

Information, made in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 1996 (Act No 2 of 2000).

(14) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Water Affairs and Forestry** for consideration and report. The Reports of the Independent Auditors are referred to the **Standing Committee on Public Accounts** for consideration:

(a) Report and Financial Statements of Bloem Water for the year ended 2006, including the Report of the Independent Auditors on the Financial Statements for the year ended June 2006.

(b) Report and Financial State-

ments of Botshelo Water for the year ended 2006, including the Report of the Independent Auditors on the Financial Statements for the year ended June 2006.

(c) Report and Financial Statements of Lepelle Northern Water for the year ended 2006, including the Report of the Independent Auditors on the Financial Statements for the year ended June 2006.

(d) Report and Financial Statements of Overberg Water for the year ended 2006, including the Report of the Independent Auditors on the Financial Statements for the year ended June 2006.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 14:00.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS—see col 978.

APPROPRIATION BILL

(Introduction)

DIVISION OF REVENUE BILL

(Tabling)

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Madam Speaker; Mr President; Deputy President; distinguished colleagues; hon members; Governor and Deputy Governors of the SA Reserve Bank; Chair and commissioners of the Finance and Fiscal Commission; MECs; ambassadors and high commissioners—there is a delegation of parliamentarians from the European Parliament and we'd like to welcome them into the House today as well; our dear friends in the gallery here or wherever you may be joining us; whether at work or at home; fellow South Africans, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. [Applause.]

In the introduction to his book on China and globalisation, Will Hutton reminds us:

The foundation of human association is the idea that human life has equal worth and human beings are equally entitled to political, economic and social rights, which allow them to choose a life they have reason to live.

Human life has equal worth.

Motho ke motho, ga a na bosehla. [A human being is a human being, there is no lesser human being.]

The idea, then, that human life has equal

worth and that this is the core value that unites us, invites us to ask whether we've done enough to give practical effect in South Africa today to our shared humanity. Have we acted in a manner that shows that human life has equal worth, or do we still live in a society where the shadow of history dominates over the opportunities of an open society?

As our young nation enters its 13th year, we have much to be proud of. We are building a society founded on the principles of equality, nonracialism and nonsexism. We've built institutions of democracy, creating an open society founded on the rule of law. And after stabilising the economy and public finances, we have created the conditions for rapid economic growth, job creation and the broadening of opportunities.

Sound management of public finances and the improved tax compliance culture on which it rests, provides us with the resources to invest in our public services, to renew our infrastructure, reshape our residential areas, provide water, electricity, housing, sanitation, schooling, health care and access roads to millions who were previously denied these elementary building blocks of modern society. The social grant system has expanded, hunger is in retreat and vulnerable families have been lifted out of poverty.

Yet the idea that human life has equal worth demands more of us. President Mbeki, at the fourth Nelson Mandela lecture reminded us that—

... to achieve the social cohesion and human solidarity we seek, we must vigorously confront the legacy of poverty, racism and sexism.

The 2007 Budget strives to accelerate economic growth and work opportunities, to modernise our public services and infrastructure and, of course, to fight poverty and inequality, because we have a shared pledge to work together in action. We do this,

consciously, as a choice of this government, because without a powerful countervailing force, that shadow of history, that place from where we come, that luck of the draw, if you wish, will forever determine the opportunities, entitlements and outcomes.

We need government to be strong, to be there, to be focused, to intervene on behalf of the poor and to deal with these issues. That's quite fundamental to the kind of democracy that we want and need in South Africa. [Applause.] And we do so because of a set of fundamental beliefs.

Izimpilo zabantu zinesisindo ngokufanayo. [People's lives hold equal value.] [Interjections.]

The economic gains of the past 10 years enable us to begin to fulfil other key elements of our economic and social modernisation. Chief among these are the systems we create to plan and prepare for the long term, to set in place the policies and institutions that will help us to achieve prosperity for all and social solidarity for future generations. As our economy adapts to an ever-changing global environment, and as we recognise over time new policy challenges and priorities, our public services must support transition and transformation by providing rising income security and protection to individuals, families and communities.

In the state of the nation address, from this podium, just 12 days ago, President Mbeki indicated that the time is right to construct a broad-based social security system embracing all South Africans, and I am pleased to confirm that we are tabling the main proposals today.

We have had the good fortune, since 2001, to report on the healthy and strengthening state of the economy. Once again, economic performance has exceeded expectations.

The economy continued to expand at a robust pace of 4.9% last year, generating new jobs, broadening the consumer base and

providing impetus for rapid growth in investment. Economic growth is projected to average just over 5% a year over the next three years. For 2007, somewhat weaker growth in the world economy and the interest rate increases of the past year are expected to result in a growth rate of 4.8%.

While household spending is projected to slow from the lively growth rate of over 7% last year, it is still expected to expand by close to 5% over the medium term—indeed a robust trend reflecting good growth in household income.

This expansion has been supported by a benign interest rate climate, with exceptional growth in the construction, finance, transport and communication sectors. The manufacturing sector has grown by more than 4% a year since 2004. Conversely, poor performances by agriculture and mining weighed on our growth performance last year.

Investment across the economy underpins a positive outlook for the period ahead. Investments increased by 11.7% in the first nine months of last year, and as a percentage of GDP rose to 18.4%. Investment by public corporations, government and the private sector will remain central to strengthening economic expansion over the medium term, as government maintains its focus on the extension and improvement of transportation links, increasing electricity supply and reshaping the built environment.

More rapid growth has meant more rapid job creation. According to the December 2006 quarterly employment statistics, employment in the nonagricultural parts of the economy rose by over 3% in the first nine months of last year.

The global economy has remained supportive of our growth performance in response to exceptional growth in China and India, healthy growth in G7 countries and, of course, high commodity prices. The commodity price rally has now entered its sixth

year. Sometimes we must pause and consider just how big this rally has been. Between the end of 1999 and the end of last year, the gold price rose by 121%. Well, unfortunately the oil price rose by 144%, but the prices of both platinum and coal rose by more than 150%.

Our current account deficit has risen to levels close to 6% of GDP last year and we expect the deficit to continue running at between 5% and 6% over the medium term. This is a sign of robust economic growth. South Africa is not alone in this regard. A number of fast-growing, oil-importing and commodity-exporting markets such as Australia and New Zealand are also running sizeable current account deficits.

Capital inflows are expected to cover the current account deficit as rand-denominated assets remain attractive to foreign investors. Net capital inflows reached R96.3 billion in the first nine months of last year. High commodity prices, moderating household consumption trends and stronger exports will tend to put downward pressure on the deficit in the next few years.

At the same time, risks continue to arise from what economists call "global imbalances"—the large surpluses and deficits on the current and capital accounts of major world economies. The magnitudes involved are staggering. The American and Chinese current account deficits and surpluses have reached 6.6% and 7.2% of their respective GDPs. If measured in numbers, the US deficit is equal to US\$869 billion or nearly R6 trillion. That is the gap between the imports and the exports, and it is staggering because so often we tie ourselves into knots about what is happening in this economy. But it's important to understand some of these trends across the world.

Partly as a result of these deficits, liquidity in global markets is at very high levels. The search for higher returns for those funds has led to unprecedented flows of capital into emerging markets. Further, we are seeing the

use of low-interest G7 currencies for leveraged speculation. The potential disorderly unwinding of these leveraged positions creates enormous risks for emerging market economies, including our own. We must raise this. But around the world, this matter was raised when the G7 finance Ministers met just over two weeks ago in Essen, Germany. For the first time, they put on the agenda the need to consider matters relating to both hedge funds and private equity funds, because these are large pools of funds. And the issue was raised because finance Ministers of the G7 consider this to be one of the major risks to the global economy.

So, while our higher current account deficit mirrors stronger growth and investment, we need to re-emphasise the importance of the more rapid and diversified economic growth, and improving our export performance rather than reliance on uncertain portfolio inflows.

In the first nine months of 2006 the volume of exports rose by 2.2% compared to the same period in 2005, and by an average of 3.9% between 2000 and 2005. But a great expansion in the volume and value of exports and export-related employment is needed to lift and sustain the economy's growth rate beyond 6% a year.

After several years of relative stability, the volatility of global exchange rates increased in 2006, shifting the levels of many currencies as commodity prices retreated from all-time highs and investor sentiment towards emerging markets cooled. The exchange rate of the rand depreciated by an average of 15% over the course of 2006.

Some volatility can be mitigated through a combination of increasing foreign exchange reserves, reducing debt denominated in foreign currency, promoting lower inflation, prudent fiscal decisions, and improving the economy's potential growth rate. In contrast, a more rigid approach to exchange rates could stimulate larger capital inflows but

make our exports less competitive and overheat the domestic economy. The reserve bank has continued its prudent accumulation of reserves. And I think, Governor, we want to say thank you very much for that. [Applause.]

Further exchange control relaxation announced in this Budget will be supportive of a greater two-way flow of capital and moderation in the movement of the exchange rate.

Led by our Deputy President, the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa, Asgisa, lists clear areas where more work needs to be done to raise our trend growth. It recognises, amongst other things, firstly, that we will grow faster when we export more goods and services and accelerate investment in areas of competitive advantage. Secondly, it recognises that we will grow faster when our levels of productivity are raised and our ability to generate more low-skilled jobs is enhanced. Thirdly, it recognises that we will grow faster when the bureaucratic red tape that hobbles business is tackled head-on. Fourthly, it recognises that we will grow faster when the performance of the public sector is improved so that the state can become an effective tool for reconstruction and development. Fifthly, it recognises that we will grow faster when infrastructure capacity is enhanced, especially in relation to telecommunication, rail, roads, ports, electricity and water.

Hon members, we have much more work to do to ensure that economic expansion can be sustained, and more importantly that the participation in the economy be broadened. Part of the answer lies in our fiscal and investment decisions and part in ensuring that our economy is able to adjust to global risks and opportunities.

The CPIX inflation has remained within the inflation target band, averaging 4,6% in 2006, compared to 3,9% in 2005. Inflationary pressures in the short term, including high food prices, should abate during this

year. The CPIX is projected to rise in the first half of the year, thereafter receding to the middle of the target band but still remaining within the 3% to 6% range over the medium term.

The increase in foreign exchange reserves and the present fiscal position are considerable strengths. Mr President, when you took office in April 1999, gross foreign reserves stood at US\$5,5 billion, the public debt to GDP ratio stood at 49%, job creation was rising at about 200 000 a year and economic growth was 2,5%. There is now US\$25,9 billion in reserves; our debt ratio is now 26% of the GDP—that would make us the envy of many parts of the world; the economy is creating about 500 000 jobs a year and we have economic growth of 5%. [Applause.] Under your stewardship, our economic transformation is well and truly under way.

However, Mr President, it has not all been smooth sailing. Could I point out that when you came into office, Bafana Bafana were ranked 25th in the world, and today they rank 59th. [Laughter.] So, we should expand this stewardship thing a bit more. [Applause.]

Madam Speaker, we are planning for a budget surplus in the coming fiscal year. The fiscal stance creates space for our future social security reforms and allows for rising funding levels for public sector infrastructure, improvements to education and other government priorities, while enhancing the competitiveness of the economy and sustaining the current growth trajectory.

Tax revenue has grown by an average of 17% a year for the past three years, much faster than the rate of economic growth. Hon members who passed legislation will know that it's not because we raised any of the rates; in fact we reduced many of them. Alongside the new taxpayers created by a growing economy, legislative, administrative and technological changes have broadened the tax base significantly. All of these

developments are exceedingly positive and will benefit us long into the future.

Public spending—that's the growth after inflation is taken into account—has risen by over 9,2% a year in real terms over the past three years. The strong revenue trend and declining debt service costs have provided us with the room to invest in the modernisation of our services and infrastructure. This allows us to add further to our spending plans, raising public spending a further 7,7% a year over the next three years as government ensures that effective programmes and promising new initiatives are funded in line with government's capacity to implement them. We are able to do this without leaving a legacy of debt for future generations. [Applause.] It is an ongoing battle that we have because debt is in fact a tax on future generations.

What we will announce in the course of this Budget today are significant changes to all of what we do. But we can do that by funding these from our own resources, and not being entirely dependent on debt. This gives us the independence of decision-making, but, more importantly, it places us in a position where few countries have been in the world. [Applause.]

This is important because, in a country like ours with a low level of savings, the planned fiscal surplus is in fact government's contribution to a national savings effort, and we would like our citizens to follow this example.

In summary, our fiscal stance is a careful balance between increasing spending on services and infrastructure, and providing moderate tax relief to raise household income and savings and to lower the cost of doing business, while increasing government savings. Furthermore, the fiscal position helps to keep a check on emerging imbalances in the economy.

Despite generous tax relief and rate reductions, the tax to GDP ratio has risen consid-

erably in the past three years, reflecting both the economic buoyancy and the broader tax base. For the fiscal year ending in March 2007, our revised estimate for revenue is R29 billion higher than the original budget. [Applause.]

Company tax and value-added tax receipts have exceeded expectations due to higher profits and strong domestic consumption. Personal income tax has also surpassed our estimates, driven both by rising employment and real gains in the income of persons. We are expecting the strong growth in revenue to continue into the new fiscal year, leading to a revenue estimate for the 2007-08 year of R545 billion or 28% of the gross domestic product. As private sector investment increases and as household consumption moderates slightly, we expect revenue as a share of GDP to decline to about 27% of GDP by the fiscal year that ends on 31 March 2010.

The revised estimate for spending in 2006-07, that is the year that ends on 31 March, is R470,6 billion, and that is R3,6 billion less than the adjusted budget that we tabled at the end of October. As a result and contrary to our initial expectations, the Budget balance for the present year indicates a surplus of R5 billion. So, this is the unplanned one. The next one is planned for.

We are budgeting to spend R534 billion in 2007-08, rising to R650 billion in the 2009-10 fiscal year. Since tax revenues are likely to grow more strongly than spending for at least another year, we are budgeting for a fiscal surplus of around 0,6% of GDP in the first of these three years, reverting to a moderate deficit by the end of the forecast period.

Debt interest costs continue to fall as a share of GDP and are set to reach 2,1% by 2010. The savings on interest that we have seen since 2001 provide an additional R33 billion a year to spend on services and infrastructure, money that we would not have had if

we had kept borrowing at the level that the country was borrowing in 1994.

In 1994 we had a choice to expand spending by borrowing or to reprioritise while reducing the dependence on debt. The choices that we have made—consciously made—provide us with the fiscal space to spend more on education, on health and on public transport. It has also provided us with the policy room to contemplate long-term reforms to our social security system that will benefit all South Africans into successive generations.

Much of our economic and fiscal policies have been aimed at increasing fiscal space and reducing our vulnerability to financial instability. These questions, and how governments think about them in a global context, will also be highlighted in the meetings of the G20 hosted in 2007 by South Africa.

The G20 or Group of 20 finance Ministers and central bank governors, includes seven industrialised and 13 of the most systematically significant emerging market economies, whose main purpose is the pursuit of global financial stability. This forum offers us a unique platform to identify common objectives and common solutions to global financial and economic challenges.

The theme for the G20 this year is, "Sharing—influence, responsibility, knowledge". South Africa has prepared a detailed work programme for the year focused on three major areas. In addition to the area of fiscal space, the G20 will look at the issue of increasing the voice of developing countries on the global economic stage by giving impetus to efforts to strengthen the voting power of emerging markets and low-income countries in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

A final area of focus seeks to better understand the impact of high commodity prices on macroeconomic management and the implications for countries' financial systems.

South Africa will also use the opportunity of its host year to improve and strengthen knowledge, within the forum, of African economic and financial policy challenges, and to facilitate a sharing of knowledge with African countries, through a series of parallel discussions between the G20 and African finance Ministers and governors.

The budget framework allows us to provide R89,5 billion in additional spending over the next three years, in comparison with our spending plans from what we had a year earlier. Our spending priorities are informed by the overriding objective of accelerating growth, modernising our public services and infrastructure, and reducing poverty and inequality.

Over the next three years, we are budgeting to spend almost R2 trillion—that is a two followed by 12 zeros in rands. [Applause.] Now, we must use these resources for the very purpose that democracy exists, that is, "iimpilo zabantu zixabiseke ngokulinganayo" [to ensure that human life can indeed have equal worth] or, as we said earlier: *Motho ke motho, ga ana bosehlana*. [A human being is a human being; there is no lesser human being.]

If we truly want to create a society where human life has equal worth and where every child has an equal opportunity to succeed, hon members, we must improve the quality of our schools. This will not happen on its own. We need concerted action to make things change.

Our teachers are the frontline of our education system. It is in their hands that we place our 11 million children each and every school day. In most cases, our teachers do a sterling job under difficult conditions. We pay tribute to them and we ask no more than that they continue to serve with dedication and integrity.

We also know, of course, that a minority of teachers do not prepare their lessons adequately, are frequently late and are unfit to

be in the position where they are asked to nurture our children. But we cannot let the minority of teachers denigrate a profession based on love for children, a desire for learning and a commitment to our collective future. [Applause.]

Over the next three years we are making available an additional R8,1 billion to hire additional teachers, teaching assistants and support staff in schools and districts and to improve remuneration levels of teachers. [Applause.] The many people who submitted suggestions to the "Tips for Trevor" campaign on this issue, I am sure, will be pleased to hear of these developments.

The Minister of Education, who is unfortunately absent today, will lead the process of determining how these resources should be used, focusing on the need to reward good teachers, provide support to poor schools and improve the quality of schooling in general. We are also setting aside R700 million for bursaries for teachers to encourage young people to train as teachers and to pursue careers in our public schooling system. [Applause.] This amount should benefit about 13 000 teachers over the next three years.

Together with resources set aside in the provincial equitable share for the implementation of no-fee schools, and a substantial increase in resources for classroom building and providing water, electricity and sanitation in schools, the investments announced in this Budget constitute a concerted effort to improve the quality of schooling in our country. It is a step change in resources going to schools, and of course we would like to see a step change in the results as well. [Applause.]

The SA Schools Act recognises that the strength of our democracy is dependent on the depth of involvement of our democratic institutions, such as school governing bodies. We need committed parents to stand up and make a contribution to the success of

their children's schools, so that we can build a society where human life has equal worth.

The national Department of Education receives a further R850 million for a step up in its adult basic education and training programmes, the Abet programmes as we know them. [Applause.] The 2007 Budget also makes available a further R2,2 billion to support our university sector to meet its objectives of increasing enrolment and, for the ears of the Deputy President, producing more science, engineering and technology graduates. [Applause.] The further education and training sector, or FET sector, receives R600 million for bursaries for deserving students. [Applause.]

Now, since the shifting of the social grants function to the Social Security Agency, provinces have been able to focus on rebuilding their welfare service capacity. A new bursary scheme for social workers is established, with an initial allocation of R365 million. Together with steps taken to increase social worker salaries, an initiative that we have taken certainly since 2005, this initiative aims to revive interest in a profession critical to the wellbeing of our communities and the development of a more caring society. [Applause.]

The health sector receives a further R5,3 billion to spend on increased remuneration for health workers and an increase in staffing levels. [Applause.] We are budgeting to increase the number of health workers by about 30 000 over the next five years. Our previous budget framework made provision for the treatment and care of about 250 000 people who are ill with Aids. We are likely to reach that figure in the course of the next few months. Health receives a further R1,7 billion for this programme, presently being delivered through 272 sites, allowing for a doubling of the uptake over three years. [Applause.] Spending on dedicated HIV and Aids programmes by health, education and social development departments will exceed R5 billion by 2009-10.

The hospital revitalisation programme, one of our more successful infrastructure programmes, receives a further R1 billion, taking total spending on this programme to R6,8 billion over the next three years. In addition, the sector receives R1 billion for the modernisation of tertiary services, with particular emphasis on diagnostic equipment.

One of the clearest ways in which we are able to act against poverty is through our system of social grants. We presently have just under 12 million people receiving social grants, of whom over seven million are beneficiaries of the child support grant. There is strong evidence that South Africa's social grants are well targeted and account for a substantial share of the income of poor households. Grants are associated with a greater share of household expenditure on food, and hence improved nutrition, and the child support grant contributes measurably to the health status of young children. Statistics SA data shows that the proportion of households where children often or always went hungry decreased from 6,7% in 2002 to 4,7% in 2005. I think we will all agree that it is still 4,7% too many, but I think we can measure the trend and improve this in the nutrition of young children. This means that we can say to many more children, "Hunger is no longer knocking on the door."

Die lewende van alle mense is gelykwaardig.
[The lives of all people are equal.]

Three years ago, the Department of Social Development initiated measures to curb fraud in our social grants system. With the help of the Special Investigating Unit, over 130 000 people have been removed from the system and about 2 500 have thus far been charged with fraud—tragic, but real. This has contributed significantly to the stability of the overall system. Ensuring that we eliminate fraud and corruption from the social grants system is critically important. As we deal with this issue on a continuous

basis, there are, in fact, additional resources to provide for people who really need them.

The state old age pension, disability and care dependency grants will rise by R50 to a maximum of R370 a month, providing a strong signal that money released from the reduction of corruption will be given back to those who deserve it. [Applause.] Child support grants increase by R10 to R200 a month, and foster care grants rise to R620 a month. [Applause.]

Let me turn, then, to our criminal justice sector. To quote President Mbeki:

While we have already surpassed that targeted figure of 152 000 police officers ... and while we have improved the training programme, we recognise the fact that the impact of this is not yet high enough.

There has been a significant increase in the resources going to the fight against crime. Since the 2003-04 fiscal year allocations to the Safety and Security Ministry have increased by 43% already. Over the next three years, resources going to the police will rise by a further 34% from R33 billion in the current year, that's 2006-07, to R44 billion in 2009-10. [Applause.] The budget for the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development increased by 41% in the past three years and will rise by 52% over the next three years.

In this year's Budget, we are allocating an extra R2,4 billion to the police to further expand police numbers and invest in technology and forensic equipment. [Applause.] As the President advised last week, by 2010 we will have close to 190 000 police officers on our streets. I hope they are going to be on the streets and not in the stations, but we will have 190 000 police officers. [Interjections.] Electronic fingerprints and dockets will become the norm. The 2007 Budget also allows for the implementation of the salary upgrade programme for police that started in 2005.

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development receives a further R1.5 billion over the next three years to improve court capacity, reduce case backlogs and modernise the administration of justice. I think they all heard the hon Buthelezi on this issue last week.

Our government recognises the seriousness of the crime situation, and will continue to provide leadership in the fight against crime, but effective crime fighting depends on partnerships between our law-enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. Through community police forums, all citizens have the opportunity to contribute towards making their communities safer. In this way, each person can and should help in the construction of a society where, truly, human life has equal worth.

Even as we step up the fight against crime, we must ask ourselves: What cultural, social and economic conditions give rise to crime? We have spoken in the past about the destructive effects of the relentless pursuit of individual self-enrichment at the expense of the broader development and progress of society. We cannot escape the fact that the culture of greed plays a role in driving crime. Long-term, sustainable solutions lie in addressing the causes of crime and the conditions that give rise to the alienation of some in our communities. Only a stronger sense of society, of community, of family; a sense of responsibility to each other—"umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu" [a person is a person through other people]—can heal the fractures that give rise to crime.

We also need to insist that honesty and integrity are core values of our economic and financial institutions. We continue to see instances of flagrant abuse of this principle, often involving hundreds of millions of rands. In addition, we continue to see the extraordinary methods used to evade tax and the legal obligations relating to anti-money-laundering legislation.

I want to make it clear that we will not

tolerate a situation where individuals pillage and plunder millions from the companies they run or from ordinary South Africans who are poor and humble people—here I am also including the widows and orphans—whose entire life savings get destroyed in the process by these rapacious doings. [Applause.]

Mr President, I have asked the Financial Intelligence Centre, the Financial Services Board and the SA Revenue Service to work collaboratively with the SA Police and prosecutors in dealing with financial crime and its proceeds. I have also asked that fiduciary and trusteeship responsibilities receive the highest priority in the oversight activities of our regulators. We must ensure that neither organised crime nor the abuse of stewardship obligations is allowed to violate our hard-earned democracy and the integrity of our country.

Since 2001, we have channelled an ever-greater share of our resources into capital spending. Our investment in infrastructure has been focused on two major areas: the built environment and then economic infrastructure. The built environment refers to a cluster of activities and services that centre on building viable, secure residential communities that include housing, water, electrification, sanitation, roads, sports facilities, community halls, police stations, schools, clinics and so on. These programmes seek to change the landscape across both urban and rural areas, to turn barren, dusty land into places where houses are frequently built that people feel proud to live in, those places where people can find the comfort and security to raise their children.

In the past two years, we have added considerably to our public transport budget. In 2005, we created the Public Transport Infrastructure Systems Grant, aimed mainly at putting in place passenger transport services that would facilitate the movement of people for the Fifa World Cup.

This, together with the impetus that the

World Cup provided, has resulted in something of a revolution in municipal planning for public transport and, healthily, forward thinking about urban development. The bids that we have seen are impressive, in terms of knitting together communities with places of work, recreation and leisure. In particular, the development of the Bus Rapid Transit Schemes offers exciting opportunities to improve municipal public transport systems. To ensure that the World Cup leaves us with a legacy of better public transport, we are also adding a further R2,3 billion to this programme. [Applause.] Again, it's worth emphasising that it's not just about stadiums; it's about what improves in the lives of all South Africans. That is why a developed public transport system that allows people to interact between residential, recreational and places of work becomes exceedingly important for us in the way in which we approach 2010.

Our housing budget receives a further R2,7 billion, taking the total allocation over the next three years to R32 billion. [Applause.] To give a sense of the scale of increase in our housing budget, in 2003-04 we spent R4,6 billion on housing. By 2009-10, the end of our present budgeting period, the budget rises to R12,5 billion. I don't know, my friend and colleague, the Minister of Housing, clearly lacks ambition. She has been pleading for the doubling of the housing budget; we've tripled it! [Applause.] In fact, what we have available for the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework is about equal to what we spent on housing in the first decade of democracy. [Applause.]

Allocations for water, sanitation, electrification and municipal roads all rise in a complementary fashion. Our government is determined to meet the target set by the President in 2004 in relation to water, sanitation, electrification and housing.

Motho ke motho, ga a na bosehlana. [A human being is a human being, there is no lesser human being.]

The Neighbourhood Developmental Partnership Grant, a new innovative funding model, encourages private participation in the rejuvenation of our townships. The urban landscape is often described as dysfunctional, with large townships far from city centres, far from places of work and leisure. This landscape will not change of its own accord. We will not be able to reshape our cities, integrate our townships and create residential communities unless we intervene and act decisively. The Neighbourhood Developmental Partnership Grant has already allocated money for technical assistance to upgrade Bara Central in Soweto, Njoli Square in KwaZakhele and Ngangelizwe in Mthatha. Planned interventions include the eThekweni Bridge City and the KwaMashu Town Centre.

Many of the programmes outlined are labour-intensive and form a part of the Expanded Public Works Programme aimed at drawing in marginalised communities in the second economy. Since its inception, this programme has created about 300 000 work opportunities already, mainly in rural areas and mainly for women. But, taking our cue from the state of the nation address, together with the Minister for Public Works we will review this programme to see how it can be amended and further ramped up to increase a number of work opportunities that it can create. We believe that the 300 000 is just in fact the beginning of the potential that we should be able to deliver. A further R125 million is allocated to the Department of Public Works, not for the programme itself but to improve co-ordination and the oversight in this programme.

Turning then to the 2010 Fifa World Cup, I'm happy to announce that the Local Organising Committee for the World Cup has reached an agreement with municipalities in the budgets for construction and the upgrading of stadiums and that these agreements are within the R8,4 billion set aside for stadiums. These agreements set a firm precedent that we must go out of our way to

ensure a successful tournament and a lasting legacy beyond 2010—the hon Rev K R J Meshoe. [Interjections.] But fiscal prudence and sound budgeting principles must be adhered to at all times.

The SA National Roads Agency and the SA Rail Commuter Corporation receive a further R1,7 billion to upgrade roads and stations in and areas critical to the World Cup. In total, over R9 billion will be allocated by national government for municipal transport, roads and precinct upgrading relating to the 2010 World Cup. So, it's R8,4 billion on stadiums and R9 billion on the transport infrastructure. [Applause.]

Turning, then, to the economic services, agencies and entities falling under the Department of Trade and Industry receive an additional R1,7 billion to promote industrial development, black economic empowerment and small business development. [Applause.] To support the process of broadening participation in the economy, the National Empowerment Fund receives a further R380 million as capital injection.

The critical infrastructure programme is allocated a further R300 million to leverage private sector investment, especially into our industrial development zones, and the film and television production incentive gets another R300 million to encourage local and international filmmakers to film here in South Africa. [Applause.] I've been very encouraged to see the long list of movies that have benefited from this incentive scheme, and I'm sure that it has created many thousands of jobs in the production of these movies—and these are seriously big films.

Our research and development capacity has been strengthened in the past five years with targeted investments to our science councils and universities. This year we are setting aside a further R1,2 billion for science and technology, of which R500 million is for government's contribution to the Square Kilometre Array, contingent of course on the success of our bid. But I'm sure I can say

that the Minister of Science and Technology and I are exceedingly confident that we will get the Square Kilometre Array to the Northern Cape. [Applause.]

The SA Research Network, a joint project of the Department of Public Enterprises and the Department of Science and Technology aimed at providing a low-cost broadband link for the local academic community, receives R95 million, and R60 million is allocated to set up science research chairs at our major universities.

The budget framework includes a contingency reserve of R3 billion for the first year, that is 2007-08. This allows for unforeseeable and unavoidable expenditure that may need to be accommodated in the adjustments budget this year and allocations to several state-owned enterprises that are not yet finalised. [Laughter.] Our commitment to finance 51% of capital requirements of the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor project over the next three years amounts to R6 billion. An allocation to settle the land claim and other obligations relating to the Alexkor mine has yet to be finalised and will be provided for in the adjustments budget, which will also include further equity contributions for the InfraCo telecommunications initiative and Sentech's investment requirements, contingent of course on the approval of business plans and the outstanding regulatory requirements.

Turning to general government, administration and international affairs, South Africa's foreign policy objective seeks to achieve greater unity and solidarity between African countries to accelerate political and socio-economic integration and, of course, to promote peace, security and stability. Support for key institutions of the African Union remains a priority. The African Renaissance Fund, through which most of our initiatives are funded, is given a further R275 million. That will make peace between my bench mates and I. [Applause.] Our commitments to host the Pan-African Parliament also require a further R113 million.

In a short period of time, our Defence Force has already assisted significantly in helping reduce a number of conflicts on the continent. We now have peacekeeping operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi and Sudan. I'm told that others are in the offing and we have technical advisers in a number of other countries. The SA National Defence Force receives additional allocations to acquire airlift capacity, for exchange rate adjustments to the strategic defence package and for the military skills development programme, an innovative programme aimed at introducing young people into the military.

Improving service delivery in the Department of Home Affairs has positive benefits for government, for the economy and all citizens. The Minister of Home Affairs is working with colleagues to finalise a plan to turn this department around. I think we want to, again, this afternoon, pledge our full support to her in this endeavour. [Applause.] A further R900 million is allocated to the department to support its turnaround, to fill critical posts, purchase a new passport printer and modernise IT and back-office operations. [Laughter.] Is it too much or too little?

Following considerable tax policy changes in the 1990s, the past five years have been characterised by better services to taxpayers, improved compliance and, of course, a broader tax base. The 2007 Budget provides a further R1,3 billion to upgrade core IT systems in the SA Revenue Service. The modernisation of Sars will enable it to manage increased administration volumes. A single customer view, automation, e-business and improved walk-in services will be supported by enhanced risk management.

Priority is also given to modernising customs administration to cope with significant increases in volumes at all our land, sea and air border posts. The acquisition of cargo and container scanning equipment will enable Sars to perform nonintrusive inspections on goods going through our ports.

I now turn to the intergovernmental transfers for the MECs for finance. Our budget allocations must reflect the priorities that government sets. In recognition of the critical role that provinces and municipalities play in the delivery of social and household services, these two spheres receive 64% of the additional R89,5 billion allocated in this budget.

Transfers to local government grow by 19% a year. In addition, municipalities receive the bulk of the allocations for stadiums and related infrastructure for the 2010 Fifa World Cup. The local government equitable share receives a further R5 billion for the delivery of free basic services, which now reach an average of about 80% of households. [Applause.]

The municipal infrastructure grant receives R400 million more for a final push to eradicate the bucket system; a further R600 million for the electrification programme; R1,4 billion for bulk water and sanitation infrastructure; and R950 million to deliver water and electricity to schools and clinics. [Applause.] Total infrastructure transfers to municipalities now total R52 billion over the next three years.

Ubujamo bethu busho siyalingana empilweni. [Our situation means our life is equal.]

Transfers to provinces grow by 12,7% a year with the major additions going to education and health personnel, social welfare services and for provincial infrastructure. This year we introduce a new conditional grant called the community library services grant to develop the infrastructure and stock of books in local libraries to spread the joy of books to millions more children—or all readers, I should say—and to provide access to information to teachers and parents. [Applause.] The grant starts off with an initial allocation of just under R1 billion over the next three years. The provincial equitable share, through which 86% of provincial transfers flow, is updated to reflect changes

to provincial boundaries. This is so that the Minister of Defence doesn't have to have such a difficult time any more.

Preliminary assessments of provincial budgets indicate that allocations are broadly in line with the priorities outlined in last year's Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement. Spending on both education and health at a provincial level is projected to grow by 10.5% a year, and on welfare services it grows rapidly from R5,3 billion in the present year to R8,8 billion in the third year of the new Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period.

Over the next three years, provincial capital spending totals R65 billion. I wish to commend the provinces for the steady progress being made in rolling out their infrastructure programmes. In 2005-06, only 8% of infrastructure funds were unspent as opposed to 14% in the previous year. This year, spending for the first nine months is 35% higher than in the same period last year.

Over the past decade we have created a tax policy regime which is internationally competitive. We have broadened South Africa's tax base while, at the same time, providing billions of rands in tax cuts to improve the equity of the system.

Mr A S Smit submitted a tip for Trevor, in which he suggested the following.

"Kan u in u begrotingsrede belastingbetalers bedank vir hul bydrae?" Meneer Smit is heeltemaal korrek, so ek vra om verskoning indien ek dit nie genoegsaam in die verlede gedoen het nie, en spreek ons gesamentlike dankbaarheid uit aan alle belastingbetalers. [Applous.] (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.*)

["Can you thank taxpayers in your Budget speech for their contribution?" Mister Smit is completely correct, and so I ask forgiveness in case I did not do so satisfactorily in the past, and express our joint gratitude to all taxpayers. [Applause.]]

So, admonished by Mr Smit, I thank all South African taxpayers for their diligence in contributing to our revenue pool. Ndo livhuwa nga maanda! [Thank you very much.] [Applause.] Is that okay, Minister Mufamadi? [Laughter.]

This year, individuals benefit from moderate personal income tax cuts and the elimination of the retirement fund tax. Business benefits from reforms to the secondary tax on companies. We extend accelerated depreciation allowances to certain infrastructure, and the cost of corporate reorganisation is reduced.

The 2007 Budget provides personal income tax relief amounting to R8,4 billion, increasing the level below which no income tax is levied for people under the age of 65 to R43 000. It's a big number. A few years ago people earning R16 000 had to pay tax. Now we've been able to lift that threshold to R43 000. [Applause.]

Changes to the personal income tax brackets provide relief to compensate for the negative effects of inflation on taxpayers, and to partially offset the effects of changes to the taxation of medical aid contributions and car allowances. This is more money in the pockets of taxpayers, and I want to appeal to taxpayers to use this relief to first settle their debts or save, rather than for consumption. The Governor said I should say that if they don't listen to my pleading, he'll have to report them to the Monetary Policy Committee. [Laughter.]

The monthly monetary caps for tax-free medical aid contributions are increased from R500 to R530 for each of the first two members and from R300 to R320 for each additional beneficiary. This measure is aimed at further incentivising people to join low-cost medical schemes and for the market to respond to the demand in this area.

Public-benefit organisations play an important part in the social fabric of our society. During the past few years the tax regime

applicable to these organisations has been reformed to give due recognition to their contributions to society. I'm pleased to announce that tax-deductible contributions by both individuals and companies to specific public-benefit activities will be increased from 5% to 10% of taxable income.

In addition, the tax-free income threshold from trading activities by public-benefit organisations will be doubled from R50 000 to R100 000. Arising from discussion with Cricket South Africa recently, amendments are also proposed to ease the tax liabilities on professional sports bodies that contribute meaningfully to the development of amateur sport. [Applause.] Now, since we had that discussion, our one-day cricket team has been rated number one. I should just announce that the same terms are likely to be available to all the codes, so perhaps the others will follow suit. [Laughter.]

In order to promote saving for retirement, we propose to this House the abolition of the retirement fund tax from 1 March this year. [Applause.] However, I would like to add a very important point. This is an appeal to trustees of these pension funds to ensure that the benefits of this reform accrue to the contributors and beneficiaries of retirement funds. [Applause.] There is no point in granting relief that then sits in layers with new fund managers who arrive on the scene while the pensioners and beneficiaries are poorer than they were before. The cost to the fiscus of this measure is R3 billion a year, and it is part of a number of related measures aimed at encouraging household savings. With the same objective in mind, the interest income exemption is raised from R16 500 to R18 000 for those under 65 years of age and from R24 500 to R26 000 for those who are 65 years of age and over. In addition, the annual exclusion threshold for capital gains or losses will be increased from R12 500 to R15 000.

Most countries have a dividend tax at the shareholder level. We have a secondary tax

on companies collected directly from a few thousand companies, as opposed to millions of shareholders. To further improve the transparency and equity of the tax system, we are proposing that it be phased out and replaced with a dividend tax at shareholder level. This reform would consist of two phases. We propose reducing the rate from 12,5% to 10% and that the base be redefined to apply to all distributions. This will come into effect on 1 October 2007, except for standard anti-avoidance measures that will commence, of course, at the conclusion of the speech here today. [Laughter.]

The conversion to a dividend tax collected at the shareholder level will be completed by the end of 2008, subject to the renegotiation of a number of international tax treaties. The taxation of gains realised from the sale of shares is presently subject to ambiguous procedural treatment. In order to provide equitable treatment and certainty for both taxpayers and for Sars, all shares disposed of after three years will trigger a capital gains tax event.

Our tax laws provide for the depreciation of buildings used in manufacturing but not for commercial purposes. We are proposing that tax depreciation allowances for the economic wear and tear of newly constructed or upgraded commercial buildings be implemented. A 20-year write-off period will be envisaged.

The Income Tax Act has also not kept pace with changes to the local and international environmental regulatory regime. It is proposed that environmental capital structures such as dams and tanks, which are presently not depreciable, qualify for depreciation allowances. I am hoping that the Budget next year will be much greener than this one is. We need to look at these issues with the necessary attention.

Consideration is being given to facilitating investments in high-risk investment areas such as mining exploration by junior mining companies. The introduction of flow-

through shares will be investigated, and a final decision in this regard will be made next year.

Now, for the excise tax increase: Tax on a packet of 20 cigarettes goes up by 60 cents; [Applause.] tax on a 340 ml can of beer goes up by five cents; [Laughter.] tax on a 750 ml bottle of wine goes up by 10 cents; tax on a 750 ml bottle of spirits goes up by R1,88. [Applause.] These changes to excise taxes will raise an additional R1,5 billion.

The general fuel levy is increased by five cents a litre and the Road Accident Fund levy also by five cents a litre.

Entrepreneurship remains a vital ingredient in the growth of our economy. In this regard, we have previously announced measures to assist and encourage small businesses, including a tax amnesty for small businesses announced last year. This amnesty offers those outside the system a fresh opportunity to become compliant and to benefit from the myriad of support measures offered by the government. For instance, with the Ministry of Transport, we have a close collaboration on the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme to ensure that we aren't giving scrapping allowances to those who have never bothered to even register for the payment of tax.

The amnesty ends in May this year, and over the coming weeks Sars will be intensifying its efforts to ensure that all businesses with a turnover of R10 million or less are offered the opportunity to apply. So far, about 12 000 have come forward to apply for the amnesty.

