to know exactly what needs to be done differently so that some of the economic activities that we need to see can address our own priorities.

Of course, as it relates to Operation Vulindlela, which is an operation aimed at intervening and unlocking some of the challenges that we have seen, we have been able to see the performance of Eskom, for example. Eskom has been doing quite well precisely because of the reports that we have been doing and the assessment that we have been doing that we report to Cabinet. We also speak to different departments as it relates to it. This has assisted in better co-ordination, as I've already said. When you have a better Eskom working, that speaks to the economy precisely because most of our economic institutions and operators, most especially those that are at the commanding heights of our economy, depend more on a sustained supply of electricity so that they can reach some of the targets they set for themselves.

With this also, we've been able to see issues of water being uplifted because in some of the areas in municipalities where we had a breakage of sustainability, as it relates to access to water, it has been as a result of an electricity supply not

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sustained that has had an effect on some pumps. We've seen that improving. It is for this reason that, through this assessment, we now know that what we need to invest more in would be the infrastructure and to ensure that we maintain the infrastructure of water.

That would still address the issues of the economy, not only service delivery, precisely because basic services are also a tool that we have identified as a way of attracting investment in different localities. So, this is the improvement that we can bring here to say that, because of this assessment, better co-ordination has been achieved. As a result, it is assisting as it relates to the logistics but also service delivery on the ground.

Dr I SCHEURKOGEL: Deputy Chair, to the Minister: The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation already assesses Parliament's plans using the electronic quarterly performance reporting system and publishes these development indicators, yet departments and provinces can still report high activity and can still publish high activity percentages without demonstrating improved outcomes for South Africans. Will you publish a quarterly outcome-based MTDP scorecard for

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every Minister and MEC identifying missed targets, corrected deadlines, and referrals to the President or the relevant premier for consequence management? If not, how will you prevent the MTDP from becoming another tick-box exercise? Thank you, Deputy Chair.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Deputy Chair, I thank the member for the question. Well, the development indicators indeed are aimed at assisting us to ensure that we are reaching our targets. As I've already said, our assessment is done mainly on clusters. It would be the economics cluster, the social cluster, and so on. Of course, we aggregate everything from departments to be able to say this is the outcome that was expected from this particular cluster, and this is what a specific department has been able to do.

However, in terms of the assessment that we do per department, in the main and currently, we do report to the President, and we have assessments twice a year that we co-ordinate on behalf of the President and the Deputy President, where departments are actually taken through what they were supposed to do in

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terms of targets and the targets that they've missed and the intervention that is needed. Of course, that is already done.

On the provincial level — remember that it is a sphere of government where MECs and premiers are not necessarily appointed by the President. The President only appoints Ministers. However, through this that I've just been speaking about, in capacitating the Offices of the Premier, we do that so that the Offices of the Premier can do the same thing that we are doing as it relates to the assessment that we do and co-ordinate and facilitate on behalf of the President for each and every department with the director-general, the Deputy Minister, and the Minister.

So, we are finalising that particular process of capacitating the Office of the Premier so that they can do the same thing so that, at least, at the end of the day, when the President co-ordinates his Presidential Co-ordinating Council where the premiers and mayors of metropolitan cities actually also come and sit, including the MECs of finance, he would be able to raise some of these issues that we would have been able to draw out of our own assessment of different departments in provincial government.

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Currently, there is no formal and official structure as it relates to the Offices of the Premier doing that. However, as I've already said, we are capacitating them to do the same thing, and it will not be for us to publish that particular information. It will be for the premier and the President to publish that information. Ours is to facilitate the information, take it to them, and facilitate the process of assessing each and every deployee or, it is not a deployee — What do you call them? — appointed people, appointed MEC, or appointed Minister and Deputy Minister in terms of their performance. Of course, on the national level, we can do that better because there is delegation of powers that has been given to Deputy Ministers. As we assess, we differentiate between the work that was supposed to be done by the Minister and the work that was supposed to be done by the Deputy Minister.

However, we must promise that, in the next cycle, we will be able to give a report as it relates to how far we've gone in terms of capacitating the Offices of the Premier to officiate over an assessment of each and every MEC based on the MTDP, the annual performance plan, and the strategic priorities that

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they've set out for themselves in order to ensure the MTDP is implemented correctly. Thank you very much.

Mr K CEZA: Deputy Chair, to the Minister: You claim to have assessed the impact of the MTDP, yet communities continue to experience collapsing service delivery, unemployment, and poverty. What immediate, radical intervention strategies have you deployed to ensure that severe provincial budget cuts and conditional grants delays do not entirely compromise priority one of the MTDP in historically underdeveloped provinces? What foreseeable timelines exist to ensure that provinces like Mpumalanga and the North West that remain trapped in underdevelopment are supported to fully implement the MTDP? Thank you, Deputy Chair.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Deputy Chair, I think I've already outlined that we have developed and introduced what we call a results chain monitoring framework that assists us to not only be able to assess whether targets were met but also the impact of those targets in different localities. Yes, assessment we do. We do it every year, and we will continue to do it not only in terms of development but also the MTDP itself.

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So, of course, there are challenges, but there are also achievements we have been able to see, especially as it relates to long-term impacts that we need to see in different communities. As it relates to what has happened in terms of the intervention that Treasury has actually applied to municipalities, we have been assessing and have been in contact with all the relevant structures. We must say we see improvement as it relates to municipalities being able to officially come up with mechanisms that would assist them to pay and ensure that they stick to the payment schedule they were supposed to do well before this intervention by Treasury had been put in place.

We have been assured that it will also be followed by a similar process that will help municipalities to actually also be paid by different government departments that were not paying them. So, this intervention by Treasury was not aimed at making municipalities suffer; it was aimed at enforcing a mechanism that was agreed upon but was not adhered to. Since that particular process has been implemented, we have seen improvement in terms of what municipalities needed to do.

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We also, as I've already said, expect that, in the near future, we will be seeing the same thing happening to those that actually owe municipalities because what municipalities are owed also goes beyond billions of rand. Thank you very much.

Mr H J VAN DEN BERG: Deputy Chair, to the Minister: I found your answer to the question to be vague. Therefore, I need to clarify. Has a formal mid-term evaluation of provinces been completed, or is one scheduled? If so, when will the report be tabled in Parliament? Are there escalation mechanisms, or consequence management, if provinces continue to underperform on MTDP assessments and targets? If there is any information available, what are the main findings so far regarding outcomes versus the three strategic priorities of inclusive growth, jobs, reducing poverty, and cost of living? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Deputy Chair, well, I'm still going to repeat what I said. I said there are two things we do. We do assessment every year in terms of annual performance plans that address the MTDP. Let me just explain this. So, we've got the MTDP, which is our five-year plan, that is derived from the National Development

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Plan and also the statement of intent of the parties that are in the Government of National Unity, and provinces, of course.

From there, we expect annual performance plans to be drawn from that particular MTDP. So, the assessment of annual performance plans is aimed at actually putting together information and data that will be needed so that, when we finalise our mid-term report as it relates to the MTDP, it would not only be informed by the assessment that would have been done mid-term, but it would also be informed by the application of all the annual performance plans and strategic plans we already have in place. So, in terms of the assessment of the annual performance plans, it's done annually.

That we have been able to do in every province and also in every department. However, we are still in the process of finalising the mid-term one, which will be a report that will be done once, and, later on, we will be doing the final report of the entire administration. We are still not yet at the end of the mid-term of this administration. It is for this reason that I'm saying the department is in the process of finalising that mid-term report of the MTDP of these five years.

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However, a yearly one is done. An assessment is done yearly, or annually, on the annual performance plans that address what the MTDP has said it expects every year from different departments and from different provinces in order for us to ensure that, at the end of this administration, we are able to report. If you don’t stagger the MTDP into annual performance plans, you will not be able to assess and know when to intervene if there is no performance.

The MTDP informs the annual performance plans that are assessed every year. However, we will now be doing a mid-term one, which will be done once because it is a mid-term. It doesn’t happen every year. It happens in the mid-term of each and every administration. So, that is the response that I would be giving. Once we are done, we would then publish it because it will have to be opened up to the public but most of all to Parliament.

If I may give an example, for annual performance plans as well, as we do the assessment, we also report to Parliament. Annual performance plans, before they are adopted and processed, come to us, and we check if they are in line with the MTDP before they come to Parliament. Where we see there is

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no alignment with the MTDP, we also inform Parliament that the annual performance plan of a particular province or of a particular department is not in line with the MTDP. It is for this reason, again, I say that we have recently entered into an agreement with the Auditor-General as well to say that, when they do their annual assessment, they should check with us whether a certain annual performance plan was actually accredited by ourselves to say that it is in line with the MTDP. Therefore, it will then address the performance of the MTDP that is based on the five years of each and every administration. Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson.