The task team appointed to investigate the fiscal regime applicable to windfall profits in the liquid fuel sector submitted its final report to me on 9 February 2007. The task team has exhaustively inquired into the fiscal and regulatory aspects of the industry. I would like to thank the team led by Dr Zav Rustomjee for their efforts in completing their work in such a short space of time.

In responding to the report, I have referred

the regulatory matters to the Minister of Minerals and Energy for further consideration. The task team has made two substantial fiscal recommendations, involving a possible tax on windfall profits and an incentive arrangement for new investment in liquid fuel production capacity. I believe that there is merit in these proposals. However, we will consult the industry before we finalise this matter. The task team's report will be released for public and stakeholder comment by the end of this week.

Turning to exchange control changes, the gradual process of exchange control relaxation has focused on enabling an ordinary process of global reintegration, encouraging South African firms to expand from a domestic base and allowing South African residents to diversify the portfolios through domestic channels. The continued strength of the South African economy and financial markets supports further steps in this regard, including, firstly, the lowering of the current shareholding threshold for foreign direct investment outside of Africa from 50% to 25%, to further enable South African companies to engage in strategic international partnerships; secondly, simplifying customer foreign currency accounts, which exist for trade and services-related payments, and expanding the range of permissible transactions; and thirdly, further developing South Africa's financial markets by increasing liquidity in the currency market by permitting the Johannesburg Securities Exchange to establish a rand futures market. The South African Reserve Bank has today published the details of the three measures announced.

As has become a bit of tradition, I have received hundreds of "Tips for Trevor". So let me thank all of those South Africans who've taken the time and effort to write to me about the issues they would like to see in the Budget. The strength of our democracy will be measured by the depth of involvement of ordinary people in the affairs that affect them.

The overwhelming sense I get from reading these tips is that almost all South Africans recognise that the challenges we face will only be overcome through a full-on frontal assault on poverty, and that the best way to achieve this is through a combination of faster economic growth and active intervention by government on the side of the poor. I think that they do so because all South Africans share in this value system, that human life has equal worth.

Magoshu Motau wrote to us to say that the tax-free lump sum portion of the retirement funds be increased, since it's been at R120 000 for some time now. Mr Motau is very perceptive and correct. It could also be added that the formula required to calculate this tax-free lump sum is incomprehensible to the average person. We are, accordingly, proposing an increase in this threshold and will simplify the whole calculation.

Last year I received the suggestion that we should make lobola tax-deductible. [Laughter.] This year I've been given a suggestion that I should impose VAT, or that I must tax the lobola trusts since some people are making money out of them. I declare that these issues are too complex for me and I will consult elders in this House and elsewhere to help me crack this problem. [Laughter.] I don't know if we can get involved in these matters through Sars in the way suggested by the writers.

Of course, there have been other contributors. There is a young man in the gallery there who wrote to me and asked me to increase all of these taxes on alcohol. He said that underage drinking is a problem in the circles that he moves in, and we must deal with this issue by tax. Now, if only we could! But we've to recognise and deal with the issues, and I think we must ensure that community participation will deal with these kinds of issues. We would like to tax it more heavily, but it's not going to work just yet. [Interjections.] [Laughter.]

In concert with the task of growing the

economy and creating new opportunities for work, we have been working at pushing back the frontiers of poverty since 1994, recognising that no people can be truly free until they have cast aside the shackles of poverty and underdevelopment. It is for this reason that the eradication of poverty has been at the centre of our policies and programmes since the first democratic elections.

To help measure progress in the fight against poverty, Statistics South Africa will pilot a poverty line for an initial period to allow for public comment and consultations before its design is finalised. Alongside the Budget, we are publishing a discussion document that sets out our proposal for a national poverty line. I appeal to, especially, members of this House to continue to advise us on the appropriateness and usefulness of this measure.

I will now turn to the issue of social security reforms. Ubuntu acknowledges that all people are an integral part of broader society and humankind, and our individual fortunes are intimately connected to the fortunes of the whole. In the past decade we've gradually expanded our system of social grants, providing income support to vulnerable groups, children, the disabled and the elderly. Our social assistance grants provide an effective income safety net for the poor, and about 3,5% of the gross domestic product, GDP, is spent on this redistributive budget programme.

However, it's also important to encourage savings and self-reliance. The tax system contains a retirement savings incentive that particularly benefits higher-income individuals. But for working people who fall below the tax threshold, there is effectively no incentive, and indeed there is a perverse effect that if you save enough you might lose the old age pension because of the way the means test works.

So, although we have a well-developed retirement industry, and most employees are

covered by pension or provident fund arrangements, in practice too many people withdraw their policies or cash in their benefits when they change jobs. It is estimated that over three-fifths of those who contribute to retirement funds reach retirement with a pension that is less than 25% of their final average salary. Over two-thirds of people are dependent on the state old age pension.

The time has come to put in place a new arrangement in which all South Africans will share and that provides a basic saving and social protection service that meets the needs of low-income employees. We are therefore proposing a mandatory earnings-related social security scheme to provide improved unemployment insurance, disability and death benefits targeted at the income needs of dependents and a standard retirement savings arrangement. This will be financed by a social security tax administered by SARS and collected in individual accounts in the name of every contributor. Significant capacity building and institutional reforms are needed on both the tax side and to administer benefits. This work has begun, with a view to implementation by 2010.

To offset the cost of the social security tax for low-income workers and to lower the cost of creating employment, we are proposing the introduction of a wage subsidy for those whose earnings fall below the income tax threshold. [Applause.]

Madam Speaker, these proposals are bold and ambitious. Much work still needs to be done. The principles that will underpin these reforms are, firstly, equity, since there must be fair and uniform rates of contribution and benefits for all; secondly, regarding the pooling of risk, collective funding arrangements and non-discriminatory rules and entitlements must apply; thirdly, concerning mandatory participation, there will be compulsory participation of employees and inclusion of self-employed individuals on

reasonable terms; fourthly, regarding administrative efficiency, the streamlined use of payroll-based contributions, modern information systems and efficient payment arrangements are essential; fifthly, there must be solidarity and minimum benefits will be assured through continued social assistance grant programmes financed through the Budget.

Alongside the phasing in of social security arrangements, several reforms to the regulation, governance and tax treatment of occupational and individual retirement funds will be implemented over the period ahead.

These are far-reaching reforms and, as President Mbeki has indicated, consultation will be needed before the finalisation of legislation, administrative systems and transition arrangements. We aim to conclude these discussions with trade unions and employers during the second half of this year. I'd like to commit to trying to ensure that, in the legislation, at least, some ideas would have been tested so that we can go forward, and 2008 must look very different, and we will need the participation of unions. In discussion with one of the union leaders on this—who happens to be in the House, and that is Mr George—he said it is not negotiations but it is about joint problem solving. I hope that would be the spirit that does obtain as we deal with this exceedingly difficult issue, going forward. [Applause.]

We do this, Madam Speaker, to proclaim loudly that human life has equal worth. Our sense of community, our sense of humanity is dependent both on our well-being and the well-being of those around us.

Members of this House should be advised that, following steady improvements in the financial position of the Government Employees' Pension Fund over the past decade, it has been possible to award increases to civil pensions this year that fully compensate for inflation and that also correct for past erosions of real values. This substantially improves the position of many elderly pensioners and spouses.

I am pleased to introduce to the House Mr. Prudencio Tine, who has been appointed head of the administration of the Government Employees Pension Fund, and I am grateful for the wise counsel that Martin Kwasia gives to the board of trustees. He is the chairperson of this board. [Applause.]

We should also pay tribute to the work of the Public Investment Commission. I mean Corporation, now managed by CEO Brian Molele. [Laughter.] [Applause.] Under their expert investment management, the CIPC has again recorded excellent financial results.

The Budget is a culmination of a full year of discussion involving literally thousands of people in national, provincial and local government and many of our public entities. The importance of the Budget rises to the same level of merit.

Under the stewardship of President Mbeki and the drive and determination of Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka, the Cabinet has been instrumental in shaping the Budget. I'd like to thank especially the members of the Ministers' Committee on the Budget for the long hours and thousands of pages of documentation they've had to create to craft this Budget. [Applause.]

Deputy Minister John Moleketi continues to bring his sharp analysis and intellectual rigour to the Budget process. [Applause.] I'd like to thank him, but also the MECs for finance—who are all seated over there and who are in the midst of finalising their own budgets and budget speeches—for the work that they have done in strengthening discussions in the Budget Council. I would also want to express appreciation to Seema for their efforts in guiding our understanding of the issues relevant to local government. [Applause.]

I'd also like to express a word of gratitude to Governor Thabo Mboweni and the staff of the Reserve Bank for their support and assistance, the Financial and Fiscal Commission

Chairperson Dr. Bhehmi Nkomo and the other commissioners and staff for their sound advice and considered contributions to the intergovernmental framework. I'd like to express my appreciation to the Development Bank of Southern Africa that hosts amongst others, Bhehmi Nkomo—I am going to be contacted for participation to this again. The chairperson, Jay Nkomo, and the CEO, Mr. Paul Baloyi, are with us. I'd like to express appreciation to them.

I would also like to express a word of gratitude to Mr. Herman Mkhize, who has skillfully steered our discussions with business, labour and community representatives in Klerks, and to Mr. Paul Lencina, who continues to drive ongoing improvements in the content and quality of government publications supported by the Statistics Council Chair, Mr. Howard Gertzel.

Thanks also to the chairpersons of the four committees who look after us: the Portfolio Committee on Finance chaired by the hon. Mkhamele Nene, Mr. Jule Kallala who chairs the Select Committee on Finance in the NCOP, and the Joint Chiefs of the Budget Committee, Ms. Louise Mase and Mr. Bhehmi Mkhalehlo, for diligently working on making government so accessible. [Applause.] Thank you very much for the stewardship and leadership that you offer us and the way in which you hold us to account.

Madam Speaker, could I beg your indulgence and ask that the House joins me in wishing Seema a happy 11th birthday. [Applause.] It is remarkable that an organisation so young can do so much for the good of our country and our people. So congratulations to you, Commissioners Gertzel, and your dedicated staff of 25 000 and members. [Applause.]

Louise Kallala continues to lead an inspired group of professional staff at the National Treasury, always striving to do better and in the result driving everyday change. [Applause.] Thanks, too, to the all-

cials in the Ministry who give their all, especially at the time of the Budget.

Lastly, thanks to my family, who continue to inspire me to build a society that values our shared humanity. [Applause.]

President Mbeki has also advised:

What this means is that when we talk of a better life for all, within the context of a shared sense of national unity and national reconciliation, we must look beyond the undoubtedly correct economic objectives our nation has set itself.

When our forebears formed the ANC in 1912, in response to being excluded from the formation of the Union of South Africa, they were driven by the single-minded belief that human life has equal worth. When, 90 years ago to the day, the *SS Mendi* sank with 649 South African men on board, brave hearts in drowning said: We are here because we believe that human life has equal worth.

When Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu tabled the 1949 programme of action to spur more active resistance to discrimination, they believed that human life has equal worth.

In 1955, when our parents came together at Kliptown at the Congress of the People to proclaim loudly that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, they were united by the belief that human life has equal worth.

In 1983, when we launched the United Democratic Front in Mitchell's Plain, hundreds of community organisations said with one voice: Human life has equal worth. [Applause.]

In 1994, when we stood in line and voted as equals in our first democratic elections, we could feel the mood, and the mood said: Human life has equal worth. [Applause.]

When our Constitution was unanimously adopted in this House in 1996, our declara-

tion to the world was loud and clear: Human life has equal worth. [Applause.]

And today, again, we proclaim loudly that human life has equal worth and we will be unwavering in our dedication to the social cohesion and human solidarity that we seek in order to deliver that human life of equal worth. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

I knew I wouldn't get it right, Madam Speaker. This pile is made up of a series of Budget documents: the Budget Speech, the Estimates of National Revenue, the Taxation Proposals, the Budget Review, the Appropriation Bill, the Division of Revenue Bill and the Estimates of National Expenditure. My job is to table them before this House for consideration. Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, hon Minister. The Appropriation Bill, together with the introductory speech and the papers tabled, will be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Finance for consideration and report, and to the Joint Budget Committee to consider in terms of its mandate.

The House adjourned at 15:30.

ANNOUNCEMENTS TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

The Speaker and the Chairperson

1. Draft Bills submitted in terms of Joint Rule 159

(1) *Division of Revenue Bill, 2007*, submitted by the Minister of Finance. Referred to the Portfolio Committee on Finance and the Select Committee on Finance.

(2) *Banks Amendment Bill, 2007*, submitted by the Minister of Finance. Referred to the Portfolio

Committee on Finance and the Select Committee on Finance.

- (3) *Pension Funds Amendment Bill*, 2007, submitted by the Minister of Finance. Referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Finance and the Select Committee on Finance.**

National Assembly

The Speaker

1. Introduction of Bills

1. The Minister of Finance

- (a) *Appropriation Bill* [B 2—2007] (National Assembly—proposed sec 77)

Introduction and referral to the **Portfolio Committee on Finance** of the National Assembly for consideration and report and to the Joint Budget Committee to consider in terms of its mandate, as well as referral to the Joint Tagging Mechanism (JTM) for classification in terms of Joint Rule 160, on 21 February 2007.

In terms of Joint Rule 154 written views on the classification of the Bills may be submitted to the JTM within three parliamentary working days.

- (b) *Division of Revenue Bill* [B 3—2007] (National Assembly—proposed sec 76)

Introduction and referral to the **Portfolio Committee on Finance** of the National Assembly for consideration and report and to the Joint Budget Committee to consider in terms of its mandate, as well as referral to the Joint Tagging Mechanism (JTM) for classification in terms of Joint Rule 160, on 21 February 2007.

In terms of Joint Rule 154 written

views on the classification of the Bills may be submitted to the JTM within three parliamentary working days.

2. Referrals to Committees of papers tabled

Please note: The announcement below replaces item 13 under “**Referrals to Committees of papers tabled**” on page 167 of the Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports of 20 February 2007.

- (13) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development** for consideration:

- (a) Proclamation No R49 published in Government Gazette No 29456 dated 7 December 2006: Amendment of Proclamation, in terms of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996 (Act No 74 of 1996).
- (b) Proclamation No R50 published in Government Gazette No 29456 dated 7 December 2006: Referral of matter to existing Special Investigating Unit and Special Tribunal, in terms of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996 (Act No 74 of 1996).
- (c) Government Notice No R990 published in Government Gazette No 29278 dated 13 October 2006: Regulations regarding the Promotion of Access to Information, made in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 1996 (Act No 2 of 2000).

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. The Minister of Finance

- (a) The Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance—21 February 2007 [RP 03-2007].
- (b) Estimate of National Revenue for 2007 [RP 04-2007].
- (c) Taxation Proposals in respect of Income Tax.
- (d) Budget Review 2007 [RP 02-2007], including:
 - Taxation proposals in respect of customs and excise duties; and
 - “Annexure E: Memorandum to accompany the *Division of Revenue Bill*”, tabled in terms of section 10(5) of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act, 1997 (Act No 97 of 1997).
- (e) *Appropriation Bill* [B 2- 2007].
- (f) *Division of Revenue Bill* [B 3—2007], tabled in terms of section 10(1) of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act, 1997 (Act No 97 of 1997).
- (g) Estimates of National Expenditure 2007 [RP 01—2007], which includes:
 1. Memorandum on Vote No 1—“The Presidency”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 2. Memorandum on Vote No 2—“Parliament”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 3. Memorandum on Vote No 3—“Foreign Affairs”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 4. Memorandum on Vote No

4—“Home Affairs”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;

5. Memorandum on Vote No 5—“Provincial and Local Government”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
6. Memorandum on Vote No 6—“Public Works”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
7. Memorandum on Vote No 7—“Government Communications and Information System”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
8. Memorandum on Vote No 8—“National Treasury”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
9. Memorandum on Vote No 9—“Public Service and Administration”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
10. Memorandum on Vote No 10—“Public Service Commission”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
11. Memorandum on Vote No 11—“South African Management Development Institute”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
12. Memorandum on Vote No 12—“Statistics South Africa”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
13. Memorandum on Vote No 13—“Arts and Culture”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
14. Memorandum on Vote No 14—“Education”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
15. Memorandum on Vote No 15—“Health”, Main Estimates, 2007-2008;

16. Memorandum on Vote No 16—"Labour", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 17. Memorandum on Vote No 17—"Social Development", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 18. Memorandum on Vote No 18—"Sport and Recreation South Africa", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 19. Memorandum on Vote No 19—"Correctional Services", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 20. Memorandum on Vote No 20—"Defence", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 21. Memorandum on Vote No 21—"Independent Complaints Directorate", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 22. Memorandum on Vote No 22—"Justice and Constitutional Development", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 23. Memorandum on Vote No 23—"Safety and Security", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 24. Memorandum on Vote No 24—"Agriculture", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 25. Memorandum on Vote No 25—"Communications", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 26. Memorandum on Vote No 26—"Environmental Affairs and Tourism", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 27. Memorandum on Vote No 27—"Housing", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 28. Memorandum on Vote No 28—"Land Affairs", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 29. Memorandum on Vote No 29—"Minerals and Energy", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 30. Memorandum on Vote No 30—"Public Enterprises", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 31. Memorandum on Vote No 31—"Science and Technology", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 32. Memorandum on Vote No 32—"Trade and Industry", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;
 33. Memorandum on Vote No 33—"Transport", Main Estimates, 2007-2008;.
 34. Memorandum on Vote No 34—"Water Affairs and Forestry", Main Estimates, 2007-2008.
- Referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Finance** for consideration and report.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 14:04.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS—see col 1069.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr L K JOUBERT: Madam Speaker, on behalf of the DA, I will move:

That this House—

- (1) notes and welcomes the additional expenditure announced by the Minister of Finance;
- (2) further notes the acute awareness of the critical lack of capacity across all spheres of government including but not limited to experience, skills and training, and huge numbers of vacancies; and
- (3) calls on this House to debate these issues as a matter of urgency.

Ms H WEBER: Madam Speaker, on behalf of the DA, I will move:

That the House discusses the slow pace at which children's homes and places of safety are being registered given the huge number of Aids orphans.

PRECEDENCE TO BIDDING MR M S MANIE FAREWELL

(Draft Resolution)

The ACTING CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Madam Speaker I move without notice:

That after consideration of Order number one, precedence be given to bidding Mr M S Manie farewell.

Agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 253(1) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING THE SECOND READING DEBATE ON THE DIVISION OF REVENUE BILL

(Draft Resolution)

The ACTING CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Madam Speaker, I move the motion as printed on the Order Paper, in the name of the Chief Whip, as follows:

That Rule 253(1), which provides *inter alia* that the debate on the Second Reading of a Bill may not commence before at least three working days have elapsed since the committee's report was tabled, be suspended for the purposes of conducting the Second Reading debate on the Division of Revenue Bill [B 3—2007] (National Assembly—sec 76) on Wednesday, 28 February.

Agreed to.

JOHANNESBURG INNER-CITY CRIME FIGURES

(Member's Statement)

Adv T M MASUTHA (ANC): Madam Speaker, on 8 February this year, the eve of the President's state of the nation address, the BBC broadcast a damning documentary purporting to project the inner-city of Johannesburg and in effect our country, as a whole, as the crime capital of the world.

The inner-city where I have studied, worked and lived for nearly two decades, is not only a home to well over a million people, both young and old, and of all races, but also a place of learning, work and conducting business for many more, be they from near or far. It boasts of being the entertainment Mecca of South Africa, with a concentration of cultural, sports and learning centres ranked amongst the best in the world. Of course, like any other big city, the issue of

crime is obviously a challenge as it is a densely populated area.

The latest annual crime statistics however, in fact, reveal a steady decline in the crime rate in the country and in Johannesburg in particular.

Further, the Johannesburg development agencies' annual survey reflects a steady improvement in a number of key performance areas, including a sharp improvement in a great property occupancy rate—from a peak vacancy rate of 25,8% in 1999 to the latest rate of 11,3% recorded last year. I thank you. [Applause.]

ACTING MINISTER OF HEALTH

(Member's Statement)

Mr G R MORGAN (DA): Madam Speaker, the appointment of a caretaker in the Ministry of Health will give Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang the time she needs to make a full recovery. We wish the hon Minister well.

But Transport Minister, Jeff Radebe, is unlikely to have enough time available to tackle the numerous problems besetting the Department of Health, and the DA believes that the President should have rather appointed a Minister from a portfolio less in need of such constant management as transport.

The Health department requires constant and personal engagement by a Minister. About 1 000 people a day are infected with HIV because the government's prevention programme has stalled. The Hospital Revitalisation Programme budget is being slowly cut back off the MTF period in favour of other capital projects. The Auditor-General's report shows provincial health departments to be so bogged down in mismanagement that patients' lives are at risk.

At the same time, the transport portfolio requires full-time attention in a sputtering

Taxi Recapitalisation Project and the rebuilding of South Africa's dilapidated transport infrastructure.

Can Minister Radebe handle both these portfolios? It remains to be seen. Of course, the Minister deserves an opportunity to prove himself. It is unlikely that, with the transport issues already on his plate, he'll be able to do justice to health issues as well. I thank you. [Applause.]

MEALS FOR PRISONERS

(Member's Statement)

Mrs S A SEATON (IFP): Madam Speaker, section 85 of the Correctional Services Act of 1998 makes it clear that the provision of meals to prisoners is subject to set guidelines. In particular, the law clearly prescribes the allowable maximum intervals between meals. For instance, the Act states that not more than 14 hours should elapse between the evening meal and breakfast during each 24-hour period.

However, it has come to the attention of the IFP that this maximum interval of 14 hours is being ignored and exceeded in some prisons. For instance, we have learnt that prisoners are often given their evening meal as early as 14:30 or 15:00, with breakfast only at 7:30 the following day. That would mean an interval of between 16 and 17 hours.

The IFP finds this practice inhumane and completely unacceptable. It is yet another example of the impunity with which the Department of Correctional Services operates as it is clearly in violation of its own basic law, the Correctional Services Act, and the Constitution.

The IFP therefore calls on the Minister to immediately launch an investigation into this inhumane practice at South African correctional facilities and to take the appropriate remedial steps to rectify the illegal actions of correctional officers. I thank you.

THE DA AND CORRUPT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(Member's Statement)

Me L N MOSS (ANC): Mevrou die Speaker, die DA se sogenaamde stryd teen korrupsie is 'n blote rookskerm, net soos wat sy opportunistiese samewerking met die onstabiele Independent Civics Organisation of South Africa—Icosa—aandui. Die DA verklaar byvoorbeeld dat hy nie met die gediskrediteerde Truman Prince sal saamwerk nie, maar is besig om Prince te herstel in sy posisie as munisipale bestuurder in Beaufort-Wes. [Gelag.] In Oudtshoorn beskerm die DA-raadslede die amptenare van Icosa wat aan korrupsie skuldig bevind is.

In die onlangse tussenverkiesing in Beaufort-Wes het die DA meer as 500 stemme verloor in die ooreenstemmende wyk vanweë sy samewerking met Truman Prince en Icosa.

Die DA sal nie daarin slaag om die Wes-Kaap in te palm met elke korrupte Jan Rap en sy maat nie. Die kiesers sal by die stembus met die DA afreken oor sy heulery met die korrupte elemente in Icosa. Ek dank u. [Applous.] (*Translation of Afrikaans member's statement follows.*)

[Ms L N MOSS (ANC): Madam Speaker, the DA's so-called war against corruption, is merely a smokescreen, just as its opportunistic co-operation with the unstable Independent Civics Organisation of South Africa—Icosa—indicates. The DA, for example, declares that they will not collaborate with the discredited Truman Prince, but yet they are busy restoring Truman Prince to his position as municipal manager of Beaufort West. [Laughter.] In Oudtshoorn, the DA councillors are protecting the Icosa officials that have been found guilty of corruption.

During the recent by-election in Beaufort West, the DA lost more than 500 votes in the corresponding ward as a result of its collaboration with Truman Prince and Icosa.

The DA will not succeed in its quest to gain control of the Western Cape by collaborating with every corrupt Tom, Dick and Harry. The voters will get even with the DA at the polls because of its collusion with corrupt elements in Icosa. I thank you. [Applause.]

FLOODS IN MOZAMBIQUE

(Member's Statement)

Ms S N SIGCAU (UDM): Madam Speaker, the UDM extends its best wishes to the people of Mozambique during their current hardships as they battle the consequences of the recent floods which have now been compounded in the aftermath of the recent tropical cyclone Favio.

We want to assure them that the South African nation notes their suffering, and stands ready to assist. In two days' time Rositha Tedro, a daughter of Mozambican floods, will celebrate her 7th birthday. South Africa and the world will remember her as the baby that was born in a tree, where her mother had fled during the floods of 2000. Sophia, her mother, is an emblem of the determination to survive just as little Rositha is a symbol of hope even in the face of massive natural disaster. They give a face and a personality to the tragedy that this year again has befallen our brothers and sisters across the border.

As they attempt to do elsewhere in Africa, the SA National Defence Force was there in 2000 to provide support, and they were able to save Rositha and her mother and many others, thus physically demonstrating that as a nation we are actively seeking the betterment of our continent. Thank you, Madam Speaker. [Applause.]

THE BATTLE OF MAJUBA COMMEMORATED

(Member's Statement)

Dr P W A MULDER (VF Plus): Mevrou die Speaker, die VF Plus bring hiermee hulde aan daardie Afrikaners wat vandag, presies

126 jaar gelede, die supermoondheid van die 19de-eeu. Brittanje, by Majuba oortuigend verslaan het.

Die Slag van Majuba het op 27 Februarie 1881 naby Volksrust plaasgevind. Tydens die veldslag is een Boer en 96 Britte dood, en onder hulle was die Britse bevelvoerder, Generaal Colley.

Brittanje, as koloniale moondheid, het vanaf die Napoleontiese oorloë tot by die Falklandoorlog aan meer as honderd verskillende oorloë deelgeneem. In hierdie tydperk—vanaf die tyd van Napoleon af tot vandag—het die Britte slegs een oorlog verloor, naamlik die Eerste Vryheidsoorlog van 1880-81 teen die Boere van die Transvaalse ZAR. In ander oorloë het die Britte wel veldslae verloor, maar nie die hele oorlog nie. In die Eerste Vryheidsoorlog het die Britte al vier veldslae ook verloor.

Die helde van hierdie oorlog was Generaal Piet Joubert, na wie Pietersburg vernoem is, asook Generaal Nicolaas Smit. Op 'n reis deur Europa na die oorlog het die beroemde Graaf Otto von Bismarck die hoogste Duitse toekenning, Ridder van die Rooi Adelaar, aan Generaal Smit, 'n mielieboer van Ermelo se kontrei, oorhandig. In Nederland is Generaal Smit met die orde van Kommandeur van die Orde van die Nederlandse Leeu vereer, en in Portugal het hy die land se hoogste toekenning ontvang.

Ons bring hiermee hulde aan ons voorvaders en die Afrikaners van Majuba wat in een van die eerste anti-koloniale oorloë in Afrika vir vryheid geveg het. Ek dank u. (*Translation of Afrikaans member's statement follows.*)

[Dr P W A MULDER (FF Plus): Madam Speaker, the FF Plus hereby wishes to pay tribute to those Afrikaners who today decisively defeated the superpower of the 19th century, Britain, at Majuba precisely 126 years ago.

The Battle of Majuba took place on 27 February 1881 near Volksrust. During the

battle, one Boer and 96 British soldiers died; amongst them the British Commander, General Colley.

Ever since the Napoleonic wars and up to the Falkland war, Britain, as a colonial power, had been engaged in more than a hundred wars. During this period—from the time of Napoleon up till today—the British had suffered only one defeat, namely the First South African War of Independence of 1880-81 against the Boers of the Transvaal Republic ZAR. In the other wars, though the British had lost some of the battles, they had not lost the war. During the First South African War of Independence, the British were defeated in all four battles as well.

The heroes of this war were General Piet Joubert, after whom the town of Pietersburg was named, as well as General Nicolaas Smith. During his travels through Europe after the war, the famous Count Otto von Bismarck bestowed Germany's highest Order, Knight of the Red Eagle, on General Smith, a maize farmer from Ermelo. In Holland, General Smith was awarded the Order of the Commander of the Order of the Lion of the Netherlands and in Portugal he was also awarded that country's highest Order.

We hereby pay tribute to our forefathers and the Afrikaners at Majuba who fought for freedom in one of the first anticolonial wars in Africa. I thank you.]

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SOUTH AFRICAN ARTISTS

(Member's Statement)

Mr H P MALULEKA (ANC): Madam Speaker, again, our own artists have done us proud. Today we salute, firstly, the two-times Grammy Award winners, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, for their nomination in two categories, best contemporary world music and best surround-sound production, for their album *Long Walk to Freedom*.

Secondly, the 49th Grammy Award for the

category best traditional world music went to the Soweto Gospel Choir for their album *Bizimel*. Drawn from churches and communities of Soweto, the 26-member group with its rich traditional and contemporary rhythms expresses the energy of our beloved country in 6 of our 11 official languages. Accompanied by a four-piece band and percussion section, the choir, in their debut CD *Voices from Heaven*, reached number one on Billboard's world music chart within three weeks of its US release, after debuting at number three.

The ANC congratulates the Soweto Gospel Choir on their grand achievement. A Grammy Award is no mean feat and we would like to say to the choir: You have done South Africa proud and we wish you good health and success in the days ahead. Thank you. [Applause.]

CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF ROBERT MANGALISO SOBUKWE

(Member's Statement)

Mr M T LIKOTSI (PAC): Madam Speaker, today the nation marks the 29th anniversary of the life of one of the stalwarts of our liberation struggle, a visionary, a patriot and a tried and tested leader, Comrade Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, the true and selfless son of Africa who passed on on 27 February 1978. In a competitors' social speech at Fort Hare University on 21 October 1949 he said: "It is meant that we speak the truth before we die."

The PAC is extending an open invitation to this House, and to the nation at large, to join it in celebrating the life of a man who sacrificed his life and suffered the worst torture at the hands of the enemy. He was poisoned, isolated for nine years on the notorious Robben Island and denied expert international medical attention, and he was banished to Kimberley in the Northern Cape until the last days of his well-deserved life.

Sobukwe was a true Africanist, one of the few champions of Pan-Africanism as an

ideology for total freedom in our country and the return of the land to its rightful owners, the indigenous African people, and total freedom for economic emancipation and preservation of human dignity. Let the spirit of this undisputed intellectual live within us and the unborn until the whole of Africa and our country Azania are totally free. I thank you. [Applause.]

TRANSFORMATION OF SPORTS

(Member's Statement)

Mr P J NEFOLOVHODWE (Azapo): Madam Speaker, Azapo believes that in the context of our history of racist settler colonialism and its deliberate programme of black impoverishment, blacks were not allowed to participate in sports codes such as rugby, hockey, cricket, golf, swimming, etc. That meant the concentration of resources in the hands of a racial minority.

Our national teams in hockey, cricket, rugby and swimming are still too white. It must be demanded of them to become fully representative of all players. The question we must ask of South African sport is: How much longer are we going to give support to untransformed teams? Our country is now in the fifteenth year of sports unification, and we have had more than 10 years of democracy and freedom. The transformation of society is imperative.

Azapo is of the view that there can be no democracy in this country if the structures that form the basis of apartheid sports are not done away with. In this context, the process of transformation in sports must continue to reverse the legacy of centuries of colonial rule, but this transformation process must not be in the form of assimilation into already set up systems, and it must not suggest the substitution of white faces for black faces in roles of mere window-dressing. It must be a genuine process all the way.

Sport is a vital component of our culture and it must be accessible to everybody. Sports must be broadly organised amongst

the masses, and facilities must be built throughout the country, commencing with the upgrading of facilities in poor communities. Indigenous sports must be funded and promoted up to Olympic level. All sports codes must be transformed. I thank you. [Applause.]

CRIME LEVELS IN RANDFONTEIN

(Member's Statement)

Adv H C SCHMIDT (DA): Madam Speaker, during the recess, and in particular five days before Christmas, four killers fatally shot a five-year-old girl, Danielle Esterhuizen, in her mother's arms at the Riebeeck Lake, a public amenity in Randfontein.

Despite requesting help from the SAPS, no such assistance was forthcoming, to such an extent that the father of the deceased girl had to take his own daughter to hospital, who was certified dead on arrival. In addition, poor police investigation has been displayed in solving the crime and bringing all the suspects to justice.

It is alleged that one of the two suspects arrested in connection with the murder was a suspect who had been released on bail for another murder charge.

To worsen matters, a man was found murdered at the same Riebeeck Lake approximately one week after the death of the five-year-old girl. No arrests have been made in connection with this case.

In addition, the owner of a farm stall in Randfontein was also shot and killed one week after the discovery of the murdered man at the Riebeeck Lake. No arrests have been made.

In fact, no fewer than two armed bank robberies, as well as an armed robbery of a furniture store, in broad daylight within the CBD of Randfontein, took place during the period of the commission of the above crimes.

Despite the above incidents, the commander

of the Randfontein Police Station, the Gauteng Provincial Commissioner, the National Commissioner as well as the Minister of Safety and Security are all of the view that crime is under control.

Quite clearly, Madam Speaker, it is not. It is time for the executive authority to realise the dire consequences of such crime on a local community such as Randfontein as well as on South Africa as a whole. What is needed is a firm commitment from government to stamp out crime. I thank you.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN HOUSING

(Member's Statement)

Ms B N DAMBUZA (ANC): Madam Speaker, the democratic government under the leadership of the ANC continuously work tirelessly to ensure that the rights of the people to live where they choose, to be decently housed and to bring up their families in comfort and security are fulfilled. The house of Ms Nothi Makhala stands proud and serves as a symbol of a new beginning for the Joe Slovo informal settlement near Port Elizabeth in the KwaDwesi Township in the Eastern Cape.

The house is one of many houses built under the Federation of the Urban and the Rural Housing Programme. The programme is supported by the People's Housing Process, which is a government programme that encourages people to build their own houses. The programme also encourages communities to work together and save.

The houses that are built in this process are much bigger and of good quality. By working together the communities gain skills as the construction work will be done by the members themselves. The ANC believes that it is initiatives like these that can speed up the journey to a better life for all.

Ndiyabulela. [Thank you.]

UBUNTU VALUES

(Member's Statement)

Mnu V B NDLOVU (IFP): Somlomo neNdlu yakho ehloniphekile, okokuqala, ngithi angiphakamise ukubonga uNgqongqoshe Wezezimali ngenkulumo yakhe ayenza yokubuyisa ubuntu, lapho athi khona, "Umuntu ungumuntu ngabantu." Lokho wakusho ekubhekise kwinqubomgomo yokuphilelana kwabantu e-Afrika nalapha ePhalamende esikulona.

Okwesibili, ngithi angiphakamise ukubonga kuyena uNgqongqoshe ngoba emuva kokuba esekhulumile kwaba khona isethulo sencwadi ekhuluma ngobuntu ebhalwe uMnu Mfuniselwa John Bhengu, ilungu elihloniphekile lale Ndlu, nayo egcizelela khona njalo ukuthi umuntu ungumuntu ngabantu. Uma le nqubomgomo noma le nqubokucabanga ingaba nengqalasizinda lapha eNdlini, isho khona ukuphilelana kwale Ndlu kuzokhula njalo.

Sithi asibonge Somlomo ngoba wakhuluma uNgqongqoshe kwaze kwaba sengathi wake waba yilungu le-IFP [Uhleko]. Ngikusho lokho ngoba kuyinqobo nenqubomgomo yenhlango yeNkatha yeNkululeko ukuthi umuntu ungumuntu ngabantu. Ngiyabonga. *(Translation of isiZulu member's statement follows.)*

[Mr V B NDLOVU (IFP): Madam Speaker and your august House, I rise firstly to thank the Minister of Finance for saying in his Budget Speech that a person is a person through other persons. The Minister said this referring to the culture of helping each other and mutual symbiosis here in Africa and in this Parliament.

Secondly, I rise to thank the Minister, because after his Budget Speech there was the launch of a book by Mfuniselwa John Bhengu, an hon member of this House. Even this book, emphasizes that a person is a person through other persons. If we continuously follow this good trend, we will have a

solid foundation in this House, because all this to me means that this fellow feeling in this House will grow.

We are therefore very thankful, Madam Speaker, because the Minister spoke so compassionately that it seemed at one stage as if he were a member of the IFP. [Laughter.] I am saying this because it is the policy of the Inkatha Freedom Party that a person is a person through other persons. [I thank you.]]

RECOGNITION OF GAY AND LESBIAN RIGHTS

(Member's Statement)

Mr A F MADELLA (ANC): Madam Speaker, the ANC has always committed itself to fight against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation. This is further endorsed by section 9(3) of the Constitution, a clause that gives protection to gays and lesbians against unfair discrimination.

South Africa must be proud as it is the first African country to enshrine gay and lesbian rights in its Constitution. We also acknowledge the remarkable achievement by our Parliament in processing ground-breaking legislation that seeks to broaden rape so as to define it as a violent crime that is happening to every citizen, be it between woman and man or between man and man.

The passing and implementation of this legislation, the Sexual Offences Bill, will go a long way in addressing the challenges of under and nonreporting of rape committed between men and men. I thank you.

NO-FEE SCHOOL POLICY

(Member's Statement)

Mr G G BOINAMO (DA): Madam Speaker, poor schools around the country are being bankrupted by the Minister of Education's overhasty implementation of the no-fee school's policy. Parents with children at non-fee schools have not been paying school fees since January. However, the fund will

only be available from the beginning of the 2007-08 financial year, on 1 April. In her haste to broadcast her policy, the Minister neglected to plan for its proper implementation. This has left already dysfunctional schools substantially worse off than they were before, and has made quality teaching at these schools even more of a challenge than it already is.

While the intention behind this policy was good, it is unacceptable that it was implemented without ensuring that the necessary funding was in place. The Minister needs to explain how she is going to rescue these schools from the troubles she has inflicted on them. Thank you. [Applause.]

FREE, DYNAMIC AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION

(Member's Statement)

Ms D G NHLENGETHWA (ANC): Madam Speaker, education is not a privilege; it is a right. The ANC is committed to moving as rapidly as possible to free, dynamic and compulsory education. We are committed to making sure that no learner is excluded from public schools because a family cannot afford to pay school fees; that public schools remain viable and that resources for learning are equitably spread.

The implementation of the no-fee school policy is gathering pace across the country. Recently, the provincial government of Mpumalanga has increased the number of no-fee schools to reach over 400 000 learners. The ANC believes that the dream of the free, compulsory, universal and equal education for all children is realisable. I thank you. [Applause.]

ACHIEVEMENTS BY GOVERNMENT

ACTING MINISTER OF HEALTH

(Minister's Response)

UNGQONGQOSHE WEZEMISEBENZI
YOMPHAKATHI: Somlomo, malungu

eNdlu ehloniphekile yePhalamende, ngithanda ukuphawula kokubili okushiwo amalungu kwinkulumo noma izincomo zawo. Ngithanda ukuphawula maqondana nodadewethu obekhuluma ngezindlela lo hulumeni ozama ngazo ukuthuthukisa izimpilo zabantu, ikakhulukazi ekwenzeni ukuthi sonke sikwazi ukuba nezindlu futhi sikwazi nokuthola amanzi. Udadewethu kade encoma-ke esikwenzile laphaya ekwakhiweni kwezindlu eDwesi; encoma futhi indlela esizakhe ngayo yokuthi sidale amathuba emisebenzi ukuze labo bantu bazakhele izindlu zabo ngokuhambisana nalo mgomo obizwa phecelezi nge-people's housing process.

Ngiyathemba-ke ukuthi baningi omasipala abazokwazi ukulusebenzisa lolu hlelo ngoba, ngale nje kokuthi sakha izindlu, kodwa senza nabahlali uqobo kube yibo abazakhelayo lezo zindlu zabo. Ngaleyo ndlela bathola amakhono, baphinde bathole ukuxhaseka ngokwezimali okwesikhashana.