Question 211:

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Deputy Chairperson, indeed, the National State Enterprises Bill is aimed at ensuring that board members are appointed based on merit and, definitely, on independence, but also ensuring that competence is put in place as it relates to the criteria, but also, as I've already said, the merit part of it. But it would also ensure that there will be less interference from outside forces or outside individuals, precisely because everything that would be happening in different SOEs as it relates to board appointments, including the professionalisation of the

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administration of the entities themselves, will be done not only based on government law, but also on company law. So, yes, indeed, it is aimed at doing that.

It is for this reason that we have already put in place a framework that is rationalising all the board appointments so that they can then be seamless, and it would not be done based on any interest, but the interest that is set out by the government itself, and it would also be measurable and based on good practice and good governance. Thank you very much.

Mr F J BADENHORST: Deputy Chair, good afternoon, Minister. Minister, thank you very much for the answer. My follow-up question is: will the appointment criteria and evaluation outcomes be made public so that South Africans can judge whether merit has replaced cadre deployment? Thank you

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Deputy Chairperson, yes, indeed, what will make the entities perform better would be the fact that the National State Enterprises Bill would then now be able to develop a co-ordinated structure that would report directly to Cabinet, but also to Parliament in terms of ensuring that the targets that were set

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out by the government for the entities are publicised so that we can then now be able to have a line of sight, not only as the government, but Parliament as well, and, of course, the public because this would now be operated as a company. The public would also not necessarily have a line of sight but a report in terms of accountability. They would access the report of how the entities of the government, whether they are partly owned by government or not, but they would be able to check and be able to assess or as well the reporting of it and the performance part of it. So, indeed, it would be made public, and it would be accessible not only to Cabinet as I've already said, but to Parliament as well.

So, the entities will not only interact with Parliament when they are reporting as it relates to being called by Parliament or the NCOP, but it would be that when they when every department or the entity itself, the SOE co-ordinating entity is coming to appear in Parliament, it will be able to give the information that is needed but equally so, I've already said, the information will be readily available just like any other company and enterprise in South Africa. Thank you very much.

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Mr B S MABEBO: Thank you, Chairperson, and thank you, Minister, for the straight-to-the-point reply. We know that this is the silly season of elections, and some amongst us will want to grandstand and play to the gallery. Mine is just to appreciate that our government is consistent and deliberate in improving the performance of our strategic assets by employing suitably qualified individuals on the boards and executive management. What consequence management measures are in place where there are deviations in this regard? Thank you very much, Deputy Minister. Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Thank you very much, hon Mabebo. I am not the Deputy Minister. I now hand over to the Minister for a response to that question. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you very much. I think we will take the message to the President that maybe you should be a Deputy Minister. Thank you very much hon, Mabebo. What this entity will be doing, the good part is that it will be setting out targets for state-owned enterprises to be able to meet. As a result, when targets are not met, then intervention will be able to say that certain

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changes have to be applied. So, the reason we are bringing this on board is because we want a seamless operation and a seamless standard and targets that are set to be able to assist us to ensure that our entities are removed, of course, from relying on the fiscus, but they must then now be able to be commercially viable and those that are for service delivery, they must still be able to be viable but also speak to, of course, our developmental agenda. So if an entity is not viable, then an intervention would be meaning that it's either those that are at the helm of driving the entity like CEOs and the board can be removed because targets are not met, or any other intervention that is needed, or if the asset itself is not performing and it does not make business sense to keep it, the decisions would then now be able to be made to ensure that it's either the asset can be sold or then an equity can be sold to those that can be able to come and assist, or a long-term partnership with the private sector can also be sourced for entities to then now be able to operate.

So, consequence management will definitely be there to ensure that the board and the executive do what they need to do because those targets will be set by the entity itself to say that for this year this is how much we are expecting and this

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is how many jobs we are expecting. If this does not happen, therefore, it means consequence management would also be in that performance of that particular annual reporting that we will be receiving from different entities. Thank you very much.

Mr V GERICKE: Good afternoon, Minister, Chairperson and colleagues. Minister, because corruption and a lack of technical expertise continue to stifle the immense developmental potential of our state-owned enterprises, it is critical that executives prioritise national growth over personal profits. Does your department, in collaboration with the National School of Government, mandate specific inaugural induction and ethical leadership programmes for newly appointed SOE boards and chief executive officers to explicitly align their strategic outputs with the country's medium-term development priorities? If so, what are the specific details, duration and enforcement mechanisms of these programmes, and if not, why is such a crucial alignment process being omitted? Thank you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you very much, hon Gericke. If I may remind you, some of the SOEs

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used to belong, of course, to the Department of Public Enterprises and, of course, that department was closed. So, at the moment, SOEs are placed in their line function departments, and the National State Enterprises Bill is still in Parliament to be finalised. Of course, once it is finalised, we are expecting that what is needed for the entities to operate would be done in such a way that we would be able to partner with entities as you have rightly said, such as the School of Government, and any other institutions that are out there because they are already institutions that are training directors and board of directors as it relates to their responsibilities. Of course, consequent management would be there, as I've already said, and we are definitely believing that through this Bill, we would then now be able to do exactly that. So that when we appoint people, of course, first of all we'd have to appoint people that are qualified but when we set standards and we've got a Bill that gives us a line of sight inside those entities, we would then now be able to ensure that those that are appointed are qualified but the issue of corruption is dealt with and if ever there's an intervention of capacitating them, we would then now be able to apply it based on the targets that we would have given them.

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In the meantime, we do not have the Bill. It is still being developed. However, we do monitor the performance of entities that are based in their own departments, and we have already developed, of course, a framework that deals with board appointments while we are still waiting for the Bill to be finalised by Parliament. Thank you very much.

Mr B J FARMER: Deputy Chair, I hope I'm audible.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Yes, you are. Continue.

Mr B J FARMER: How will the Minister ensure that equity considerations remain an important part of the appointment process, especially with the tendency of sidelining brown professionals in these positions? Thank you, Chair.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Deputy Chairperson, the framework that we have put in place and we're finalising, of course, would be to ensure that at least all the demographics of the country will definitely be considered. We would use that, of course, to be able to assess, as it is already happening. I know that in Cabinet, when we appoint

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boards or when boards are brought to us, one of the first things that we ask is the issue of gender, but the issue of the demographics of South Africa altogether, including race, and equally so the issues of people living with disabilities. So that is already in place.

However, the enforcement of it will be strengthened once we have this Bill that would assist us to compel any appointment to be done based on the framework of representativity. So that is definitely going to take place. Thank you very much.

Question 198:

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon Chairperson of the session, I must say that, of course, we haven't done the assessment of municipalities as it relates to the responsibility of the District Development Model, DDM, precisely because this falls under the ambit of the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Cogta. These responsibilities are to consider the DDMs and the One Plans provided for in Regulation 11 of the Regulations Framing the Institutionalisation of the District Development Model, 2024. Our work would be just to ensure the alignment of the One Plans with the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP.

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However, as I've already said, the issue of the DDMs does not fall under our department but more under Cogta.

There is some work that we have already done in terms of ensuring that our monitoring tools assist municipalities. We have been able to identify some of the issues which deal with financial management and basic service delivery. Some of the challenges that we've seen during our synthesis of the evaluation of the DDM speaks to the issues that would then now reflect on the fact that most of our DDMs remain relevant and appropriate.

The issue of fragmentation, however, is still very prevalent and some of these are informed by the planning cycles of municipalities versus the planning cycles of provincial government and national government. So, if those planning cycles were to be co-ordinated properly, then we would know that as we plan, aggregate and co-ordinate budgets and the plans, we do it once and for all.

You are aware that municipal elections happen at a specific time and the assessment and budgeting cycles happen at a specific time. These are not necessarily aligned to the

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planning of national government. As a result, even if national government would have a plan to say that this is the One Plan of the municipality and the One Plan of a certain department, it may not be able to happen at one time or at a time that would speak to the agenda and the planning cycle of a different entity. We have seen this as a challenge that persists as it relates to the silos way of implementing the programmes of government.

That maybe can be done if Parliament ... or there can be a process of aligning legally. Unfortunately, it must be done legally to ensure that the planning cycles of government as a whole are done at a specific time that would allow the One Plans to be implemented together in a co-ordinated way. So, when we assess progress, we'll be able to assess it based on those planning cycles and intervention can be timely, because budget allocations would have been done at the same time for all three spheres of government. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Thank you very much hon Minister for that comprehensive response. I think you are talking directly to the NCOP's Three-Sphere

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Planning programme which we are also implementing and that would help. We now move on to the first follow-up question.

Mr T M KAUNDA: Greetings, Deputy Chair, all the office bearers of the NCOP and delegates, both permanent and special delegates. Good afternoon hon Minister, deputy secretary-general, DSG. Thank you very much for your comprehensive and elaborate response. Before I ask this follow-up question, Chair, allow me once again to wish Banyana-Banyana everything of the best to defeat Morocco on Saturday. Victory is certain!

Hon Minister, as we celebrate Women's Month, thank you very much for availing yourself to answer this question. My follow-up question is whether all provinces have the capacity and willingness to implement and monitor the DDM in each respective province. Where there are capacity constraints, what intervention plans does the government have in place to improve co-ordination in those provinces, especially as you have alluded to the fact that it's important to implement one plan and one budget? Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Thank you very much, hon Kaunda. Yes, we do wish our women every success

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in the Africa Cup of Nations. Hon Minister, your response, please.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Unfortunately, not all provinces have aligned themselves and are implementing the DDM. We still have municipalities in the Western Cape that are not aligning themselves to the DDM and it is creating a challenge in terms of ensuring that as we assess the One Plans that are supposed to help us with service delivery, the issues of intergovernmental relations and intergovernmental performance are adhered to. We also have a number of municipalities that are still struggling, most especially because the DDM is based in districts because it's a district model. So, to align municipalities, or Category B municipalities with Category C municipalities to work together in an aligned way, there is still that challenge.

Some of the functions are not necessarily aligned properly. For example, some functions of basic services are falling in Category C or in the district, whilst in other areas, some are falling in Category B municipality. As a result, the issue of alignment becomes quite important so we are now able to ensure that as we intervene with the directive, because we do have

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ministerial circulars and directives that we give, that are supposed to assist us then to ensure that the One Plans as they are assessed, they are assessed at the right time.

We do believe that once the local government sphere is aligned properly, based on the Act or the Bill that is being put in place, and the reviews of the local government Bill are actually finalised and everything else is in place, enforcement of the One Plans and the DDM would be put in place. Then the intergovernmental way of implementing programmes of government and service delivery would not be a matter of whether there is alignment or not, but it would be an issue of compliance.

Equally so, one of the challenges that we have been facing and seeing is how processes are adopted by councils or different councils in different municipalities. This sometimes creates challenges of expediting some of the delivery projects that can be in place. Maybe a way of intervention that will not only be based on putting a municipality under any administration or under any intervention, but alignment can be made most especially as it relates to compliance with the One Plans and would be able to assist us. It must not only be a

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process of relying on council adopting certain things, but it being put aside as a compliance matter that would only be the responsibility of what has been agreed upon, as it relates to the DDM champions and the DDM structures that are in place. This would be my answer for now. Thank you very much.

Dr I S SCHEURKOGEL: Deputy Chairperson and Minister, President Cyril Ramaphosa personally launched the DDM pilot: OR Tambo District Municipality was on 17 September 2019, eThekwini on 18 October 2019 and Waterberg on 26 November 2019. Yet, eThekwini's debuted book has grown from approximately R5 billion in 2019 to about R20 billion in 2024. Waterberg experienced audit regressions after the pilot launch and OR Tambo was dissolved and placed under provincial intervention in 2021.

After approximately R100 million that was reportedly spent on the One Plans, staffing, administrative frameworks with limited implementation, will you not recommend that replacing the DDM in its current centralised form with targeted support that strengthens autonomous local government, merit-based appointments, enforceable project deadlines and direct

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accountability to residents would not be better? Thank you, Deputy Chair.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: We would leave the changing of the law to the relevant departments. However, I do believe that structures such as the NCOP can play a meaningful role in ensuring that what you have raised takes place. However, I must be clear that the DDM and the One Plans are not a replacement of, for example, annual performance plans, APPs, integrated development plans, IDPs, the MTDP or the National Development Plan, NDP. It is not a replacement for it nor is it a replacement for operations and responsibilities that are guided by different legislations that are governing the local government, as well as the national and provincial governments. We must be clear that the One Plans do not in any way replace, but they seek to co-ordinate the work of the IDPs, MTDP and NDP to seamlessly be able to implement, in a co-ordinated and structured way, programmes that will then speak to service delivery and co-ordinated in such a way that it would be focused on what a specific area needs.

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Indeed, there have been challenges in local government and interventions have been sought, for example, the intervention that we have seen in eThekwini that has currently registered tremendous improvement as it relates to financial management, access to water and other operational modalities. This came through the presidential intervention that included the DDM model, businesses coming on board, different departments coming on board and had the municipality aligning some of their work directly with this particular intervention.

In my view, the DDM and the One Plans are a correct way of co-ordinating and supporting service delivery and intervening in such a way that we would now be able to see an impact, as it relates to the work that is being done. Failure to do so, we would not be able to achieve some of the agendas that would be set out in the NDP. We have been able to see some of these lessons as we do our assessments and face the challenges. Equally, the achievements that we are seeing should now be able to assist us in the next cycle of the NDP, which we will be starting very soon in terms of its implementation of getting the data that we need for us to say that when 2030 arrives, we should at least be able to come up with a NDP and long-term vision that will take us forward in a way that it

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would speak to some of these lessons that we have been able to learn, including probably what the hon member has raised.

I must say, however, I do believe that the DDM as a model is one of the best models if implemented correctly with the respect that it deserves, but equally respecting the spheres of government and how they are designed. As I've already said, eThekwini is a municipality and all the other local governments have got their own legal frameworks, their own operational frameworks. What brings everybody together from national to local government is that when we implement service delivery, it is focused with all of the co-ordinated efforts put in one place, to have an impact that will bring us an outcome that will change society. Thank you very much.

Ms M MAKESINI: Greetings to you, Chair, and the Minister. Minister, in your own assessment, you proved that local government cannot do their work without the other three spheres of government to support one another. We have made an example of the provinces, that they are unwilling to co-operate so that we can achieve this district model plan. What are you doing to make sure we enforce such provinces, municipalities or national government if they are not co-

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operating? They have to co-operate because we need one another. What is the plan to enforce working together so that we can achieve this ideal model, so that our people can get service delivery and the project cannot be blocked, so that people can get services in their respective provinces and municipalities? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you very much, hon Makesini. The unfortunate part is that the spheres of government of South Africa ... it said that government is on a unitary basis. However, when you look at the design part of it, in practice, it’s federal. For example, the President cannot just go to Kgatelopele Municipality and say, this is what you are going to do. It is Treasury and some other sections that would allow some departments to be able to do that. But equally so, it must be done within a certain framework. So, it is either we would change the Constitution so that municipalities and any other government structures can be compelled, without being put under administration, to do certain things, or we would have to develop legislation. If we develop legislation that is in contradiction with the Constitution, we will not be able to achieve what we need.

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Currently, we are still looking at modalities of how do we best ensure that when certain municipalities or government institutions or spheres in a different sphere of government are not doing what is needed, how do we then intervene? Treasury, local government and Cogta are able to intervene as it relates to what the Constitution and the Municipal Finance Management Act, MMFA, are very clear about in terms of financial viability and other fiduciary responsibilities. Unfortunately, currently, the law is stringent as it relates to such intervention that is necessary for us to be able to enforce the One Plan.

We have realised, however, how Treasury has been able to intervene, for example, with the recent allocation of municipalities has assisted in enforcing some of the regulations and processes that were necessary, and the directives that Treasury has been able to give to municipalities but were not adhered to. Maybe such is what we need to look at in order to ensure that programmes of government are adhered to without any impediment that would be put across and would then stop service delivery from being implemented. This One Plan is a process, and it is legislation that is already in place. However, enforcing it would require

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other entities to act if we cannot change the Constitution to allow us to be able to intervene.

I do believe, however, that we are almost getting to the point where we are able to enforce using other measures that may not require the Constitution to be touched. We shouldn't just touch the Constitution willy-nilly. That will create a challenge for our government. Thank you very much.

Ms L P MHLONGO: Thank you, Chair and Minister. I do not have a follow-up question. Thank you, Chair.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Thank you very much, hon Mhlongo. We, therefore, have come to the end of Question 198. We will now move on, Minister, to Question 218 that was asked by hon Ceza. The question relates to delayed municipal infrastructure projects.

Question 218:

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Okay, the infrastructure projects that can be said that they are delayed, I must say that we have been able to assess some of them. It is not all of them that I can say that were delayed.