Okwesibili, mangisho nje kwilungu elihloniphekile le-DA ukuthi ngiyadumala nokho ngalokho ebelikukhuluma kokuthi ngabe uNgqongqoshe Wezokuthutha uzokwazi yini ukumelana nalo msebenzi anikezwe wona uMongameli. Kubalulekile sikhumbele ukuthi vele kuyinhlala yenza ukuthi uma kukhona uNgqongqoshe ophumile kuleli ngomsebenzi, noma uma omunye uNgqongqoshe engaphilanga, kufanele uMongameli abeke uNgqongqoshe ozokwazi ukubamba lowo Mnyango okwesikhashana. Ngakho-ke angiboni ukuthi kuzoba nzima ukuthi lo msebenzi awunikeziwe uMnu Radebe akwazi ukuwenza.

Masingabi sesibheka kumbe sigijime kakhulu kunokufanele sikwenze, size sifake noMongameli amazwi emlonyeni okuthi ngabe wenzani manje. Uma sekufanele akwenze lokho, siyofika isikhathi futhi akwenze ngendlela afanele akwenze ngayo. Kodwa okwamanje asithokoziswe nje ukuthi ukhona umuntu ozohola lo Mnyango okwesikhashana ngenkathi esalulama udade-

wethu uManto Tshabalala-Msimang. Ngiyabonga. [Ihlombe.] (*Translation of isiZulu minister's response follows.*)

[The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS: Madam Speaker, hon members of the House of Parliament, I would like to comment on two things said by the members in their statements or compliments. I wish to comment on the statement by my sister there regarding the ways in which this government is trying to make the people's lives better, more especially in making sure that we all have houses and clean water. My sister over there was complimenting us on what we have done at Kwa-Dwesi. My sister also complimented the way we built those houses there because employment opportunities were created, and thus people built their own houses using the government policy known as the People's Housing Process.

I just hope that there are many municipalities that will be able to use this project, because we do not only build houses through this project, but also make people build their own houses. And thus, these people acquire new skills, and also incentives for that particular time.

Secondly, let me also say to the hon member of the DA that I am disappointed by what this member said here. The member was asking if the Minister of Transport would be in a position to do the task that the President has assigned to him. It is important for us to remember that it is common cause that if there is a Minister who is perhaps on duty outside this country, or if one of the Ministers is indisposed, the President has to appoint an interim acting Minister for that particular department. I therefore do not foresee that it will be difficult for Mr Radebe to execute the duty placed on him.

We need to be careful not to simply rush things and do what we are not even supposed to do. We do not have to put words in the President's mouth and say what he should be doing now. If the time comes for the

President to do that, he will do it accordingly. But as for now, let us be content and happy that at least there is someone to lead this department in the interim whilst our sister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang is recuperating. I thank you. [Applause.]]

NO-FEE SCHOOLS

(Minister's Response)

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Madam Speaker, education is indeed a fundamental and a basic right of all our learners. I think we can celebrate the fact that more than 5 million learners in our country are now the beneficiaries of attending no-fee schools. The introduction of no-fee schools is not something new. It has already occurred last year where 20% of our schools were covered. This year it has been expanded to 40%—this means that 12 000 schools have now been declared no-fee schools.

Obviously, in the context of the large number of schools that are involved, you may have some difficulties. It would have been very helpful if the hon member had drawn the attention of the Ministry to the particular schools that are affected. However, whilst we celebrate this, we have a responsibility in ensuring that provinces are able to implement the policy and that resources are provided to the provinces in terms of the Division of Revenue Bill and that they are indeed available. It means that there has to be better management and planning.

The Minister is currently undertaking a survey on the impact of the no-fee schools in the various provinces. This means that whilst the policy is good, we have to ensure and take the responsibility of ensuring that the implementation occurs with due regard for the interests of the learners and not inconvenience any of the schools.

May I also add that, in addition to the 5 million learners who are the beneficiaries of attending no-fee schools, we've had a wonderful announcement by the hon Minister of

Finance R800 million is going to be set aside for FET bursaries. This would increase the volume of access to our schooling institutions.

May I further add, for the benefit of the hon member, that no learner can be excluded from school on account of the inability of his or her parent to pay school fees in terms of current legislation. We cannot then say that because there are difficulties in a few schools with regard to implementation we should withhold the resources generally to schools and, therefore, deny access to thousands of our learners who are afflicted by poverty. We have the responsibility to ensure that we provide quality education and free access to our learners wherever it is possible. I think what we should rather do is celebrate the wonderful strides that have been made in education. I will not even comment on the wonderful further contributions that Treasury is making in terms of education. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

CRIME CHALLENGES FACING GOVERNMENT

(Minister's Response)

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr A G H Pahad): Madam Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern about what the member has referred to regarding the BBC programme on crime in South Africa on the eve of the President's state of the nation address. What we can't understand is why the BBC, which has such a good reputation generally, saw fit to show a programme that was so one-sided, so selective and so distorted. We have acknowledged on many occasions that crime is a problem that we are trying to tackle. And as the President said in his state of the nation address, we have consistently, all these years, put sufficient resources in the criminal justice system to enable us to tackle this. Why the BBC went in this direction I don't know I believe we need explanations. I hope all members of the House, including the opposition, will be able to see this

programme again so that we can all in a united way respond to such distorted reporting from such a reputable TV station.

A newspaper recently wrote:

People are fed up with crime. They're tired of being afraid to walk alone at night and of worrying that some creep is going to break into their home or steal their car. Honest people living honest lives shouldn't have to put up with this crap. It's not safe to work in a gas station or convenience store. You'll be threatened, maybe beaten and robbed.

Those of us lucky enough never to have been the victim of breaking and entering, or random vandalism, or an opportunistic thug with a fetish for other people's wallets, purses, iPods, etc all know someone who hasn't been so lucky. And that makes us scared.

But before the opposition jumps to conclusions, that's not a South African newspaper report. That's an editorial in the *The Daily News* in Halifax, Canada, which is a reflection of the reality that crime is not unique to South Africa and that we must fight it as we are fighting it all over the world. It is in this context that I would argue that there are many areas in London that you cannot go to precisely because of the crime problem. So, if you go to those specific areas and look for distorted reporting, you will get such distorted reports. Thank you. [Applause.]

MEALS FOR PRISONERS

(Minister's Response)

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Thank you, hon Speaker. I would like to respond to the statement made by the hon Seaton—and unfortunately I don't see her in the House. I don't know if she is still around—about the meal times and the intervals between the serving of those meals.

It is indeed a challenge that is facing Correctional Services. The manner that we

we grappling with, as we speak, is still on the table of Correctional Services. And when we are ready, we will come and report to the portfolio and select committees.

Last year, for the first time, we launched what we call "Correctional Week", when, as Correctional Services, we actually reach out to communities, to NGOs, to all our partners out there who work with Correctional Services, and indeed anybody who has an interest in working with Correctional Services in overcoming some of the challenges that we do have, and indeed the portfolio committee, hon Seaton and everybody out there are also invited actually to come and assist us in grappling with this challenge that we are facing.

As I said, we will come and report to the portfolio committee when we are ready, because the matter is still under discussion in the Department of Correctional Services. Thank you. [Applause.]

MAJUBA MUNICIPALITY

(Minister's Response)

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Madam Speaker, I would like to respond to the hon member that spoke about Truman Prince. [Interjections.] That is right, Truman Prince. [Laughter.]

I would just like to inform the DA that I am a daughter of the soil of Beaufort West. [Interjections.] I know Beaufort West better than you do. I know Truman Prince better than you do. [Interjections.] Now, there is one thing that you must tell us as the people of Beaufort West. [Interjections.] Tell us the truth. Are you trying to revivitate Truman Prince for your narrow interest? You must tell us the truth. [Interjections.] What are you trying to do? I'm particularly referring to the hon Doman. [Interjections.]

I'd like to warn the DA. [Interjections.] I'd like to warn the DA, Madam Speaker.

[Interjections.] Give me a chance! Don't be nervous. Don't be nervous. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT: I'd like to warn the DA that in respect of those municipalities that you say you are governing together with Icosa, that are so unstable--and they'll continue to be unstable until the next election--you will live to regret it! [Interjections.] Thank you. [Applause.]

MAJUBA MUNICIPALITY

CRIME LEVELS—RANDFONTEIN ARMED ROBBERIES AND NO ARRESTS

VALUES RETAINED BY UBUNTU

(Minister's Response)

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, a few quick responses. On the anniversary of the Battle of Amajuba, I think we want to congratulate the sons and daughters of the Afrikaners. It's just a pity there wasn't a TRC after the South African War. Some of these things kind of need to be resolved and it is a very important part of nation-building.

The hon Schmidt has left the House. Now, I am familiar with the case, partly because the father of the young girl he referred to is an employee of the Revenue Service. I just hope that the hon member, rather than standing here and making hollow statements, is active in building the community police forum in Randfontein, because we need local oversight, we need local accountability. That is the message. There is no point in standing here and making a member's statement and then running off from Parliament. We must be active in the communities and that is part of the honour and responsibility of service to the electorate.

In respect of the hon Ndlovu, I think when our forebears met in Bloemfontein in 1912,

they established a parliament of the people. And when others left that parliament of the people to form different organisations, we are glad to see that they retained the same values that have been there in the parliament of the people from 1912. Some of them have even retained the colours and added a few more colours. We are grateful on this side of the House. [Applause.] Thank you. [Laughter.]

ENSURING RESPECT FOR AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN ALL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES AND BELIEFS IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

(Debate)

Mnu S J NJIKELANA: Somlomo, hayi obekekileyo kuphela kodwa nothandekayo, abaPhathiswa abahloniphekileyo, malungu ePalamente, kunye nani nonke bemi boMzantsi Afrika, namhlanje mawethu sithi masike siphicothe lo mbandela weenkolo namasiko kuzwelonke. Endiza kukuphakela umzi ke kumalunga neendlela ekuzanywa ngazo kuzwelonke intsetyenziswano nokuhloniphana kweenkolo, amasiko nezithethe.

Gxebe xa ndinaba, ngumntu ekufuneka enzile, hayi inkolo, isiko okanye isithethe. Kuninzi okwenzekayo kumazwe ngamazwe malunga nalo mba kwaye ukunyamekelana nokuhloniphana phakathi kweenkolo namasiko yintsumantsumane esaqhekeza iintloko, itshise namabunzi kwabo baphethene nemicimbi elolu hlobo. Mandikhe ndigocagoce ukuba kutheni le nto lo mcimbi uyintsi-ndabadala, kodwa sibe sibona iinkokheli zethu zikunye neenkcuba-buchopho, bechinika amabunzi bezamana nesisombululo. *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.)*

[Mr S J NJIKELANA: Hon and beloved Speaker, hon Ministers, Members of Parliament and all South African citizens, today I would like us to explore the issue of beliefs and customs as it is a national question. My presentation in this House is in relation to

mechanisms that are being generated nationally in an endeavour to bring about harmony and respect amongst the various religions, beliefs, cultures and traditions.

Furthermore, it is a person's responsibility to perform, not the belief, culture or tradition. There is a lot happening in different countries around this matter and tolerance and respect of other people's religion and customs is still a burning issue to those who deal with matters of this nature. Let me explain why this issue has become a big problem which is causing our leaders, together with experts, to perspire with the effort to come up with solutions.]

The history of mankind is littered with both religious and belief tolerance and intolerance amongst nations, races, tribes and social groups. We have yet to see any abatement of the wars and tensions rampant in Palestine, Sudan, Somalia and Sri Lanka, to name a few.

Many are still licking their wounds and emotional scars in Yugoslavia, Nigeria and Algeria. What we are made to believe is that religious differences are the underlying causes of such conflicts.

If we assume that every society has an obligation to ensure that all citizens have the right to freedom of association and freedom of thought or choice, then this topic would be redundant; that is if that was practised. The reality is that the world is reeling and agonising due to conflicts caused by religious differences. From the days of colonialism to present-day neoliberalism, religious conflicts are still rife. Discrimination on the grounds of religious differences has caused untold harm, especially on our continent.

Obviously, one of the reasons for calling Africa the Dark Continent was the contempt for our religions, traditions and beliefs. In fact, Danielle Mezzana states:

For centuries African traditional religions have been subjected to the same misinterpretations, underestimation and basic

stigmatisations which have been reserved and continue to be reserved for the societies, cultures and actors of Sub-Saharan Africa in general.

At the core of abuse of religion is the unquenched desire for material gains. Expeditions to discover and spread the Word of God were abused to advance colonialism, and crusades under the pretext of spreading Islam were used to plunder nations. Whilst the values, principles and ethics of all religions are worthwhile, the abuse thereof must always be condemned and obliterated without mercy. Capitalism and its parent, imperialism, have been very crafty in abusing religion for material gains.

Let me further assert that using the fight against terrorism as a guise to undermine certain religions, due to the imperialist gluttony to buttress and sustain its insatiable appetite for dominance, must be condemned as well.

Countries such as Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan are amongst those enduring untold suffering due to the so-called crusade against terrorism. I maintain very strongly that the most appropriate action against terrorism should not only be its elimination, but also addressing its underlying causes.

The evidence of a series of resolutions and conventions in international bodies such as the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union is quite abundant; however, evidence of effective implementation is unfortunately quite scant. The question is: Why, in spite of so many resolutions and conventions that oblige governments and even ordinary citizens to ensure respect and coexistence of religions and beliefs, is the world still shaken now and again by conflicts arising from religious differences?

To me, the lack of political will amongst those in authority cannot be ruled out. Using incorrect, and at times distorted, ideological tools to address such conflicts do not, unfortunately, yield the desired and sustain-

able results. Overreliance on legislation rather than resocialisation of those entangled in such conflicts will always run the risk of limited impact. I therefore argue for resocialisation, because a resocialised person will always behave of his or her own volition without compulsion due to statutes.

Obviously, international bodies such as the IPU and the United Nations are in one way or another committed to ensuring that all nations strengthen respect for human rights, democracy, tolerance and pluralism—all attributes that are important for the maintenance of peace.

Some of us believe in, and have actually implemented, the practice of keeping the state separate from religion, and also that the institutions of religion should be entirely free from governmental interference. This is a principle that is found in various constitutions throughout the world. Let me quote a few. Chapter 3 on the fundamental rights of the constitution of Sri Lanka asserts:

Every person is entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including the freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice.

The dilemma is that in reality there is strife and tension due to religious differences, and even hostilities that are triggered despite constitutional obligations to do the opposite. When the distinction between state and religion is blurred, there are bound to be certain sectors that will suffer unavoidable discrimination of some form.

We also need to guard against practices that aim to maintain the dominance of one religion at the expense of the other. The SA Communist Party argued in 2003 that the SABC needs to review existing religious programmes with the intention to promote comparative education and analysis of religions and other forms of beliefs and nonbeliefs, and tolerance of different religious beliefs, and to ensure that African traditional religions, Islam, Judaism, Hindu-

ism and other minority religions get increased exposure on the SABC.

Another display of religious tolerance happened in January 1998 when Pope John Paul visited Cuba. The Pope was received as a divine messenger by millions of Cubans. President Castro said in a conference:

The success of the visit of the Pope must be a success of the country and a success of the revolution. It is a manifestation of confidence.

Even here in South Africa, within our new political dispensation, we've been able to experience a very clear turnaround in terms of discrimination which was rampant before we got our freedom. It is therefore understandable when the ANC claims that every neighbourhood in our country has religious, political, commercial, educational and social communities who are concerned to build a just and peaceful nation.

Amongst some of our achievements in this current dispensation is plausible religious coexistence, an accolade which we need to share with other countries which are still immersed in unfortunate religious conflicts.

What we need to share is not only the outstanding legislation that has ensured that discrimination on religious grounds is flung into the political dustbin, but also our daily campaign and dialogue, especially the noble effort of resocialising the behaviour and attitudes of ordinary South Africans. We need to share this with others throughout the world.

But how do we promote sustainable respect and coexistence amongst those who practise different religions globally? Our leadership, guided by our country's well-supported conventions, has engaged in debates on various international platforms and has vigorously promoted interreligious dialogue and understanding, including awareness of differences and commonalities amongst peoples and civilisations. I feel that this is the starting

point if we are to ensure the sustainable promotion of respect and coexistence.

However, let me point out that changing the material conditions of the poor for the better will go a long way in addressing the neverending strife that tears families apart, that triggers wars and pushes communities asunder into rampages. Using the correct and time-tested ideological tools to promote religious tolerance and therefore co-operation is the undoubted choice that humanity needs to opt for with the greatest passion.

Godfrey Igwebuike Onah claims that at the centre of traditional morality is human life. Africans have a sacred reverence for life, for it is believed to be the greatest of God's gifts to humans. I therefore maintain that we need to be guided by this dictum.

Once again, some of us have gone, and will still go, out into the world to champion tolerance, co-operation and dialogue so that humanity can ensure respect and coexistence. We need to be mindful of what President Mbeki said:

The process of change has created space for religious communities by guaranteeing all freedoms, particularly religious freedom, which should give these communities all possibilities and opportunities to play their part in the reconstruction and development of our country.

I conclude by asserting that this pertains not only to our country but to the world as a whole. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr W J SEREMANE: Modulasetulo, se sugele ngwana thari mpeng. [Chairperson, don't count your chickens before they are hatched.]

Despite the long title of the subject of debate, one can only begin the discourse by picking on the key operative words of the title and these are respect, peaceful coexistence between all religious communities, beliefs and global world, because with a sober approach we could be able to begin to

prepare the ground for the ideals that are espoused by this very long title. Respect can only be meaningful if it's reciprocal and mutual and not mono-directional.

Peaceful coexistence between all can only mean that a strong element of justice and mutual recognition of each other's sovereignty and space, so to say, are essential for global cohesion and tolerance. In most democratic societies it is imperative that there should be a culture of the recognition of fundamental freedoms and human rights undergirded by tolerance and the preparedness to uphold these tenets unselectively and fearlessly. To ensure respect and peaceful coexistence of all these bodies or religious bodies, the dialogue between all religious bodies is also critical. Ecumenism and inter-faith dialogue are critical in sustaining the sentiments as expressed by this topic.

Much work has been done in this area by bodies such as the World Council of Churches and similar circular institutions. The foregoing contention is borne out by the resolve ensuing from the 1998 12th Summit Conference of the Heads of State or Government of Nonaligned Movements in Durban which expressed itself thus:

The Heads of State or Government expressed their concern at attempts to suggest division between cultures and civilisations and reiterated that despite conflict and war throughout human history, positive interaction and fusion between cultures and civilisations have continued for the benefit of all humanity, and expressed their resolve to facilitate and enhance this dialogue between cultures and civilisations.

Therefore, the peaceful coexistence between all religious communities can, on the other hand, be strengthened and enhanced by joint social justice ventures, meaning from word to deed witness between these different and globally situated communities.

In conclusion, I would also like to say that it

would be a useful exercise if we, our Parliament, explore the possibilities of contributing to these ideals and sentiments conjured up by the subject under discussion. If we believe in the validity of the subject, we, as Parliament, must live out the sentiments and begin to be what we espouse as an institution—individually and severally. We need to take note of what Bishop Francisco Claver said in his pastorals. He says in a very short pithy way: "We must separate the chaff of rhetoric from the grains of reality."

The ideals, therefore, envisaged by this topic are certainly acceptable to all freedom-loving and democratic societies. Therefore, it is imperative to endorse such aspirations. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Madam Deputy Speaker, it is an honour for me to follow on the possible new leader of the DA. [Applause.]

At the end of April the International Parliamentary Union will meet in Indonesia to discuss serious matters affecting the people of this world. About 150 parliaments will try to find solutions for the problems of this planet. One of the issues to be discussed concerns religious communities; there are literally thousands of different religious beliefs on earth and they all have to be respected and have to coexist peacefully and contribute to create a better life for all human beings.

Those members of the South African Parliament attending the forthcoming IPU meeting cannot simply arrive there and take stands. They represent the South African Parliament and must reflect this Parliament's views. For that reason this debate is taking place so that the South African delegation can today be briefed on what stands we are to take, not only on the issue we are debating today, but also on other issues to be covered later by this House.

Religion is supposedly all about faith, hope and love and yet, one will have to go far to

find another issue that is so filled with divisive elements such as intolerance, disrespect, hatred and even war. In many ways religion has shaped the modern history of the world. Witness, for instance, the Christian Crusades to the Holy Land and the penetration of Islam into Europe hundreds of years ago.

The reverberation of those monumental historic epochs can today still be felt and for some still serve as a rallying point. It is very important that all people recognise and respect freedom of religious choice and practice and especially to be tolerant of differences and divergent approaches to religion.

We therefore have to give the people of the world room to practise their religion of choice freely. But unfortunately hard-lined religious fundamentalists refuse to be tolerant of other religions, and they refuse to give room to other believers to practise their choice of religion freely. They thrive on intolerance, hatred and fear and have become a danger to humanity and to world peace.

One needs to take an example from the Roman Catholic Pope who, having raised the ire of Muslims everywhere with his misunderstood speech in Regensburg, went on a bridge-building visit to Turkey where his humility and respect for Islam went a long way towards rebuilding a fractured relationship.

The IPU must, therefore, at the forthcoming meeting in Indonesia, urge its member parliaments, about 150 of them, to make it possible for religious communities and leaders to enter into a dialogue of which the main aim should be guaranteeing respect for and peaceful coexistence between religious communities and beliefs in a globalised world. Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we call the next speaker, just to remind the House that this Parliament will be represented in

Indonesia, and amongst the topics to be discussed is this topic that very few people are paying attention to. The reason has always been that you are being represented elsewhere without your input, so we thought that by bringing the topics here you would either participate in the debate or follow the debate and be able to advise the delegation before it leaves. I am just pleading with you to assist us to give the best that South Africa can give to other countries.

Ms F BATYI: Deputy Speaker, everybody in this House knows that we live in a globalised world. Whether we are all for globalisation or against it, it's almost irrelevant since we are all part of it now, whether we like it or not. Despite the obvious benefits that it brings, globalisation has opened the world's eyes to what happens all around it and has sparked a sense of fear and insecurity that has led to the loss of many lives.

This fear and insecurity is a result of people realising that they have different beliefs, and their unwillingness to accept and embrace each other's otherness. This is a simple reason for why we are faced with a war on terror. This is the reason why the Middle East has yet to find a solution to a conflict that has been going on for decades. And this is why there is fear around the globe of a third world war based on the conflict between the West and the East, or more extremely, Christianity and Islam.

Strong leadership is necessary if we want to foster respect and peaceful coexistence between all religious communities and beliefs. Sadly, prominent international leaders have failed to do this and have instead imposed more fear on the peoples of the world.

The ID believes that South Africa, as a new member of the UN Security Council, can help to reverse this trend by showing the world how to reconcile different cultures, religions and beliefs under one flag. South Africa has survived its apartheid era, and our country now flourishes with acceptance and respect for all cultures and beliefs in our

land. This Parliament, along with other sectors of government, must therefore do what it can to discourage unnecessary warfare and the abuse of human rights.

Finally, the ID hopes that the South African government will use its power at the UN Security Council wisely. We urge them to recall the memories of our conflict-ridden country whenever they have to vote on the situation of another state, and we trust that it will always vote humanely for the duration of its term. I thank you.

Mrs C DUDLEY: Deputy Speaker, the ACDP believes that it is entirely possible and desirable for all religious communities to coexist in a globalised world.

In a report approved by the 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches, representatives from 120 countries reaffirmed their commitment to respectful dialogue and co-operation between people of different faiths and other convictions, declaring that the international community must work together to nurture global respect for diversity, culture and religion.

Sadly, the reality has been that efforts in this direction have instead undermined diversity, culture and religion. Anyone claiming a distinct identity or holding to unique and absolute values is seen as an obstacle and hindrance to an envisaged one world order.

Christians, for example, worship Jesus Christ who claims to be the one true God, the way, the truth and the life and the only way to the Father. This, in the opinion of those driving the new world order, makes an enemy of all Christians who will not compromise their belief.

Many cultures perceive themselves under threat which does not augur well for peaceful coexistence, when the mere expression of one's faith is said to constitute hate speech and people are intimidated into accepting laws promoting unacceptable practices such as abortion, homosexuality, experiments on human foetuses, pornography, assisted

suicide, sexual immorality and evolution there is cause for concern.

The World Council of Churches' report goes on to state that the real tension in our world is not between religions and beliefs, but between aggressive, intolerant and manipulative secular and religious ideologies used to legitimise the use of violence, the exclusion of minorities and political domination.

Respect for and peaceful coexistence between all religious communities and beliefs in a globalised world will not happen if it is at the cost of religious freedom and genuine diversity. The right to hold and articulate one's belief, the right to worship freely and even exclusively, and the right to refuse to participate in practices which violate one's conscience is fundamental and cannot be wished away or ignored.

Mrs B M NTULI: Madam Deputy Speaker, hon Ministers, friends and colleagues, South Africa is generally regarded as one of the religious countries of the world according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union's 116th Assembly and related meetings. Its religious population is constituted as follows: Christian 68%; African religions 28.5%; Muslim 2% and Hindu 1.5%.

South Africa's religious history is linked to the European powers' involvement in Africa when the colonial powers divided the African continent among themselves and in that process became actively involved in missionary actions. As from 1890, missionaries became involved and they were more associated with the ruling political powers in Africa. In many African states religion became the cornerstone of the African education systems and social, political and economic life in Africa.

South Africa's history provides sufficient proof that this country followed the trend of the rest of the African continent during the country's native-settler wars. Some of the conflicts were motivated—in the opinion of

the warring parties—by a God-given mandate, eg the Piet Retief and the Zulu wars. Let us avoid that.

Babe nesandla sika Esawu kodwa benezwi lika Jakobe. Babe khombisa ukuthi bazojikela kwesokudla kodwa bajikele kwesokunxele. [They had hands like those of Esau and yet had the voice like that of Jacob. They indicated that they would be turning right only to find that they turned left.]

In subsequent years South Africa in a great way succeeded in creating a climate conducive to the peaceful coexistence of the country's religious groupings. The South African Constitution, Act 108 of 1996, makes explicit reference to the following: It emphasises and enacts religious sensitivity in a country with potential ethnic and social divisions.

The Bill of Rights protects religious freedom. Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion. The Constitution not only acknowledges the rights of religious communities to assembly without prejudices, but also acknowledges the right of religious communities to join and maintain cultural, religious and linguistic associations.

The Freedom Charter says that the law shall guarantee to all their right to speak, organise, meet together, publish and preach and to worship and to educate their children. Sadly, international conflicts and wars are increasing at a rapid pace, some in the name of religion. South Africa remarkably, particularly given the country's divided tragic past, succeeded in escaping the scourge of armed conflict and also in enabling its various religious groups to live together harmoniously.

Kusho ukuthini nalokhu? Ngabe kusho ukuthi sifanele silwe ngoba inkolo yethu ingafani? Cha kodwa sifanele siphile sonke kuleli zwe esilunikwe nguMdali wethu. Munye uMdali, uthi yena unguAlfa no

Omega, uyisiqalo nesiphetho. IBhayibheli lithi "Hambani niye ezweni lonke, nishumaye ivangeli kwabakholwayo nibaphathize egameni lendodana nelikayise nelikamoya ongcwele, bese nibafundisa ukwenza konke enginitshele khona" Alisho ukuthi bacindezeleni abantu kodwa lithi okholwayo. Lokho kusho ukuthini na? Kusho ukuthi okholwa yile nkolo engizobe ngiyishumayela ngaleso siskhathi. Lisho ukuthi ke asimhloniphe futhi sibahloniphe nabanye. (*Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.*)

[What does this therefore mean? Does it mean that because we are from different religions we must fight? No, because we all need to live in this country which was given to us by our Creator. There is only one Creator. He says that He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. The Bible says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them all that I have commanded you." It does not therefore say oppress people, but it says "he who believes". What does this mean? This means that whoever believes in the kind of religion that I would be preaching at that particular time, should be respected and should respect others too.]

The World Council of Churches' declaration on religious liberty of 1948 remained as topical as it was in the middle of the previous century. The protection of the religious rights of others must be on top of the agenda of the international global world. This is also important to South Africa since this country's religious groupings are to play an important role in advocating global justice.

Thus it is important to protect the religious rights in a democratic state like ours, and to determine to what extent is the Constitution and other legislations in line with the international trends regarding the protection offered to religious communities. These include the right human rights instruments with reference to religion and belief, eg the

United Nation's Charter, the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, racial discrimination, the declaration on the rights of the child, the rights of indigenous people, the protection of human rights and the Arab Charter on human rights, etc. The question is: Are religious differences and religion to be blamed for wars and conflicts? The answer is no.

Sifanele sihloniphane. Abenzi balezi zimpi banezandla banezandla zika Esau kanti banezwi lika Jakobe. Bakhombisa ukujikela kwesokudla kodwa bajikele kwesokunxele. Kithina abashumayela ivangeli lithi iZwi, asiphakamise uJesu yena uzobadonsa abantu beze kuye. Umsebenzi wethu ukushumayela abantu baphenduke. (*Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.*)

[We need to respect each other. The instigators of all these wars have Esau's hands, and yet have the voice of Jacob. They indicate to be turning right, and yet they are turning left. To us who preach the living gospel, the Word says, let us exalt Jesus and He will draw them to himself. Our job is to preach to people to repent.]

The religious rights guaranteed by South Africa's Constitution are further entrenched by the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities.

The commission was established in terms of the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities Act, Act 19 of 2002.

The commission is to promote respect for and for the further protection of these rights, promoting tolerance and national unity in our communities. We have the challenge of nation-building in a diverse and deeply divided society. Let us build together and make South Africa a better place to live.

Asingazikhohlisi bakwethu sicabange ukuthi uma sisebenzisa iZwi lenkosi sisazophumelela ukubakhohlisa abantu njengakule-

siya sikhathi sakuqala uma sasibakhohlisa ukuthi bangabheki okunye okungamasiko abo, bakusebenzise. Zikhona izinto ezinhle ezazingamasiko ethu esasizenza. Ake ngenze umfanekiso, ngithi esikweni labantu intombi yayiba yintombi ize ifinyelele emshadweni. Nasenkolweni kunjalo, intombi ayiphile ubuntombi ize ifinyelele emshadweni. Angazi ke Ukuthi kuhluka kuphi. Kuningi okunye ebengingakubala kodwa ngikhetha ukuthi ngime nje kulokhu okubili engikushilo. Asiqapheleni ke bakwethu ukuthi ukuze sakhe iNingizimu Africa enenhlonipho, enokubekezelelana, enothando, ezoba yindawo enhle ukuthi wonke umuntu akwazi ukuphila kuyo ngenjabulo.

Asihloniphane, sihloniphe izinkolo zabanye abantu kanti neyethu bayihloniphe kanjalo. Mina ke njengekholwa ngiyazihlonipha izinkolo zabanye abantu. Angigxambukeli ezintweni zabanye abantu kodwa engikwezayo ilokho engikushilo ukuthi ngishumayela ivangeli lokuthi abantu abaphenduke balandele uJesu. Ophendukayo uye engizombhabhadisa bese ngimfundisa ukuhamba njengo Jesu. Ngiyabonga Sihlalo ithuba ongiphe lona, ngicela ukuthi ke sonke sihloniphane sakhel lelizwe lethu libe yizwe elinokuthula, sakhe lelizwe lethu kuze nezwe ngaphandle libukele kithina ukuthi kuhanjwa kanjani uma kuhlangele izizwe ezingafani, ezinezinkolo ezingafani, ezinabantu abahlukile ekwenzeni izinto abakholelwa kuzo kodwa bekwazi ukuphila ndawonye. Singavumi ukuthi izwe lethu lenziwe indawo yempi, kusetshenziswa igama lezinkolo zethu. Ngiyabonga sihlalo. (*Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.*)

[Let us, therefore, not fool ourselves and think that if we use the Word of God we will succeed in fooling the people around us as it happened previously when people were told to surrender their cultures. There are, of course, good things which were part of our cultures which we were doing. Let me raise an example here. Traditionally, a girl would remain a virgin until she gets married. The

same also applies in the religion: a girl has to maintain her virginity until she gets married. I can't spot the difference here. There is a lot that I can mention in this regard but I choose to pause here on these two that I have mentioned. Let us, therefore, be very vigilant in order to build a South Africa that is respected—a place of tolerance and love where everyone would live happily.

Let us respect each other and respect other people's religions so that they also respect ours. I for one, as a Christian, respect other people's religions. I do not interfere in other people's affairs, but what I do is, as I mentioned before, to preach the gospel for repentance and that people should follow Jesus. He who repents is the only one that I will baptise and teach to emulate Jesus. I thank you, Chairperson, for this opportunity that you have given me. I therefore ask all of us to respect each other, and build this country of ours so that even the world outside can look at us with envy and see how to live together as different races with different religions, as people with different interests who can live together in harmony. Let us not allow our country to be turned into a war zone through our religions. I thank you, Chairperson.]

Ms M M MDLALOSE: Madam Deputy Speaker, colleagues, our universe is home to many different races, cultures and religious convictions. The basis of social cohesion is the willingness to understand and respect the various religious practices around us.

It is our duty, as human beings, to build an ideology of acceptance, a prejudice-free world where we focus on the thread that binds us together as a people. An individual without any belief in anything in or beyond this world is a human being without purpose.

Religion serves as a force that grants us the gift of purpose. Without purpose there is no inspiration to live and to achieve great things. We have to acknowledge that the greatest world leaders were compelled by purpose to bend history and impact on

millions of lives in a positive way. For this reason, we have to accept and respect various forces that direct us to our destinies, to live and to be great people.

Ukholo lukhona, lwamukelekile futhi loru-melekile kuzo zonke izinhlanga. Asifunde ukwamukelana ngokuhlukana kwezinkolo zethu. Ngiyabonga. [Religion is there, and it is both acceptable and allowed in all races. Let us learn to accept each other and our different religions. I thank you. [Applause.]]

Mr I S MFUNDISI: Madam Deputy Speaker, hon members, the coexistence of religions is a fundamental challenge all over the world, and there is no doubt that religion is becoming increasingly important in the political sphere.

Nowadays that, which people believe in, has become a political issue. How people practise their religion has become politics. And in some regimes politics equals religion. It is always a great shock to see people fire shots at worship centres, or even go to the extent of gutting them in some instances.

Religion has to be treated with the greatest caution and, above all, tolerance. The golden rule in religion is: "Do unto others as you would like them to do unto you." This is common among religions such as Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Bahai and Hinduism. They may be using different words, but they boil down to one thing: "Be tolerant of others."

All religions should be accepted as potential bearers of peace, reconciliation and reflection. Coexistence in religion does not allow room for the holier-than-thou attitude. It does not allow Puritanism, and neither does it leave room for extremism and violence.

Religious intolerance has shown its face elsewhere in the world. The current tension in the Middle East should not be apportioned only to the Jews, while Muslims cannot be held responsible for the acts of radical Islamists. Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia

are two faces of intolerance that our democratic society must fight to the end.

The global village, which the world has turned out to be, experiences migration of people who live their beliefs in a new environment that becomes suspicious of such newcomers. The result is mistrust which more often than not leads to discrimination, hate and violence. These manifest themselves in a situation that leads to intolerance.

For religious communities to live in peace with one another, they should love, respect, consult and be tolerant of one another. None should view themselves as better than others. The principal word should always be "tolerance".

Our argument has always been that we all strive to become better with the dawn of each day. Those attending worship centres should not walk on air and look down on others. They should accept that a church or a worship centre is not a museum for saints, but a hospital for sinners.

In conclusion, it has to be noted that nowadays foreign policy extends beyond management of natural resources to the management of religious diversity, faith and cultural pluralism in the globalised world.

Foreign policy is about a quest for high ideals, paving the way for freedom, human rights, democracy, justice, as well as global understanding. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M T LIKOTSI: Deputy Speaker, the religious communities of the world have constantly been sending misleading and conflicting messages to international religious communities and others at large. There has been a superiority struggle amongst them, with some claiming to be more relevant and more authentic than others: Christians, Muslims, Hindus, African culture, etc. They all believe that there is only one God, named differently: uQamata, Jah, Tlatlamajholo, Allah, Here, etc, but still there re-

mains a strong feeling amongst them that the one's God is better than that of the others.

Amongst Christian religious groups there are sharply diverging views and approaches. The Catholics, the Protestants and abazalwane or the Zionists find it very difficult to coexist with one another, although they are all Christians.

There are repeated incidents of violence amongst some of these groupings, as seen through conflicts in Northern Ireland between the Catholics and the Protestants. These matters of nonrespect and lack of coexistence are sometimes caused by political interference, such as marginalising other religious groupings as nonmainstream.

In our country the mainstream religious communities are foreign-originated churches, such as the Roman Catholic Church, the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk and the Methodists. African churches include the ZCC, Shembe, Rastafarianism, amaPostile and IPCC, and they were regarded as uncivilised religious groups.

The African cultural beliefs are a factor and may not be ignored. Anything that relegates these beliefs to zero creates unnecessary tensions that may result in global disturbances. Each religious community should learn to respect the others and forge co-operation among people of different faiths, cultures and other convictions to prevent pain and suffering as seen in some of the places in the world. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M RAMGOBIN: Madam Deputy Speaker, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, since the scientific temper, the enquiring and challenging temper, is a temper of a free person, can we truthfully say to the world, especially to our children and all the children yet to come, that we, all of us, are ensured by our deeds, respect for one another, directed towards peaceful coexistence between all religious communities and beliefs in our globalised world?

Humbly put, I think, there is very little evidence of this, but given the faith we have in one another as fellow compatriots, we can

and must build on and enhance this evidence so that it may bloom into millions of flowers—South African flowers—that are diverse in form, colour and scent, but majestic in their collective grandeur.

I ask the question: Why else would Kofi Annan, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, have said in this very Parliament that, and I quote:

Your robust economy, stable democracy, support for the rule of law—and perhaps most important—your fully inclusive Constitution have made South Africa a beacon of tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and mutual respect between people of different races, languages, religions and traditions.

Hardly 12 months ago, from this very podium, he went on and emphasised that, and I quote:

South Africa's particular wisdom, derived from its own history of overcoming resentment and mistrust, can be used to convince other countries that injustices and misunderstandings are not cured by confrontation or threats, since these only strengthen the determination of the powerful to keep power in their own hands.

I believe this refers to political power, religious power or otherwise.

South Africa can teach all of us that, on the contrary, the way to a better balance lies through dialogue, and the establishment of mutual trust.

These sentiments, bordering on an article on faith, no doubt must humble us. Indeed they do.

With equal humility, whilst we acknowledge our major victories and many achievements, we are seized with the responsibilities of addressing the many problems that we as South Africans and the world at large face.

Of course, for us human rights were and are the proclamation the anchor of our secular

Constitution, and they are the cornerstone in determining our policy options for governance and foreign policy. More than this—and I'll repeat, more than this—our Constitution invigorates us to think about the ultimate purpose of life.

Indeed, we seek to affirm our lives to the fullest. However, we are also conscious, as our transition to democracy demonstrated, that we should resist the temptation to become a victim and a slave to life, which is rooted in self-centredness.

It will not be an exaggeration to assume that it is this self-centredness that has given rise to our current global nightmare, a nightmare that makes peaceful global coexistence seem beyond our reach. But, this must not be so.

In our globalised world, it is unthinkable that our economic, political and social institutions and practices will remain insulated from influences other than our own. It is encouraging to note that the IPU is convening a conference to address the issue of peaceful coexistence, especially in light of the growing communal temper of religious intolerance that characterises major parts of the world.

And since parliaments are repositories of power, it is within their scope to ensure that the preservation of our essential identities are not allowed to become bigoted. These identities must also not be given the scope to assume for themselves a self-righteous indignation for others. This should become the guiding principle of statecraft for all nations, religious states not excluded.

Communalism based on religion has the capacity to build and manipulate aggressive attitudes, which in turn stimulate another form of communalism. Religious communalisms feed each other, and the doctrine of resorting to force at will becomes the order of the day.

Globally we are descendants of people who were capable of establishing civilisation. Today we are faced with the challenge to

either negate our lives or affirm them. The current global situation, especially in the regions where conflicts and wars based on competing faith systems abound, is that there is a significant decay of simple human values.

Out of these crucibles of conflicts and wars emerge a particular tendency of intolerance and lack of respect for life, where we witness the undermining of our common advanced civilisation.

Whilst it should be our duty to add to the great advances and achievements of humanity, as well as the essential values that give meaning to our lives, we are preoccupied, on the basis of existing power and in seeking sectarian power over others, coupled with the arrogance that goes with it, with an uncanny mission to sow the seeds of self-destruction.

In conclusion, peaceful coexistence among all religious communities and beliefs in our globalised world demands respect for one another and for one another's beliefs. All the parliaments of the world must carry this forward or else religious fanatics will give expression to our human capabilities of destroying ourselves and much else.

Finally, I wish to quote from one of the greatest religious thinkers that walked this earth, Swami Vivekananda. He says:

I'm thoroughly convinced that no individual or nation can live by holding itself apart from the community of others. And whenever such an attempt has been made, under false ideas of greatness, policy or holiness, the result has always been disastrous to the secluding one.

With these words I thank you very much.

Ms S RAJBALLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, globalisation has been defined in Wikipedia as the increasing convergence of markets, economies and ways of life across the world. It goes on to explain that there are a variety of ways that globalisation may befall a

country and, in light of our topic, cultural globalisation, the growth of cross-cultural contacts is highlighted.

In late November of last year, the former president of South Africa, Mr F W de Klerk, made a valuable contribution voicing his sentiments on globalisation. He was talking at the Africa and Middle East conference when he correctly advanced that inequalities in the global economic and political system, and failure to deal sensitively with cultural and religious differences, were driving the global village apart. Economically, the world's people were divided by ongoing poverty and a widening gap between poor and rich nations.

He could not be more right. Each time we turn on the news, we hear of the world's division, war and imbalanced markets. We know of the existence of the first and second markets that are dominated by a few wealthy countries.

If we are to breach the divide, we need to realise that the human rights that South Africa so proudly boasts in our Constitution need to be carried out in our global dealings. We need to realise the benefits of trading with East and West, acknowledging the potential benefit to both markets.

To do so, we also need to engage in respecting and valuing all races, cultures and religions. South Africa is building great trading agreements, with both East and West.

We need to educate ourselves that to label terrorist activities with a religion is wrong. If we are to research the various religions, monotheistic and polytheistic, we would realise that all inscribe values and uphold the purest and greatest respect for human life, equality and harmonious living.

The MF acknowledges that as Parliament we have a mandate to investigate the progress of human rights in business and, if need be, drive efforts to motivate such progress in our markets. [Time expired.]

Mr S SIMMONS: Madam Deputy Speaker, the UPISA supports the ideal of creating respect for and peaceful coexistence between all religious communities in a globalised world, and we further believe that it would go a long way in the eradication of present conflicts around the world.

We don't have to look beyond South Africa since it became a democracy in 1994. Prior to South Africa becoming a democracy, the world stood in awe waiting for a revolution or a civil war to take place, but because of a mutual desire to coexist, we achieved what we have today, notwithstanding some domestic issues.

The relatively peaceful manner of our transition was a result of South Africans, irrespective of their religious convictions, demonstrating respect for one another's desires and beliefs.

Met Suid-Afrika as voorbeeld is ons oortuig dat met dieselfde ingesteldheid van wedersydse respek vir ander, soortgelyke vlakke van vreedsame naasbestaan tussen verskillende godsdiensgroepe in die wêreld bereik kan word. Hierdie plaaslike ervaring kan dus globaal herhaal word.

Daarom moet ons waak teen godsdiensgroepe in die wêreld wat in die naam van demokrasie hul geloofsoortuiginge in politiek en staatsadministrasie wil afdwing, want as dit toegelaat word, is hierdie debat van nul en gener waarde. Ek dank u. (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.*)

[With South Africa as an example, we are convinced that, with the same disposition of mutual respect for others, similar levels of peaceful coexistence could be reached between different religious groups in the world. Therefore this local experience can be repeated globally.

Hence we must guard against religious groups across the world that want to impose their religious beliefs on politics and gov-

ernance in the name of democracy, because if this is allowed, then this debate is futile. I thank you.]

Mr L M GREEN: Chairperson and hon members, the FD believes in and strongly supports the peaceful coexistence between all religious communities, and we believe in a globalised world in which there will be freedom of religion.

Tolerance is not equal to compromise. To tolerate someone else's religion does not mean one must sacrifice one's own faith.

History records man's inhumanity to man because of religious intolerance. The history of intolerance is well recorded. In 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the church's door at Wittenberg, and he was persecuted for his beliefs. As a result of religious intolerance, the Protestant Reformation was born.

One hundred years before Luther, John Hus was burnt at the stake, because he stressed the authority of Scripture instead of the corrupt papal authority of the day. He was burnt at the stake because his society did not believe in peaceful coexistence between the religious communities.

In 1564 John Calvin, a French Protestant, was imprisoned because of his faith. He was forced to worship in secret because of the religious intolerance in Germany in that period.

In 1572, 30 000 Protestants were massacred while worshipping on St Bartholomew's Day, and they were also, of course, known to us as the French Huguenots. The Huguenots became convinced of the necessity of using force in self-defence, and they articulated their biblical reasoning in the document called *A Defence of Liberty Against Tyrants*. Many French Huguenots fled to South Africa to find a new home of religious tolerance.

William Tyndale was burnt at the stake as a heretic in 1536. Before his death he spent 12

years in exile. His only crime was to translate the Bible into English so that it would become accessible to the common man.

We must jealously defend our religious freedom in South Africa and throughout the world, and therefore we commend the IPU for putting this on the agenda. I thank you.

Moulana M R SAYEDALI-SHAH: Hon members, *salaam alaikum*. I wish more time was dedicated to such an important subject, because historically, religion has always played a significant role in the lives of millions of people, shaping societies, communities and even the geopolitical landscape of the globe, and it continues to do so even today.

A large part of the South African population adheres to some form of philosophy. We all have some kind of concept of the universe and our place in it. We, therefore, cannot ignore the potential of religion and religious communities in making a meaningful contribution towards the socioeconomic development of countries.

However, and sadly so, religion also has the potential to disrupt peace and stability in society, when hijacked, by planting seeds of hatred and intolerance. It is a law of history that every ideological community starts with certain values and from these values emerge certain norms, then follow certain principles, then emerge certain laws and, finally, under those laws emerge definite rules, regulations and practices. A community adopts a certain philosophy of life in its pristine purity and, depending on the vitality and cohesion of the value system, the community moves forward and wins laurels. But what happens after that?

All values and ideals stand in need of certain institutions for their preservation. Sadly, though, after long periods institutions become more important and the values are forgotten, forgetting that the soul is more important because it survives the body.

When the values and the spirit are forgotten, those institutions become stereotyped, moribund, static and stagnant.

Followers and religious leaders of the respective religions then find themselves in a straitjacket. On the other hand, the vested interests which emerge in a community come into conflict with one another, not only through politics, but also through conflicting sects in religion. Ultimately, it becomes a dangerous tool in the hands of a few, leaving behind a silent majority, helpless and unable to wrest control.

Even Islam, the faith to which I belong, presents itself as a comprehensive philosophy and code of life which seeks to establish the universal brotherhood and sisterhood of humankind. Taking this to be its greatest social ideal, it too became a victim of the same treatment at various periods in its history.

The point I'm making is that religion itself is not to blame for the global conflicts fought in its name. It is in fact the practitioners of the various religions who have abused them. Take, for example, the role of religion in apartheid South Africa. It was both a participant in the maintenance of the apartheid status quo as well as an active and effective participant in the struggle against apartheid.

Fortunately, we now have a constitution which guarantees freedom of conscience, religion and belief. As long as faith-based communities, in respect of the Constitution, do not impose their beliefs and values on others, have mutual respect for one another's religious traditions, refrain from stereotyping, shun racial prejudice and view the "other" as an integral part of the human race, these fundamental human rights are recognised.

Furthermore, as long as governments, and our government too, treat their subjects and the various religious communities equally and protect their respective rights, there is no reason why South Africa should not become

a model of what a truly pluralistic society should be; that it should not become an example for others to emulate. I believe we can achieve this goal if the religious and political leaders in our country and the world act responsibly and lead by example.

Peace is not a white dove that will miraculously appear from heaven; peace is the absence of conflict, conflict is but a symptom of fear and fear is the product of ignorance. So, fellow South Africans, let us reach out to one another across the cultural, linguistic, religious and racial divide. Let us get to know one another better so that we may stop viewing one another as "the other" Then we shall be able to speak the language of "us" and "we" instead of "I" and "me". When this happens, South Africa will truly become a great country. I thank you. *Salaam aleikum*. [Applause.]

Ms N P KHUNOU: Chairperson, Deputy Ministers, hon Members of Parliament, I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour. We live in such exciting times with abounding opportunities. We are all alive, young or not so young, wealthy or less well-off, clever or just average, therefore, let us make the most of everything. Let us be alive and well. Do we ever think about ourselves and try to understand who we are? Have we ever thought how special we are? Do we ever think and thank God that we are alive? Why can't we live life to the fullest, without thinking less of one another, least of all let religion prescribe to that.

God has created us all in his own image. We are all equal in his eyes irrespective of who we are. God is no respecter of persons or religions, therefore there is no religion that can claim superiority. Therefore, let us learn to respect and accept one another. We, people of South Africa, believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity. As this is our Constitution, let us all recognise the fact that the entity described as the South African nation is made out of diverse linguistic and cultural groups.

There is a difference between beliefs and religion. We have different beliefs as human beings and they are not formalised, but religion, on the other hand, is formalised. We have different religions in this country and we call God different names as Mrs Ntuli has said. Some call him Allah and some call him God Almighty. He is still the same God, the Creator, infinite God, Alfa, Omega and our Protector.

In South Africa Christianity dominates other religions, but that does not mean that we have to belittle others. We are living in diversity. I need to emphasise this! It is important to respect and tolerate each other. Religion is made of social issues which become a binder. For instance, peace is a binder and therefore we are bound, as a society, to live peacefully. That is religion! Love binds all people.

People who have grown spiritually and are advanced always create an enabling environment for other religious groups. We need to have a common platform for coexistence, as my other colleagues have said. That is the aim of government—for all religious groups to create an environment that is conducive to coexistence.

Comrade Cedric Mason, the co-ordinator of the ANC Commission for Religious Affairs, in his attempt to describe religious heritage says: "It falls on to two parts, which are religion education and religious education." Religious education means the instructor of an adherent tenet and practices of a particular religion, nurturing of faith and advocacy of membership. It seeks to inculcate a specific viewpoint on faith and religious adherence which is our responsibility at home, in our families and churches and not government.

The Freedom Charter is a deeply spiritual document. Every clause thereof can be supported by chapter and verse quotations from the Bible and the Quran, the Hindu scriptures and other holy books. It is noted in the great religious concepts revealed to

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and peaceful coexistence. Truly, the plans that God has for South Africa are not written on paper, but are felt and witnessed by the discerning heart. Without a doubt, we each possess a level of inner knowing that God is preparing the nation for a season of not only spiritual healing, but of reconstruction that goes way beyond religiosity. He has anointed many minds and is giving divine strategy for the cutting away of the dross of discrimination and belief system bars.

These strategies and measures bring us, as people, to a level of spiritual maturity, and we experience a liberty from the bondage of intolerance, religious exclusion and resentment. We are a highly acclaimed nation that hungers and thirsts for deeper understanding and possesses lofty levels of thinking, and view the world from an informed position as victors in issues of national unification. Perhaps the world, as a global system, can learn a few things from us as we master our national genius and customise our own excellence. Thank you. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): That concludes the debate on this subject. As agreed earlier, we will now take farewell speeches to the hon M S Manie upon his resignation from the National Assembly.

FAREWELL TO HON MR M S MANIE

Mr M S MANIE: Madam Chairperson . . . [Interjections.] [Applause.] Madam Chairperson, I can see I will be missed in this House. I don't know what this House is going to do without me but that's the House's problem. Even the DA will miss me. [Interjections.] Thank you, Mike.

When I heard that I would be given the opportunity to address this House before I leave, I was not sure about what I would say to this House. The obvious thing would be to say thank you and thank all the people, but then you would have a long list of "Thank

yous" only. I have one or two things that I wanted to leave with the House. If there is time left . . . Mike, don't heckle me in the last minute, man! [Laughter.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): I will keep him in order for you.

Mr M S MANIE: You see he is taking it out on me for all the years I have given him grief. I am thankful to the ANC and Parliament for the opportunity to have been able to serve my country for the past 13 years. [Applause.]

Parliament's role is defined by the Constitution of our country. It has four elements in it. The first one is the one that we all know about and that is to make laws for our country. The second one is to ensure that we do our work in a way that includes public participation. The third thing is to ensure accountability and the fourth one, an important one, is to exercise oversight over the executive. We don't have any choice about these four things that the Constitution says we must do.

I thought it would be important for me to state that we have done an enormous amount of work in this Parliament since 1994. We have been able to do what very few other countries would have been able to do over this period, like writing hundreds of laws as well as getting a new Constitution in place. It's not only the ANC which has done this, it's also the opposition parties. Together we've been able to achieve this.

However, one of the points I thought would be important to make here today is to say, in my view—because now I can say what I want; they can't sack me and I am leaving tomorrow anyway—Parliament cannot execute that mandate because it is underresourced. If we do not allocate more money, we will not be able to execute our constitutional mandate.

I think this is important. If Trevor Manuel had been here today, I would have preferred to say this to him myself. However, he is still busy appearing on TV explaining his Bud-

get, such that he obviously doesn't have time to say goodbye to me. The passing of laws is our competent Members and portfolio committees need more resources. Unless that is going to be addressed urgently, we are still going to have the same problem. [Applause.]

Just as a throwaway proposal, I have this to say: Don't try and do this internally. I have been part of some of these processes myself. Try and get an independent outside party, maybe international people and some experts, and let them come up with a proposal recommended to Parliament as to how this should be dealt with; maybe it will be dealt with quickly. I want to leave that as a proposal.

Another point I want to raise is that I have noticed that we often speak past one another when we appear in this House. I am talking about political parties, not necessarily from the ANC's side or the opposition benches. People tend to speak past each other, and I don't understand why people are doing this.

On a previous occasion, I cited an example of what had happened to me. I think I want to mention that example again before I leave this House. One day when I came home from Parliament, I didn't have time to go to the barber and asked my daughter to cut my hair. My wife overheard this and asked me where I was going to cut my hair. I replied and said I was going to cut my hair in the bathroom. She then said that I must make sure I cleaned up and picked up all the hair before I left the bathroom.

I went into the bathroom and took off my shirt and spectacles and put them on one side, and my daughter cut my hair. Before she left I asked her to bring me the vacuum cleaner. I was going to make sure that I vacuumed that place myself, because I know how my wife can go on if I don't listen to her. [Laughter.]

I took the vacuum cleaner and cleaned every single corner. I made sure it was clean. I

went around the toilet cistern and cleaned everything. I looked again to be 100% sure that everything was clean.

So, when my wife heard that the vacuum cleaner was switched off, she came and popped her head just around the corner of the door and looked at the floor and said, "I asked you so nicely to clean this place, look at the mess!" But I had just made 100% sure that the place was clean. I looked around, the place was clean. I became very cross. I was so cross that I was going to fight. I put on my shirt and specs and as I was walking out, I suddenly saw the hair because now I had my specs on. [Laughter.]

Comrades and colleagues, this might sound funny to you. It was like somebody had smacked me, because I suddenly realised that I had been given insight into something much bigger than just the dirty floor in front of me. How often are we convinced that we are right, and we fight about it because we see it from a particular perspective? The moment you put on the spectacles of someone else, and you look through their eyes, you see a completely different picture.

It is not only in politics, it's in every walk of life. I want to ask that we reflect on this example, because often when we are so sure that we are right, but there is a possibility that we might be wrong.

I think we will find many more solutions if we are able to look through the eyes of other people, especially if we come from different experiences and different backgrounds.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): Hon Manie, you will have another three minutes at the end.

Mr M S MANIE: Thank you, Chairperson.

Mr P J GOMOMO: Chairperson, hon Members of Parliament, I rise to represent the ANC in saying farewell to the hon Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Labour, Comrade Sal c

Manie, as he surrenders the mandate back to his people through this Parliament and his party, the ANC.

It is rare for the National Assembly to come together during an occasion like this to say farewell to an ordinary Member of Parliament, at the level of Comrade Salie. It is uncommon for ordinary Members of Parliament to provide us with an opportunity to say this when they depart. We therefore want to say thank you for that, Comrade Salie. Your footprints are clear for us to follow.

You are departing during the time when this House, in particular, and Parliament in general, has the responsibility to champion the cause of the poor as we intensify the struggle against poverty, backwardness, ignorance and crime, to mention just a few. We recognise your heroic footprints.

You are departing during the time when we have just entered our second decade of freedom with a clear mandate to address people's expectations, to deepen democracy and to accelerate service delivery through active public participation derived from tolerance for one another. And your unwavering commitment in this regard is printed boldly on your footprints.

You are leaving Parliament during the time when we are giving more attention to oversight work with a view to accelerating the implementation of the policy responses by our ANC-led government, and your vigilance and determination will guide us like your footprints.

As we say farewell to this hon Member of Parliament, we want to acknowledge that he is not just an ordinary Member of Parliament and committee chairperson, but he is a people's person, a trade unionist, a revolutionary, a fighter, a leader and, amongst all, a highly organised person. I worked with Comrade Salie during my days as Cosatu leader and through activities both in the SA Municipality Workers Union and Cosatu, and the tripartite alliance.

He would always advise us to remember that the needs and interests of workers are linked to the needs and the interests of the whole society. And that any programme to fight for the needs and interests of the workers, is in fact, a programme to fight for the needs and interest of the society as a whole. He would always advise us that those who would argue for dichotomy between the struggle for the rights of the workers and the general political struggle for liberation should be helped, for he believed that they were trapped in the confusion of ignorance.

Comrade Salie, you are departing from Parliament during the time when the alliance has to provide leadership to this Parliament and the government as terrains of struggle to realise a better life for all the people. Your vocal submissions are a guide to us as, of course, you are busy walking to produce more footprints.

It is at a time like this, Comrade Salie, that, as you always provided leadership, your footprints will guide us not to focus on trifles and selfish agendas that may only seek to address our temporary and personal needs at the expense of the goals of our liberation struggle.

In conclusion, as we say farewell to this hon Member of Parliament, we are confident that, even in a small way, Comrade Salie will not betray the masses and will always keep contact with the masses of our country. Comrade Salie, we all love you. We used to call you the "weteman" and the ox that pulls the wagon when it is in difficult times. Do so, even when you leave this Parliament. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mnr T D LEE: Voorsitter, dit is snaaks. Die agb Manie sê hy was baie lanklaas hier. Ek was net so lanklaas hier voor by die podium.

En nou moet ons vanmiddag totsiens sê aan die agb Salie Manie. Dit is met gemengde gevoelens dat ons vandag afskeid neem van mnr Salie Manie. In 'n mate sal die Opposisie 'n sug van verligting slaak, want nou kan ons

in vrede, sonder die bytende tussenwerpsels van die agb Manie debatteer.

Sommer so van tussenwerpsels gepraat, wie van ons wat hier was, sal ooit die agb Manie se tussenwerpsel aan die destydse Minister van Welsyn en Bevolkingsontwikkeling, mnr Abe Williams, vergeet toe hy hom gevra het, "Abe, waar is my pa se pensioen?" [Gelag.]

Terwyl u 'n bydrae tot die ligter oomblikke in hierdie Raad gemaak het, was ons ook daarvan bewus dat u 'n hardwerkende en toegewyde lid was. En dit is werklik so; ek kan daarvan getuig, want ek het saam met u in komitees gedien. Ek is seker dit is as gevolg van hierdie toewyding dat u bevorder was en destyds voorsitter van die Portefeuljekomitee oor Staatsdiens en Administrasie geword het.

As Suid-Afrikaners roem ons ons graag op wat ons deur 'n onderhandelde skikking in ons land bereik het, en dit is reg dat ons ons daarop roem. Daarom kan u en die arbeidsbeweging—dit het mnr Gomomo ook nou hier genoem—se bydraes hierin nie geringgeskat word nie. U het 'n groot bydrae daar gemaak.

U kan met reg sê, agb Manie, "Ek was daar", want jy was orals. Die DA wens u sterkte toe. *As-salaamu-alai-kum. Fi-amanillah.* [Vrede vir jou. Ek los jou in die sorg van Allah.] (*Translation of Afrikaans speech follows.*)

[Mr T D LEE: Chairperson, it is funny. The hon Manie said that he has not been here for some time. I have not been here at the podium for some time as well.

And now we must say goodbye to the hon Salie Manie this afternoon. It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to Mr Salie Manie today. To some extent the Opposition will give a sigh of relief, because we can now debate in peace, without the biting interjections of the hon Manie.

Talking about interjections, whom of us who

were here, will ever forget the interjection of the hon Manie to the then Minister of Welfare and Population Development, Mr Abe Williams, when he asked him: "Abe, waar is my pa se pensioen?" ["Abe, where is my father's pension?"] [Laughter.]

Whilst you were contributing to the lighter moments in this Council, we were also aware that you were a diligent and dedicated member. And it is indeed so; I can testify to that, because I served with you in the committees. I am sure that it is because of this dedication that you were promoted and became chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration at that time.

As South Africans we like to boast about what we have achieved through a negotiated settlement in our country, and it is right that we should pride ourselves on that. Hence the contributions made by you and the labour movement towards this—and Mr Gomomo also mentioned that here today—should not be underestimated. You have made a major contribution there.

Hon Manie, you can rightfully say, "I was there", because you were everywhere. The DA wishes you all the best. *As-salaamu-alai-kum. Fi-amanillah.* [Peace be with you. I leave you in the care of Allah.]

Mr B W DHLAMINI: Madam Chairperson and colleagues, in conveying the IFP's goodbye to Mr Manie, if you think of it, of more than 45 million citizens of our country, only 400 are given the privilege to sit and serve in this important forum of our nation to better the lives of our people. It should really humble us, and we should thank God and our ancestors for giving us the opportunity. You are one of those lucky and privileged ones, hon Manie, to have served at this important level.

I also want to agree with you that it is very important that one should look at other people from their perspective, because when I arrived at Parliament in 2000, when I used

the spectacles from this side, I only saw a Manie that always shouted about his father's pension. [Laughter.] But then, when I looked and worked with you through the years, I saw that this was a dedicated patriot who wants the best for our country. I only hope that you are not leaving Parliament because you've got the perception that there are peanuts around here, therefore there will be monkeys, but that you are leaving to serve a better place. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr G T MADIKIZA: Madam Chairperson, hon members, the UDM joins the House in bidding farewell to the hon Salie Manie. We hope that the future has only good things in store for you, sir.

After a long period of service in the NA, we salute the hon member for his contribution. Even though we are from opposing political organisations, and while we may not have agreed on certain political and ideological matters, we can still recognise that the hon member was a dedicated democrat and public representative.

Our common commitment to freedom and democracy calls upon us to acknowledge his contributions and to feel regret at his departure. We would like to wish the hon member success in his future endeavours. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr I S MFUNDISI: Chairperson and hon members, one always has mixed feelings when speaking on an occasion of a farewell, particularly to a vociferous man like Mr Manie. It becomes even more complicated when one has to speak on behalf of 11 other parties.

Mr Manie showed that he is a unionist to the bone. He is hard-pressed to keep quiet. Notwithstanding his indisposition that came to characterise him post-2003, he was always vocal on issues he did not agree with.

As chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Labour, there were times when I thought he mistook that role for that of chairing a labour movement in the Chamber here.

He is second to none as a heckler in this Chamber. [Laughter.] This he did consistently when he asked, as my colleagues who spoke before me indicated, former member Abe Williams when the latter was going to pay his father's pension. I hope he did eventually get the pension.

This man, whose otherwise outward and quiet disposition belied the activist he is, will be remembered for a long time to come in the corridors of this Parliament. On behalf of the ACDP, the FF Plus, Nadeco, UCDP, PAC, MF, UIF, Azapo, FD, UPSA and PIM, we wish Mr Manie the best of luck in all his pursuits in life. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M S MANIE: Chairperson, I am worried about my own pension now because it is not enough. In fact, on a much more serious note, I want to advise people to actually go and check how little it is for you to retire on. It is not enough.

I do not have enough time, but all I want to say to you is that this Parliament has been far too generous to me. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity and time that I have had to serve my country and the small contribution that I have made.

I just want to say two things. Firstly, that I will remain a loyal ANC member so that nobody has any ideas of who and what I am. [Applause.] I will die a loyal ANC member, and I hope to serve my community in the same way and be loyal to all my principles, but I will do it from the outside.

Secondly, I do want to leave a message for all my colleagues on both sides of the House, and I say to you now as public representatives that the rich and the people who have access to resources will find a way of getting their voices heard. Never forget that you are here to represent the voices of those people who find it difficult to be heard in places like these. The poor, the sick and the elderly, keep them in mind. [Applause.] I thank you very much, comrades. Viva ANC, Viva! [Applause.]

HON MEMBERS: Viva!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms C-S Botha): That concludes the farewell speeches to Mr Manie. The Presiding Officers and I also wish to take this opportunity to wish you well, Mr Manie. We will now take Orders two to seven together. These are the first to the sixth reports of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

**CONSIDERATION OF FIRST
REPORT OF STANDING
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS—SA LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
(SALGA)**

**CONSIDERATION OF SECOND
REPORT OF STANDING
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS—DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (DCS)**

**CONSIDERATION OF THIRD
REPORT OF STANDING
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS—MARINE LIVING
RESOURCES FUND**

**CONSIDERATION OF FOURTH
REPORT OF STANDING
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS—THE SHELTERED
EMPLOYMENT FACTORY**

**CONSIDERATION OF FIFTH
REPORT OF STANDING
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS—NATIONAL SKILLS
FUND**

**CONSIDERATION OF SIXTH
REPORT OF STANDING
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS—GOVERNMENT
COMMUNICATION AND
INFORMATION SYSTEM**

Mr N T GODI: Madam Chairperson, comrades and hon members, as indicated, we are presenting the six reports in front of you for adoption by the House. It will be noted that

these are reports, except the last one, arising out of the hearings that we have had with these entities.

I would like to start by thanking my colleagues in the committee because of the amount of hard work that they put into our work despite, of course, the observation made by Comrade Manie around being underresourced.

The first report is on the SA Local Government Association. As hon members and comrades would have noted, there is a whole range of issues that we are not happy about around noncompliance with laws and regulations, as well as weak internal controls in the appropriateness of accounting transactions, as well as in human resources.

The recommendations that we have made there are around the need for building capacity, that is, ensuring that vacancies are filled, ensuring that they have skilled persons, especially in the finance departments, as well as ensuring that there are proper systems to manage their affairs.

When one looks at the Department of Correctional Services there would still be, to a very large extent, similar problems except that when one looks at internal controls there have been a problem in that department for four successive years. The same could be said about medical expenditure for four consecutive years, and I think in our reports we have made recommendations on what we think needs to be done. Of course, also including the question of vacancy rates which we know are problematic. In the finance sector it is 34% which has a great bearing on the ability of the department to manage its finances appropriately.

The third report is on the Marine Living Resources Fund, which is an entity in the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism—the same problem around non-compliance with laws and regulations, and the question of skills and capacity which

affects their internal controls. Of course, in this particular entity there is the added dimension of the need to finalise the governance arrangements, whether it has to be a trading account of the department or whether it should be a stand-alone public entity.

Our recommendation is that in view of the failure of the entity to run its affairs appropriately—for the last three financial years there were no reports and even those that we received last year came in very late—we are of the view that the department should take complete charge of the entity to ensure that the strategic purpose for which it has been established can be better fulfilled. As things stand right now, they do not go accordingly.

The fourth report deals with the Sheltered Employment Factory under the Department of Labour. The entity also has governance and accountability problems in terms of the clearly defined framework within which governance and accountability has to take place. Even the director-general of the department agreed that the entity is in complete disarray and has been like that for quite some time on the question of internal control which impacts negatively on the ability of the entity to run its affairs. We believe that this needs to be sorted out.

There was a special investigation after the suspension of the manager and as a committee we feel that Parliament should also strongly insist that the investigation should continue and the reports thereof should be given to Parliament and action be taken against those who would have misused public funds.

The fifth report is also of an entity from the Department of Labour, which also, just like the Sheltered Employment Factory, has serious governance issues in terms of accountability arrangements as well as reporting which makes it difficult for us to define exactly how the department functions in terms of assisting and monitoring the activities of the entity. We feel that these do need to be

sorted out. There are very serious shortcomings in terms of internal controls that negatively impact on the ability of the entity to control its resources.

The last report relates to the Government Communication and Information Systems. The House will recall as it is indicated in the preamble of that report, that we passed a resolution authorising the write-off of an amount of about R1.6 million incurred as a result of an unauthorised expenditure incurred by one Solly Kozame, who was in charge at that time.

What we overlooked was the fact that at the time when we passed this resolution, the interest accrued out of this amount was actually bigger than the original amount. The interest stood at about R1.8 million. So, the GCIS came back to us to request that Parliament should allow them to waive this interest because if they were to pay this interest, which is more than the principal debt, it would certainly not make sense.

They have discussed with National Treasury, and we have also checked with it and we are in agreement with National Treasury that this can be done on condition that firstly, the High Court judgment against Mr Kozame should say until the 30-year period lapses. This means that if he were to win the case before those 30 years, the state should be able to recoup the money that it has lost through his reckless action.

We want to commend those reports to the House and request it to adopt them. I have been very generic in my input but I think that my colleagues and other hon members are going to go more into details in terms of each of the reports that we present before you. I thank you. (Applause)

MR P A GERBER: Madam Chairperson, colleagues, members and friends, I would like to quote two paragraphs from the 5 January Statement of the President of the ANC, President Thabo Mbeki and I quote:

We must vigorously counter all attempts

practices, not merely through effective rules and regulations, and scrupulous monitoring, detection and, where appropriate, prosecution, but also through the strengthening of political consciousness and the values associated with ubuntu.

Similarly, these values must infuse the work of all those who provide a public service. Amongst other things, ubuntu should give content to the Batho Pele campaign ensuring that, at all times and all instances, the interests of the people are prioritised, and that any impediments to optimal public service are identified and removed.

These are our marching orders. With that in mind, I would like to highlight one of these resolutions, namely the one on the Marine Living Resources Fund. This seasick entity has been in a terrible financial state for quite a few years, receiving disclaimers for four years in a row from the Auditor-General. We hope that this resolution will assist to cure this financial seasickness.

There have been numerous problems with this entity, and I would just like to highlight and read the headings. There has been noncompliance with the Public Finance Management Act; problems with harbour fees; problems with levies on fish and sea products; problems with application fees for fishing; problems with value-added tax; problems with debtors' management; problems with opening balances; problems with skills and capacities; problems with accounting systems, performance management and reporting; and also problems in the abalone industry.

I would like to highlight a few of these issues, if I may. Regarding clause 2.2 that deals with the levy on fish and sea products, I would like to say that the average price, in Hong Kong, of South African abalone is US\$342 to US\$855 per kilo. In other words, it is between R2 394 to R5 985 per kilo; in other words, it is R2,2 million to R5,9 million for a ton. The average canned price

of abalone, which is this size, is about R180 plus. These are the figures for 2006. This industry is worth about R2,5 billion just with the figures from Hong Kong. The levy that we as government charge to the factories and the people harvesting the abalone is R25 a kilo.

So, it is nothing else but criminal to give an asset away for R25 a kilo where it's actually trading in the international market for more than R2 000 a kilo. The poor diver who gets paid anything from R180 to R220 a kilo for the perlemoen that he delivers to the factory suffers. If I were a diver, I would also sell my abalone to anyone who was prepared to pay more than that. Therefore, as long as we have abnormal profits in an industry, we'll have smuggling and poaching.

According to the traffic bulletin of 2002, Hong Kong trade statistics show that, apart from South Africa, abalone is also imported from other African countries, such as Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These countries are landlocked and don't have a coastline. So, the abalone was probably smuggled from South Africa. Swaziland alone supplies 4% of the imported abalone to Hong Kong, and it does not even have a sea! So, colleagues know that we are allowing illegal asset stripping in this country in terms of abalone. Therefore, we need to recommend that a new and market value-related levy structure be determined and implemented as soon as possible so that we can get better monetary value for the taxpayer.

Regarding the abalone industry, we are also asking in this resolution that the Auditor-General do a cost-benefit audit regarding the tonnage that is harvested; tonnage that is locally sold; the value of the exports; the amount of money that is being returned to South Africa; the amount of tax that the SA Revenue Service is receiving; the amount of money that the SA Police Service is spending on policing the industry, Environmental Affairs on managing the industry, Justice on enforcing the law and Defence on protecting

the industry; and any other information that is relevant to this issue.

We ask for this so that there can be an informed decision on whether we should have an abalone industry, whether we should ban abalone harvesting, or whether we should have an aquaculture abalone industry. At the moment, it appears as if we act in a haphazard way when it comes to monitoring, managing and policing of the industry.

In 2.3 of the resolution, we note the complicated structure of application fees for fish and sea products, which complexity might deter potential applicants and affect potential revenue. For example, the application fee to collect seaweed is R1 900, but the fee for crayfish is only R300. These amounts are just to get the physical application forms. To get an application form for a mineral mining permit from the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs costs you nothing. In fact, you can draw it from the website. Whether you want to mine gravel or gold, it costs you nothing.

If you look at some of the companies, for instance, and close corporations, they have been awarded fishing permits and quotas. Many of them have African names, and I don't want to name any of them, but if you look at the Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office report of the names of the directors and the members, the only thing that is black there is probably the ink on the permits. So, we need to look at this. For example, you have a fishing company with a postal address in Mossel Bay, but with a physical address in Paarden Island, or you have a fishing company with a postal address in Mavuso location in Alice, but the physical address is in Bloubergstrand.

The fish product quotas are all determined by kilo or per tonnage, yet the whole seaweed industry is regulated by allocated geographical areas. For instance, nearly the whole Eastern Cape coast is allocated to one company with a postal address in Ganubi,

but with a physical address in Sandton. Three very high potential areas are also allocated to one company in Rivonia. If seaweed were also regulated in terms of mass or volume, our beaches would not have been littered with high-potential washed-ashore kelp.

With these matters as background, the committee recommends that the application system, including fees and structure, should be simplified so as to allow as many applicants as possible, ensuring more value for money to the taxpayer.

Regarding the future of the Marine Living Resources Fund . . . [Interjections.] . . . we noted that the fund is being administered by dedicated employees of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism on a seconded basis. Also, the fund cannot operate on its own financially without an annual government grant. It does not have a board that exercises oversight. The director-general was of the opinion that the fund, as a public entity, as opposed to a trading account, should be looked at and reviewed.

This comment on whether the Marine Living Resources Fund can do so as a directorate of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism was quite significant. It will serve the country much better if it reverted back to the department. There will be better control, rules, regulations and financial discipline.

For example, the Department of Minerals and Energy does not have a separate entity to administer mining rights and fees. Thank God for that, otherwise we would have had similar problems.

It is in this light that the committee recommends that the Marine Living Resources Fund be reincorporated into the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism so as to have a proper accounting authority in promoting proper management of this important industry.

I believe that the entity is going to workshop

this specific recommendation. I don't think that they should do this as they have too many vested interests in that. We don't need workshops or talkshops; we need action on this problem.

Chairperson, I would like to end by saying that we really need to make this industry seaworthy again. Too many of the poorest of the poor—the people that Salie Manie has referred to—are dependent on the sea and its harvest, and we can't fail these people. We trust that this entity will get rid of the seasick attitude and pull itself together, as we owe it to the generations to come. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr E W TRENT: Chairperson, I would like to focus my contribution this afternoon on a few broader issues rather than on the reports. The reports are all printed in the ATC for everybody to read, and I hope that those who are interested will do so.

I will also include in my speech a few "Tips for Trevor" with respect to the effective, efficient, economical and also honest expenditure of taxpayers' money. The hon Minister—I see he is gone now—earlier on made the speech specifically for himself. Maybe somebody will give him a copy.

The first issue that I want to deal with is performance measurement and reporting. The Auditor-General reports the following shortcomings on performance reporting: Firstly, that Salga did not ensure that its business plans had measurable objectives with proper monitoring and evaluation of key actions; and secondly, that the committee noted with concern that the Marine Living Resources Fund has not disclosed or reported on the achievements of the objectives it has set.

The question is very simple: How can Parliament rely on the accuracy of the performance information presented in the annual reports if the AG is, for whatever reason, unable to audit the information? And

that is a tip for those in the standing committees. How can you rely on information if it has not been audited? How can we trust the statistics on, for example, crime or the number of houses built if information cannot be audited?

No wise shareholder would invest in companies if their results were not audited. Why should it be different in government?

My first tip for Trevor is: Use the considerable leverage and the many tools that you have at your disposal as Minister of Finance to ensure that institutions of government provide auditors with performance information in a format that can be audited as required by the PFMA.

Noncompliance with laws and regulations and poor internal control is the second thread that weaves its way through the fabric of each of these institutions and the overwhelming majority of the 280 entities that deals with SCOPA each year.

I want to give you some examples. Of the 12 issues on procurement and tendering in provinces that were raised by the Auditor-General, 10 were issues of noncompliance that could relate to corruption or lead to corruption. Nineteen of the 26 issues raised in hospital administration were issues that could lead to corruption. In order to prevent a heart attack, your doctor will make sure that your blood pressure and cholesterol are within certain parameters. Likewise, corruption and theft also have indicators that can be monitored in a similar fashion. One of these indicators is the existence of opportunities for corruption to take place, and the other is the issue of ethical standards, that is, what is deemed acceptable or not in the management of government finances.

Let me deal with opportunity first. The PFMA requires managers to put in place systems designed to minimise risks and therefore to minimise the opportunity for corruption, and then to manage those sys-

tems. It makes no sense to put in place systems and then overlook noncompliance.

My next tip to Trevor is: In the interest of clean, honest administration, implement a policy of zero tolerance against those who fail to comply with the laws and regulations administered by National Treasury. If compliance is too onerous or beyond the capability or capacity of government departments and entities, then amend the laws and regulations without compromising standards. It serves no purpose to set people up for failure. In this respect, it is instructive to note that the PFMA has not been amended in the six or seven years that it has been in existence.

In terms of the question of ethics, I would like to emphasise at the outset that the culture of entitlement in the echelons of the ruling party is not helpful at all.

Then, there is also the flagrant abuse of space in our legal framework by the governing party when it uses its influence and its resources of state to facilitate and sell access to Cabinet Ministers and senior civil servants in order to raise funds.

As put by Professor George Devenish, this scheme is politically unethical and is clearly in conflict with the ethos of the Constitution, even if, in a very narrow sense, it is not illegal.

I have read many press comments on this latest fundraising scheme of the ANC. The one issue that I have not seen raised is the very issue that I am talking about. Yes, it may be debatable whether it's legal or not, but what it does do is that it opens the doors of opportunity for corruption to take place.

I would like to use an analogy. I can remember in the years of the former regime, in my city, Port Elizabeth, it was rather strange that somehow a certain individual always happened to own the premises that were required for a government department tailor made. Wherever there was a tender put out, one or two individuals always just had

the right building, at the right place, at the right time. It was not surprising that the business people, who were repeatedly awarded tenders, were all major donors of the former government.

If we continue with this scheme we are going to open the doors of temptation and corruption. Of course, the governing party is free not to heed our wisdom in the fight against corruption. But lest they forget, if the impression is created, as it currently is, that it is fine to be corrupt, then the example set by Cabinet and senior civil servants will be followed with impunity by others. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr H J BEKKER: Chairperson. SCOPA's reports on the SA Local Government Association, the Department of Correctional Services, the Marine Living Resources Fund, the Sheltered Employment Factory, the National Skills Fund and GCIS yet again bring into sharp focus the inability of many state institutions to comply fully with the public finance laws and regulations.

The Public Finance Management Act was created specifically to improve state financial administration, but now some nine years after its creation the law is still not being properly implemented and is perhaps not taken seriously enough by accounting officers. By way of example, Scopa's reports also highlight a lack of proper internal controls, inappropriate accounting transactions, lack of performance audits and weaknesses in financial administrations at these six institutions.