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However, since the announcement of the President in terms of the state of the nation address, Sona, and the subsequent budgeting processes that were put in place, we have then now been able to check some of the milestones that have been put in place. We have, of course, developed a dashboard ourselves that would assess implementation of infrastructure projects so that we can then now know if ever there a need for an intervention would be before we even reach the end of the target period that we may have put for ourselves.

We have been able to check some of the Sona commitments that were put in place. For example, the farmer production supply unit, of course, that's where managed by the Department of Agriculture as well as the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development. Yes, of course, we've checked about 37 sites. We have seen at least progress. We just have acknowledged that there are some challenges as it relates to training, market access and many other issues that are needed, including the adequate staffing of such institution. We have also looked at the water infrastructure project that we were asked about, and we've been able to see progress in some, in terms of the issue of infrastructure being built.

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However, access is still a challenge and that, of course, is informed in other places by the challenges that the small, medium, and micro enterprises, SMMEs, are facing as it relates to those projects and those that are involved in the project. Obviously, we just must ensure that we deal with that because it then now speak to some of the challenges that have been identified in terms of the red tapes. Therefore, there is a lot that needs to be done because some of the challenges that we are facing, we really do believe that if the red tapes are being removed, we would then now be able to achieve them.

There has been handover in some other infrastructure projects that are already there. What we just need to do is to just ensure that the necessary engineering capacities that are needed are put in place. In terms of shelters, as it relates to Social Development and many other institutions that are being put in place, we have seen constraints, of course, that are informed by resources and that, of course, will be under financial and human capacity. However, we must say that we have seen progress in many other infrastructures that have been built. We must ensure that capacities in relation to human resources is put in place. Thank you very much.

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Mr K CEZA: I thought that I unmuted. Thank you for that, Deputy Chairperson. Thank you, Minister, for that response. Minister, your department claims to use monitoring tools like Operation Siyahlola visits and onsite inspections, yet critical projects like Emakhazeni Wastewater Treatment Works and the Matlosana Housing Development have dragged on for years while communities suffer. Given that monitoring without consequences is useless, when will your department stop producing empty reports and introduce blacklisting frameworks to permanently bar failed contractors? Why have you not criminally prosecuted municipal officials whose deliberate negligence leads to billions of infrastructure grants being returned unspent to the National Treasure? Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Okay, thank you very much. I think my response would still speak to the three spheres of government and how they operate. I think that will assist us a lot to then have an appreciation of the consequence management that can be applied and who applies them and at what level can that be successfully applied. The reports that we generate after assessment, which we call frontline monitoring, ours is called frontline monitoring, has

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assisted not only as it relates to the budgeting as well as the intervention that we've seen, including what institutions such as the Operation Vulindlela have been able to, or the Department of Water and Sanitation have been able to do in terms of intervening, is precisely because of the reports that we give them to say that this was supposed to happen. This was the target that was set. It didn't happen.

As a result, this is the intervention that is needed. We have seen most of the interventions that we have advised and been able to bring in place working in many other areas. For example, the areas that you have spoken about, including many others of them, we've been able to come up with ways to say that some of the infrastructure projects that have been put in place, for example, let me say water. Water infrastructure projects that have been put in place, majority of them would be on surface. You'd find that then the capacity that a specific municipality has is capacity based on a reticulation of water and the system that has been designed to look at water that is under the surface.

Therefore, that speaking to each other becomes a problematic in such a way that the issue of capacity to be able to

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reticulate then becomes a challenge precisely because what was used and the capacity that is in place does not speak to the new intervention. It is for this reason that now the Department of Water and Sanitation has come up with a way to say that there would be some water that would then or some infrastructure projects that have been rolled out. Therefore, some are continuing to be rolled out that would be based on underground. However, equally so, some of the intervention that would be needed for municipalities that they are partnering currently with private sector as well would be on capacity to ensure that municipalities are able to reticulate.

As it relates to blacklisting of service providers that are not being able to do what they need to do, of course, the Auditor-General, AG, works with that in terms of being able to ask questions that are relevant and give a report for a municipality then to be able to do what it needs to do. Therefore, if ever there is any criminal element that has been identified and proven, then we can then now be able to know that an intervention is made. Ours is to assess, bring in the report and be able to bring everyone together that should be able to assist in terms of the intervention. In terms of the punitive or the other measures, that, of course, also lies

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within other institutions, which I have already said, that we have agreed that we need to put everybody together to work as one so that whatever the Auditor-General is doing and whatever it is that we are doing, we can be able to bring them together.

If prosecution then would be needed, we would then now be able to do it in such a way that it would yield the desired result. That would be my answer currently. I do believe that the assessment that we are doing are yielding better results ... Thank you very much. [Time expired.]

Ms K R MOLOKOMME: Thank you, Deputy Chair, and thank you Minister for the response. We appreciate and acknowledge that your department is not primarily responsible for monitoring this incomplete and delayed project, but in line with the departments in conjunction with provinces. Minister, what plans are there in line with the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP, to improve the technical capacity that you have spoken about in finance and project management and other departments in provinces and in municipalities to ensure that we don’t continue to witness the incomplete and or the delays of the project? Thank you, Deputy Chair.

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The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you very much for that follow-up question. Well, through the MTDP, we have placed Infrastructure South Africa, ISA, and a new entity that have been developed in National Treasury that deals with infrastructure project because we've realised that some of the challenges that we are facing are not necessarily only because of corruption, but they are also informed by project preparation. If you don't deal with project preparation from the inception, you may then now open up for corruption, but equally so for a wasteful expenditure that may go to areas that were not necessary precisely because the plans would not speak to the kind of work that is to be done.

Therefore, because of that, as I've already said, the institutions that are already there, the one that is in the National Treasury and the one that is in the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure would then now be intervening directly to ensure that the issues of infrastructure as they are being implemented, they will be supported with relevant capacity that is needed. We have already seen that being done in many other areas, including some of the infrastructure projects that are happening in provinces and not only in municipalities, but equally so the Department of National

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Treasury, because the MTDP, remember that it is not just, it doesn't belong to us. We are co-ordinating, we plan for the country, and we then now allow departments to be able to implement that which we have been able to plan.

The Department of Treasury had gone out using, of course, the Accountant-General to then now go and assess the capacity that is in different municipalities as it relates to the chief financial officers, CFOs. They are now in the process of setting out standards of what is the capacity that is needed. We already know what the capacity is needed. However, the standards of appointing CFOs would then now also include them being consulted and to ensure that when a CFO is appointed, it is not just a process of, let me not say Cabinet, but of counsel, but it will also need concurrent that would allow them as a National Treasury to say that this person qualifies or not.

Therefore, those are some of the modalities that are put in place to ensure that the capacity that we need to be able to discharge some of these responsibilities actually is concurred, but it is also based on the standards that are put

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in place and the standards that are set for such programmes to be able to be successful. Thank you very much.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon Minister, for a comprehensive answer which you have just provided. Good afternoon, delegates. The next follow-up question will come from hon M S Boshoff from Mpumalanga. Over to you, ma'am.

Ms H S BOSHOFF: Thank you very much. I'm not M S, I'm H S. Good afternoon, Minister. Minister, with respect, Thaba Chweu is no longer a municipality in need of monitoring. It is a municipality in need of intervention. Does your department have any real enforcement powers or is it limited to observing a municipality collapsed? At what point does your department conclude that repeated oversight without decisive action has become a failure of governance, leaving ... [Inaudible.] ... us. Thank you, House Chair.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you very much for that question. As I've already said, remember that whatever implementation that is needed in terms of intervention must be in line with the Constitution. I think

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that in some of my answers I've already alluded to the fact that we've got what is called the spheres of government, not the tiers of government. As a result, when an intervention is done, it will be based on the set principles in the Constitution itself and in other legislation that are governing local government. Therefore, you cannot just stand up and say, oh, you did not build a road, therefore we are removing the council.

The Constitution is very clear in terms of how to intervene, when to intervene, and how to ensure that if there is incapacity to be able to deliver services, most especially basic services, including financial management, there is a specific department that is assigned to do that. Ours, it would be to forever make an assessment, and after making an assessment, go to relevant institutions, and also to ensure that National Treasury and local government departments are aware, and we would then now be able to co-ordinate and ensure that when interventions are made, we can be able to support.

However, as I've already said, unfortunately, everything must be done within the prescript of the law and the legal framework that we have, as prescribed by the Constitution,

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because we don't want to be constitutional delinquencies. We'll have to be done through Constitution, because if you just go in and intervene without having to follow what the law says, then the legal ramification, part of it, will be dire to government precisely because the judiciary also plays a role to intervene and to mediate where necessary, and to also impose some of the decisions that are made or are needed for certain things to be done legally so.

Therefore, if ever things must be changed in terms of how intervention is made, it means that, as I've already said, legislation such as the ... and I like how they call it in Afrikaans ...

Afrikaans:

... die Grondwet ...

English:

... the Constitution, the basic legislation that we have, will have to be changed. However, we cannot just change the legislation willy-nilly just to be able to deal with certain things. We agree that, indeed, where there are challenges such as the municipality of Thaba Chweu that we have just spoken

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about, departments that are necessary and are legislated to intervene will have to do so. However, they can only do so when and in a way that legislation permits them to do so. Thank you very much.

Mr M M PETER: Good day, House Chair. Am I audible, House Chair?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Yes, hon Matthewis.

Mr M M PETER: Thank you so much, hon House Chair. Good day, hon Minister. Hon Minister, in reference to the Auditor-General reported on the audit outcomes of local government for the 2024 and 2025 financial year, that 129 municipality infrastructure projects were audited. Of that, 78% had material findings, with projects delayed by an average of 25 months. The Auditor-General identified the same weaknesses in municipal infrastructure delivery after every report, yet communities continue to experience the same failures.

Has the department considered prevention measures recommended to the municipalities, ensure that municipalities can prevent failures from happening when it comes to projects that are

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due? What accountability measures has the department taken against contractors and project leaders of unfinished projects, municipalities who repeatedly fail to deliver infrastructure projects despite receiving technical support instead of repeating receiving the projects? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you very much. I've already alluded to the fact that obviously, National Treasury are the ones that would be having the powers to take a certain decision as it relates to the allocation of budget and noncompliance as it relates to the implementation of certain projects based on the budget that has been given. As a result, there is, of course, as you have already seen, the improvement that we're seeing is that one, you're seeing what National Treasury have been able to do currently to withhold some of the funds so that they can then now be able to say, before we give you funds to continue, even if this fund is necessary, you will have to show us exactly how you will remedy what we've been able to identify as a challenge that has made the municipality not to be able to stick to its commitment.

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That is one of the things or the mechanisms that have been put in place to force municipalities and other entities to then now stick to their commitments on time, and to ensure that compliance is done, and agreements and directives from a national government is adhered to. We will be seeing many of that kind of intervention being put in place so that we can then now be able to ensure that whatever it is that needs to be done, compliance is done. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, because they are the ones that are working directly with construction and all those kinds of companies, is working on that modality.

We have been able to see some of big construction companies being blacklisted precisely because of such things such as this one. The modality that just needs to be enforced would be how to allow intervention without breaking the law from ISA to take over some of those projects using the co-ordination that we will be bringing in place to allow the Department of National Treasury to, within the prescripts of the law, ensure that they allow an intervention to be done by ISA and any other entity that is in place of infrastructure to be able to take over some of the projects in municipalities.

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Therefore, those are some of the interventions that have been put in place. As I've already said, in terms of the municipalities paying their debts, we have seen it work and we really do believe that the withholding of funds is one of the ways that can be able to assist us to intervene, especially as it relates to infrastructure development. Thank you very much.

Question 220:

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you very much for this one, and I must say that we truly appreciate the programmes, uh ... the questions that assist us to also not only look at what we do, but also what can be done differently, because when you ask many questions and especially when you bring a follow-up question, that assists us a lot. Of course, the National Planning Commission sat and convened what we call the National State of Service Delivery Dialogue and that assisted us to assess the underlying causes of persistent service delivery challenges across the country.

Based on the outcome of the dialogue, we have now been able to produce an advisory that we have taken to Cabinet and we are following up in terms of our interaction with different departments. That, as I've already said, it is almost the

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same. It will be as if I'm a broken record. That would be speaking to strengthening of state capacity through the professionalisation of public service, as well as improving the technical capacity that is needed and ensure that the appointment of different positions must then be made on merit.

Of course, the advisory also recommended that targeted support for distressed municipalities to improve infrastructure delivery and strengthen co-ordination across spheres must also be implemented. But in addition, it also called for co-ordinated intervention, such as the one that the President is now leading.

We are happy because it is led by the President himself and he has included businesses. He has also included the Department of Water and Sanitation and the Department of Human Settlements. That is called the National Water Action Plan to address some of these critical issues of water and sanitation that we have been able to see.

I do believe that very soon, as the President reports and as he does his state of the nation address, Sona, and in other platforms, we will now be able to get a progress report as it

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relates to some of these bottlenecks that have been unblocked as it relates to the intervention that came based on the advisory that we have put in place. You have already seen that there has been a roll-out, as I've already said, of some of the projects of water schemes in different areas, most especially in what we would call townships and rural areas. We have realised that just putting an infrastructure in place, equally so, does not assist.

We equally so have to ensure that safety is also brought in place. For example, we went to do an assessment of an infrastructure that was in one of the rural areas around Mthatha municipality. We found that three days before we came, there has been an infrastructure that was put in place, but because the grid is still a problem, the municipality was able to procure a generator.

Three days before we arrived, the generator was stolen. As a result, it then created an issue that there is infrastructure, but access is a problem. It is for this reason that we then said to ourselves, part of the things that we need to ensure is that the police and the intelligence, including the

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Department of Electricity, must also play a meaningful role in the plan as we put infrastructure in place.

We will forever find ourselves putting infrastructure in place but continue to have the inability to reticulate or have access to water and sanitation and some of those things that were actually aimed for by that particular infrastructure. So, those are some of the things that we really do believe that through the advisories and strengthening of the go-to-market, GDM, will assist to be able to ensure that access to service delivery is actually successful, because infrastructure is already in place.

However, access to it remains a problem and that is informed by a myriad of issues, including the issues of criminality and other elements. Thank you very much.

Ms L P MHLONGO: Thank you hon Minister for your response. Minister, in the light of the continued collapse of service delivery in the townships and rural communities, can the department provide the exact number of the National Development Plan, NDP, projects that have been classified as delayed, abandoned or incomplete over the past five years,

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broken down by province? Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Chair.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Okay, thank you very much. I do not have that information with me currently. However, we do have a report, which is called a development indicator report that gives you each and every target that was set out by the NDP and what have been achieved.

However, as it relates to the annual performance plan and including some of the plans of municipalities, that can actually also be sought for you. However, our development indicators that we produce each and every year can give you that particular answer in detail as it relates to the numbers that are needed and as requested by the hon member. I can be able to arrange that you do get it, but I must say, it is already available on our systems as it relates to the information that is needed. Thank you very much.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon Minister. I'm sure that we are getting to a capable state now.

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Mr T M KAUNDA: The follow-up question directed to the hon Minister is, in its diagnostic overview, the advisory on the state of service delivery mentions, among others, that political instability in hung councils and coalitions, governments, leads to administrative discontinuity and policy paralysis.

What policy or legislative measures has the government taken to ensure that governance and service delivery is not hampered or constrained by political mechanisation or, if this will be covered by the Coalition Bill? Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you very much, hon Kaunda. The Coalition Bill will cover all that. And, there has been a promise by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs that by the time we finish with this financial year, including the end of the administration, the Sixth administration of local government, or I think it’s the fifth, I’m not sure, but the administration of local government comes to an end and we start with a new one, the Bill should at least, be finalised and be having a legislation framework that would assist us to put in relevant structures.

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That would then not depend only on agreement or brothers or sisters agreement, but on legislation in terms of how allocations of seats are done in a hung municipality and who will be expected to do certain things. Indeed, these hung municipalities have actually created a lot of instability because when there is political instability, it has an effect on administration.

It affects administration in two ways. Firstly, decisions that are supposed to be taken are not sometimes taken on time as a result, for example, if a budget cannot be passed, it means a municipality cannot be able to operate meaningfully. You cannot expect a municipality to operate on a budget that is unfunded or if the budget is not approved, then it means that there is no budget.

Secondly, equally so, we have also been able to assess and see that some elements of criminality and corruption by officials of municipalities does crop up because there is lack of stability as it relates to a certain section of the structures and leadership that is supposed to be done by politicians. Being absent or being changed over time and within a short

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period of time as a result, not allowing a progression and sustainability to actually be registered.

So, that Bill will definitely come in handy to assist us as it relates to stability of municipalities and local governments in general. Thank you very much.

Mr N H PIENAAR: Minister, the NDP deadline is 2030 and the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP, for 2024 until 2029 is the final five-year implementation plan before the deadline.