Some of the more glaring weaknesses identified by the Auditor-General include the following: Firstly, Salga purchased a building without obtaining approval from the executive, resulting in an amount of R3.2 million paid in commission that still has to be recovered; secondly, Salga opened and used bank accounts without having obtained approval from National Treasury; and thirdly, at 30 June 2005, Salga was still owed R136 million in outstanding membership

fees. Those are from the municipalities that are supposed to pay them.

Fourthly, the same weaknesses and problems at the Department of Correctional Services have been identified for four years in a row. This included the inability of the Auditor-General to verify the validity, accuracy and completeness of medical expenditure—and in this case I am not even talking about Schabir Shaik's medical history in Correctional Services; that's another aspect.

Fifthly, the department had a vacancy rate of 34% in financial management, which at least partly explains why it was unable to spend an amount of R150 million. Sixthly, the Marine Living Resources Fund bought an accounting system for R3 million; then discovered it was not functioning properly and bought yet another system at a cost of R5 million.

Finally, the Department of Labour has still not made any progress on the appropriate governance and accountability arrangement and reporting procedures for the National Skills Fund.

Mr Chairperson, the IFP wholeheartedly supports the various recommendations of the committee. We hope that vigorous implementation of the recommendations will improve the state of affairs at these institutions, and we assure them of our support, but also our vigilance in monitoring their future performance. We are concerned about the lack of competence and the question arises whether some entities should indeed be further supported.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the chairperson of the committee, the hon Themba Godi, and our colleagues from all the parties for their hard work and dedication to clean, accurate and proper financial management. Thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Mr G T MADIKIZA: Chairperson, hon members, the failure by certain departments and institutions to adhere to the Public

Finance Management Act and the National Treasury regulations is cause for concern. The transgression of these auditing standards is often the first sign that poor service delivery, mismanagement and even corruption is afoot.

When it comes to the Auditor-General's report on Salga, we are doubly concerned because it highlights weaknesses that have bedevilled many local governments themselves. The inability to account for vast sums of money, failure to collect its dues, inadequate administrative and management systems and too many staff vacancies are indicative of an institution in serious disarray.

How can we expect local governments to adhere to these most basic of management and accounting standards if Salga does not? The UDM fully endorses the recommendations in the report, specifically that a progress report be submitted by Salga within 60 days of the adoption of this report.

If Salga's affairs are cause for concern, then the Auditor-General's report on the Department of Correctional Services makes for dismal reading. The same serious lack of internal controls has now been highlighted in four consecutive years. We support the report. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr T J BONHOMME: Mr Chairman, I would like to refer to the Budget Speech of 21 February 2007, by our most esteemed Minister of Finance, hon Mr Trevor Manuel, which I believe was the most outstanding speech this country has ever heard, a speech that was full of wisdom and hope, and guarantees a better life for all, especially for the underprivileged, lower-income group and the homeless.

One line in this speech will stay with me forever, when Minister Manuel stated that, and I quote: "Human life has equal worth." A human being is a human being; there is no lesser human being.

That phrase drove home every reason we are

in Parliament, why we have sacrificed ourselves in the struggle for our liberation and for the liberation of all the people of South Africa.

It drove home the reason I am placed in the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Scopa. It told me that the taxpayers' money must be protected. At Scopa we are the watchdogs of public finances. The public's money must not be wasted, but be protected. We must guard against fraud, corruption, and abuse of people's money, and remedial action must be taken where there are discrepancies.

Hon members, we have been doing just that. We find, on examining our Auditor-General's report, that some departments' performance was shocking. They have no respect for the controls that have been put in place to protect the public's money.

We have very serious concerns, as stated in our resolutions, with deviations from the Public Finance Management Act, mismanagement and lack of discipline in respect of adhering to proper policies and procedures.

There is a major problem of the poaching of staff. Senior staff members, for example, directors-general and chief finance officers mess up their departments and resign. They move to other departments and leave their previous departments in shambles.

When we call specific departments before the committee to account, they cannot account because chief financial officers have often taken up the position only recently. So they are off the hook, because we always get audit reports a year later.

Serious weaknesses have been exposed at Salga and Correctional Services. At Salga, through noncompliance with the Public Finance Management Act and Treasury regulations, an amount of R3,2 million was paid out on commissions in 2004-05 for the purpose of the purchase of a building. The transaction was subsequently cancelled and the monies were recovered.

Three bank accounts, with a total of R15,8 million, were not accounted for. No approval from National Treasury could be submitted for the opening of the bank accounts. There were no risk management procedures in place.

Remedial measures were recommended to Salga, with properly formulated policies and proper systems in place to monitor finance-related matters and to comply with its own internal control policies, as well as with the requirements of National Treasury on delegation of authority. They have to report back to Parliament within 60 days of the report being adopted by Parliament.

Salga must also comply with section 51(a) of the Public Finance Management Act, which clearly states that a public entity must have effective and efficient transparent systems, with risk management procedures.

Regarding the Department of Correctional Services, serious inefficiencies with internal controls have been reported in the past four years.

These include insufficient data capturing and monitoring of assets, insufficient verification, and no files were found of newly appointed staff. The department had the highest qualified staff in 2005-06 compared to any other department.

Regarding surplus funds for the year 2004-05, the department did not spend R155,9 million. The excuse was a late changeover to the BAS system.

The committee found it unacceptable that the department was unable to solve these problems. Therefore remedial action was taken by the committee and the department to ensure: one, that all assets are barcoded and managed properly; two, the completeness of files of newly appointed staff; three, that management reviews take place; four, that a compliance improvement plan is embarked upon; and five, that the weaknesses highlighted by the Auditor-General are addressed as a matter of urgency.

It was also pointed out by the Auditor-General that the financial management process also points to poor performance and poor information processes in the Department of Correctional Services, and that the department also lacked a process for management of its financial information.

We have now put remedial measures in place, with recommendations. Our task is to find the defects and weaknesses and to apply remedial action to ensure that public money is protected and utilised for the purpose for which it was allocated.

In closing, I want to thank members of Scopa, who work so hard with courage and conviction, and they do their work gallantly, with a passion. I thank you. [Applause.]

Ms S RAJBALLY: Chairperson, with regard to the first report, the MF agrees with the recommendations made by the committee regarding noncompliance with laws and regulations. We further feel that Salga needs to take these recommendations seriously and implement them to ensure effective and efficient management in this regard.

As for report two, the MF values the committee's contribution. And with regard to report three, we gladly welcome the levy on the fish and sea products, which is crucial to the Marine Living Resource Fund.

We look forward to the shelter and employment factory at Parliament, as indicated in report four.

Regarding report five, we agree that if we were to expect results, the steering committee will have to function more effectively and that the use of funds for training will have to be highlighted for improvement.

As for report six, we support the waiving of the interests accrued, and the writing off of the debt owed by Mr Kotane, as long as this does not violate National Treasury regulations. The MF supports the public accounts. Thank you, Chairperson. [Applause.]

Mr V G SMITH: Chairperson, hon members

and comrades, it is inevitable that in conditions of abject poverty and where basic financial management systems are weak or nonexistent that corruption and maladministration would thrive.

In his Budget Speech last week, the Minister of Finance again made it clear that bad management of resources that are meant to eradicate poverty have no place in our society. The costs and consequences of maladministration and corruption are that resources that otherwise could have been directed towards the production of goods and services are deviated by individuals who are bent on plundering the life savings of ordinary South Africans who are poor and desperately in need of improving their material conditions.

The ANC's Statement of 8 January 2007 has declared 2007 as, "the year to intensify the struggle against poverty as we advance in unity towards 2012." It is with this in mind that the Statement of 8 January calls on all of us vigorously to counter all corrupt practices through effective rules and regulations, greater monitoring, greater detection and, where appropriate, through the prosecution of those that are found guilty.

As millions of South Africans seek to escape the cycle of poverty by improving the quality of their lives, 13 years after liberation, there are some within the public sector administration who continue to retard the struggle through poor provision of services to our people. Parliament has, by the authority of the Constitution, a very crucial role to play in terms of oversight over the executive and the administration.

When analysing the Auditor-General's report on government departments' finances, we must ask the question: What are the root causes of maladministration and what can be done to remedy the situation? In our humble view, the root causes include the following: the inability of departments to implement the requirements of financial management legislation such as the Public Finance Man-

agement Act and the Municipal Finance Management Act; the incapacity of government departments to spend the budget wisely with maximum value for money impact; the lack of appropriate financial management skills and the continued high vacancy rates in senior management, as alluded to by my colleagues; the absence of internal control systems; poor filing or archiving systems of support documents required for audit purposes; and the inadequate management of fixed assets.

In answering the second part of the question about what needs to be done, we suggest the following: Firstly, the disciplinary procedures in relation to misconduct must be refined with the aim of ensuring that there are no instances of officials being suspended for unacceptably long periods with pay before the matter is concluded.

Secondly, performance-linked remuneration must become the order of the day within the public sector as soon as possible.

Thirdly, that the public must be empowered and encouraged to maximise legislation that is meant to hold officials accountable.

Fourthly, an environment conducive to whistle-blowing and the utilisation of corruption hotlines must be created.

Fifthly, Parliament must develop an effective system to follow up on the executive on resolutions that have been adopted by this House—like this resolution that we going to adopt today.

Sixthly, the Chapter 9 institutions established to entrench democracy and good governance must be more accessible to all citizens of our country; and very important in our view, all portfolio and standing committees of Parliament must consciously and regularly interrogate the information related to strategic plans, budget and actual expenditure, and demand explanations from the department throughout the year and not only when the Auditor-General's report has been tabled 18 months after the effect.

The purpose and the intention of the budget allocations last week meant that the child born and brought up in Soweto must have just as much of a chance of passing Grade 12 as a child that was born and brought up in Sandton. [Applause.]

The end results of resources awarded must ensure that my mother living in Alexandra will receive the same medical services as my mother living in Houghton. The social grant earmarked for the elderly and the disabled must not find its way into the bank accounts of ghost beneficiaries. The quality and the quantity of houses built must be the best value that money can buy. Procurement procedures and tender adjudication policies must be such that there is no room for any corruption or abuse of power or position.

Our promise to South Africans to create a better life for all can only be realised when the executive implements policy as effectively and efficiently as possible. A better life for all will only be realised when Parliament exercises its mandate of oversight effectively. When the judiciary enforces the provisions of the Constitution and when civil society demands the best possible provisions of service from government departments, only then can South Africans be assured of a better tomorrow.

For the sake of our children and in honour of those who lost their lives in the struggle for a democratic, nonracial, nonsexist, united and prosperous country, we must fight for better management of our resources.

Koos, ek hoop ek was nie te lank nie, en u kan nou huis toe gaan. [Koos, I hope I didn't take too long, and you can go home now.]

Thank you very much.

Debate concluded.

The ACTING CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Chairperson, I move that the report be adopted.

Agreed to.

Report accordingly adopted.

The House adjourned at 17:01

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

The Speaker and the Chairperson

1. Introduction of Bill

(1) The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development

- (a) *South African Judicial Education Institute Bill* [B 4—2007] (National Assembly—proposed sec 75) [Explanatory summary of Bill and prior notice of its introduction published in *Government Gazette* No 29625 of 9 February 2007.]

Introduction and referral to the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development of the National Assembly, as well as referral to the Joint Tagging Mechanism (JTM) for classification in terms of Joint Rule 160.

In terms of Joint Rule 154 written views on the classification of the Bill may be submitted to the JTM within three parliamentary working days.

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development

- (a) Progress report on the inquiry into

allegations of misconduct regarding Mr K Suliman from Durban, in terms of section 13(3)(f) of the Magistrates' Act, 1993 (Act No 90 of 1993).

- (b) Progress report on the inquiry into allegations of misconduct regarding Mr M K Chauke from Pretoria, in terms of section 13(3)(f) of the Magistrates' Act, 1993 (Act No 90 of 1993).
- (c) Progress report on the inquiry into allegations of misconduct regarding Mr M S Makamu from Benoni, in terms of section 13(3)(f) of the Magistrates' Act, 1993 (Act No 90 of 1993).
- (d) Progress report on the inquiry into allegations of misconduct regarding Mr M F Mathe from Johannesburg, in terms of section 13(3)(f) of the Magistrates' Act, 1993 (Act No 90 of 1993).

2. The Minister of Education

- (a) Medium Term Strategic Plan for 2006-2010 and the Revised Operational Plan of the Department of Education for 2006-2007.

3. The Minister of Home Affairs

- (a) Report and Financial Statements of the Film and Publication Board for 2005-2006, including the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements for 2005-2006.

National Assembly

1. The Speaker

- (a) Reply from the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development to recommendations in the Eighty-Third Report of the Standing Committee on Public Ac-

counts (Legal Aid Board), as adopted by the House on 7 November 2006.

Referred to the **Standing Committee on Public Accounts**.

- (b) Letter from the Minister of Home Affairs dated 7 February 2007 to the Speaker of the National Assembly, in terms of section 65(2)(a) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999), explaining the delay in the tabling of the Annual Report of the Film and Publication Board for 2005-2006:

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
FILM AND PUBLICATION
BOARD FOR THE YEAR
2005-06**

The above matter has reference.

In terms of section 14 of the Films and Publications Act, 1996 as amended, as the Minister of Home Affairs I am required to table a report on the activities of the Film and Publication Board and the Review Board, as well as an audited balance sheet and accounts within fourteen days of receipt thereof.

The Annual Report for 2005-06 has been delayed due to the Office of the Auditor-General. The reasons for the delay are as results of internal quality controls issues between the Office of the Auditor-General and their service provider. Office of the Auditor-General subsequently appointed another service provider to re-perform an audit for Film and Publication Board 2005-06. (Attached are the correspondence letters from the Office of the Auditor-General).

I'm now in a position to table the

report together with the audited financial report. I wish to apologise for the late tabling of this report.

Kind regards,

signed

**MS N N MAPISA-NQAKULA,
MP**

MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. Report of the Mediation Committee on Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Amendment Bill [B35B and B 35D—2005] (National Assembly—sec 76), dated 21 February 2007:

The Mediation Committee, having considered the **Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Amendment Bill** [B35B and B35D—2005] (National Assembly—sec 76), as well as papers referred to it, reports that it has agreed to a new version of the Bill [B 35F-2005].

2. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry on a Study Tour to the People's Republic of China, 2-10 September 2006:

1. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee had agreed to undertake a study tour of the Peoples Republic of China pursuant to an invitation from the Ambassador of the Chinese Embassy on behalf of the Ministry of Commerce of the Peoples Republic.

2. **LOGISTICAL
ARRANGEMENTS**

A delegation from the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry

undertook a study tour of the Peoples Republic of China, from 2-10 September 2006. The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Mr B D Martins (ANC) accompanied by Mr S Maja (ANC), Mrs D Ramodibe (ANC), Mr L Labuschagne (DA), Mrs E Chang (IFP) and Ms M Williams (Committee Secretary), led the multi-party delegation.

3. BACKGROUND

As a developing country, China with an economy driven by a strong export performance and public investment, shares similar positions with South Africa with regard to the reform and governance of the global economic system. Reform of the economic system is a key element in South Africa's multilateral agenda and China has the potential to be an effective ally in this regard. The growth of China and its manufacturing prowess has had a significant impact on global trade, and it offers vast opportunities and potential to absorb a higher proportion of value-added exports. In light of the commonalities that emerge from comparable levels of industrial development and economic growth, China holds significant and unique opportunities for South Africa's own development more specifically in the areas of investments; joint ventures and technology transfer, as well as the regeneration of the African Continent, in which China has shown great interest. The China-Africa Forum on the renewal of Africa and co-operation in the globalising world enhanced the strategic understanding between the two countries, particularly within NEPAD and in the SADC region.

Conversely, the rise in Chinese imports particularly in the clothing, textile and footwear sector has impacted immensely on the South African economy and subsequently prompted the Committee to embark on this visit.

4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the visit to China were informed by a need to find answers to the following questions or challenges:

- What government support programmes are currently offered to the Chinese industry, from an industry perspective?
- What are the key drivers for the success of the Chinese manufacturing sector?
- How the proposed SACU—China Free Trade Agreement can deliver mutually beneficial benefits in the light of the challenges in the clothing and textile sector?
- Also, the need to devise urgent concrete bilateral solutions to the challenges facing the South African clothing, textile and footwear sector and beneficiation of South African companies more specifically in the area of raw materials; mining and extraction segments.

5. FINDINGS

The Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry delegation met with the official from the South African Mission in Beijing, Mr Liks Ramushu, on Sunday 3 September along with Mr Chai Zhijing from the Ministry of Commerce of the Peoples Republic of China.

Presenter: Mr Zhao Xin Xin, Deputy Director

Beijing Development Area (BDA), Beijing

The presentation was preceded by a showing of a DVD footage relating to the Beijing Technological Development Area. Major Companies such as Nokia, Panasonic and Sony occupy offices here. A second phase of development is planned especially for the Beijing Olympics.

Mr Xin Xin informed the meeting that the Beijing development area/zone (BDA) was an area of approximately 40 square meters. 15 square meters was comprised of 2000 companies. Two development areas were currently under construction. The BDA was approved in 1994 by the Government of China and by 2020 it will have developed into a newly developed city. By June 2006, 1986 companies had been registered with the BDA of which 400 were foreign companies and 1400 domestic. This amounted to an investment of US\$13.6 billion in terms of foreign investment and US\$11.5 billion as domestic investment. US\$4 billion was reinvested back into the development zone. Resident foreign investors are the United States and Europe but the Chinese would like Africa to invest as well. The BDA houses 80 international companies of which 53 are from the top 500 companies in the world. The top three comprises the electronic, automotive and biochemical trades.

The Chinese government departments in co-operation with the Beijing Municipality established offices at these development zones to offer hands-on support in areas

of administration. Registration of companies is done at the government offices located in the zone, which assists in processing of applications. The Beijing office will use the BDA's to enhance the investment relationship with South Africa in terms of trade and co-operation.

Municipalities are set up within the zones so that companies do not have to travel outside the zones for registrations. Hands-on support is available therefore location is important in setting up a BDA. Customs, taxation and quarantine offices are all available on site at branch offices. Approximately 150 applications are processed yearly. Applications take between one week to one month.

When BDA's were set up, the people factor had to be considered. Those who previously owned the land were compensated by means of monetary value, employment and setting up new communities. This is a contributing factor to the cost of a BDA being so high.

China is participating in a worldwide competition to attract industries to its BDA's. The state determines preferential policies and active marketing strategies are investigated currently. However many cities in China are using China's features of good service and supportive BDA's as a marketing tool.

In terms of women being empowered, there is no discrimination at the BDA's. Women prefer the fields of human resources; marketing and sales. A women's rights protection agency is based at the BDA and thus far no com-

plaints have been received. Females steer away from construction sites because the buildings are high rises, it is hot, dangerous and labour intensive, however some manage.

The BDA's assist in solving the unemployment issue in Beijing as approximately 39 000 workers are employed and intensive training is undertaken yearly of approximately 3 700 workers. A training fund has been established by the government for this purpose. Disabled persons are catered for in suitable work positions in factories. From this briefing it was clear that China and South Africa are both developing countries, however China has a higher level of development than South Africa. South Africa can definitely learn lessons in best practice and implementation from its Chinese counterpart.

**Presenter: Mr Guangsheng Shi,
Chairperson: Economic and
Financial Committee, National
Peoples Congress, Beijing**

Mr Shi welcomed the visit by the delegation in light of the good relations held with former President Mr Nelson Mandela and President Thabo Mbeki. He further added that inter-Parliamentary exchanges were welcomed and should be a regular activity. Mr Shi informed the meeting that China came from a history of Feudalism and Imperialism which brought along with it oppression. China had thus been left to improve the lives of its people as well as the economy. This is the common objective of both governments, the betterment of the lives of the nation, Mr Shi said. He went

further to say that both governments had done a good job in building up their countries. The Chinese were appreciative of South Africa's support and assistance to China's accession to the World Trade Organisation, especially in terms of the Doha Round of negotiations which is important for all developing countries. Subsidies and domestic support were still high from the US and Europe, he indicated. This, he said, affected China tremendously especially as agriculture was a lifeline of the economy and China had a population of 1.3 billion people. China and South Africa serve as a role model to other developing nations in their development and roles of leadership, he remarked.

Mr Shi pointed out that conflict of interest arises when nations have similar industries and economic needs, and for this reason, it is important to keep the lines of communication open. A case in point, he said, was the Clothing and Textile industry. It served livelihood for both nations, and thus a solution should be found. Political issues should not impact on trade issues, he argued.

The National Peoples Congress is the highest authority of power in China, which constitutes a single congress. Delegates are elected and rotated every five years. 175 comprise standing committee members and they commence a plenary every two months. The National Peoples Congress considers nationwide legislation and endorses national leaders.

Mr Shi continued by explaining that during his career, he had

witnessed the development of China's textile industry. This process came about in the 1970s due to the poverty experienced by the Chinese; the livelihood of many Chinese people was challenged. For this particular reason, labour intensive interests were mobilised. The textile industry started with spinning and yarning, at this point there was no export market for textiles due to the underdevelopment of technology in so far as delivering an unfinished product was concerned. Fifteen years later China started experimenting with clothing manufacturing. The focus was targeting the lower end market for export, because at this time Chinese clothing were not available in upmarket stores in the US and Europe, also the spinning was done with home based machines. At this point the Chinese government decided to intervene and assist. After a period of 10 years, the industry moved to making suites instead of single processing. Thus the success of the Chinese industry happened over a period of three decades, from the development to importing raw materials, processing and then supplying. The process of developing raw materials has also moved to where 80% of the raw materials are supplied by the domestic market. This enabled the entry of high end and middle range products into the various markets.

Mr Shi added that with the experience that China had been through it would be able to assist and encourage South Africa to manufacture and process raw materials, and future co-operation instead of competition was envisaged. South

Africa has land masses available and these should be explored. In terms of Intellectual Property, China is very vigilant regarding issues relating to it and legislation around intellectual property is scrutinised carefully. China has made great strides in terms of realizing that Intellectual Property and economic growth and development go together. From this briefing the delegation learnt that the Chinese textile industry is not an overnight success story. It progressed over a period of approximately 30 years to develop and become market related for exports.

Presenter: Mr Yao Weigun,
Director: Shanghai World Trade Organization Consultation Centre, Shanghai

Mr Weigun informed the delegation that the Shanghai WTO Consultation Centre was the largest service centre of its kind in the world. The centre was founded prior to China's accession to the WTO. It was established as a nongovernmental organisation for WTO affairs by the Shanghai Municipal Peoples Government. The main function being to provide governments, enterprises and public with law and policy consulting and information as well as WTO-related training services. It also updates WTO members on the creation and enforcement of trade-related laws, regulations and policies in both Shanghai and China as a whole.

A board of trustees administers the centre. It is a nonprofit public service organisation and mainly

financed by the Shanghai Municipal Peoples government, however it is allowed to receive donations from international, domestic enterprises and institutions.

Presenter: Mr Zhou Yupeng, Vice Mayor: Shanghai's Municipality, Shanghai

The Vice Mayor hosted a banquet for the Committee and a short exchange was held. Mr Yupeng was happy to host the delegation for that short period and added that economic exchanges should be pursued between South Africa and China.

Presenter: Mr Liu Xiaodong, Deputy General Manager: Shanghai Stock Exchange, Shanghai

Mr Xiaodong informed the delegation that the Shanghai Stock Exchange enjoyed a strong relationship with the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. China has experienced rapid economic growth over the last few years, 10,2% growth in the GDP in 2005, especially in Shanghai. Two thirds of the shares on the Shanghai Stock Exchange are owned by the government but this will in fact change. Air Asia as well as Air China are both listed on the market. The technology that the stock exchange has invested in is one of the leaders in the information technology industry and in the world. This particular technology processes 20 000 transactions are per second. The Shanghai Stock Exchange would, in fact, like to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the JSE and this could bring about co-operation in the running of the JSE in terms of advanced technologies.

Since China's accession to the WTO, foreigners are able to buy shares on the Shanghai Stock Exchange. Two schemes are available for this purpose. Road shows would be coordinated if South African investors are interested in investing in the Shanghai Stock Exchange. Also, visit tourism should be explored as well as training of entrepreneurial South African youth by their Chinese counterparts.

The Shanghai Stock Exchange admires the JSE code of conduct and believes strongly in the aims of corporate governance. It released its audit to the annual report of the listed companies up-holding good practices.

Mr Xiaodong concluded that these opportunities should be explored because China is definitely a friend of South Africa's and has great respect for ex-President Nelson Mandela. The Beijing games in 2008 and Fifa World Cup in 2010 should be used as avenues of co-operation and communication.

Presenter: Mr Zhao Zhali, Director: Baosteel, Shanghai

Mr Zhali informed the delegation that Baosteel steel conglomerate was a result of the Chinese reform process started in the late 1970's. The plant comprises an area of 19km squared. The first phase of investment into baosteel amounted to RMB 12,5 billion. Of the four phases three have been completed. Baosteel became a public company in 2000 and is listed as a fortune 500 company. Last year it in fact made 372 on the list. Baosteel employs 15 000 workers and produced a turnover

of RMB 7 billion during 2005. Tin plate and automobile manufactured components are supplied by overseas suppliers. Its automobile share in the market amounts to 52% and its household appliances amounts to 48% of the market.

Mr Zhali further explained that Baosteel has a social responsibility toward the underdeveloped rural sector. In this regard the company makes an effort to make good business so that the tax amounts paid to the government are used to alleviate the plight of those in the rural areas. A task team will be mobilized to assess and assist in developing the rural areas. An educational fund has been created that amounts to millions of RMB to assist children in the rural areas, 40 schools have been built in 11 provinces and millions have been donated to areas affected by natural disasters. Projects are also underway in developing zones. Along with the 15 000 employees that the company employs, Baosteel, in fact, sees to approximately 320 000 people in terms of a four-member family.

Baosteel investments are long-term contracts. Ten percent of the steel used is imported from South Africa. South Africa offers quality resources and this is welcomed by China. The delegation was then given a tour of this vast plant.

Presenter: Mr Wu Yi, Vice Premier of the Peoples Republic of China

10th China International Fair for Investment and Trade [CIFIT], Xiamen

The China International Fair for

Investment and Trade (CIFIT) serves as a bridge between China and the outside world enhancing co-operation, and common development international organisations which have supported the CIFIT include the United Nations Conference on Trade and development (UNCTAD), United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), The International Finance Corporation of the World Bank (IFC) and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), to name a few.

The topic for the opening of the Fair was "To adhere firmly to reform and opening up is an established basic national policy of China" In Mr Yi's speech he stated that during the late 70s, with China starting its reform, China's economic and modernisation drive has realised sustainable development as well as achievements that have attracted worldwide attention. The GDP grew from \$140 billion USD in the early years up to \$2,2 trillion USD in 2005, which results in a 9,6 % growth on average annually. China has risen in global rankings from 15th to 4th place. During this period foreign trade has increased from 20,6 billion USD to 1,4 trillion USD, representing an average annual growth margin of 17% and a rise in global ranking from the 32nd to the 3rd place. The cumulative amount of foreign direct investment inflow into China is nearly 660 billion USD over the 27-year period, which makes China the largest Foreign Direct Investment recipient amongst the developing nations for 15 consecutive years. Thus Chinese enterprises have

made a total of 51,7 billion USD worth of investment overseas and the 2005 figure stands at 7 billion USD.

Furthermore, the sustainable and rapid economic development of China is attributed to its reform and opening up, and proactive and effective utilisation of foreign investment. The reform and opening up has brought about a marked improvement in the Chinese people's living standards and quality of life. China has now reached a point of building a well-off society, by increasing the pace of its socialist modernisation drive. Its economic development is now standing on a new historic starting point as this year marks the first year of the implementation of the 11th five-year plan. This means by 2010 China will have achieved noticeable improvement in energy efficiency, reduced the energy consumption per unit GDP by 20% and doubled its per capita on the level of 7,800 RMB. China will prioritise the optimisation of foreign investment composition and improve the quality of foreign investment. China will also take active measures to create conditions necessary for becoming an international outsource service provider. Added to this, more attention will be paid to improving the investment environment and protecting the legitimate rights and interest of both domestic and foreign investors according to the law. Lastly, China will be firm in implementing mutually beneficial and win-win strategies for trade enhancement and economic co-operation with other countries in the world for the shared development of all countries.

In conclusion, China will

strengthen its co-operation with multilateral and regional economic organisations, and continue to promote trade and investment facilitation in order to create an international environment conducive to realising common development and prosperity worldwide.

The China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT) ran over a period of three days (8 September-10 September). It was followed by a dinner, a performance ceremony, cocktail function and an expo at which the Department of Trade and Industry was represented by the South African Mission. Added to this, the DTI held an investment marketing seminar which the delegation supported. Mr Martins addressed investors and various dignitaries. He delivered a speech entitled "the investment climate in South Africa".

Members of the South African Parliamentary delegation felt that the visit was rewarding, informative and interesting in the sense of exposing the committee to the development of China and its drive to a market economy, and also proving goodwill of mutual visits. The Chinese economic success is a combination of government support for a market economy coupled with a strong work ethic. This was *inter alia* illustrated by an answer to a question of what the Chinese government does for the youth. The answer was that at 18 they are adults and must basically get on with life and fend for themselves. Under 18 they are youth and education and support is provided.

Speech by Chairperson, Mr BD Martins

The 10th China International Fair
for Investment and Trade

2006.9.8-11

Xiamen, China

China-Africa Cooperation Forum

*Introductory Briefing on Invest-
ment Environment in South Af-
rica:*

Honourable chairperson,

Distinguished Heads of Delega-
tions, Excellencies, Ambassadors
and County Representatives, Es-
teemed Guests,

Mr Martins expressed, on behalf
of his Parliamentary delegation,
gratitude to the Ministry of Com-
merce of the People's Republic of
China and the organisers of the
International Trade and Invest-
ment Forum for the hospitality and
kindness that has been accorded to
the delegation.

He indicated that his delegation
had visited China to participate in
this Investment Forum to promote
South Africa as a destination for
business and investment; to facili-
tate trade and foreign direct
investment; and to encourage en-
terprises to develop transnational
business partnerships.

In terms of the South African
government's Accelerated Shared
Growth Initiative (ASGI-SA), he
said, the government would spend
more than R350 billion (\$50 bil-
lion) on infrastructure develop-
ment, during the 2006 and 2009
period. This initiative's ultimate
objective, he said, was to substan-
tially increase growth and to re-
duce unemployment and poverty
by the year 2014.

Focused interventions would ad-
dress government's investment on
infrastructure, sector develop-

ment, education and skills, as well
as macro economic issues, includ-
ing the capacity of the state to
implement these, he indicated.

Mr Martins further indicated that
the Department of Trade and In-
dustry (the DTI) would over the
next three years pay particular
attention to opportunities arising
from the hosting of the 2010 FIFA
World Cup. It would also pay
attention to a massive infrastruc-
ture development programme;
small enterprise development, and
investment promotion amongst
others.

He concluded by inviting the au-
dience to view a short video on
possible opportunities in South
Africa.

6. CONTRIBUTORS

- Mr Chai Zhijing, Chinese Min-
istry of Commerce
- Mr Liks Ramushu, Department
of Trade and Industry, SA Em-
bassy, Beijing
- Mr Rudu Conley, Department of
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Shanghai
- Mr Zhao Xin Xin, Deputy Di-
rector, Beijing Development
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- Mr Guangsheng Shi, Chairper-
son: Economic and Financial
Committee National Peoples
Congress, Beijing
- Mr Yao Weigun, Director:
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ization Consultation Centre,
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- Mr Zhou Yupeng, Vice Mayor:
Shanghai's Municipality, Shang-
hai
- Mr Liu Xiaodong, Deputy Gen-

eral Manager: Shanghai Stock Exchange, Shanghai

- Mr Zhao Zhali, Director: Baosteel, Shanghai
- Mr Wu Yi, Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China

MONDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

The Speaker and the Chairperson

1. Classification of Bill by Joint Tagging Mechanism

- (1) The Joint Tagging Mechanism, on 26 February 2007 in terms of Joint Rule 160(6)(b), classified the following Bill as a section 76 Bill:

- (a) *Division of Revenue Bill* [B 3—2007] (National Assembly—sec 76).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Defence on Employment of SANDF to Burundi, dated 23 February 2007:

The Joint Standing Committee on Defence, having considered the letter from the President on the employment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) to Burundi, referred to the Committee, reports that it has concluded its deliberations thereon.

2. Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Defence on Employment of SANDF to the Democratic Republic of Congo, dated 23 February 2007:

The Joint Standing Committee on Defence, having considered the letter from the President on the employment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) to the Democratic Republic of Congo, referred to the Committee, reports that it has concluded its deliberations thereon.

National Assembly

1. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Finance on the Division of Revenue Bill [B 3-2007] (National Assembly—sec 76(1)), dated 22 February 2007:

The Portfolio Committee on Finance, having considered and examined the *Division of Revenue Bill* [B 3-2007] (National Assembly—sec 76(1)), referred to it and classified by the Joint Tagging Mechanism as a section 76(1) Bill, reports the Bill without amendment.

TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2007

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. The Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs

- (a) Strategic Plan of the Ingonyama Trust Board for 2007-2008.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 15:01.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS—see col 1186.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

National Youth Service Volunteer Campaign, the National Youth Service and Jipsa

1. Mr S E KHOLWANE (ANC) asked the Deputy President:

(1) (a) What is the main purpose of the National Youth Service Volunteer Campaign which was launched on 4 December 2006,

(b) what are the key objectives being pursued by this initiative and (c) how does this campaign relate to the mandate of the National Youth Service (NYS);

(2) whether this campaign will address the question of youth development and training in relation to the objectives of the Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition (Jipsa); if so, in what way? N247E

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, hon members, I would like to start by explaining the difference between the National Youth Service Volunteer Campaign and the National Youth Service. The main difference between the two initiatives is that in the volunteer campaign, we have a short-term intervention which aims to get young people to participate in volunteer pro-

grammes during vacations and holidays, for example, and engage in developmental community activities such as crime prevention, peer education, marine and coastal management as well as support to vulnerable children. On the contrary the National Youth Service programme, which is a long-term intervention running between 12 to 18 months, includes accredited technical training, life skills training and supervised community service.

The key objectives of the National Youth Service Volunteer Campaign are to inculcate a civic responsibility culture amongst the youth, in keeping with Asgisa and other objectives of government of creating a caring and a sharing society; to raise awareness and the profile of the National Youth Service programme and to foster co-operation amongst national communities and stakeholders that partner with government departments.

It is our duty, as government, to demonstrate that everyone and all our young people can play a productive role in the development and in caring for most vulnerable people in our society. The volunteer campaign was launched in December 2005 and, therefore, has had an opportunity to impact on a larger number of young people.

We would urge members to encourage young people in their constituencies to make themselves available for the short-term volunteer campaign as well as for the longer-term National Youth Service programme which, for many of the young people who are unemployed, at risk and in need of skills, would be a more life-enhancing experience. Thank you.

Mr S E KHOLWANE: Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Deputy President for a comprehensive response. My question is: How can these young women and men access the programme in general, especially those in deep rural areas? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon member, I have to say I also feel that the promotion and advertising of this programme is not as effective as it should be. On the one hand, we need to make the information available to as many young people as possible so that they know how to access the programme, but we are also conscious that we do not want to over-advertise and be unable to accommodate all of the young people whose interest we would have generated.

In part, we would like to rely on municipalities to engage, to select and to encourage young people to do that and, of course, our GCIS should also be involved. I would take responsibility and admit that there are some improvements that need to be made about advertising and promoting this programme. I would also like to offer information to the members here so that, through your constituency offices, you can also assist us to close the gap. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M M SWATHE: Madam Speaker, Deputy President, it would be interesting to know how many youth formations were invited to participate in the initiative, and whether the wholly ineffective National Youth Commission has any role to play. Given the fact that the biggest problem amongst the youth is joblessness, could you please advise the House on the role the National Youth Service Volunteer Campaign will play in helping to encourage the acquisition of new skills? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I would start by defending the National Youth Commission. It is not an ineffective institution. [Interjections.] Sorry? [Interjections.] OK, you can send a message to Kader, I won't. I interact with them. I know that the current National Youth Commission, for instance, has been in place for a couple of months and the previous commission had teething problems. And I think one of the things that the new commission has embarked upon is to close the gap in those areas where the previous commission was weak.

There is no blanket answer about the strengths and weaknesses of the National Youth Commission, because in some provinces they are much stronger and in some provinces they are weaker. It is a matter of ensuring that where they are strong, we help them to do better and where they are weak, we strengthen them.

To answer the question, the National Youth Commission is an integral part of developing and implementing these programmes. In fact, in relation to the national volunteer service, there are now almost 30 000 young people that are participating. Most of them have been recruited through the structures of the National Youth Commission in different parts of the country. In those provinces where the National Youth Commission is stronger, it is reflected by the number of young people who have been able to stay in the programme and finish. But there are some provinces where the success is not something I would write to my mother about. Thank you. [Applause.]

Adv Z L MADASA: Sekela-Mongameli obekekileyo, ngaba uyangqina na ukuba iNkonzo yeSizwe yokuXhobisa uLutsha, okanye iNational Youth Service ngesilungu, kunye nenkonzo yobuvolontiya, ngamaphulo amabini abaluleke kakhulu? Ngaphandle kokufundisa ulutsha umsebenzi ukuze lungazibandakanyi kulwaphulo-mthetho, akwabalulekile ekuvuseleleni izimilo ezweni lethu, ukwenzela ukuba ulutsha luzingce ngelizwe lalo. Ngaba uyakungqina na oko, Sekela-Mongameli?

USEKELA-MONGAMELI: Somlomo obekekileyo nelungu elibekileyo elibuze umbuzo, ndiyangqina ukuba eli phulo libaluleke gqitha. Mandiphinde nditsho ukuba ukuqoqosha izimilo zolutsha yeyona nto ibalulekileyo ekufanele ukuba siyenze njengamalungu ePalamente nanjengabantu abasele bebadala.

Kungoko ke, ngokubhekisele kwiNkonzo yeSizwe yokuXhobisa uLutsha, singathanda ukucebisa abantwana ukuba bahlale kule

nkonz o ixes ha eliziinyanga ukugqitha enyakeni kuba singathanda ukubabona betshintshile nkqu nendlela le yokuhamba xa bephuma kulo. Nikhe nibabone xa behamba bekekele, le nto elokishini yam kwakusithiwa kukubhampa? Sifuna ukuba xa bephuma kweli phulo bangabhampi koko bahambe kakuhle ngendlela enesimilo. Enkosi. [Kwaqhwyatywa.] (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[Adv ZLMADASA: Hon Deputy President, do you agree that both the National Youth Service programme and the National Youth Service Volunteer Campaign are important? In addition to training youth in job-related skills in order to help them avoid being involved in criminal activities, these campaigns play a critical role in moral regeneration that would in turn motivate them so that they could be proud of their country.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker and the hon member who has asked the question, I agree that this campaign is important. Let me reiterate that as Members of Parliament and the elders, we need to inculcate in our youth a sense of moral regeneration as one of the most important things.

It is for that reason that we, in the National Youth Commission, would like to advise our children to remain in this church for a period of about a year; starting from this month. Have you seen them waddling? In my township we used to refer to this kind of walk as "bumping". We want to see them moving and walking decently after training. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr V B NDLOVU: Somlomo, mhlonishwa Phini likaMongameli, lubasiza kuphi lolo hlelo laba abancane ekucosheni imisebenzi uma sebephuma lapho? [Madam Speaker, hon Deputy President, how does this programme help the youth to get employment after leaving it?]

USEKELA-MONGAMELI: Somlomo, abanye babantu abasele beqalile ukungena

kwiNkonzo yeSizwe yokuXhobisa uLutsha bathi bengekayigqibi babe sele bebonwa ngabaqeshi, baze abo baqeshi babaqeshe. Siyazama ukugxininisa kubo ukuba xa ubani eziphethe kakuhle, waqhuba kakuhle, uza kukhawuleza ukufumana umsebenzi. Loo nto inceda ekubeni bafumaneka abasebenzi abafanelekileyo. Kanti enye into entle kukuba siyakwazi ukubabona abanezakhono, ekubonakalayo ukuba kufuneka babuyele esikolweni. Bathi xa bephuma kweli phulo sibe sesibazamela indlela yokuba babuyele esikolweni baye kuqhubela phambili imfundo yabo.

Njengokuba ngoku sele kukho iikholeji zokufundela imisebenzi, okanye ii-FET college ngesilungu, singathanda ukuba abo bafundela umsebenzi wezandla bathi xa bephuma apho baye kungena kwinkqubo yokufundela umsebenzi kwezi kholeji.

Okwesithathu, singathanda ukuba kubekho inkqubo abaphumela kuyo. Besingekakwazi ke ukuwucwangcisa kakuhle lo mba ngoba besisalindele uMphathiswa wezeziMali ukuze sibone ukuba usipha malini khon' ukuze sibe nokuseka inkqubo eza kubanika izakhono ukuze xa bephuma kweli phulo sikwazi ukubasebenzisa.

Ngoku sicela ukuba sibambisane nemibutho engekho phantsi kukarhulumente, iinkampani kwanamasebe ukuze xa ifuna abantu abanezakhono ezithile baze kukhangela kwaba bantwana. Abanye babo sifuna ukuba babe ngoosomashishini abazimeleyo. Sifuna ukuba bathi xa bephuma kweli phulo ababakhayo, abe umntu enebhokisi yakhe yokugcina izixhobo zokusebenza anokuyisebenzisa ukuya kufuna umsebenzi.

Kwakhona, sifuna ukusebenzisa eli phulo lokuba urhulumente abonelele ngesixa-mali esithile ukukhawulelana nomvuzo wabo baqalayo ukusebenza athethe ngalo uMongameli ukunceda abanye babantu abatsha ngoba kuya kuba lula ukubafumana nokubamba udliwanondlebe nabo. Enkosi. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, some of the people who have already started with the National Youth Service programme are poached by prospective employers before completing their training. We are trying to highlight to them that if they conduct themselves accordingly and perform well they will get a job easily. That helps in getting suitable candidates. We can also easily identify people with potential who would need to go for further training. After training we ensure that they go for further training.]

Now that there are also FET colleges, we would like to encourage those who are being trained in handicraft to go and study further at these colleges.

Thirdly, we would also like to put in place development programmes that would employ them as soon as they have completed their training. We have not been able to do proper planning, as we have been waiting on the Minister of Finance for our budget allocation that would enable us to set up a programme that would provide skills to them so that after they have been trained we could employ them.

Therefore, we request that we work in partnership with non-governmental organisations, companies and departments so that when they need people with certain skills, they may select from them. We would like some of them to be set up in their own companies. We want to empower those who train in building and construction so much so that on completion of their training, each one of them has a complete tool box with which they could market themselves.

Furthermore, we would like to follow up on the President's proposal that the government should consider providing financial assistance to meet the financial needs and augment the salaries of some of the newly employed youth, because it would be easy to attract them for interviews. Thank you.]

High crime rate a constraint for investment and economic growth

2. Dr S M VAN DYK (DA) asked the Deputy President:

Whether, in light of the World Bank's recent investment climate survey findings as well as that of Grant Thornton regarding the high crime rate as a constraint for further investment and growth (details furnished), she will add crime as the seventh binding constraint to economic growth under the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (Asgisa); if not, why not; if so, what measures will be implemented in order to deal with this constraint? N243E

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker and hon members, the answer to the question is: Crime is one of the government's major focus areas. Its importance is not just in reference to Asgisa, but it is an overarching challenge that the government is focused on, and therefore we do not have to regard it and to include it as necessarily one of the bounding constraints. The fight against crime has to intensify whether there is Asgisa or not.

As already announced, some of the measures that are to be instituted in this regard will include the increase of the police officers, as was announced by the President; the augmentation of the ICT-based forensic science laboratory for processing DNA by the establishment of another facility in the Western Cape; and the capacity of the intelligence division of the police which is being increased, both in terms of the number of officers and in terms of enabling technical infrastructure. The cluster intends to sustain measures intended to arrest and prosecute repeat offenders, particularly those responsible for serious and violent crimes.

Similarly, the operations to prevent crime in the places and at times when it mostly occurs will be sustained. In this regard, the govern-

ment particularly wants to massively reduce house burglaries. It is in this particular time that terror visits most people, the sense of insecurity that people feel in their homes. These are the few areas that I am mentioning in which we intend to intensify crime prevention. Of course, the list of our interventions is longer. Thank you.

Dr S M VAN DYK: Madam Speaker, this is Asgisa and economic development. The Deputy President does not recognise crime as a barrier to economic development. So, the hon Deputy President, therefore, does not agree that crime is a barrier to Asgisa, despite the fact that South Africa's murder rate is eight times higher than the world's average.

Does this mean that the government accepts that 18 000 murders per annum is reasonable, despite the fact that many of those murdered were highly skilled people contributing to our economy? Is the hon Deputy President not in agreement that the unacceptably high crime rate plays a role in the brain drain, taking into account the shortage of skill in South Africa, and that crime also limits foreign investments and foreign capital that contribute to South Africa's economic development?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, I will not dignify this with an answer. I have said that the crime prevention measures are overarching. Whether there was Asgisa or not, we would have to do this job, because it is one of the basic services that we have to provide to our citizens. So, we do not have to repeat in Asgisa something that we have to do and are doing anyway. We just need to do it better. [Applause.]

Mnu V B NDLOVU: Somlomo, mhlonishwa Phini likaMongameli, uma kuthiwa ukufakwa kwezimboni kungase kuncishiswe ngukuthi mhlawumbe ubugebengu bandile ezweni, ngabe umhlonishwa uyakuvuma yini lokho ngoba mina bengicabanga ukuthi phela ukusebenza kwezokuphepha kufanele ngabe kuyithinta yonke iMinyango? Manje

indlela ababuza ngayo laba bafowethu, kuzwakala sengathi umhlonishwa uyakuvuma ukuthi ubugebengu lobu obenziwayo ezweni bukhulile. Uma ekuvuma ethi bukhulile, lokho akuzukuyithinta yini imicabango yalaba abafuna ukufaka izimboni kuleli zwe? Uma ngabe kuvunywa uwenamhlonishwa, ngeke kusuke kubakhinyabeze yini na?

IPHINI LIKAMONGAMELI: Konje oNdlovu bangoGatsheni, oBoya benyathi?

AMALUNGU AHLONIPHEKILE: Yebo!

IPHINI LIKAMONGAMELI: Ngiyezwa. Angizange ngisho ukuthi ngiyazivuna izigebengu. UNgqongqoshe ongasekho, uMnu Tshwete, wayevame ukuthi, "Izigebengu zizoxakana nathi njengoba ithambo lixakana nenja." Nayo-ke nje into esifuna ukulwa nayo. Ukuthi le nto ifakwa ku-Asgisa noma uyifaka kwi-JCPS, lokho sekuyimininingwane. Into ebalulekile ukuthi makuliwe nobugebengu.

Maqondana nombuzo othi ubugebengu bunayo yini indlela yokunciphisa ukutshalwa kwezimali, yizo zonke izinto lezo esiziqaphile. Noma ngabe bekungenzeki lokho, kubalulekile ukuthi ubugebengu makuliwe nabo ngqo. [Ihlombe.] (*Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.*)

[Mr V B NDLOVU: Chairperson, hon Deputy President, when there is talk that investments might decrease owing to the crime level which is too high, does the hon Deputy President agree with that, because personally, I think that the question of safety should concern all departments? And the way these brothers ask questions; it sounds like the Deputy President admits that crime has increased in this country. If the Deputy President admits that crime is on the increase, is that not going to be a matter of concern to those who want to invest in this country? If you, the hon Deputy President, admit this, is that not going to scare investors?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: By the way, the Ndlovus are also known as Gatsheni, Boya benyathi?

HON MEMBERS: Yes!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I understand. I have never said that I am partial towards criminals. The late Minister, Mr Tshwete, used to say: "The criminals will fight us like a dog fighting for its bone because we give them such a hard time." And that is the thing that we want to fight against. Whether it is Asgisa or JCPS is just a detail. The most important thing is to fight crime.

With regard to whether crime has an impact on decreasing investments, those are the things that we are looking at. Even if that was not happening, it is still important to fight crime head-on. [Applause.]

Nksz M M SOTYU: Ndiyabulela Sekela Mongameli, uchan'ucwethe Mamlambo njengokuba sele ubonisile ukubaluleka kwentsebenziswano phakathi koluntu ngokubanzikunye norhulumente ngokulwisana nobundlobongela, uhambe emazwini ebethethwa nguMongameli kwintetho yakhe yovulo lwePalamente ebonisa ukubaluleka kodibana kwethu sisilwa nobu bundlobongela. Ngoko ke andizi kubuza mbuzo kuwe. Ndiza kuthi nje kuwe, mazenethole! *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.)*

[Mrs M M SOTYU: I thank you, Deputy President, you have hit the nail on the right place, Mrs Mlambo. You have shown us why there should be co-operation between communities and the government in crime prevention. This is exactly what the President said in his speech during the opening of Parliament. I am, therefore, not going to ask you any question other than to say, well done!]

The SPEAKER: Phini likaMongameli, hhayi-ke useyivalile. [Well, Deputy President, there you are, she has closed it.]

Access to water, sanitation and electricity

3. Mr A M MPONTSHANE (IFP) asked the Deputy President:

Whether the Government has any programmes in place to meet its targets regarding access to water, sanitation and electricity? N246E

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Deputy Speaker, the answer to this question is as follows: Government has set the following targets with regard to the attainment of universal access to the basic services of water, sanitation and electricity—for the eradication of the bucket system the deadline is the end of 2007, for access to basic potable, clean water it is the end of 2008, for access to basic, decent sanitation it is the end of 2010, and for access to basic electricity it is the end of 2012.

Cabinet received a full report at the Cabinet lekgotla last month, and discussed the mechanisms put in place in order to meet these targets. In the limited time allowed for me to answer these questions, let me just detail some of the steps we are following to accelerate the provision of these basic services and to meet the said targets.

Firstly, we have increased our transfer of funds to the local sphere of government where these services are provided. Transfers to local government have grown by 19% per year in the current 2007-08 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework.

As hon members will recall, the Minister of Finance announced in his Budget last week that the local government equitable share will receive a further R5 billion for the delivery of free basic services, which has now reached an average of about 80% of households. The municipal infrastructure grant receives R400 million more for a final push to eradicate the bucket system; a further R600 million for the electrification programme; R1,4 billion for bulk water and sanitation infrastructure; and R950 million

to deliver water and electricity to schools and clinics. The total infrastructure transfers to municipalities now total R52 billion over the next three years.

Secondly, in line with Project Consolidate, we are intensifying our efforts to ensure that the expenditure level of the municipal infrastructure grant improves significantly. The introduction of project and programme management practices will enable a clear flow of information which will ensure alignment of planning, funding and budget prioritisation.

We are also endeavouring to provide more support to municipalities with critical capacity constraints and are particularly targeting municipalities with limited or no capacity; rural municipalities with backlogs exceeding 60% of the population; those rural municipalities which are under Project Consolidate; and rural municipalities that are spending less than 50% of the municipal infrastructure grant allocation.

A major priority is schools and clinics that do not have basic services. The government, through the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, will assist struggling provinces and act as an implementing agent to provide infrastructure to schools and clinics. Water boards and NGOs will be utilised. Existing capacity within the provinces will be enhanced and allocations for this programme will be ring-fenced.

Fourthly, we are endeavouring to ensure that more engineers are deployed to these programmes by the Department of Provincial and Local Government, and the Development Bank of Southern Africa. Specifically, we are aiming at recruiting more engineers and targeting those that are retired in order to solicit their expertise, and in some cases solicit the expertise of engineers in our existing organs such as the Industrial Development Corporation and the Development Bank of Southern Africa. Even the engineers that are here in Parliament must go back and practise. We want

engineers turned bankers to go back to their profession, people such as the Minister of Finance.

Lastly, the government, through the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, will be working more closely with identified municipalities to ensure speedier implementation of water and sanitation projects. This will include hands-on implementation of programmes and projects of other government departments such as Water Affairs, and Provincial and Local Government. Thank you.

Mr A M MPONTSHANE: Somlomo, siyabonga kumhlonishwa iPhini likaMongameli. [Madam Speaker, we thank the hon Deputy President.]

Indeed, it is good that the government has these comprehensive programmes, plans and targets that it wants to meet in providing water, electricity and sanitation.

But one has to ask questions. If one looks at what is happening in the rural areas, women, of course, and some men, still have to travel many kilometres from distributing centres because piped water does not go to their households. They still stand in these long queues. Does the government envisage bringing piped water closer to their households?

Secondly, we appreciate the fact that the government is doing something about the bucket system. But, of course, in the rural areas there are those who do not have the relative luxury of those buckets; all they have is the bush. Will the government also include those who don't have this bucket system, who have the bush instead?

Lastly, a specific question to the Deputy President: I come from the area where we have the vast Jozini Dam, but around the area . . .

The SPEAKER: Hon member, you have exhausted your minute and you are still

telling the history of where you come from. You have not yet asked your question. [Laughter.]

Mnu A M MPONTSHANE: Bengithi ngizama ukwendlalela, Somlomo.

USOMLOMO: Musa ukwendlala mfo-wethu, asikho isikhathi sokwendlala. [Uhleko.]

Mnu A M MPONTSHANE: Awungiphe umzuzwana omncane nje ... [Ubuwele-wele.] Ngicela ukubuza-ke mhlonishwa Phini likaMongameli ukuthi laphayana edamini laseJozini ... (*Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.*)

[Mr A M MPONTSHANE: I was trying to give a background, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Stop giving a background, my brother, there is no time for a background.

Mr A M MPONTSHANE: Just give me a second ... [Interjections.] May I then ask the hon Deputy President regarding the Jozini Dam ...]

... are there any concrete plans to use that dam to supply water to the surrounding communities who have no water at all, as I am speaking to you? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Speaker, firstly, regarding places where there is no tap in the house, when we talk about universal access the plan is that people should not have to travel more than 200 metres to access clean, potable water. Even before I get to that, you used to be in the KwaZulu-Natal government: What did you do? [Laughter.] [Applause.] [Interjections.] Madam Speaker, who is on the floor, they or I?

The SPEAKER: The Deputy President is on the floor. Can she answer?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Ndiyabulelagiyabonga. Nenza ntoni ngeJozini Dam? [I thank you. What are you doing about the Jozini Dam?]

Mr A M MPONTSHANE: Madam Speaker, on a point of order: May I give an explanation ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Cha! Iyiphi leyo nto ofuna iqondiswe? Uyakuphendula nje uPhini likaMongameli;—angithi ubumbuze umbuzo? [No! What is it that you want to correct? The Deputy President has answered you. Have you not asked her a question?]

Mr A M MPONTSHANE: Madam Speaker, I would like to explain.

The SPEAKER: Cha, bab'uMpontshane. Ngicela uhlale phansi khona ezokuphendula umhlonishwa uPhini likaMongameli. [No, hon Mpontshane. I am asking you to take your seat so that the hon Deputy President can respond to your question.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No, No. I have the explanation. You lost the elections there. That is what happened, because you did not give people water quickly enough. But I am helping you now.

I have answered the part of the question on what we are defining as universal access. In addition, when we talk about universal access to sanitation by 2008, we are including those communities which do not have sanitation facilities now, so the new households that are being built and the ones which have no sanitation facilities at all will therefore be included in the new figure.

Of course, one of the things we are most anxious about is to make sure that new houses and facilities that are being built have all these basic services. We must not, as we go forward, create a new backlog of inadequate human settlements. In that way, hopefully, we will reduce the backlog significantly. Thank you.

Mr W P DOMAN: Madam Speaker, hon Deputy President, you referred to the important role that local government will have to play in this regard. Now, the sector skill plan findings for local government indicate that 36% to 38% of approved positions r

local government are vacant. The highest proportion of these vacant posts is in less skilled positions—elementary and clerical workers. So, the shortage is not attributable to skills scarcity. They also found that at least 20 000 to 30 000 jobs could be created immediately if they would just appoint these people.

So, hon Deputy President, I would like to ask you: Does the government have any plans or initiatives to ensure that the local government appoints these people, and can you exert any pressure on an organisation such as the ANC, which has 80% of the executive managers that can do this job?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, hon member, it is our intention to do all we can to try to fill the vacancies as soon as possible, especially at municipal level, starting with the City of Cape Town, if possible. [Interjections.] Everybody wants to come and work in Cape Town. [Interjections.] No! They just want to come and live in Cape Town, not to live under the present government that is governing the City of Cape Town but just to live in Cape Town for its God-given beauty. [Interjections.]

In general, hon members, part of the work that we are doing in the deployment of unemployed graduates is to meet these municipalities where there is a genuine problem in recruiting people. For instance, where we have vacancies for clerks, that work ends up being done by teachers and therefore takes up valuable teaching time. The Minister of Education collaborates with the Minister of Public Works to make sure that when we recruit people for the Expanded Public Works Programme, we recruit people who have recorded skills or are trainable and could play a role in providing those administrative services, we will use those people to fill those positions. We will train them so that they become fully qualified clerks.

In fact, hon member, the Minister for the Public Service and Administration and I have this as one of our key activities to

embark upon, at least in the first half of the year. I think the challenge is in the public sector. But we would also like the private sector to be a bit more aggressive about how they recruit so as to create these many instant jobs you and I are looking for.

Mr J D ARENDSE: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Deputy President whether the programme to eradicate the bucket system is flexible enough to incorporate formal areas that do not use the bucket system, and also do not use any type of formal sanitation system but, instead, make use of a system commonly known as the long-drop pit latrine, which is dug by the people themselves? I am speaking about areas where a house is built with brick and mortar, which is obviously a formal house, but where people still dig their own latrine in the yard. They don't use the bucket system so at the moment they don't qualify for assistance. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, it is not in the target we have for universal access by 2008, but it is included in the improvements. And, hon member, it's not unparliamentary to talk about droppings in Parliament. [Laughter.]

Mrs C DUDLEY: Madam Speaker, I would like to know if the Deputy President is satisfied with the progress in terms of sanitation, water and electricity with regard to schools? Are some provinces perhaps lagging behind in this respect? I say this with a picture in mind of some of the rural Eastern Cape schools I visited. Has the government prioritised these rural schools, and schools in general?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, hon member, regarding those areas where the services are most needed and where the capacity in the province seems most stressed, we are prioritising them for support. But, as you know, with these kinds of services, in the case of schools, it's either a service or no service at all. We would like to see all the schools as priorities. But, where there is

clearly a problem, that the province is going to default because there is no capacity, we try to help those provinces. That is why, in Project Consolidate, we even deploy those experts from stronger municipalities to go there as facilitators for faster implementation.

Public servant involvement in the Moral Regeneration Movement

4. Ms P R MASHANGOANE (ANC) asked the Deputy President:

What steps will the government take to ensure that public servants, in particular those in the main service delivery departments, are involved in the implementation of the key principles of the Moral Regeneration Movement?

N248E

Ms P R MASHANGOANE: Thank you, Madam Speaker ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! It's the Deputy President who must respond to the question, hon member.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The hon member is in a hurry to get an answer, Madam Speaker.

Hon members are aware that the Moral Regeneration Movement is a joint initiative between civil society and government at national, provincial and local levels. As far as national government is concerned, some departments are running programmes aimed at strengthening the moral fibre of our society, but also at strengthening themselves within the departments. However, I do believe that much more can be done and more departments can participate in this programme.

Your question, hon member, relates to what government is doing to ensure that its employees, the public servants, are imbued with the principles and values of moral regeneration. I think that this is a crucial question, because if we were succeeding to the extent that we want to succeed in this

regard, we would not be talking about corruption or poor service delivery in pockets of our civil society. That is why we, therefore, need to have targeted and dedicated programmes to address these challenges.

We are also aware that, in the Public Service, we have adopted the Batho Pele principles. We speak directly to the issue of morality. The Department of Public Service and Administration has programmes on Batho Pele, which have the potential to strengthen the moral values of public servants, and we expect departments to provide reports on what they are doing or planning to do to instil these values within their departments and amongst their employees. This is also expected to happen within the overall compliance and requirements of Batho Pele. We will be in a position to give more detailed feedback to this House once the Minister for the Public Service and Administration has received progress reports from departments.

Hon members, the most critical intervention that, I would like to argue, needs to be made in strengthening the moral fibre of our society is within families; it is by parents and communities because it is here that we plant the seeds of positive values amongst our young people. The responsibility should not only be shifted to schools, the government and organised civil society. It is particularly families that need to instil moral values, starting from childhood. So, we need parents to be a critical component of the Moral Regeneration Movement.

I'd like to take this opportunity to urge not just parents and families and those who are in care of young people and children, but also the hon members to play a role in advancing moral regeneration in their constituencies and to support the initiatives that are undertaken in their communities by different stakeholders, church groups, youth groups, education and so on, so that we can have a comprehensive approach. [Applause.]

Ms P R MASHANGOANE: Madam Speaker, I was indeed really in a hurry to get a response from the Deputy President. [Laughter.] Thank you, Deputy President, for your comprehensive response. My follow-up question is: Apart from reports from departments, what mechanisms are in place to monitor change in behaviour towards adherence to the principles and objectives of the Moral Regeneration Movement?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, this question is extremely difficult: What mechanisms are in place to monitor change in social behaviour? I must say I have to go and investigate this; I don't know the answer. [Laughter.] Is it the number of sinners or of those who go to heaven? Of course, the overall decrease in criminal behaviour would be an important indicator.

I would like to ask Minister Pallo Jordan to answer this question on my behalf in the next round of questions. [Applause.]

Mr I F JULIES: Madam Speaker, Deputy President, in the Public Service there is a code of conduct for public servants. When will the government implement the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, No 12 of 2004? For example, when will the government act against Members of Parliament who are involved in the Travelgate scandal?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, I think Parliament should be able to speak for itself on this matter. So, I think the hon member should direct this question to Parliament.

Mr S N SWART: Madam Speaker, hon Deputy President, arising from your response, the ACDP shares your view that a high standard of ethics and morality is required, particularly in the Public Service, as well as your emphasis on the role that families should play. However, in terms of the Public Service Code as well as the Protected Disclosures Act, public servants are required to report fraud, corruption,

nepotism, maladministration and other offences in both state and private sectors. To what degree, hon Deputy President, are the provisions of the Protected Disclosures Act, which protect whistle-blowers, being circulated in the Public Service to make public servants aware of the statutory protection they enjoy so that they can contribute to ethical standards that are being maintained in the Public Service?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon member, I am not aware that the civil servants generally do not know that they are protected and that the mechanisms and the methods used for people to whistle-blow are such that people can actually do that in confidence in order to protect themselves. Those of us who are principals have the responsibility, when we pursue these matters, not to disclose the sources of this information where we think it will endanger people. But more and more we find that public servants actually want to disclose and they want to take the responsibility for having made the disclosure, because I think there is a growing sense that it is a good thing to actually report wrongdoing. But to the extent that in some cases, especially junior officials, may need protection, clearly that is in place. If it is the sense of the member that perhaps people do not know, maybe this is something that we need to look at. But I wasn't aware that this is a problem.

I also want to go back to the question that I didn't answer, regarding some of the key indicators to monitor the impact of moral regeneration. I think some of the more formal instruments that we have will include the PMFA, through which we are able to identify problems; and the performance management agreements that people have to sign and against which they have to perform and be evaluated. Corporate governance in general is also but one of the mechanisms that we have to measure that impact.

When we see an increase of people who comply with all these measures, we will

know that we are actually having a breakthrough. When we see an increase in incidents, we will know that we are not performing according to our own objectives. However, when you see a decrease of people who default, then, obviously, we are able to make a judgment based on that.

Maybe you will see these as hard instruments. So we also are concerned about having both the hard instruments and also addressing the soft issues, because, concerning some of the issues around customer care, not all of the instruments that we have can actually indicate to you whether a person gives a service with a smile, which in some cases can be made or break in the manner in which people are made to feel welcome. So, those are some of the things that we continuously have to fine-tune. These are the things that those who are in the front line of service provision need to actually internalise. When we do orientation and ongoing training for our public servants, these are some of the things that we need to look at. Thank you.

Mrs V B NDLOVU: Somlomo, mhlolishwa Phini likaMongameli, kuye kwenziwe njani ngalaba abanamakhanda alukhuni kuba futhi bevikelwe yizinyonyama zabo nama mhlawumbe bevikelwe ukuthi banezikhanda ezinkulu—kuba kube kudingeka ukuthi kubikwe kubona? Kwenziwa njani ngalaba abanamakhanda alukhuni abangafuni ukuyilandela i-moral regeneration?

IPHINI LIKAMONGAMELI: Abanye babo basejike njengeba sikhalemanje... (Translation of mizala paragraphs follows.)

(Mr V B NDLOVU: Madam Speaker, hon Deputy President, what is usually done about those who are hard-headed and yet they are protected by their unions and sometimes they are also protected by the high positions that they occupy, and yet things must be reported to them? What should be done about those who are hard-headed who do not want to follow the principles of moral regeneration?)

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Some of them are languishing in jails as we speak...]

... because the application of laws and regulations and the requirements, when it comes to compliance, applies to everybody. If you are a director-general, for instance, you have the same sets of conditions when it comes into aspects of compliance as somebody who is junior and so on. So, I think the important thing is to apply the regulations and the laws without fear and favour.

PEACE AND SECURITY

(Cluster 1)

MINISTERS:

Community policing forums in fight against crime

5. **Mr M S MOATSHE (ANC)** asked the Minister of Safety and Security:

Whether his department is looking at strengthening community policing forums (CPF's) in order to make them more effective as an important partner of the Government in the fight against crime; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? N207E

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Madam Speaker, the answer is yes, the community policing forums are the best vehicle to connect communities with the police, as an expression of the concept of community policing. Put at the centre of that relationship, the CPFs will be given the necessary authority to build and nurture that community-police relationship. We are, therefore, putting in place measures to make the CPFs autonomous bodies that will be responsible to the communities, to mediate between them and the police.

The CPFs will be established through a democratic process, including elections. The functions of the revamped CPFs will include building confidence between the communities and the police, helping to root the police among the people as trusted allies in the fight against crime, determining, together with the

police, policing priorities in the given community and assessing police performance on the basis of those priorities.

The CPFs will be resourced by the government and members will receive training for better management and effective communication with all stakeholders. Thank you.

Mr M S MOATSHE: Thank you, Minister, for your comprehensive answer. Will you please indicate to this House what the likely impact is that the Minister expects as a result of these measures aimed at the strengthening of CPFs? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: There will, of course, be an improvement in terms of policing in all the areas where there will be these structures. Given the fact that we have always recognised that when you have better community-police relations, then crime in those areas does decrease. We are certain, therefore, that there will be very drastic reductions in crime in those areas.

We have already started a programme where some of the communities are already working with the police, and in those areas crime has indeed gone down. That is the impact that we will have. But more than that, we will have better co-ordination of all the resources that will be deployed in these given areas, and conditions will be created for engaging more people, on the basis of poverty alleviation, who will work side by side with the police as reservists. We believe, therefore, that when we do this, which, by the way, is an accepted practice in most democracies, we will indeed be impacting very positively on the fight against crime. Thank you.

Mr C M MORTEL: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Minister, CPFs are based in geographical communities, but we have also seen recently the roll-out of the railway police on certain routes. Do you see an opportunity to extend the type of role communities play in geographical police areas

on those routes in overseeing the railway police, especially regular commuters that would perhaps be part of a mobile CPF or become reservists that travel regularly on that route? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: That also fits into the design that we have, because, in the end, we are going to have community police forums in all areas that are therefore going to work with the police, among other things, to identify people within those communities that can become part of the reservist system.

An arrangement can be made under the command and control of the CPFs for them to have a relationship with other areas where there will be CPFs, so that the reservists become part and parcel of railway policing. In other words, you will have people who, together with the police, will be at the railway stations and will be on the trains themselves.

We don't want to create many structures for this. The CPFs can do that kind of work. It is correct that that would also benefit from the revamped community police forums, because those are intended indeed to encourage better community-police relations. Thank you.

Mnr R J KING: Agb Minister, die President beklemtoon in die staatsrede die noodsaaklikheid van vennootskappe in samewerking oor staat en gemeenskappe heen ten einde misdaad te beveg. Die President voorsien die uitbouing van die Gemeenskapspolisiëringsforums tot geïntegreerde gemeenskapsveiligheidsentrums.

Onmiddellik kom dit by 'n mens op, 'n wonderlike ideaal, mits u departement nie hierdeur probeer wegstroom van die verantwoordelikheid vir die werwing, opleiding, finansiële ondersteuning, uitbouing, bevordering en erkenning nie. Is u bereid om die volle verantwoordelikheid vorentoe te

aanvaar dat Gemeenskapspolisiëringsforums sal werk? (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.*)

[Mr R J KING: Hon Minister, in his state of the nation address the President emphasised the need for partnerships to co-operate across state and community lines in order to fight crime. The President envisages the extension of community police forums into integrated community safety centres.

What immediately comes to mind is that it is a wonderful ideal, provided that your department does not in this manner try to avoid the responsibility of recruitment, training, financial support, extension, promotion and acknowledgement. Are you prepared to accept full responsibility in future for the success of community police forums?]

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: As you know, I can speak Afrikaans, but I wanted to be certain that the interpretation is correct upstairs. Of course, this is not an abdication of our responsibilities. We have made this abundantly clear from the outset. All that is happening is that we are inviting the communities to participate in providing national security everywhere in South Africa and, as I say, this is not a practice that is unique only to South Africa. It happens elsewhere in the world as well, but the law-enforcement agencies don't abdicate their responsibility; they will be leading from the front in respect to these matters.

It is better to work together with the people, particularly because the criminals that we are fighting live among the people, and, therefore, the people are the best repository for information—the very information we require in order for us to conduct investigations successfully. We are not abdicating our responsibility.

Ms S RAJBALLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, Minister, in my constituency all the smaller organisations got together and formed a community police forum where each home

in the Havenside area is paying R150 per home and we have 24-hour police security. We bought bicycles and four-wheel scooters for them to use.

I am happy to hear that we can get some assistance from your department. Can you please kindly let me know who we can contact to get some sort of assistance? Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: It is those experiences of our people that in fact have informed what we are trying to do. Over many years now there have been communities indeed that have collected some resources in order for them to ensure that there is some community activity that is designed to assist the law-enforcement agencies.

As I said in my speech the other day in this House, there are even some members, like you, who participate in those programmes. What we are saying is that we must create conditions, and those can only be made possible as a consequence of decisions that we must take here, because we must change the law in order for us to do all these things. It does not mean that when you have started something like that you can't approach, for instance, your local station commander. You go to that person, the commissioner there, and speak with him or her.

I am sure the police will be able to help, but I really appreciate the role that people, like some of these hon members in this House, are playing. Fortunately, you do understand that when we make the kind of call we have made, it is not because we ourselves want to walk away from our responsibility. Thank you very much for that.

Release of crime statistics and targets for crime reduction

20. Ms D KOHLER-BARNARD (DA) asked the Minister of Safety and Security:

(1) Whether he will release crime

statistics to the public and the legislatures so that his department's performance can be properly assessed; if not, why not; if so, when;

- (2) whether he will outline a set of targets for crime reduction, by category; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will step down if he fails to achieve these targets; if not, why not;
- (4) what is the government's position on transparency, with specific reference to his department's refusal to release up-to-date crime statistics?

N225E

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: It is our department's policy to release crime statistics annually for all levels of policing before the end of September of the financial year, following the year of release. The last crime statistics, therefore, were released in September last year as part of the SA Police Service's annual report.

This department's performance is assessed against quarterly reports to the National Treasury. The targets set for crime reduction are already a common cause. To repeat, the police are expected to reduce serious and violent crimes by between 7% and 10% annually until 2014. Those serious and violent crimes include murder, attempted murder, rape, indecent assault, assault, serious assault and common assault, aggravated robbery and common robbery. While no target has been set for the other categories of crime, the reduction of crime is part of the mandate of SAPS to prevent and combat crime. To that extent, therefore, the police are determined to reduce the levels of all crime, as has been happening since 1995, when the SAPS was established.

There's a question about stepping down and I want to say that I've responded to that question in the past, hon member, and I'm

not going to repeat myself. I'm inviting you, therefore, hon member, to go to Hansard and that's where you'll get the answer.

The hon member knows that we are transparent. We publish an annual report on the activities of the SAPS, including crime prevention and crime-combating activities. And statistics are part and parcel of that report. That is being transparent. There are many countries in the world that embraced democracy much earlier than we did but which do not publish statistics.

Ms D KOHLER-BARNARD: Minister, you told me in an answer to a parliamentary question last year that you would present your annual crime statistics to Parliament before releasing them to the press. You stated that you would, but you then chose not to. In fact, these figures are never even presented to the Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security to assist us in our oversight duties. You stated that you would bring them to Parliament first—you didn't. Will you reconsider, and, at the very least, bring them to the portfolio committee before your annual bun fight?

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I hope that you are going to indicate to her that the first thing we do indeed is to submit those reports to Parliament. By the time we interact with the media, those reports have been submitted to Parliament. I don't know what you are referring to when you say we have not submitted them to Parliament before we released them to the media—because we did.

Mnu V B NDLOVU: Mhlonishwa Phini likaSomlomo, bengicela ukubuza ukuthi, njengoba sikhuluma ngezibalo nje, mhla-wumbe umqondosimo lo esasinawo wokumbandakanya yonke iMinyango ... [Ubuwelewele.] Uxolo kancane. Ake nithi ukwehlisa umsindo. [Uhleko.] Phini lika-Somlomo, ngicela ungikhuzele la malungu ... (Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)

[Mr V B NDLOVU: Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to know whether, as we are talking about the statistics, maybe the attitude that we had to include all departments ... [Interjections] Excuse me. Could you please lower your voices. [Laughter.] Deputy Speaker, would you please call these members to order.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon House Chair, will you please help us maintain order in your corner there.

Mnu V B NDLOVU: Ngiyabonga, Phini likaSomlomo. Bengithi angibuze kumhlonishwa ukuthi isu ...

IPHINI LIKASOMLOMO: Khulumela kule nto yezwi khona sizokuzwa phela.

Mnu V B NDLOVU: Ngiyabonga Phini likaSomlomo. Bengithi angibuze kumhlonishwa ukuthi isu lethu esake salisebenzisa lokumbandakanya yonke iMinyango eku- lweni nale nto esikhuluma ngayo, ubuge- bengu, bekungeke kwakuhle yini silibuyise ukuze kungabi uMinyango wakho kuphela wamaphoyisa okufanele ubhekane nalesi simo kanti kukhona nezigebengu eziqha- muka kweminye iMinyango? *(Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[Mr V B NDLOVU: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I wanted to ask the hon Minister whether the plan ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Speak into the microphone so that we can hear you.

Mr V B NDLOVU: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I wanted to ask the hon Minister whether the plan that we previously used of integrating all the departments in fighting crime could be brought back so that it does not only end up being the Department of Safety and Security that deals with this problem as there are criminals from other departments too.]

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SE- CURITY: I don't know what he means by that.

Eqinisweni, yilo Mnyango obhekene nezige- bengu. [In fact, it is this department that deals with criminals.]

But, as you'd appreciate, we do work in clusters and our cluster is a big one. All the people in that cluster are working on the basis of the integrated criminal justice sys- tem.

IPHINI LIKASOMLOMO: Sengihlulekie ukukusiza baba ngoba kade ngikucela ngithi khuluma ngendlela yokuthi ngikwazi ukukuzwa kodwa wena ube ukhulumela phansi. Nokho-ke ngiyethemba ukuthi ubaba useyitholile impendulo. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have failed to assist you, hon member, because I have requested you several times to speak audibly so that I can hear you, but you continue to speak softly. Anyway, I just hope that you got your reply.]

Ms D KOHLER-BARNARD: Minister, I would like to put it to you that, in fact, you did not submit them to Parliament. We checked extensively on the day of your press conference. There was nothing available at all to anyone asking. So, I don't know where you released them or to whom, but it certainly was not to Parliament.

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SE- CURITY: I don't know if we are going to have this kind of argument with the hon member. The fact of the matter is that we would never ever go to anyone else and release a report we know has to be submitted to Parliament first of all. We did that and whatever you did—I mean you have your own structures and I have mine. You have your own means of verifying things and I have my own. I'm saying and I am putting it

to you that we submitted that report before we went public with it. [Interjections.]

Safekeeping and control of police dockets at police stations

30. Mr V B NDLOVU (IFP) asked the Minister of Safety and Security:

Whether any steps are being taken to improve the (a) controls over and (b) safekeeping of police dockets at police stations; if not, why not; if so, what steps? N236E

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Madam Deputy Speaker, the answer to both questions is yes. The following are the steps we have taken: Firstly, there are lockable facilities that have been issued to the detective service component for the secure storage of dockets in order to prevent losses and unauthorised access to such dockets. Instructions to keep offices of investigating officers locked during their absence have been issued to prevent unauthorised access to dockets and/or theft thereof.

Dockets forwarded to and received from court are audited to prevent losses that may arise. Strong departmental action is taken against members who are found to have negligently lost dockets. All docket losses are monitored by the head office by means of a monthly return from the provinces. Thank you.

Mnu V B NDLOVU: Phini likaSomlomo, mhlonishwa uNgqongqoshe, umqondosimo walo mbuzo ubuqonde ukubuza ukuthi uma selilahlekile idokodo, kwenzekani kumnikazi wedokodo? Uma lilahlekile idokodo kube kukhona ophakathi, oboshiwe, kwenzeka njani kuyena? Uma lidayisiwe, lowo olidayisile kwenziwa njani ngaye? Lo olithengile yena-ke wenziwa njani?

Le mibuzo ngiyibuza ngoba, ekugcineni, kuye kube sengathi yilaba abaphenyayo kuphela abanecala kanti mhlawumbe baningi abant u abathintekayo ekulahlekeni

nasekwebiweni kwamadokodo. Kuye kwenzeke njani kulaba bantu abayimixhantela ekwenzeni lo mkhuba omubi kangaka? (*Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.*)

[Mr V B NDLOVU: Deputy Madam Speaker, hon Minister, the core of this question was to ask what happens when the docket is lost. What happens to the owner of the docket? When the docket is lost and there is an accused person who is languishing in jail, what happens to him? If the docket has been sold, what happens to the person who sold it? And what happens to the one who bought it?

I am asking these questions because, at the end of the day, it always looks like it is only the detectives who are guilty whereas in fact there are many other people who are involved in the disappearance of dockets. What happens to these other people who are involved in this bad practice?]

UMPHATHISWA WEZOKHUSELO NO-KHUSELEKO: Xa kuphandwa, kuphandwa umntu lo belikuye idokethi. Uphandwa kunye nabanye abantu ekufumaniseka ukuba bayabandakanyeka kulo mkhuba mbi. Kuphandwa wonke umntu kuquka nabo othi wena bayalithenga idokethi, nabo bayaphandwa. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: When an investigation is conducted, it is into the official who handled the docket, together with everybody who has been found to have been involved. This includes those that you claim buy the docket.]

Ms D KOHLER-BARNARD: Minister, in this technological age, no copy is made of dockets as they are completed. Now, the single piece of paper that represents a victim's right to justice then becomes a second victim. Firstly, it might become a victim of shoddy filing, or shoddy police work, and never to be found again. Secondly,

and more commonly, it becomes a secondary victim for the perpetrator.

While it is unforgivable for a member of the SA Police Service to lose a docket, it is equally so that certain members are corrupt and will dispose of a docket in exchange for money. Have the members of the SAPS been trained to detect and report such corruption within their ranks, and if they have, why is it still happening?

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: It is true that it is still happening and, I must indicate, not to the same degree and level as was the case in the past. There are measures that are in place to deal with this matter. It is not only just a matter of people who lose dockets or what-have-you. That situation is very serious. It is criminal, in fact, for any person who is conducting an investigation to lose any aspect of that investigation, including whatever information is available as well as information in the dockets themselves.

This is a matter that we are addressing on an ongoing basis. Quite soon our systems are going to be such that it is not going to be possible for people to sell any dockets, because—I am sure many members are aware now—we are converting very rapidly to high technology in order to deal with all these matters. Thank you.

Mr S MAHOTE: Deputy Speaker, Minister, will the department under your guidance give due consideration to the electronic back-up of dockets?