Can you honestly tell this House that South Africa remains on track to achieve the NDP's measurable targets? And will you table before your next annual appearance a target-by-target gap analysis showing the baseline current performance, 2030 targets, responsible department, corrective action and deadlines? Thank you, Chair.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: If you can remember, the NDP is not based on departments, but it is a plan and a vision of government of the kind of South Africa that we want to live in. It is for this reason that it would set out targets to say that we will grow the economy, we

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should be growing the economy by 6% and we should be able to do that if we are able to ensure that the logistics are working and so forth and so on.

Then, that cannot be a responsibility of a specific department, but it would then be the responsibility of the entire government because the economy is influenced by all departments working together and ensuring that we meet what we need to meet. It says that by 2030, we should then be able to see 10% of expenditure of infrastructure coming from government and the rest coming from a public or private partnership. Our check and our assessment would not say that department did not do this, that department did not do that.

However, it would then now be able to say, is there legislation in place that has actually given an enabling environment for us to be able to achieve this? Who have adhered to this and who haven't been able to adhere to that? If I may be able to take you back, we have recently produced an assessment and a review of the NDP itself where we've been able to set out exactly where we are as it relates to the targets that we have set out for ourselves.

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We had, of course, said that each and every year or annually, we should be able to grow the economy by 6%, but we haven't been able to do that and, that speaks across the entire government. Ours would be able to say, why hasn't that happened? What had given influence to that not happening and what then now becomes a realistic approach and intervention that will be needed by government?

Some of the things that we've been able to raise through our review and we've called them call to action, was actually what is happening, the capacity for the state to open up for private partnership to come in place such as what has happened in Eskom, what is currently happening in Transnet and we're green shoots, we are seeing progress being made based on such things.

By the time 2030 comes, in fact, by the end of this year, we would be able to give a report. We are receiving a report from the outgoing National Planning Commission and we will be putting a new commission that will start with development of the next NDP so that by the time we give a report of the 2012 NDP that was put in place by 2029 before 2030, we would have been able to tell you that this is the replacement and the

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replacement comes because this assessment was done on the targets that were put in place and this hasn't been achieved because of this and this was the intervention.

I must be able to mention this, and I hope I won't take so much of our time. Almost 40% of the targets have been met, of course 60% is a lot, but I must be able to also mention that when we did an assessment with the United Nations, UN, about the sustainable development goals, SDGs, of the UN as well, the SDGs of the UN has also only been able to achieve 12%. We then realised that maybe the challenge is that we don't cross some of the targets that were put in place but we've got too many targets as well. As a result, we need to have fewer priorities that we can be able to achieve and measure and intervene.

So, that's all I can say at the current moment, but definitely a report would be given based on the targets that have been put in place and the sectors that have performed and the sectors that did not perform.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Minister, on the note of the report, your time has expired.

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The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Okay, thank you.

Ms A MATSHOBENI: Greetings to the hon Minister and to the hon members. Minister, your department explicitly admits that monitoring frameworks like the national evaluation system are failing to translate into effective consequence management because line function departments regularly ignore your recommendations.

Given that townships and rural communities continue to battle under the weight of hundreds of abandoned half built water and housing projects, when will the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation stop acting as a passive spectator that simply reports on failure? And, what draft legislation are you introducing to grant your department direct statutory powers to criminal charged accounting officers and block the budgets of national and provincial departments that abhor critical public infrastructure? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Thank you very much, hon member. Obviously, the National Treasury have already given. We are already in the process of our own White

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Paper of the legislation. However, we do operate from the executive authority of the President, as well as some of the sections that are stipulated in the Constitution in terms of the powers and function of the President.

However, as I've already said, we have entered into an agreement and we're continuing to ensure that we strengthen our ways of enforcing some of the interventions that are needed. Some of the interventions that the hon member has mentioned, don't fall under us. The National Treasury, for example, is the only one that can stop a budget from being allocated. We cannot do that because that is not in the purview of our own responsibilities, including our own powers and functions.

However, as I've already said, through the collaboration with the National Treasury and what has happened recently in terms of the National Treasury stopping some of the allocation, that is a tool that we will be, of course, in partnership with Treasury working on as it relates to some of these processes. Secondly, I've also been able to just say that through the collaboration with the Auditor-General, the Auditor-General and ourselves have agreed that if we don't give a certain

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letter to certain municipalities or departments in terms of them being able to account properly but also adhere to some of the directives that were given, they should then be findings on them as it relates to the Auditor-General's outcome of the reports that they are given. And that has happened this year.

Many departments were found wanting, they were woken up with a rude awakening that said that you haven't been able to do what the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation said you must do in terms of your plan. Therefore, the reason that you couldn't reach this is because you did not adhere to the directive. As a result, go back to the department, until the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation give you a letter that, indeed, you have been able to meet some of the directive that they've given, then, they will be found wanting in terms of the report of the Auditor-General.

We have found that being able to assist us to actually improve while we are still developing our own legislation, to improve in enforcing the directives that we give to different departments. We are actually also finalising a process of allowing Cabinet to give us permission to actually issue out a certificate that should go to Parliament to say that if this

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certificate hasn't been given to a specific department, we do expect that Parliament must not approve an annual performance plan, APP, because it will be an APP that will not speak to the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP. Equally so, in the previous assessment of the previous APP, certain things were not done.

So, such collaboration assists us to say that when we've a report, enforcement must be done. If an enforcement is not done, other processes of government, because we are one government, will then have to take effect, such as the Auditor-General's report or some allocation that is done by the National Treasury. So, our reports assist and they are working currently precisely because of co-ordination mechanisms that we have been able to put in place.

We will be coming to Parliament very soon, including NCOP, to actually play their role as well in terms of making sure that they do not accept anything that does not have a certificate that comes from our department. Thank you very much.

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The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: I think it's almost going to be the same as the one that I've just spoken about in terms of some of the challenges that we have been able to see as it relates to the implementation of identified catalytic projects that we have seen in different areas.

Of course, I've already spoken about the monitored sites, for example about the departments of Agriculture and Land, and most of the challenges that we have seen is ... the issue of funding, which of course everybody is experiencing. However, in the main ... also the time ... of the red tape which does not allow small, medium and micro enterprises, SMMEs, to actually be paid on time, and if they are not paid on time they are unable to actually do what they need to do.

Equally so, we have also seen that the staffing, the human resources, is actually a challenge as well. If we would ever need, for example 10 inspectors — I'm just giving you an example — or 10 people to operate and we only get one, it would mean that what is needed by the nine others would actually suffer. So, those are some of the issues that we have

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been able to get as it relates to the assessment that we have made.

Equally so is the training that is needed. Training is done in terms of some of the projects that are needed, but the issue of market access remains an issue that we really do believe needs to be looked at, most especially as it relates to agriculture and many other issues.

During our monitoring we have monitored the 29 Welisizwe Bridges project as well. That of course was done by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, together with the SA National Defence Force, SANDF.

There have been successes of course. However, there have been challenges here and there as it relates to the quality of the bridges, but in particular the accessibility of them in ... time.

As a result, we do believe that as the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, through monitoring and the content report that we have, we will have to ensure that Infrastructure SA, ISA ... the Department of Public Works and

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Infrastructure will have to ensure that ISA is at the centre of each and everything that they do, because what we need the most is the quality that is needed in terms of the engineering and other measures that would allow our infrastructure to have longevity.

Equally so, they must be finished on time, because if they are not finished on time, accessibility remains a challenge that we will always have to talk about as we speak about the issues of infrastructure development.

In terms of how it relates to gender-based violence, GBV, and shelters, I think I've already spoken to that and the issue of substance abuse. The challenge that we continue to see will always be highlighted by issues such as the aftercare that would be needed.

As a result, capacity in terms of social workers and the number of social workers that are needed would remain a problem. We would have infrastructure programmes that we put in place, but the sustainability of it becomes a challenge, precisely because the capacity that is needed to run such projects is not enough.

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Infrastructure is done. However, in our view it's not always the best in such a ... precisely because that which is needed to operate is not necessarily being done in such a way that it would bring the impact that is needed in terms of access. You can have infrastructure, but if access to it is not meaningful, then it will look as if the work that was supposed to have been done was not done correctly. Thank you very much.

Mr B S MABEBO: Minister, let me zoom in on one aspect, if I may. ... the vandalism of infrastructure, and whether law enforcement is succeeding in arresting and successfully prosecuting the culprits of this crime, as it severely affects the delivery of basic services to our people. Thank you very much, Minister. Over to you, Deputy Minister. I mean Minister. My apologies. [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): You are not chairing this session. Hon Mabebo, you cannot refer to the Minister. You must refer to me.

Mr B S MABEBO: Oh, thank you, House Chair. Over to you, House Chair.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): All right, thank you. Over to you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: The issue of the vandalism of infrastructure has been at the core of the issue of access, as I've already spoken about. I'll still give the example that I gave of when we went to Mthatha.

You know, it was quite concerning to see that you would go to a place that is very remote, but you would then have an element of organised crime, where men with big rifles would come to a community and steal such infrastructure.

Therefore, it means that the issue of the police must now work together with intelligence so that we are able to arrest this challenge holistically, because if it is an issue of organised crime, we're going to have a situation where we would always come in and arrest, but because it is organised crime the problem still persists.

However, equally so in other areas, for example where the President had gone in Tshwane, we saw the local people organising themselves, because government does give

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municipalities a community safety forum allocation. It may not be much, but it is there so that community safety forums can be there, working together with the community police forums to be able to protect their own infrastructure.

Prosecution of course still remains a challenge, because the law is the law. You can arrest people, but you would then have to rely on the case and of course the courts to play together.

However, I must say that we have seen the issue of organised crime being a very big issue, which would require our intelligence services to come on board to be able to assist us with this.

However, in other areas I must say we've seen a lot being done as it relates to communities — utilising the funds that are given to municipalities in partnership with business as well — coming together to protect the infrastructure.

We would like to see much more of that happening and we would actually like to ensure that in the next coming administration of local government that is actually put as one of the

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criteria that would assist municipalities to be able to achieve some of their own programmes.

This means that we would expect that some of the areas and targets that are put in place as it relates to the success of integrated development plans, IDPs, should also include the issue of community safety forums. That would assist us to collect information that would assist us in knowing who is doing what and why this is happening, so that we don't only talk about prosecution, but we also speak about visible policing that would prevent such issues of vandalism from actually taking place.

Lastly, as it relates to water, the Department of Water would also put ... a regulation that would say no, we should not rely on the outsourcing of water tankers, because that is also another thing that informs the issue of vandalism, so that people can then be able to outsource water tankering.

Municipalities must use the money of outsourcing to buy their water tankers, so that if there is a challenge the municipality itself must have capacity.

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Some of the things that we have said and that we have advised is to let districts have shared services, especially on water tankering, so that all municipalities can be able to have water services that are shared, and money for infrastructure can be utilised meaningfully.

So, those are some of the things that have been put in place, and which we have advised and are monitoring to ensure that they are ... [Inaudible.] Thank you very much.

Mr F J BADENHORST: Minister, given that infrastructure only creates jobs when projects are delivered on time and are properly maintained, will you support greater private-sector participation and partnerships with credible municipalities to accelerate delivery where government capacity has demonstrably failed? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon Badenhorst, you have nailed it. In terms of infrastructure development, you cannot achieve success without private partnership, and the National Treasury has already issued a regulation that would allow municipalities and all the other institutions of government to be able to do public-private

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partnerships, PPPs, that would be able to speak to that, because infrastructure needs business. It is labour-intensive, but it also needs a lot of capital for it to be successful.

Equally so, not all municipalities have the engineering capacity, for example to be able to achieve certain programmes. For example, let me give an example about the N4 on the side of Mpumalanga and Gauteng. We gave a concession for the N4 to be built. It is now built and it is transferred back to government. So, such kind of concessions are also going to assist us to do what we need to.

In Mbombela for example there is a concession that has been given to the private sector to work together with the municipality on water. We have seen collections happening and sustainability in terms of water also being put in place. Our indigent are also serviced. So, it doesn’t only mean that it will be expensive, because sometimes people think when you bring in the private sector it will mean that it will be expensive.

You don’t have to give out equity or sell certain jobs that are supposed to be done by government, but you can only have a

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concession that would capacitate government and bring the necessary resources to be able to achieve such.

I would agree with you that private-sector participation is necessary for infrastructure development, if not the only thing that would assist us as government to achieve our goals. Thank you very much.

Ms M MAKESINI: Chair, greetings to the Minister, the former mayor. Minister, while your department boasts about the record of the breaking of the one trillion infrastructure budget and new bodies like the National Water Crisis Committee, the reality on the ground in our townships is that we don’t see this investment so that they can give the people the services.

Do you really think that the investment that we have celebrated ... When you go onto the ground do you see any tangible service delivery that amounts to the one trillion that the department has invested, especially in infrastructure and the issue of the water crisis in the country?

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon Makesini, I think what we have seen ... Yes, there is almost

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... Remember that the one trillion was an infrastructure budget by Treasury. It's not for water, but there is of course an allocation for water and other infrastructure projects in it. As we have already said, the infrastructure there is built but reticulation is a problem. You can have taps, you can have dams, but if water is not coming out then it's a challenge.

We then went to do an assessment of what then became the challenge, because the department can account for the infrastructure that is necessary. One, we have spoken about the issue of reticulation and the capacity of municipalities to be able to reticulate.

For example there is a dam that was built in one area in the Sekhukhune District in Limpopo where I come from. That infrastructure dam has been there. Everything is there. We have tried to put in systems to be able to maintain the dam itself.

However, the capacity of the municipality to reticulate by having the necessary engineers remains a challenge. It is for this reason that we are saying that the issue of capacity must be put in place, because when you just invest in

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infrastructure but you don’t have human resources to actually operate it, it is going to be ... it’s not sustainable. You will have beautiful infrastructure there, but the taps will still be dry.

It is for this reason that we say that the issue of capacity is what is needed. This is where the private sector plays a meaningful role in terms of partnership. We definitely know that through concessions we would then be able to deal with the issue of reticulation and actually ensure that the end user, which is me and any other community member, gets water at the end of the day.

A second thing again is the issue of vandalism. I’ve spoken about vandalism. It was so sad. I gave an example of going to an area ... because there is no grid at the moment. We still have to build a grid and get a connection that is sustainable.

The department budgeted and gave generators that cost millions and millions of rand. Because of organised crime, people with rifles came and took that which was put in place. So the issue of vandalism and the issue of organised crime is also another issue that we have to speak to.

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The infrastructure is there, but all the apparatus that is supposed to work together, the apparatus that is supposed to make the end user get water at the end of the day ... finds that criminality then becomes a challenge as it relates to that.

So, those are some of the issues that we have put in place, including the capacity that is needed to deal with underground water as opposed to only dealing with surface water, where at the moment we don’t have the necessary capacity to actually reticulate successfully.

However, it is necessary that we continue to build dams, but we must also build the capacity that is needed. It is for this reason that the Department of Higher Education will have to ensure that as they bring the hybrid model of utilising sector education and training authorities, Setas, they also look at this capacity in different municipalities. Thank you very much.

Mr H J VAN DEN BERG: Chair, being from Sol Plaatje in Kimberley, with a rather large water infrastructure project going, what concrete progress has been made in the

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establishment and operationalisation of the National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency, and when is it expected to actively begin managing and mobilising funding for major water projects? And, will the Minister commit to providing this House with a quarterly dashboard or scorecard on the top 20 catalytic projects, showing budget spent, physical progress, jobs created and outstanding risks? I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Minister, although you know that you are only obliged to answer one question, for the sake of clarity you can go to the other questions raised. Over to you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: I will do that because I cut my teeth in local government in the Northern Cape. So, I will just oblige because of that. I'm just joking. Of course, I'm always ready to.

The institution ... the state-owned enterprise, SOE, is already in place. The mobilisation of funds, of course through the leadership of the President, is also already ongoing. As I've said, we have already developed a dashboard. Maybe what we will have to do is just to capacitate it for it to be able

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to speak to some of the issues that you have been able to raise because the dashboard assists us precisely in saying this is the money that was put in place. This will probably ... let me say, if we've got R20 000 but we need R100 000, it would say that this is how much we'll need and these are the specific places where some of this partnerships can actually be brought in place.

The President has been doing very well as it relates to that. You have seen that we are mobilising resources, not only domestically, but we are also going internationally to mobilise resources for infrastructure projects, more especially as it relates to electricity and water. Coming from Sol Plaatje, we will definitely see some of these changes being implemented accordingly.

At the moment, I cannot give you direct responses as it relates to the percentages of how far we are, but the SOE is already in place. As I've said, the President has already put assistance in place to mobilise the resources and investment.

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We have seen institutions in the private sector such as BlackRock and many others coming on board, having said that they want to play a part. They are interested.

Standard Bank and many other banks have said they are interested in partnering with us, of course to utilise the team that the President has put in place, including the SOE as well, to ensure that implementation takes place.

Of course, we will be aligning the legislation as well, to ensure that we can deal directly with some of the infrastructure projects, not only on infrastructure itself, but also in terms of articulation.