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Yes, we do, and we have even gone one step further. The other day, the members of the Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security were shown what the police as a management and performance tool defines. What we have been able to do with regard to that is that we are recalling a number of dockets that were closed as undetected, and we are reopening those dockets in order for us to restart investiga-

tions in a proper way. What we are doing is that, using that instrument, the dockets are now being electronically stored so that we can deal with matters, including this issue of where some of the dockets are lost. Thank you.

Nksz N M MDAKA: Mphathiswa obeke-kileyo, inyaniso yinyaniso, ngoba xa bekweqe ibanjwa elikhulu ejele, isebe lakho likwazile ukuba lilibambe elo banjwa. Asizi kukutyhafisa ke xa lisebenza isebe lakho. Apha size kwakha ilizwe, size nathi sakhane. Asisoze sizigxeke izinto ezintle xa zisenzeka. Asizi kuthi kuba siliqela eliphikisayo siphikise nokuba kugqitha impukane, sisithi isuka kubani ibimelwe kukuba iya kuzibani. Inyaniso mayihlale iyinyaniso. Lisasebenza kakuhle isebe lakho okwangoku. [Kwaqhwyatywa.] (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[Mrs N M MDAKA: Hon Minister, the truth is the truth. Your department has been able to rearrest a dangerous prisoner who had escaped from prison. We are not going to discourage and discredit you when your department is doing a good job. Our purpose is to build a nation. We are not, because we are an opposition party, objecting to the good things just for the sake of opposing. The truth must always remain the truth. For now, your department is doing a sterling job. [Applause.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a question, but a compliment. I don't know whether...

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Hayi nam ndifuna nje ukuthi ndiyabulela. Halala! [I also want to say thank you.]

Shortage of artisans in Correctional Services

3. Mr D V BLOEM (ANC) asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

Whether he has been informed of the shortage of artisans in Correctional

Services workshops nationally; if so, (a) what has his department done to attract and retain artisans and (b) what measures have been put in place to review the current remuneration packages of artisans? N205E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Hon Deputy Speaker, in reply to the question by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, the Department of Correctional Services does have a vacancy rate of 6,5% in the specialised field of artisans.

However, the artisan field in Correctional Services—we're talking about plumbers, fitters, motor mechanics and electricians here—is very broad, and the department is not experiencing shortages in all fields. Each vacant post is, therefore, dealt with on merit, in order to ensure the effective functioning of that specific trade.

The prepared reply goes as follows:

- (a) The department has advertised 102 artisan posts since September 2006. Higher salaries have also been offered to artisans where a critical shortage exists. It's not an easy task to retain artisans, due to the high demand and very high salaries in the broad labour market, which government departments cannot compete with. However, the department has resorted to making counter-offers in an effort to retain their services.
- (b) The position of artisan, as with other scarce-skills occupational classes, has been revised and a new code of remuneration has been developed to cater for the specific needs of artisans. However, the impact of the high salaries and the different working conditions, which are also difficult within Correctional Services and in the labour market, is not only being felt with regard to artisans, and, therefore, the department is addressing all these scarce-skills occupational classes within the available

budgetary allocations and the Department of Public Service and Administration mandates. Other initiatives, such as bonus incentives and payments for trade tests are also being considered under the department's recruitment and retention strategy.

Thank you.

Mnr D V BLOEM: Mevrou die Adjunk-speaker, baie dankie aan die Minister vir die inligting wat u vandag vir ons gegee het.

Ek dink hierdie storie moet baie dringend ondersoek word. Die Witskrif vir Korrektiewe Dienste lê spesifiek klem op rehabilitasie, maar ons sit met 'n probleem. Ons het byvoorbeeld verlede maand Drakenstein besoek. Daar's ook 'n tekort. In St Albans is daar 'n werkswinkel wat toe staan. Ek dink ons moet ernstig aandag gee aan hierdie probleem om rehabilitasie 'n werklikheid te maak, anders gaan ons met 'n groter probleem sit van mense wat nie gerehabiliteer word nie. (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.*)

[Mr D V BLOEM: Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you very much to the Minister for the information you imparted here today.

I think this story should be investigated as a matter of urgency. The White Paper on Correctional Services specifically puts the emphasis on rehabilitation, but we are faced with a problem. For example, we visited Drakenstein last month. There is also a shortage. In St Albans there is a workshop that is not in use. I think we should give serious attention to this problem in order to make rehabilitation a reality, otherwise we will be faced with the much bigger problem of people not being rehabilitated.]

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: I do agree with you fully that this must be addressed quite soon, and you're quite correct as well that the emphasis of Correctional Services is on rehabilitation, and when these workshops are short of artisans it makes life very difficult. But, as

you well know, there are other programmes as well in which offenders can participate.

Whilst we are busy dealing with that, one of the requirements I'm pushing to make within Correctional Services is that offenders must participate in at least four programmes before they are even given a chance to go to the Parole Board. It is one of those things that we'll be able to gauge them with. There is agriculture, there are the workshops, there are lots of other programmes that we have.

In Drakenstein we have a huge agricultural farm—some of them participate in those—and in St Albans we also have huge workshops which I'm trying to address very quickly. We will give, and are giving, serious attention to all these issues. Thank you.

Mr J SELFE: Deputy Speaker, the hon Bloem is absolutely correct. On a visit to Malmesbury Correctional Centre in June last year I observed four workshops that could have been used to rehabilitate inmates standing completely empty, and the reason for them standing empty was that the artisans who used to train the inmates had all left the service. Apparently some six to eight officials leave that facility every month, mainly to go and run prisons in New Zealand.

Now, what steps is the Minister taking to stop our people from leaving to go and run prisons in New Zealand, and what steps is the Minister taking to employ artisans as part of an outreach or partnership with other institutions in the private sector to fill these gaps on a temporary basis?

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Hon member, as I have mentioned, you'll find that in areas such as Malmesbury, and other areas, there's been a problem of vacancies not being funded, but those are things that I'm addressing now to try and get those vacancies to be funded so that we can retain some of those artisans.

But we also want to decentralise our advertising of vacancies. For a long time they've

been done at national level, but now we're giving them to the regions to look at so that they can address those issues very quickly within their own management areas.

Artisans do leave, as I've mentioned here, because they get better offers. We have also said that we were going to increase our counter-offers to them so that they don't leave. If there are departments that have these artisans, we'll work with them so that they can do some shifts with us and some shifts with them. These are things that we are addressing at the moment. Thank you.

Mrs S A SEATON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I concur with my colleagues that there's a serious problem here and it's something that does need to be sorted out. I've been partly covered by the questions posed by my colleagues, but a further question is: We have talked for many years now about an income-producing facility. In other words, we're saying that most of these artisans are working in situations where they could be producing an income for the department which could be used towards the salaries of these people.

The question that I also pose is: Are these artisans tutors or are they merely artisans? There's a difference between somebody who is an artisan and somebody who is capable of teaching, and I think we need to address that issue as well and perhaps look at the salaries that should be paid for that particular qualification. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Hon member, remember that I have said that we are trying to address these together with Treasury and with the Department of Public Service and Administration. I'll tell you why I said Treasury; because we do produce some of the stuff in the workshops, and it's quite beautiful stuff that offenders produce, but we cannot just sell it on the open market. [Interjections.] He has his Constitution, looking at me. I've been pleading with them that some of the money that we get . . . Quite rightly, Treasury says

we should give it to them. [Interjections.] Exactly! It goes back. So I'm trying to ask if we can't retain that so that we can increase the salaries of these artisans.

There is a difference—you are right—between tutors and artisans. We still have the tutors as well, and we're battling in that regard too, but the more pressure we can put on Treasury, and a little bit of pressure on Labour, because Labour also . . . [Interjections.] I'll sit on you! [Laughter.] I will sit on you. I'm bigger than you!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It's unparliamentary to sit on any hon member!

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Sorry, sorry, Chair. That threat is unparliamentary. I will not sit on him. [Interjections.] No, I won't do that.

Also, some of the salaries are kept by Public Service and Administration. That's another problem that we are facing. We are trying to plead with the DPSA not to cap the salaries, because we're losing people in the process. Let's try and use whatever funding we have to make sure that we retain them. We're going to be working very hard towards that.

Mr M J ELLIS: [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ellis, you're out of order!

Mnr D V BLOEM: Minister, baie dankie, ek is doodseker die lede daar buite wat vandag na u antwoord geluister het, gaan harder werk, want hulle weet u het gepraat met die Minister van Finansies en dat hierdie mense nou hier in Suid-Afrika gaan bly en beter werk doen. [Tussenwerpsels.] Die vraag is nou, wanneer gaan u met die Minister van Finansies praat? [Gelag.] (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.*)

[Mr D V BLOEM: Minister, thank you, I am absolutely certain that the members out there who have listened to your reply today are going to work harder, because they know that you have spoken to the Minister of Finance and that those people will be re-

maining in South Africa and will be improving their efforts. [Interjections.] The question remains, when are you going to speak to the Minister of Finance? [Laughter.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: As long as there's nothing like sitting on an hon member! [Laughter.]

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Chair, I did apologise for that.

Ek is ook doodseker . . . [I am also very sure] . . . that we will try our best to address some of these issues. However, I'm also making a call to artisans who are retired and are out there—plumbers and other people, and even amongst the offenders we do have some of these artisans—to come forward so that we can give them some work to do so as to help the others to gain these skills. I'm making that call, but I'm making that call also to offenders, because we have plumbers who are offenders and they do work within our facilities and we do pay them a certain stipend.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. We are very happy today to hear that the Minister is very tweetalig [bilingual], but to use the two languages in one sentence takes some doing. Excellent! Very good.

Escapes from prison, method of escape, escapees assisted by police officers and prosecutions

26. Rev K R J MESHOE (ACDP) asked the Minister of Safety and Security:

- (1) (a) How many persons have escaped from prisons and holding cells during the most recent 12-month period for which information is available and (b) what was the method of operation used by each escapee;
- (2) whether there were any cases where police officers assisted prisoners who escaped; if so, what are the relevant details;

- (3) whether any police officers have been prosecuted as a result; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N231E

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member who asked the question is not in the House, but he has indicated to us that Mr Swart will ask the supplementary questions, if there are any.

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. I was worried, because I had made an arrangement with him earlier on that one of his questions needed further investigation by us, and, therefore, we would not be able to answer it today.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it this one?

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: No, this one is straightforward. I don't think it is this one. So I was worried that he may have been under the impression that it is this question. It is the second one, not this one.

There are 1 908 of these people who escaped from police custody during the 2005-06 financial year. Not all of them of course escaped from police cells; some of them escaped from police vehicles and the community service centres.

The escapees do not include those who escaped from Correctional Services. [Interjections.] There were none? [Interjections.] OK, I was going to say you should ask him about those from Correctional Services.

Of course, there are some police officers who connived with some of these escapees and in so doing facilitated their escape. Departmental disciplinary procedures were instituted against 38 of them, and 12 members were convicted through that departmental process. But 31 criminal prosecutions were preferred against others and two were convicted. Thank you very much.

Mr S N SWART: Madam Deputy Speaker, may I, firstly, apologise, hon Minister, that the hon Meshoe is not in the House today.

The ACDP shares concerns regarding escapes from courts, prisons and holding cells, particularly where such escapes involve high-profile and dangerous prisoners. One escape is one too many; 1 908 appears to be unacceptable. When police or prison officials additionally assist in escapes, they put the lives of colleagues and the public at risk, and it becomes all the more reprehensible. We therefore welcome the fact, hon Minister, that where officials have been found to be implicated, they face the full force of the law.

In view of your response, hon Minister, are you satisfied that sufficient steps are being taken by the police to prevent persons escaping from holding cells or when being transported to courts, or appearing in courts? Will the SAPS continue to probe the possibility of prison officials being bribed to help Ananias Mathe escape, as suggested by the investigating team? Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Madam Deputy Speaker, my colleague is asking if we can share this question. I'll take a bit and he can take the rest. [Laughter.] No, it is not a joke, because two departments are involved. I will take the part that relates to the prisons.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am agreeing to that.

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much. I hope the hon member did not say that we are putting in place "suspicious" steps. Did you say that? What did you say? [Interjections.] Sufficient? Oh, sorry. My ears are 65 years old this year. [Interjections.] At times I don't hear. You are much younger than some of the ancients who are sitting over there. [Laughter.]

Madam Deputy Speaker, there is nothing that is as overwhelmingly wrong and in fact highly criminal as law-enforcement agencies that facilitate escapes by these criminals. Because when they do that, they are

actually allowing people like that to go out and kill their colleagues, which has happened in the past.

We are taking a very, very serious view of that matter. In fact, we are looking at measures to deal seriously with people who would allow for this. I may also mention the fact that we are putting together systems that will ensure that those who murder these officials are going to face the full might of the law, because we cannot allow a situation where our members are murdered. Therefore, if it is their own colleagues, in the first instance, who create conditions for them to be murdered, we want to do something which is going to be very drastic to deal with that situation. We are investigating every avenue that relates to escaped criminals, to find out if there is anyone in the Service who might be culpable for such an escape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The second part of the response?

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Deputy Speaker, I do agree with the hon member: One escape is one escape too many. I agree with you fully, it is what I say to my officials all the time.

Our escape record at the moment is looking quite good, because it has gone completely down in number. Regarding the fact that an awaiting-trial detainee called Ananias escaped, who was not even supposed to be in that centre fortunately, we raised this with the portfolio committee last week concerning the report that had been put together by a team from the NIA, the SAPS and Correctional Services. That is the report which was then presented to the portfolio committee last week. It ended with me owning that report as if it had been written by me. I ended up being the "mampara of the week", when, in fact, the report was not my report. The report comes from that team. But, of course, when you are in these kinds of places you have to have a thick skin.

That team is working together. We have not disbanded that team. Regarding that, nine officials have been suspended and are being criminally charged as well, because we cannot allow a situation where people endanger the lives of society, and endanger the lives of their colleagues for a few pieces of silver. We cannot allow that.

Lastly, that report is a team report and they are still following up on the leads of what happened. They will come up with something much more criminal than what is in that report. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. We hope you don't earn that title again this weekend.

Mr M S BOOI: Madam Deputy Speaker, hon Minister, are you in a position to share a little bit about the effort that they are making to curb this particular problem? Will you highlight to the House, as you are busy putting measures in place, what it is that you are really doing to assist to combat this particular problem of escapees from police cells and the different cars that they get into? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Madam Deputy Speaker, as I said earlier on, we are beginning a process where we are converting to high technology on a number of things. I was going to speak to the chairperson of the portfolio committee, but I may as well publicly extend this invitation to her. There are various things that we are doing. On Thursday, 8 March, we are going to a facility in Midrand, Gauteng, that we have developed. That facility traces people and vehicles. We are therefore going to be using it to ensure that we cover the country in terms of crime prevention. Because it relates to crime prevention and even the issue of escapees, those people who commit crimes and try to use our highways and freeways to escape are going to face the law-enforcement agencies, because there is not going to be a way in which they are

going to get out of the rings that we are going to create to deal with that situation.

At the right time, chairperson of the portfolio committee, we are going to invite members of the portfolio committee to go and see that facility, in order for you to have a broader understanding of some of the measures we are beginning to put in place to deal with crime in South Africa. Thank you.

Mnr R J KING: Minister, kan ek maar asseblief Afrikaans praat? Dankie.

Mev die Speaker, in die geval van 'n polisiebeampte wat verdink word van hulpverlening aan 'n ontsnapte uit die selle of voertuie of wat die geval ook al is, uit bewaring, wat is die onmiddellike stappe teen so 'n verdagte, en kan u dit asseblief, indien moontlik, met 'n voorbeeld illustreer, wat u onmiddellik doen om op te tree as daar so 'n, ek wil sê, verdagte vrot appel in die mandjie is? (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.*)

[Mr R J KING: Minister, may I please speak Afrikaans? Thank you.]

Madam Speaker, in the case of a police officer being suspected of rendering assistance to an escapee from the cells or vehicles or whatever the case may be, from custody, what are the immediate steps to be taken against such a suspect, and could you please, if it is possible, illustrate, by using an example, what immediate steps you take if there is such a—as I would like to put it—suspected rotten apple in the barrel?

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Madam Deputy Speaker, if members of the public, including, of course, public representatives such as you come into possession of such information, we require that information, because, indeed, we want to get rid of those members who pretend to be law enforcers who, instead, act criminally. We want to deal with that element. And, therefore, immediately a person is seen to be committing any crime, please report it.

There are a number of areas in which reports can be given, including the general number that we have. I know that at times people are saying they cannot get through to that number. In fact, the facility that I am talking about will also address the issue of 10333. But there are others. There is the ICD which can receive those reports. But the easiest thing to do would be to report such a person to the nearest police station. And of course we have a law that allows for civilian arrests of people who commit crimes. One can even effect a civilian arrest. Thank you.

Mnu V B NDLOVU: Mhlonishwa Phini likaSomlomo, bengicela ukubuza kumhlonishwa uNgqongqoshe ukuthi ubani othatha isinqumo sokuthi isigebengu esithile kufanele singene siboshwe imilenze nezinyawo enkantolo? Ngabe nguMnyango wakho noma uMnyango Wezokuhlunyeleliswa Kwezimilo, kumbe nguMnyango wezobulungiswa? Ubani othatha isinqumo esinjalo ngoba kubonakala sengathi kukhona okufanele bakhulekwe imilenze nezinyawo uma beya laphaya? Kukhona abafana nalabo kodwa bona abangakhulekwa imilenze nezinyawo. Othatha lesi sinqumo kanti ubani ngempela? (*Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.*)

[Mr V B NDLOVU: Hon Madam Deputy Speaker, I would like to ask the hon Minister who takes the decision to say that a particular prisoner should appear in court in handcuffs and leg irons? Is it taken by your department or it is the Department of Correctional Services, or maybe the Department of Justice? Who makes such a decision, because it looks like there are those who should be in chains when they go to court only to find that they are not? Who really takes this decision?]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is up to the Minister, if he would like to respond to that question. We always ask members to try to stay as close as possible to the original question. But maybe, because it relates to escapees, it is up to the two Ministers—also

because it is now a two-pronged question. I think we should now give you another slot of responding, the two of you, if you want to.

The MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I will give the greater portion to my colleague. My own answer is: Asindim, baba. [It's not me, hon member.]

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Asindim. [It's not me.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Enkosi. [Thank you.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: How is it possible that two Ministers respond to each question? Does that mean that the questioners here will all get two opportunities as well? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, are you done?

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: I am not.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: OK, I will come back to you.

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Madam Deputy Speaker, whenever there is an escape or we have risk-profiled a particular offender, it is important that that offender is handcuffed and is footcuffed as well when going to court, because we have to protect the officials. I have lost too many officials because of offenders who were not cuffed, and I am not going to take a chance on that at all. The lives of those officials are very important.

When we get to the courtroom—I am not talking about the police, I am talking about Correctional Services—in most cases we are able to take off the footcuffs. But we don't take the risk, particularly with high-risk criminals, taking off the handcuffs, because they have to be protected as well. So I did not take the decision, but I support that people who are dangerous must be cuffed,

end of story. I am working in a security environment, not in any other environment. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Gibson, there has been an occasion where a member has been given more than one slot, when they felt they needed more answers to the question that they had raised. We allowed them to do that. But when a member actually says "my question is related to two departments" and the Ministers who have the information are here in the House, and this whole exercise is about information sharing, we cannot say, "No, only one Minister may answer." That is counterproductive. That is actually saying to us what we are trying to do here is not what we expect to get out of the exercise. So the purpose of the exercise is that, whatever information is available here will go to the hon members and to the nation, because the nation needs that information. Thank you. [Applause.] [Interjections.] We have more time. Do you want to put more questions to the Ministers?

Mnu A M MPONTSHANE: Mhlonishwa Phini likaSomlomo, bengicela ukusho ukuthi umbuzo obuzwe yilungu lethu maqondana nokuthi ubani othatha isinqumo awuphenduliwe.

IPHINI LIKASOMLOMO: Yebo. Ilungu liye labuza maqondana neMinyango emithathu. Angithi kunjalo baba? Angithi ububuze umbuzo maqondana neMinyango emithathu? IMinyango emibili iziphendulele kodwa uMnyango Wezobulungiswa awuphendulanga. [Ubuwelewele.] ONgqongqoshe ababili bamphendulile. Ilungu lami elihloniphekile lithi lona lijabulile, angazi-ke wena baba ukuthi ungena ngaphi. [Uhleko.] *(Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[Mr A M MPONTSHANE: Hon Madam Deputy Speaker, may I indicate that the question asked by our member in connection with who takes the decision to chain prisoners has not been answered.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. The hon member posed a question to three departments. Is that so hon member? You asked a question to three departments? Two departments have answered for themselves but the Department of Justice has not. [Interjections.] Two Ministers have answered him. My hon member says he is happy, and I do not know where you fit in, sir. [Laughter.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Deputy Speaker, the third Minister is in the House, and in the spirit that you explained . . . [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think this slot belongs to the IFP—unless they are saying you should speak on their behalf, because I'm sure that they are able to say exactly what you are saying, Mr Gibson.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: I thought that the hon Mpontshane had finished—I thought he'd finished.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You just have to polish your isiZulu, then you would know that he had not finished.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: When he has finished then, perhaps, I could have a turn at addressing you, Madam, in the spirit of telling the nation what's going on.

Mnu V B NDLOVU: Phini likaSomlomo, bese ngilindele ukuthi mhlawumbe umhlonishwa uNgqongqoshe wezobulungiswa uzothi nguyena ngoba laba ababili bathe akubona. Bengibabuze bobathathu.

IPHINI LIKASOMLOMO: Hlala phansi-ke baba. Ngeke ngize ngimcele uNgqongqoshe ngaphandle uma kunguye ofuna ukukhuluma ngalolu daba, ngoba mina ngithe . . .
(Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)

[Mr V B NDLOVU: Madam Deputy Speaker, I was expecting that maybe the hon Minister of Justice would say she is the one who decides because the other two said it's not them. I asked all three of them.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have a seat, sir. I

will not ask the Minister, except if she wants to talk about this matter, because I said . . .]

. . . the question that was raised and the questions that are raised as supplementary questions should be as close as possible to the initial question. I said to them it is up to them to answer if they felt like it, but they are not compelled under this exercise to do so, because the question is not a supplementary question at all, it's a new question. They have honoured you by responding to you. And I'm going to ask that the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development do so, if she feels that she would like to respond to you. But if she does not feel like it, then we shall proceed. Justice? [Interjections.]

Mr Ellis, there's no Brigitte. No matter how excited we get, we are hon members! She is hon Brigitte Mabandla or hon Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development. Are we agreed on that, hon Ellis? Now, let's give the opportunity to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Deputy Speaker, you did indicate . . . [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Deputy Minister, please take your seat. You were speaking on behalf of the IFP. The IFP . . . [Interjections.] I beg your pardon?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: You assumed that I was . . .

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you said so. You said you were speaking because you thought you were putting across better what Mr Mpontshane had said to the House. Mr Ndlovu has done that very well and we are done with that matter. [Interjections.] On which point are you rising?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam, you wouldn't allow me to continue so that I can finish . . .

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: On which point are you rising now?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: I'm now rising on a point of asking whether the hon Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development won't reconsider the question, in the spirit of advising the nation about how many people have escaped from holding cells? You explained how important it is for as many Ministers who are in the House to address the nation. Now, why don't we give her an opportunity to reconsider her decision to say no?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I don't think the Minister has a problem in answering that question. Put the question down. You are asking how many people escaped? I do not think that even if you had that responsibility, Mr Gibson, you would at any point in time be able to give the statistics. Write down that question and let it go to the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development. I now close this matter on the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development. She is not answering any other questions! Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, are we finally going to hear you?

South Africa's role in defusing the volatile situation in Somalia

9. Ms F HAJAIG (ANC) asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) What will South Africa, as chair of the peace, security and stability organ of the African Union, do to assist in defusing the volatile situation in Somalia;
- (2) whether the AU will be able to gather all role-players around the negotiation table; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether the intervention of the USA will be a positive factor in the resolution of this conflict, considering South Africa's position of multi-lateral intervention in any area of conflict; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? N212E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr A G H Pahad): Deputy Speaker, as I was saying before I was rudely interrupted ... [Laughter.] The answer to point number one is that, in our capacity as the non-permanent member of the Security Council for the next two years, and as the President of the United Nations Security Council for the month of March 2007 and our membership of the AU, South Africa will continue to support the efforts of the UN, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in bringing about peace in Somalia.

South Africa supports the national reconciliation process in Somalia and is committed to assisting Somalia to assist the Somalia Transitional Federal Government to ensure that the national reconciliation process is all-inclusive and incorporates all relevant role-players, including civil society, clan elders, elements of the Islamic Conference and the warlords.

The situation in Somalia is very volatile and violence is increasing. The United Nations Security Council has just passed a resolution sanctioning the dispatch of African Union forces to Somalia. We are now in the process, through the African Union, to try to get the 8 000 African troops to go to Somalia.

Regarding part two of the question, South Africa, through the AU, remains committed to ensuring the involvement of all the role-players in the peace process. We believe that all role-players who are committed to negotiations and who are prepared to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict in the state should be part of the process.

The interim Prime Minister of Somalia, Ali Ghedi, has recently agreed to hold talks with all the relevant parties in the peace process, including the leadership and members of the United Islamic Courts. This is also the position of the African Union and the Security Council.

With regard to part three of the question, America's current intervention in Somalia is, lastly, in contact with multilateral efforts. Currently, these efforts are being exercised through its membership of the United Nations Security Council, the role it plays in the international contact group on Somalia and through the funding of the AU mission in Somalia's peacekeeping force.

To this extent, the involvement is constructive. Furthermore, it is our understanding that the US is in support of the inclusive political dialogue, consistent with the earlier statements I have made.

Ms F HAJAIG: Thank you, hon Deputy Minister, for your comprehensive reply. Will South Africa, in light of our various commitments elsewhere in Africa, be able to support Somalia to re-establish institutions of governance and train people to serve in various capacities in the post-conflict reconstruction of Somalia?

Further, if I may ask, how can South Africa assist in stopping more small arms and light weapons entering Africa, especially in conflict areas?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr A G H Pahad): Firstly, let me say that we are committed to assisting Somalia in every way possible to establish institutions of government. We cannot do it on our own. We would have to do it in partnership with the AU, the United Nations and the European Union, because the tasks are tremendous. I think we will do everything possible to achieve that.

The issue of small arms proliferating in Africa has been a huge problem for us for some time. We are signatories to all the relevant conventions on this. We will continue to work with the United Nations and the African Union to try to stop the flow of small arms to African conflict areas.

Mr L B LABUSCHAGNE: Minister, thank you for your reply. The situation in Somalia is of course unacceptable to all of us, and it is

clear that we in South Africa, like our fellow Africans all over the continent, would like to see a peaceful outcome. Surely, Minister, the costs of logistics of peacekeeping are far beyond anything the AU can afford. Surely, the AU troops as well as our troops are stressed financially.

My question is whether we are prepared to actively engage the United States to contribute financially to assist the African Union and South Africa, and if needs be, to cover the costs of these operations?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr A G H Pahad): Chairperson, it is sometimes a problem when colleagues don't listen to what we say. I've just said that the United States, as part of the Security Council and indeed as part of the contact group on Somalia, have already committed financial assistance to the AU forces for Somalia, and we will continue to deal with the United States and the European Union, and, indeed, the United Nations, to strive to ensure that enough resources are being made available for the African force to be effective in Somalia.

Adv Z L MADASA: Hon Deputy Minister, of course, the biggest challenge with regard to these peacekeeping efforts, as you have just indicated, is resources. It was mooted at some point that there is a move to raise the issue with the United Nations, regarding recognising AU peacekeeping missions as regional missions of the United Nations, and to recognise the AU as a regional entity of the UN, so that all these missions in that way became UN missions so that we do not have the necessity of asking all the time that the AU missions be converted. They can then automatically become UN missions by recognising AU peacekeeping missions as regional missions of the United Nations. I would like to know if there is any progress with regard to this proposal? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr A G H Pahad): There is nothing automatic about the process. The

United Nations Security Council, which is charged with dealing with conflicts entrenched in international peace and security, discusses each issue on its merits.

There is now a growing acceptance that it would be better to utilise regional structures to deal with regional problems. In many of the African conflict situations, which are over 70% of the UN Security Council agenda, we do try to ensure that they become a UN initiative, and are then, by and large, supported by the presence of African troops in these conflict situations.

Let me quickly add that we do not want a situation to arise where the developed countries determine that this is no longer their problem and they just pass it on to the regional groups. We want to help them remain seized with us and, according to each conflict, determine what assistance the US will give to our African initiatives.

Attack on nurses at a youth centre in the Baviaanspoort Management Area

4. Bishop L J TOLO (ANC) asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

- (1) What happened to the inmates who attacked and injured two nurses at a certain youth centre (name furnished) in the Baviaanspoort Management Area in Gauteng on 11 August 2005;
- (2) whether any of these inmates were sentenced for this offence; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N206E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Chairperson, hon Tolo, both inmates were transferred immediately from eMthonjeni Youth Centre in Baviaanspoort to C-Max facility in Pretoria. A case of rape, murder and assault was opened against both inmates.

The reply to the second part of the question is that the case against one of the inmates

was withdrawn by the National Prosecuting Authority owing to a lack of evidence. The other inmate will appear in the High Court in August this year. We do know what is going to happen there. If he gets sentenced, we will move him to Kokstad super C-Max.

Mopishopo L J TOLO: Ke a leboga Modulasetulo. Mohlomphegi Tona ya Ditirelo tša Tshokollo ya Bagolegwa, karabo ya gago e tloge e re thabiša. Potšišo ke gore, ka ge bothata bjo bo diregile ngwagolola, elego ka 2005, a e ka ba le kopane le bothata kae moo le tšerego nako go tla go re sedimoša bjalo ka Palamente goba setšhaba? (*Translation of Sepedi paragraph follows.*)

[Bishop LJ TOLO: Thank you. Chairperson. The hon Minister of Correctional Services, we are pleased with your response. But the question is: What was the problem that it took you so long to bring the response to Parliament or to the public because the problem occurred back in 2005?]

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: I am sorry, Chairperson, the Minister of Finance is really heckling me today. He wants to speak on my behalf. I am not sure why I deserve this attention from him but he seems to like me too much today.

Bishop Tolo, we haven't had a chance to come back to the portfolio committee to report on this particular case. But we have to work with other cases that you have asked us, as the portfolio committee, to work on. This particular case was one of the most painful, because I had to attend to it that Sunday afternoon. We have been following this up with the National Prosecuting Authority. We have been saying to them: "Please, speed up the case so that it can be closed and we can move on and look at other centres."

What happened there is that one of those two inmates actually did us a disservice by

attacking those nurses—people who were there to assist inmates and to make sure that they get the necessary medical attention. That has caused us quite a lot of no good. But I hope that the officials, wherever they are in all 243 centres in the country, will always be vigilant when they work in a correctional centre, because they are working with people who can do anything at any given time.

I am also appealing to offenders, whether they belong to numbers or gangsters, not to do that, because at the end of the day they are causing a problem for themselves with further charges. Also, these are some of the offenders, I think, we are not naive enough to believe will change. Some of them will not change; they will just continue doing the kinds of things that they are doing. We are appealing to offenders to really try their best to participate in programmes and not get involved in all these criminal activities.

Mr J SELFE: Chairperson, I should like to thank the hon Minister for his reply. I am sure that he appreciates that female officials who work particularly in high security centres are uniquely vulnerable in that environment. It is very often said by male officials that they have to look after themselves and also after their female colleagues in those circumstances. So, what I would like to know is what additional steps the Minister is contemplating to improve security, particularly for female staff working in correctional centres? Specifically, if those female officials were in any way attacked, what assistance was given to them to recover from the trauma that they suffered?

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Chairperson, we do risk-profiling of offenders, whether they are awaiting trial or they are sentenced offenders. As they come into our centres, we have what we call the offender rehabilitation path, where we check on all the sentences and everything

that they have been sent to us for and make sure that we classify them correctly. That is the first thing. We have to classify them correctly and make sure that they are in a maximum security centre if they need to go there.

The second thing is that we have an anti-gang strategy that we are employing to try and crush the gangs which are operating in our prisons. That is something that we are all geared to with my officials, to make sure that we clean up on those. But those gangsters who don't seem to want to change or are totally cheeky and silly, we put aside and get officials who can look after them, because we cannot change them.

We are also declassifying certain maximum centres so that we know how much danger people will be exposed to in that maximum centre, and how many females will we put in there. My heart still goes out to those nurses, hon member. We have given their families support. There is also a settlement that we have reached with them. But, together with all the other officials, I take my hat off to those brave men and women who work under these difficult circumstances in our prisons.

Ms S RAJBALLY: Chairperson, hon Minister, these criminals who committed these crimes in prisons had already been sentenced and had been told whatever sentence they had to serve. Now that they have committed new crimes, what further sentence will you bestow on these people?

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: MaMkhize, when offenders that are sentenced do commit these further offences, we do not take the law into our own hands. If there has been a criminal offence that has been committed, we let the police know and they have to go through the courts again to receive their further sentences for that.

Therefore, it is not up to us to sentence them; we do not give sentences. It is the duty of the judiciary and magistrates to do that, and we respect them for that. But, at least, we know that once they get further charges it adds to the years that they still have to stay in prison.

And we don't make prison life very, very comfortable for all prisoners that are inside. We are trying our best to make sure that privileges are limited. Once you commit a crime, we try to use the incentive-based system so that, through incentives, you go up from being a phase-1 offender to another phase. We are trying to encourage them to get out of prison rather than staying in prison.

Mrs S A SEATON: Chairperson, can the hon Minister tell us what example is made of these people? Besides the fact that they are going to be tried, etc, what example is made of people who do things like these to members of staff that are assisting them in the prison system? How do other inmates get to know what you are going to do about such a situation?

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Hon Seaton, you really are putting me in trouble now. But I do know for a fact that, first of all, we get the police to charge them. Secondly, we ask the judge—because we have the Inspecting Judge—if this particular offender who has created this havoc can be isolated. We can't just isolate them without getting that permission.

Also, concerning the issue of putting them in handcuffs and in footcuffs, we have to ask the judge. I don't want a situation where my members take the law into their own hands. That's not what we want. But we want to make sure that we send a strong message to offenders that this type of behaviour will not be tolerated at all.

Therefore, they go through the courts and get sentenced and we send them to wherever we

have to send them. But there should be no assault from anybody for whatever crime has been committed; we can't afford that. We've to run these prisons in a much more humane way, as much as we can.

See also **QUESTIONS AND REPLIES.**

SUSPENSION OF RULE 253(1)

(Draft Resolution)

The ACTING CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Chairperson, I move:

That Rule 253(1), which provides *inter alia* that the debate on the Second Reading of a Bill may not commence before at least three working days have elapsed since the committee's report was tabled, be suspended for the purposes of conducting the Second Reading debate on the *South African Airways Bill* [B 35—2006] (National Assembly—sec 75) on Thursday, 1 March 2007.

Agreed to.

FINANCE BILL

(Introduction)

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Chairperson, in terms of section 213 of the Constitution, the withdrawal of money from the National Revenue Fund as a direct charge must be provided for in an Act of Parliament—this is the story we were talking about with the Minister of Correctional Services.

In terms of section 77, read with section 73, a Bill that authorises a direct charge is a money Bill that must be introduced by the Minister of Finance. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts recommended that Parliament approves certain unauthorised expenditure arising from the 1993-94 fiscal year, right up to 2003-04 year, as a direct charge against the National Revenue Fund. The Finance Bill before the House represents this Act of Parliament and approves an amount of R473,1 million of unauthorised expenditure, giving effect to Scopa's recommendation.

I hereby table the Finance Bill, Bill 5 of 2007. Thank you. [Applause.]

The Minister of Finance introduced the Bill.

Bill referred to the Portfolio Committee on Finance for consideration and report.

DIVISION OF REVENUE BILL

(Second Reading debate)

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Chairperson, hon members, section 214 of the Constitution requires that the government ensures a transparent and equitable system to divide nationally raised revenue between the three spheres. The Constitution also enjoins our three spheres of government to co-operate.

The Division of Revenue Bill we tabled in this House last Wednesday is an expression of the co-operative relations between the three spheres of government. By setting out three allocations for the equitable shares and conditional grants for provinces and local government, the Division of Revenue Bill further entrenches the transparency and accountability in our intergovernmental fiscal system.

It allows all spheres to plan ahead and get down to the business of delivering services to our people. Provinces and municipalities will budget for these allocations, each determining how its share of funds will be used to give effect to the policy priorities that have been agreed on through the Minmecs, the Budget Council, the Budget Forum and the extended Cabinet.

From 1 March of last year, our country's municipal and provincial boundaries were redemarcated. The resource allocation aspect of these changes were introduced in the municipalities from 1 July of last year, while the changes for provinces will only take effect from 1 April this year.

I am pleased to advise this House that all allocations contained in the 2007 Division of Revenue Bill have been determined on the

basis of the new boundaries. The division of revenue set out in this year's Bill gives further impetus to accelerating economic growth, modernising our public services and infrastructure, and reducing poverty and inequality.

The Budget framework allocates R89,5 billion in additional spending over the next three years. National departments will receive R32,3 billion of this, provinces R39,2 billion, and municipalities R18,1 billion.

True to our commitment to fighting poverty and vulnerability, the shares of provincial and local government rise by one percentage point each over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period. Schedule 1 of the Bill provides the summary of the allocation of funds for the three spheres. After setting aside R52,9 billion for debt service costs, this Bill allocates R289 billion to national departments and their agencies, R171,3 billion to provinces, and R20 billion to local government in the 2007-08 financial year.

Including a contingency reserve of R3 billion, total government spending amounts to R533,9 billion, growing by a whopping 7,7% in real terms to R650,3 last year. Transfers to provinces grow by 12,7% a year, with the bulk of additional resources going towards education and health personnel, social welfare services, and provincial infrastructure. An additional R8,1 billion is allocated for the hiring of teachers, teaching assistants, support staff in schools and districts to improve remuneration levels of teachers.

Together with resources set aside in the provincial equitable share for the implementation of no-fee schools and a substantial increase in resources for classroom building and provision of water, electricity and sanitation in schools, these resources should go a long way to improving the quality of teaching and learning in public schools, where the majority of South African children learn.

This should accelerate the process of closing

the gap between spending per learner and spending per learner between private and public schools, thus giving meaning to the theme of this year's Budget, that human life has equal worth.

Provincial budgets will reinforce the strengthening of the health sectors, so that South Africans who do not have medical insurance can also enjoy good quality health care.

In respect of local government, over the next three years, municipalities will receive R129,2 billion, including R7,4 billion in allocations in kind or an additional R20,4 billion of the 2006 baselines.

The Municipal Infrastructure Grant receives R400 million more to speed up the completion of the eradication of bucket sanitation; a further R600 million for the electrification programme; R1,4 billion for bulk water and sanitation infrastructure, and R950 million to deliver water and electricity to schools and clinics. This was one of the questions asked earlier today.

The public transport infrastructure and systems grants, and the local neighbourhood development partnership grant are allocated R6,7 and R3,7 billion over the 2007 MTEF period.

Turning to the Financial and Fiscal Commission, the division of revenue set out in the Bill before this House today takes account of the recommendations we received from the FFC. The explanatory memorandum to the Bill contains government's response to the FFC's recommendations, and this is set out between pages 53 and 90 of the Division of Revenue Bill.

As the response indicates, we are in broad agreement with most of the recommendations that are contained in the FFC's original submission. The differences are, firstly, in the proposal from the FFC that we roll the Hospital Revitalisation Grant into the Infrastructure Grant for Provinces. We respectfully disagree with this proposal, because we

would like to maintain the momentum that the Hospital Revitalisation Programme has gathered to date.

Secondly, the FFC proposes that we merge the Land Care Grants and the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme. Again, we respectfully disagree with the FFC in this regard, because we are of the view that the two grants serve very different purposes. The Land Care Grant funds land rehabilitation and restoration, while CASP provides targeted support to beneficiaries of the Redistribution for Agricultural Development Programme.

In their submission to the Portfolio Committee on Finance on 22 February, the FFC tabled an entirely new proposal suggesting, and I quote, that our:

... economic assumptions ... verified by an independent, competent public authority.