That’s all I can say for now, but I can definitely assure you that we will work on our dashboard so that it’s able to speak to the reporting aspects that you have spoken about which can be necessary for legislators to be able to use as they do their reporting and accounting to their own constituencies. Thank you very much.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon Minister, for answering all these questions which were put to

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you. Hon delegates, we have come to the end of questions to the Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. I would like to thank the hon Minister in fulfilling her constitutional duty by availing herself to answer the questions.

I now call on the Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities to respond to Question 201 asked by hon D W Fienies, a delegate from the Northern Cape. The question is around the oversight and strategic direction of the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA. Over to you, Minister Chikunga.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): I now call on the Minister of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities to respond to Question 201, asked by hon D W Fienies, a delegate from the Northern Cape. The question is around the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA oversight and strategic direction. Over to you, Minister Chikunga. Is she on the platform? Is the Minister of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities on the platform? Table staff, can you help us? Table staff? Definitely, this one is not the Minister, it is hon Van Den Berg.

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Is the Minister of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities on the platform? Hon Minister, will you please unmute yourself. Can someone give her a call please. We cannot have this. Hon Chikunga, are you on the platform? Can you hear us?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: House Chair, she was on the platform. We are trying to find out what could be the reason.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): All right.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Thank you, House Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Can you give her a direct call, please.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: House Chair, she is on the platform. Just give her two minutes.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): All right. Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. You are really whipping your House. Hon Chief Whip, two minutes is definitely gone now.

Mr B J FARMER: Hello, Chairperson.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Farmer, how are you?

Mr B J FARMER: I’m surviving my leader, I’m surviving. I’m still alive.

Mr M K MONTWEDI: Chairperson, on a point of order.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Who’s that? You must be ... [Inaudible.] What is your point of order?

Mr M K MONTWEDI: It’s me. Point of order, Chairperson

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Who’s you? Who are you?

Mr M K MONTWEDI: You must read it on the screen there.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): I don’t see your name here.

Mr M K MONTWEDI: Chairperson, but it’s a ... I want to raise ... [Interjections.]

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Mr M FENI: [Inaudible] ... it’s you. We want to see you with your point of order.

Mrs M B NDLANGISA-NODADA: Who is me? Who is me?

Mr M K MONTWEDI: I want to raise a ... [Interjections.]

Mr M FENI: We want to see you.

Mr M K MONTWEDI: I want to raise a concern ... [Interjections.]

An HON MENBER: Are you not wearing a red shirt?

Mr M FENI: Can we see you, hon Montwedi please.

Mrs M B NDLANGISA-NODADA: There is no me in this House.

Mr M FENI: You see, Chair? What is this now? What is this?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Montwedi ... [Interjections.]

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Mr M FENI: What is that?

Mr M K MONTWEDI: Chair, on a serious note, we are not playing here.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): On what Rule are you rising hon Montwedi?

Mr M K MONTWEDI: I'm rising in terms of Rule 73, Chair. It can't be that the Minister is aware that she must come, but ... [Interjections]

Mr M FENI: But you are not properly dressed, we can't see you.

Mr M K MONTWEDI: ... and then we have to wait for her. It can't be. That is not in order. [Interjections.]

Mr M FENI: Chair, he is not properly dressed. He cannot be allowed to speak.

Mr M K MONTWEDI: The Minister must be reprimanded, Chair. I am not playing ... [Interjections.]

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Mr M FENI: No, we must start with you. We must start with you. You're not properly dressed. We must start with you.

Mr B J FARMER: Can Mr Montwedi just shut up man.

Mr M FENI: No man, you can't address us.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): The House is still in session, please. I've not yet even responded to the point of order.

Mr M FENI: That point of order is out of order.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Montwedi is raising a valid point. We cannot have this situation. I think this issue of questions this afternoon was arranged a long time ago. Then it is worse if the Minister is on the platform. But let us wait for her so that we can hear what the challenge might be. Let us not just rush. Let us wait for her. Hon Chief Whip, any luck?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: No, no, House Chair, we are in touch with the Ministry.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): What's the problem?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Obviously, I think she's responding to something unexpected. So, I think that's why we are appealing that we give her an opportunity to come back.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): No, thank you, hon Mmoiemang. I think let us take the advice from the Chief Whip. Let's take the advice from the Chief Whip. It's now more than five minutes, Chief Whip. Yes. Raise your hand so that we can see.

Mr M FENI: Sorry Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Raise your hand so that we can see you.

Mr M FENI: Chair, it's Hon Feni here. I thought you're going to address the issue of hon Montwedi, of not properly dressing for the House. Hence, I was saying his point of order was out of order because he is not ready to be here in the House. He must show respect to this House. Thank you, Chair.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): I think the point of which is raised by hon Feni is valid. Usually when we address the House, we must just show, open the video for a few minutes so that we can see whether it is not AI which is addressing us. But I think that point has passed now.

The next one who's going to speak must just show the face as hon Feni has shown himself up. You can see the way he's dressed that he's ready to go to the High Court this afternoon.

Mr M FENI: For an urgent application.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Adv Phindela, what is it you are having? What's the problem? Because I think that they should have informed the office if there was going to be any challenge. This cannot be right.

Mr K CEZA: This is causing you unnecessary panic now as the Chair. You are sitting there, you know, not well informed about what's ...

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): I think that from the response that I am getting here, we must give her some time now because it’s something beyond her control, although I cannot disclose it here. Let us give her some time. She can come back; it’s a serious issue.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Hon House Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Yes, Chief Whip.
The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: I want to propose that we break just for five to 10 minutes. My humble apologies ...
[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Alright hon Chief Whip, I think you are correct. The time now is 16:16. Let’s come back at 16:30. Thank you.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Thank you Chair.

Adv Inkosi M NONKONYANA: Thank you Chair.

The HON MEMBERS: Thank you Chair, you will see us at 16:30.

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BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT 16:16 AND RESUMED AT 16:30

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon delegates, the time is exactly ... [Interjections.] Hon delegates, the time is exactly 16:30. I don’t know whether the Minister will be able to continue the session, because it looks like she is not okay. Table staff? The message I got earlier is that she is not okay, but we don’t know whether she has improved.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: House Chair, she is okay. She is back. She is changing the gadget, because I think the one she is using now is the one that is ... We are in touch with her. She is changing the gadget.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Alright. Thank you. She will indicate when she is ready, because I was about to adjourn the session.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Yes, yes. I fully understand, as you communicated. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): No. Alright. Hon delegates, as we have dealt with the Minister ... Let’s wait

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for her. Minister, indicate when you are ready. Minister, we can see you. You can ...

Question 201:

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Chairperson, we are ready.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Alright. Can you turn off the video? Just go straight to the question.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Are you okay, Minister?

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: [Inaudible.] Chairperson, let me apologise sincerely for the delay and the challenge. I am okay, but we are not. The Department of Women continues to strengthen its oversight of the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA, to ensure that the agency’s programmes contribute meaningfully to reducing youth unemployment. In this regard, the Minister and the executive authority of the NYDA signed a shareholder

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performance agreement, which clearly defines the facilitative role of the executive authority, and the relationship between the department and the NYDA is conducted in an enabling, co-operative manner within the context of applicable prescripts.

The department combines quarterly monitoring reports on the quarterly performance of the NYDA to track progress against the set targets. The NYDA reports quarterly to the National Youth Machinery meetings that the department convenes. And the department also oversees the NYDA's development of ... [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: ... [Inaudible.] ... 2026-27 financial year. The targets support youth-owned enterprises with financial and non-financial business development interventions, offering youth business ... [Inaudible.] ... Yes, yes

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Are you done? Hon Minister, it looks like you have a serious challenge.

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The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Am I audible, Chair?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): You are inaudible. I don’t know whether you can get a better position. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: [Inaudible.] Yes.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Minister. Alright. Hon delegates, I can see that she left the platform. We heard that her network was not well. I really like ...

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: [Inaudible.] Yes.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Minister, can you take a pause? I think it is not going to help us to continue with this session now because you can see that, wherever the Minister is, she is very inaudible. I request that we adjourn this sitting and then the Chief Whip and the ... [Inaudible.] ... will just organise another day when she will answer. But

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on that day, we would appeal to her to be in a better place where she can answer the questions.

So, hon delegates, thank you for attending this afternoon’s session and for engaging robustly with the Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. And then we will give hon Chikunga another chance or another slot, so that she can come back and answer the questions. So, without further ado, the session is adjourned. Thank you.

The House Chairperson: Members' Support and International Relations announced that Questions to the Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities would be deferred until further notice.

The Council adjourned at 16:37.

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