Because this proposal was not part of the original submission, we have not had the opportunity to comment on or respond to it until now. Without derogating from the constitutional independence of the FFC ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr K O Bapela): Hon Minister, just a minute. Hon members, I think the level of noise is now getting out of order. We are no longer listening to what the Minister is trying to say.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: I think hon Mabe will be speaking as well, so ...

Without derogating from the constitutional independence of the FFC, we find this proposal particularly problematic. Budget decisions in all modern democracies are intensely politically driven. The macro-economic assumptions so vital to the construction of the fiscal framework are an integral part of these decisions.

It's quite hard to contemplate what it means to subject its decisions to the scrutiny of independent, competent public authorities.

as the FFC suggests, especially since all parties fight elections for the purpose of being able to advance their policy preferences, and the recognition that this would not be possible unless an elected government could decide on the Budget.

The proposal begs the question: What additional information and capacity will such independent, competent public authority have to produce better quality forecasts than government has? Moreover, is government not a public authority elected for this purpose?

Perhaps the view of the FFC is that whilst government might be a public authority, it's not competent to take responsibility for its macroeconomic assumptions. Perhaps the view may exist that whilst government is a public authority, and whilst it may even be competent, economic decisions need to be taken by political eunuchs.

It is possible to give all manner of interpretation to this new proposal from the FFC. It is government's view that this submission is incorrect. I invite this House to support us in rejecting this proposal from the FFC.

On that note, I want to reiterate that the Division of Revenue Bill before this House places us in a better position to do things that we never imagined possible a decade ago. On Friday last week, we launched the second discussion paper on social security and retirement reform at the Nedlac offices in Johannesburg. In it, we set out our thoughts on how we'd like to see the social security system unfold in the period ahead.

I invite members of this House to study these proposals, which can be found on the website of the National Treasury. These proposals are about providing for our people, post-retirement.

Again, we say: Human life has equal worth, and you will find the measure of this in the Division of Revenue Bill that serves before this House. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr N M NENE: Chairperson and hon members of this House, on the occasion of the tabling of the Budget last week, I was intimidated by the Minister of Finance when he mentioned the aggregated budget over the coming Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period. I am still struggling to explain to my constituency in the small town of Kranskop how much two trillion is, let alone translate it into isiZulu. [Interjections.] No, there are no noughts in isiZulu.

Uzongisiza baba uSkosana siyibhale phansi. [Hon Skosana will help me write it down.]

The Division of Revenue Bill is a constitutional requirement that presents us with the opportunity to, at least, address ourselves to the coming financial year's Budget, as it is vertically allocated to the three spheres of government. This Bill is a culmination of a lengthy process of consultation amongst these spheres of government co-ordinated by the Ministry of Finance. I refer here to the Budget Council, the Budget Forum meetings of the national departments and other forums that the Minister has alluded to that include all stakeholders in the Budget process.

This process gives effect to one of the key pillars of the Reconstruction and Development Programme—that of democratising society and the state. The RDP is at the centre of the ANC-led government's agenda to fight poverty and bring about sustainable development. Both the January 8 Statement and the state of the nation address enjoin all three state organs and society to benchmark all our programmes against the RDP, as is evident in this Division of Revenue Bill. The equitable division of revenue amongst the three spheres of government is also premised on one of the main pillars of the RDP—that of meeting the basic needs of the people.

Chapter 8 of the 2007 Budget Review outlines the shift that reflects a significant increase in the allocation to local government and provincial governments, that sees more than 60% of additional allocations

transferred to these spheres. This is in line with the continuing trend of ensuring that more funding is deployed where actual delivery needs to take place—that is, at local and provincial government levels.

Local government's share of national revenue shows the strongest growth, of 19%, over the MTEF period, according to this chapter, mainly to support the roll-out of free basic services and infrastructure; while national and provincial shares grow by 10,3% and 12,7% respectively. The provincial allocations mainly cater for the acceleration of social services, with a particular focus on housing, education, HIV and Aids, hospital revitalisation and public transport.

Lokhu kuzibophezela kukahulumeni oholwa uKhongolose ekwenzeni izimpilo zabantu bonke zibe ngcono kubonakala ngokusobala kulesi Sabiwomali, ikakhulu lapho seyabiwa ngezigaba zohulumeni ngokwehlukana kwabo. Bheka ngoba umthamo uya ngokuya ukhula ezifundeni nasezifundazweni lapho umsebenzi wokuthuthukisa izimpilo zabantu ukhona.

Ukwakhiwa kwezingqalasizinda kungumgogodla ekuxosheni ikati eziko kanti futhi kuyisisekelo sokuthuthukisa umnotho ezindaweni zethu. Lokhu kwabiwa kwezimali ezifundazweni, kuphinde futhi kubhekele ubuhlwempu nokusilela emuva kulezi zifundazwe ngenhloso yokuzama ukulinganisa izimpilo zabantu.

Ukulethwa kwezidingongqangi zabantu nakho futhi kuthola umthamo othe xaxa ezindaweni lezo ezisilele emuva kakhulu. Mangikusho lapha, Somlomo, ukuthi mhlawumbe umuntu kufanele avumelane nobaba uMpontshane maqondana nokuthi, ekulethweni kwezidingo zabantu, amanzi, ugesi nokuqedwa kokusetshenziswa kwamabhakede, kufanele sengeze ukuze kuqedwe lesi simo. [Ubuwelewele.] Cha, siyavumelana. Asijwayele ukuvumelana kodwa siyavumelana nobaba uMpontshane. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[The commitment of the ANC-led government to make better life for all is clearly evident in this Budget, especially when it is distributed to different spheres of government. The larger portion of the amount is gradually directed to the provinces and the local governments where the work of making people's lives better is.

The building of infrastructure is core in getting rid of hunger and it is the foundation of economic development in our places. This distribution of revenue to provinces sees to it that poverty and backwardness in provinces are addressed with the aim of uplifting the lives of the people.

The delivery of services to the people also receives a larger amount to those areas that are far behind with development. Let me say here, Madam Speaker, that maybe one must agree with hon Mpontshane that we need to work a little harder in delivering services like water, electricity and the eradication of the bucket system. More should be done to do away with this situation. [Interjections.] No, we agree. We are not used to agreeing, but we agree with hon Mpontshane.]

We are always warned by the defenders of apartheid that we should not blame our backlogs on apartheid. But it is not possible to forget that had apartheid not excluded the vast majority of our people from the provision of basic services, we would not be talking about it today. The resources that are being spent on addressing the backlogs would have been used in maintaining the infrastructure instead of building it. Thanks go to the people of South Africa for realising that only the ANC could deliver them from the evils of apartheid, and our resolve to do so is growing stronger by the day.

One of the flagship programmes that receives a sizeable chunk of funding is the neighbourhood development partnership. This grant provides financial assistance to municipalities for partnership-based community and commercial infrastructure in townships and informal settlements. Its main

focus is on precinct, town centre and high street development projects with an estimated project value of over R9,2 billion over the next decade. As explained in the Budget Review, it supports the creation of high-quality development that aims to overcome spatial and economic distortions endemic to townships.

The principle here is to retain and increase the buying power within townships, and create environments that improve the quality of life and attract private sector investment. In his speech, the Minister mentioned the areas that have taken advantage of this programme, taking up an amount of about R50 million in technical assistance to date.

A number of other grants are allocated to provincial and local governments to further strengthen and enhance service delivery in these spheres. Of particular note to provinces, is the Community Library Services Grant, which is meant to consolidate library services at provincial level. We trust that this grant will be put to good use, and promote the culture of reading, especially if library services are going to be located where the majority of the people live, and be properly and adequately resourced.

My colleagues will speak on the other grant allocations and the Financial and Fiscal Commission's recommendations. Minister, I trust that Ms Mabe will cover that area that you raised as a concern. Ms Mokoto will focus on the 2010 Fifa World Cup, related funding and the capacity-building transfers. Ms Mabe will also have to cover the expenditure trends in provinces and our oversight role as Parliament.

The ANC government's commitment to achieving a better life for all is a matter of policy, and not grandstanding, as colleagues on the other side of the iron always make it. It dates back to our founding, and our record speaks for itself.

The committee considered the Division of Revenue Bill and passed it without amend-

ments. We trust that the Select Committee on Finance will apply its mind without prejudice, and with the information at their disposal. They are under no obligation to endorse our position. If it is in the interest of the country, they have every right to propose amendments. The ANC supports the passing of the Division of Revenue Bill in this House. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr I O DAVIDSON: Chair, the Financial and Fiscal Commission is required by both the Constitution and the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act to give comment on government's annual Division of Revenue Bill. The Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act also requires the Minister of Finance to consult with the commission prior to the introduction of the Division of Revenue Bill. In preparing its commentary on the Division of Revenue Bill, the commission assesses and analyses the equitable allocation of revenue amongst the three spheres, and horizontally within each sphere of government, taking into account key principles of intergovernmental fiscal relations in South Africa.

The commission's overall finding is that it is in agreement with the general spirit in which the 2007-08 Division of Revenue Bill has been drafted, a view which the DA endorses. In its commentary, the commission makes submissions on the macroeconomic implications of the division of revenue proposals. It is these submissions that I would like to further comment on.

It is correctly stated that the Bill is premised on important economic assumptions that underpin the macroeconomic projections used to determine the overall resource envelope underlying the Bill. What is referred to here is a set of macroeconomic forecasts which will determine the value of important fiscal variables. As we are all aware, very often market outcomes will deviate from the forecasts, resulting in—as you have seen over the last three years—substantial budget revenue overruns. These overruns have been

increasing from R11,6 billion for the 2004-05 financial year to R44,5 billion for 2005-06, and an estimated R32,8 billion for 2006-07. If prior estimations are anything to go by, it would not surprise me if the final figure for 2006-07 is even higher.

Now, I am aware that tax revenue buoyancy is primarily a factor of new revenue resources, improvements in tax administration compliance in collection and, importantly, higher nominal gross domestic product. I am also aware that Treasury has determined the average responsiveness of gross tax revenue to changes in nominal GDP.

Without detracting from the efficiency of Sars, it is the accuracy of the forecasting of nominal GDP which perhaps bears closer scrutiny. The overruns have not escaped the attention of the International Monetary Fund, which has in the past expressed concerns about "the repeated underestimation of tax revenues". The IMF said in 2005 that overruns needed:

... careful investigation, possibly leading to adjustments in revenue forecasting methods and procedures. Reliable revenue projections are particularly important for the design of credible medium-term expenditure plans.

In a written response to the IMF's concerns, the Treasury said it agreed that its revenue forecasting should be improved, and yet, as we have noted since then, the overruns remain indeed increased in size.

It is with these points in mind that the commission's recommendation of independent verification of underlying macro-economic assumptions—not policy assumptions, the Minister is quite right in respect of policy assumptions, that is a preserve of the ruling government—cannot be dismissed lightly. Likewise their recommendation that this process be institutionalised, which they are correct in saying, would raise even further the transparency and credibility of the forecasts moving forward.

Following on the whole question of revenue overruns is a related matter of the ratio of revenue to domestic product. This ratio, as the commission points out, is expected to be as high as 28,2%. Now, the commission raises a pertinent question as to whether the tax burden is too high and therefore, as it puts it, inimical to economic growth.

Now, it is not my intention to debate here any of the levels of taxation or recent changes to these levels, or the nature of such changes announced by the Minister in his recent Budget Speech. That could possibly be dealt with in the Budget debate. Where I do seek clarity is on the government's policy or philosophy in respect of the whole question of taxation. So, it is not the technicalities of the tax numbers that we need to hear, but rather the underlying philosophy.

Leading on from that, I am not aware of what informed the often-quoted benchmark of 25% revenue to GDP as being the optimal desired percentage revenue burden. This is a figure that Treasury itself has often mentioned. Is this still appropriate? If not, what informs government's thinking as to the change? As indicated, the ratio is now well beyond that figure, and that is even before the imposition of the royalty tax, as well as any windfall tax on the synthetic fuels industry or on the mineral resource industry as a whole.

I have to identify with the sentiment of the commission expressed, namely that policy choices should be informed not only by up-to-date needs and the capacity of the economy, but by international benchmarking experience. Surely there has to be a case against ad hoc changes to the fiscal regime in favour of the certainty of a stated policy or philosophy by government which, barring exogenous shocks, would be implemented by government over a stated timeframe and under certain conditions. Surely it is this certainty that will help produce a positive climate for investment.

Finally, I would like to mention two specific

comments which the commission made, which I find myself in agreement with. The first is in respect of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant where it recommended that the formula be reviewed to take into account the operational and maintenance needs of infrastructure roll-out.

While it is accepted in principle that municipalities, in line with section 17(2) of Municipal Finance Management Act, should fund the maintenance and operations from their own budgets, the reality is that some municipalities just do not have sufficient resources to do so. I am reliably informed by officials in the programme that this often results in costly projects degenerating into all but unusable condition as a result of the reality of a lack of sufficient resources for operations and maintenance.

Secondly, and briefly, in respect of the national housing allocation, the commission proposed that the formula should take into account the variations in regional costs for constructing subsidised housing, and ensuring uniform standards across the provinces.

While I appreciate the government's desire not to unduly further complicate the formula, it has to be acknowledged that the recommendation stems from the significant impact that variations in regional costs have on the quality, completion and lifespan of the government-subsidised houses, not least of which is the cost of land which differs significantly across regions.

The resulting implication is that the cost of meeting the same quality and the standards set out by the national Department of Housing can differ greatly, depending on the location of the housing project. Notwithstanding, the DA supports the Bill. Thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Mr H J BEKKER: Madam Chair, the 2007 Division of Revenue Bill provides for the equitable division of nationally-raised revenue between the three spheres of government. This year the amount to be shared

between national, provincial and local governments amounts to R480 billion. In the 2007-08 financial year, a total amount of R202 billion consisting of the equitable share and conditional grants will be transferred to the nine provinces to meet their expenditure responsibilities. Local government will receive R34 billion in this financial year to improve their delivery of basic services such as water, sanitation, roads and infrastructure.

The Minister has indicated that the National Treasury has not accepted certain Financial and Fiscal Commission recommendations about conditional grants to provincial and local government. For instance, the FFC wanted the Land Care Grant and the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Grant to be placed together to lessen the administrative workload for the provinces, but Treasury disagreed. Other grants that were the subject of disagreement included the Municipal Infrastructure Grant and the National Human Settlement Grant.

The IFP accepts that, from time to time, there will be disagreements between the FFC and the government. But, considering the vital role played by this institution, the FFC, we have to raise concern that it could be sidelined if care is not taken.

Faster than expected, national economic growth in the last few years and better tax collection have meant that the Minister of Finance is in the fortunate position of having a larger revenue cake to slice up between the three spheres of government. However, the availability of money to allocate is no longer the main problem. The main problem now is the ability of provincial and local governments to spend their allocations for the provision of basic services, infrastructure and other essential functions.

Over the past few weeks Parliament has heard that the third quarter spending in the 2006-07 financial year by provincial departments is lagging behind target. For instance, provincial departments of public works and

transport had spent 63% of their allocations by the end of the third quarter.

Even more worrying is the fact that local governments are even worse off in terms of their ability to spend the allocated grants. For instance, municipalities were able to spend only 46% of total municipal infrastructure grants in the first three quarters of the current financial year. In total, some 106 municipalities or about one-third have been classified as underspenders. Therefore, the IFP welcomes the actions of the Department of Provincial and Local Government to delay payments to municipalities that are unable to spend their allocations. Even more so, the IFP applauds the fact that such allocations may, in fact, be cancelled and diverted to local governments that have the ability to spend it.

The IFP supports the Division of Revenue Bill. But, we stress that allocating money is one thing, efficiently spending it on projects that address the needs of the poorest communities is a completely different animal. We need more interventions from the relevant authorities to ensure that spending is stepped up and we need closer monitoring to ensure that allocations are, in fact, translated into basic services, improved infrastructure and other improvements in people's daily lives. The IFP supports the Budget. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr J BICI: Madam Chair, hon members, the UDM would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Finance on a good national Budget made possible by revenue collection again exceeding forecast. The UDM is pleased with the salary increase for teachers, medical workers, social workers and Police Service members. They are the backbone of building a caring and democratic society.

The social grant increase is welcomed, though it is relatively small. We believe that, with the better than the expected revenue at its disposal, the government should show its commitment to the fight against HIV/Aids

by lowering the threshold for ARV treatment. For instance, by commencing treatment at a higher CD4 count than currently is the case would mean we would be saving more lives by providing treatment at an early age.

Notwithstanding the good intentions of the national Budget, we are concerned about the ability of departments, provinces and local governments to spend money correctly. These capacity and management shortfalls are significant and have the perverse effect that big budgets are promised but often little delivery occurs.

The Division of Revenue correctly seeks to distribute the bulk of revenue to the lower spheres of government. However, their capacity to correctly utilise this revenue remains suspect. The array of grants and conditional grants earmarking infrastructure development of some sort or another are welcomed and should go a long way towards addressing the grievances of those neglected communities who now resort to protest and unrest to draw attention to their plight. Nevertheless, the UDM supports the Bill. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr A HARDING: Madam Chair, consolidated non-interest expenditure by all spheres is set to increase at an annual nominal average rate of 11,9% over the next three years or 6,2% in real terms. Social services expenditure is set to increase at an annual average real rate of 6% over the next three years. Social expenditure therefore increases at a faster rate than expected GDP growth. Given the huge resources now at the government's disposal and the increase in the tax to GDP ratio, this is not surprising. However, social expenditure grows at a slightly lower rate than total government expenditure. This, to the ID, indicates a subtle shift from social towards the economic function of the MTEF period.

The new year budget allocation to national departments represents the largest share of the national Budget. Subnational govern-

ments will collectively receive the larger share of additional resources in the consecutive two years. This raises serious questions, in light of local and provincial government spending ability.

The provincial equitable share is projected to grow by a real annual average rate which is slightly higher than forecasted economic growth rates over that period. This raises possible future funding questions for the Minister or alternatively an adjustment in allocations.

The emphasis in the Minister's speech as well as in the Budget Review is on fostering growth while remaining aware of the risks associated with increased integration in a global economy. However, the ID would have welcomed a more robust increase in social services expenditure but with specific emphasis on the social grant. There is no doubt that savings to fund investment are required and that government savings are but only one way of achieving this. It remains imperative to balance long-term investment needs with measures which soften the impact of poverty now.

In the final analysis, much rests with the validity of how policy-makers currently assess risk and therefore what constitutes due prudence. It is hoped that, in looking back from the future, it will not be decided that the actions taken were not bold enough. The ID supports the Bill. [Time expired.]

Mr S N SWART: Chairperson, hon Minister, you will recall that last year the CDP raised the issue as to whether the equitable share formula had been realigned, following the redemarcation of provincial boundaries. As pointed out in the 2007 Budget Review, the demarcation affects education, health, poverty and economic activity components of the formula.

The ACDP welcomes changes to the provincial equitable shares implemented in the 2007 Budget as this will undoubtedly allay fears regarding service delivery to those

communities whose municipalities have been moved from one province to another. Provinces are preparing their 2007 budgets based on the realigned provincial equitable shares. Hon Minister, are you expecting any further adjustments to be made? Is it expected that there will be additional costs and if so, will they be substantial?

The FFC proposed that:

Any additional costs faced by the provinces and municipalities that cannot be met through the revised equitable share allocations be funded through a once-off allocation from national government.

The government's response to that proposal was that, "no additional allocations were made to the local government sphere", whilst provinces "may be able to absorb any additional costs that arise through the demarcation". Is this fair, and should the additional costs, if any, not have been funded by national governments, or is this a contingency included in the increased allocations to provinces?

Notwithstanding the above, the ACDP wishes to commend the Minister and the Treasury. We support this Bill. I thank you.

Ms N R MOKOTO: Madam Chairperson, hon Minister of Finance, hon members and members of the public, when the ANC leadership, together with its alliance partners, took a conscious decision that it will engage in multiparty talks with the apartheid regime to prepare for the democratisation of the country and to eventually contest the elections, it was propelled by the need to deliver a better life for all South Africans and the great saying that:

None of the great social problems we have to solve is capable of resolution outside the context of the creation of jobs, the alleviation, and the eradication of poverty; and therefore, the struggle to eradicate poverty has been and will continue to

be a central part of the national effort to build a new South Africa, where all human life is equal.

Our historic decision and the subsequent ascendance of the ANC to power has consistently derived its importance from the reality that it will impact significantly on the current situation and the future of our country and its people. In 2005, at its national general council held in Tshwane, the ANC sincerely declared that South Africa had reached a new phase of the national democratic revolution. This has, therefore, meant that the consolidation of political democracy, the growing electoral strength of and the support for our movement, and the relative stabilisation of our economy have created a new set of opportunities and challenges for social transformation.

Indeed, as the ANC, we have no other option but to agree with the hon Minister of Finance, Minister Trevor Manuel, when he expressly said: "In the spirit of the Freedom Charter, people's lives hold equal value". For the past six years, our economy has recorded a steady growth and wellbeing, when compared to other economies around the world.

Our current budget has increased significantly since the 2004-05 financial year, and it has continued to do so at a very exceptional rate. This has paved ways for a phenomenal increase on the additional allocations expected to remain at R89,5 billion over the medium-term. The additional allocation arose as a result of major savings on the government expenditure and a savings on the interest accumulated as a result of the low cost of servicing debt.

It is important to note that the additional allocations are appropriated for focused government programme areas within departments and other layers of government only serve to augment the already existing allocations provided in the main Budget. The additional allocations will, therefore, address identified priorities for the government at a specified time.

We are, however, of the view that the allocations cannot be used to substitute any form of revenue collection, especially in municipalities, an exercise which still remains a dilemma for many of our municipalities which still struggle to collect own revenue for self-sustenance.

I want to highlight that our government has now been provided with renewed impetus and possibilities to introduce accelerated growth, broad-based development with more emphasis on key government priorities like social services, education, health, crime prevention, public sector, infrastructure, and the much-awaited 2010 Fifa World Cup tournament.

As the ANC, we will continue to acknowledge the fact that the rapid growth in the budgeted expenditure does pose a challenge with regard to the capacity to utilise these amounts, particularly in the municipalities and within certain departments, at both national and provincial levels. Government spending patterns in most instances leaves too much to be desired. As part of exercising our oversight roles as parliamentarians, we have to ensure that in all, the government fully accounts on the mandate of the people. It is important to highlight that this kind of mannerism, which is gradually becoming a norm, can neither be tolerated nor condoned as it continuously compromises service delivery to our people, as a consequence of insufficient and untimely planning by certain senior managers in the government.

However, regarding the situation, we have to acknowledge that real spending on capital expenditure in proportion to the unspent capital funds dropped by 8% in 2005-06 financial year from 14% in the previous financial year. Despite this drop, we expect a much higher rate of underspending in 2006-07 financial year.

As Members of Parliament, we have taken note of the levels of seriousness with which the government is tackling this matter. It is the view of the ANC that the Siyenzamanje

and Project Consolidate intervention programmes jointly run by the Development Bank of South Africa and national government in several municipalities around the country are surely and gradually emitting positive results for the many municipalities that previously suffered serious scarce skills shortage.

It has taken us more than a century to convince the world what a great potential Africa holds. The initial allocations of R4,1 billion made for the 2010 Fifa World Cup further increased with an additional of R13,3 billion for the building of stadiums and associated infrastructure. The government, through this generous appropriation for the Fifa World Cup, has fully reasserted its position and commitment towards the successful holding of this tournament in a manner which was not anticipated.

We are greatly encouraged by the positive spin-offs that will arise as a result of hosting the 2010 Fifa World Cup tournament. These benefits will surely have an immense impact on the economic growth, job creation, youth development, tourism and skills development in the country. This will produce further ripple effects for the rest of the African continent.

As seasoned revolutionaries, we wish to declare that the age of hope shall never leave our people or our continent. The ANC supports the Budget Vote. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr I S MFUNDISI: Chairperson and hon members, the Budget tabled before this Parliament addresses the needs and concerns of a human being. The hon Minister was spot-on to stress that ...

... motho ke motho ga a na bosetlhana. [... a human being is a human being, there is no lesser human being.]

A human being is a human being. There is no lesser human being; whether rich or poor, black or white, local citizen or alien, we all have common needs. We, in the UCDP, have

this philosophy ... rata motho, tlotla motho, direla motho, rerisa motho, itshokele motho ... [love, respect, serve, inform and be patient to a person]

... thereby meaning love, respect, serve, consult and be tolerant to a human being. That is the legacy we left where we governed. To us, this Budget does exactly that: for love, it shows how much it cares through the social grants, more allocations for education; for respect, it shows that the Minister listened and showed respect for the views of the people on their concerns about crime, hence resources have been poured into the protection services; for service to the people, the amount thrown into the Fifa World Cup attests to this; and for consulting people, Trevor's Tips are testimony that ... motho ke motho ga a na bosetlhana [a human being is a human being, there is no lesser human being] ... and even concerning issues that the Minister is hard put to handling such as lobola, he has declared that he will consult further.

The tolerant nature of the Budget is displayed in the pains taken to address the question of pensions to avoid the situation where people work for the better part of their active years of life, but retire and go into poverty. The reforms proposed by this Budget would benefit the people, who would otherwise have had no access to cost-effective retirement benefits and eliminate unnecessary hardships among their families.

The cherry on top in this Budget is the fact that the government has come to its senses by introducing bursaries for those who want to train as teachers. The vast amount set aside for education is a clear example that the government accepts that liberation without education is worthless. From this exercise, we hope to have people who will have the necessary skills and manage the booming economy of this country. We only hope that government departments will use this money profitably. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr M T LIKOTSI: Chairperson, the PAC wishes to acknowledge the challenging task done by the Minister of Finance, the Treasury and the portfolio committee in drafting the Bill before us. We hope the three spheres of government, as beneficiaries, will prudently utilise their budget to address the issue of poor service delivery and other related matters.

The PAC wishes to advise the Minister to exercise a firm hand and an iron fist in the monitoring of the fiscals to prevent underspending and roll-overs by provinces, municipalities and some national departments. Our people must not languish in poverty, disease, and suffer due to poor service delivery owing to inefficiency of provinces, municipalities and some national departments. The target set to eradicate the bucket system, the supply of water and electricity to all must be realised. This may only be achieved if proper monitoring and control mechanisms are put in place. Our people were promised free basic services, and that must not be compromised by incapable and inefficient provinces, councilors and national departments.

The PAC, further, could not understand why Mangaung local municipality is deprived of the status of a Metro. It is 13 years into our fledging democracy, and one of the most significant cities of our country is still struggling to become a Metro due to unnecessary bureaucracy. A political decision must be taken for this to happen as early as possible.

The PAC wishes to draw your attention to the most poor and disadvantaged rural areas such as the Greater Sekhukhune in Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Eastern Cape when the revenue is shared. These provinces are at the receiving end when it comes to issues related to provision of infrastructure of all sorts, water, electricity, housing and sanitation.

The provinces without world-ranking stadiums must be attended to in the future, as they

are to lose a lot of revenue when projects such as the 2010 Fifa World Cup are staged in our country. The PAC supports the Bill.

Ms S RAJBALLY: Madam Chair, Minister, the Division of Revenue Bill is anxiously awaited annually as it clearly indicates government's intentions and commitments to manage South Africa efficiently and rescue it from the shackles of poverty. For that, hon Minister, we thank you very much.

We note minor changes to the percentage allocated to national, provincial and local spheres of government. In view of the provincial allocation for 2007-08, we are pleased to see the 21,64% made to KwaZulu-Natal. Noting the large population and challenges in this province, these funds need to be effectively utilised to rescue its residents from poverty-stricken lives and develop the province into a promising democracy. We further trust that these funds shall find their way to establishing better schooling, health facilities and transport.

The MF has expressed its concern over the crime situation. Funds need to be speedily made available to equip our SAPS with the necessary resources, personnel and training to address crime. Our commitment to supply electricity to every household, provide proper sanitation and potable water is crucial for better living. We have also had a budget that clearly spelt out government's commitment. We hope that this year's Budget is one of commitment to delivery.

The MF, however, has a concern regarding the targets we set for government that give us directions and supply us with instruments to measure progress and shortfalls. Our concern is the growth of needs and whether our output to overcome the needs is sizeable enough to conquer the challenge. The MF supports the Division of Revenue Bill.

Mr S SIMMONS: Madam Chair, the UPISA supports and commends the hon Minister's Finance Bill. The success of the hon Minis-

ter and his department has become a cornerstone of government's achievements, of late.

Die sukses en effektiewe fiskale dissipline gehandhaaf deur die Departement van Finansies is alombekend. Die agb Minister het heelwat politieke wil openbaar met sy toewyding ten opsigte van fondse vir die uitbreiding van die getal polisielede, asook aanpassing van salarisse vir onderwysers.

Die UPSA is egter van mening dat hierdie stappe, alhoewel welkom, nie naastenby die probleme van misdaadoplossing en verbeterde onderwys aanspreek nie. (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.*)

[The success and effective fiscal discipline maintained by the Department of Finance is widely recognised. The hon Minister displayed a great deal of political will with his concession with regard to funds for the increase in the number of members in the Police Service, as well as adjustments to teachers' salaries.

However, the UPSA is of the opinion that these steps, although welcome, do not adequately deal with the problems of solving crime and of improving education.]

The UPSA is of the opinion that greater emphasis should have been put on the improvement of the competency levels of serving SAPS members and teachers. This would culminate in SAPS members who are better equipped to deal with criminals, and deliver the required levels of service to the general public. So, too, should teachers face up to the challenges in our schools. This action would be further justified by the handsome surplus announced.

The principle of greater emphasis on the training of serving public servants should be extended to almost all areas of the public sector to improve the general level of service delivery. We trust that this matter of training serving public servants will continue to enjoy the hon Minister's attention.

Once more, the UPSA supports the Bill. I thank you.

Mr CM MOR KEL: Madam Chair, Minister, hon members, if we all accept that human life has equal worth, as the Minister quoted Will Hutton in his Budget Speech this year, and that we need to deepen the debate that will result in the improved implementation of government programmes—programmes that will ultimately deliver sustainable democracy and development—then the sum total of the Budget and its component parts would need to be interrogated so that we can establish whether the expectations of those of us who want to see a South Africa that we can all be proud of are being met.

The President's state of the nation address and the Minister of Finance's Budget Speech set government's agenda, an agenda for debate and delivery. How the rest of us in Parliament therefore participate in this broader debate within each portfolio committee will determine the depth of the debate and whether we can in fact influence government's agenda for the next financial year.

How we achieve national consensus, as the President recently encouraged us, will be determined by mostly the attitude and tone of the words not lightly spoken in this Chamber and in the portfolio committees. If we do not use these opportunities and approach them by making progressive proposals, but simply use them in an attempt to embarrass one another and polarise voters, then we will not listen to one another and will lose the opportunity to really get to know one another.

The debate will, to a large extent, be influenced and informed by the Community Survey 2007, which will focus on 280 000 households and give them the opportunity to have their living standards measured. With this ideological diagnostic data, we must then find consensus on at least the three topics the President highlighted in his state of the nation address, social cohesion, poverty alleviation and crime prevention and its eradication.

The PIM, therefore, looks forward to our

joint efforts to influence government so that we can affirm and express the idea that human life has equal worth and human beings are equally entitled to political, economic and social rights, which allow them to choose a life they have reason to live. I thank you.

DIVISION OF REVENUE BILL

(Second Reading debate)

Ms L L MABE: Chairperson, the ANC would like to congratulate the hon Minister on the Budget that he has presented to this House. We would also like to encourage him to do more than what he has done, and that includes other institutions such as SA Revenue Service, which we would like to encourage to collect more, on behalf of this country.

Chairperson, I am going to focus on the Financial and Fiscal Commission recommendations, but I will only give examples. I just want to remind this House that the FFC is an independent authority. It makes recommendations to government, and then government, in its response during the budget presentation, responds to the FFC either by agreeing or disagreeing with the proposals of the FFC. But if the government disagrees with those proposals, it gives reasons why they are not accepted. If they will be considered in future; government states clearly that those proposals will be considered in future. I wanted to clarify this one so that, as I continue with my presentation, all of us will be moving at the same pace.

I would also like to indicate that we appreciate that relationship that the FFC has with national government, in terms of the proposals that it makes. We would also like to indicate to the FFC that they must continue engaging with the portfolio committees, the select Committee and the Joint Budget Committee.

We cannot respond to what has not been presented before the three committees or until it appears before the three committees.

In this case I am referring to the independent public authority that was suggested or proposed by the FFC. We will consider it in the committee and, for now, we do not have any comment on that authority. Especially because the more institutions we create as government, the more problems we have in terms of how those institutions carry out their mandate and how they spend money, for example, the Sector Education and Training Authorities that we have at the moment.

I would like to comment on the Hospital Revitalisation Grant. We fully agree that the grant should not be included in that provincial infrastructure grant, because it will not achieve the intended national priorities. In this instance, I would give an example of what happens in Moses Kotane. For the first time, we have two hospitals running at the same time—one in Mabeskraal and the other in Ledig. They were constructed at the same time, and this is unprecedented. I would want to say that if we maintain the separate grants, then, we are sure that the provincial government would not take the money that was allocated at national level for the construction of those hospitals and utilise it elsewhere.

I would also refer to the Land Care and Comprehensive Agriculture Support Grant. We support the fact that they cannot be merged because the time is not yet ripe for the two to be merged, and will not be until such time that we are sure that the provinces will utilise the grant for what it is intended for, especially the Land Care and the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Grants. They will lose the meaning if we combine the two before we achieve our objectives.

Regarding the National Housing Allocation, we request National Treasury to consider the fact that construction costs in different provinces and in different municipalities are not the same and it will create problems if allocations are based on particular regional conditions. For example, in Rustenburg the price of building materials is not the same as

in Koster, in Kgetleng Municipality. But Kgetleng Municipality orders its building materials from Rustenburg. So, how will you be able to control such price differences? It becomes difficult and that is why, for now, we are saying, let us not allocate according to different regional price fluctuations, because it is going to create serious problems for the municipalities to make proposals or to present estimations to the national government.

Concerning grants in general, we want to make a plea to the national departments: Please use your responsibilities to monitor the grants in the provinces and at local government level. It seems that the national departments are absconding from their responsibility and they are putting the whole responsibility on National Treasury. This is uncalled for, because they are the ones who bid for these grants and receive plans from the provinces and the municipalities.

Therefore, they must take the responsibility to monitor those grants, whether construction is taking place or whether the conditions are being implemented through monthly and quarterly reports.

Unfortunately, some of the national departments do not monitor those grants. They leave the monitoring either to the province or to the National Treasury, whereas they are the ones who dispense. The Division of Revenue Act is clear that the national dispensing departments must monitor and be accountable as accounting officers.

I would also like to indicate that we really appreciate the fact that, over the medium term, allocation for grants will increase to a greater degree. This shows that the government is committed to ensuring that infrastructure development is given priority. But, as I have indicated earlier on, the department must take responsibility, because we do not want to see protests from time to time, with people saying there is no delivery on the ground, when national departments have failed to fulfil their responsibility.

I would like, in this instance, to give an example of the health department. The Auditor-General, in his reports of 2005-06, reported that payments of R1,3 billion were made prior to approval of business plans. How can a national department make divestment to provinces when plans have not yet been approved? At the same time, the Auditor-General raised the fact that the amount of R110 million is more than the amount approved in the individual business plans.

How can you dispense that amount of money without looking at the business plans? The departments cannot expect the National Treasury to come and do monitoring on their behalf. They are the ones who dispense, and they must also be in a position to monitor, and make sure that they guide the provinces.

It is the imperative of the national department to take the initiative concerning intervention measures, because, as a national department, you are the accounting officer and you must ensure that the provinces and local governments utilise funds according to national priorities. Also, regarding quarterly report and quarterly visits, we urge the departments, and we are going to call them at a later stage to find out what they are doing, to monitor on monthly and quarterly bases, to tell us what is happening on the ground, and whether those grants are being utilised for what they are intended, but, at the same time, to know which projects are at a stalemate and which ones are at an advanced stage, and again to know which projects will not be achieved in that particular year. It is important for us to know, as Parliament, but, like I say, we are going to follow up on such issues during the course of the year.

We would like to welcome the fact that the national government has established an intervention task team, which is referred to as the Infrastructure Delivery Improvement Programme. This intervention strategy is good, in the sense that we have seen a change in spending on infrastructure for

education. We have also seen an improvement in housing. Although housing has been one of the victims of underspending in infrastructure, but, at least, for now, for the last three quarters, there has been an improvement in this intervention. That is why we are calling on the national departments to do the same, not to wait for the National Treasury. They must take that initiative.

I would also want to remind this House that the President announced in his state of nation address two years ago that no learner will learn under a tree. That issue has been a concern to us as the ANC, but if it was not because of this intervention, up to now we would still be having question marks of how many classrooms or how many learners are still learning under trees. This intervention has speeded up the process of building more additional classrooms, and, like I say, I presume that it is the same intervention that has improved capital spending in housing.

We would also like to welcome the new grant on community library services. We are a nation that has to learn and read. I thought Minister Pallo Jordan would be here, so that he would be made aware that we are going to have an interest in seeing whether the department has plans. What are they going to do throughout the course of the year to ensure that there will be no fund-shifting at the end of the financial year or that during the MTBPS there shall be no shifting of funds?

We expected that by now they ought to be having plans of how they are going to implement that grant, because people want to consult through using libraries. People want libraries to be up to date in terms of the services they offer to them.

I would also like to finally indicate to the Minister of Finance that today South Africa is financially where nobody ever dreamt it will be. [Applause.] When you took over in 1996, there were Messiahs who could foretell that a Minister from the ANC could not do anything good. And we have proved them

wrong. I want to congratulate you and your staff. Even those institutions that are under your administration or your control have done an excellent job. The ANC supports the Bill. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Chairperson, I would like to express my appreciation to all parties in the House, because it's clear that everybody supports the Division of Revenue Bill, but let me deal with some of the issues that have been raised. Firstly, regarding the support expressed by the hon Davidson for an independent body doing the micro forecast, we recently undertook an interesting exercise where we looked at trends in respect of this consensus forecast. There are two groups of consensus forecasts by private sector economists: one is run by *Reuters* and the other by *Beeld*.

We looked at our own forecast over the past few years and, just yesterday, the GDP growth for last year was announced as at 5% year on year. The *Beeld* consensus was 4,05% for last year and the *Reuters* consensus was 4,05% while ours was 4,9%. In the previous year, where growth was 5,1%, the *Beeld* consensus was 4,1% and the *Reuters* was 4,0%. Treasury was marginally better at 4,3% but less strong.

Now, if you go back over the history of the last decade you will find the same trends. I think the observation that we can make is that whilst Treasury may have been wrong, we were significantly less wrong than these consensus forecasts. There is a very important point here, because if you take this responsibility and hand it over, where is responsibility for this vested?

I am saying it's an intensely political function. We take responsibility; we will stand before this House and debate the issues. But, to hand this thing over to some other institution out there and believe that they would be the determinant of the forecast on which we must put the premise of fiscal framework to allocate resources, is probably taking the economic functions of govern-

ment into some kind of belief system where you leave it all to automatons. There is no government in the world that operates like that, and that is the first problem I have with it. [Applause.]

In respect of the tax to GDP ratio, I would like to leave that and perhaps when we have the Budget debate, we can give a bit more attention to that. Regarding the support expressed, again, by the hon Davidson for the operation and maintenance costs, let's firstly explain that when we use conditional grants, we use them in order to try and influence another sphere of government in respect of national priorities. Therefore, if you look at the local government and go through the list, you will find that there are grants that would support the eradication of the bucket system, water, sanitation and electricity; and then from the equitable share, financing for free basic services.

If you fail to understand that there are limitations in respect of the different functions, you are running the risk that the hon Mokoto raised, namely that you then open a huge moral hazard, because municipalities don't have to collect the revenue that they must collect, because somebody else is going to do it for them. Operation and maintenance costs are key to what municipalities ought to do, and whilst it is also something that the national level must do, to do it through conditional grants is not entirely rational.

Regarding the hon Swart and the demarcation, there is an issue that arose in the past few days. As luck would have it, in the area of Moutse which is now part of Limpopo province, somehow there was a miscalculation and teachers have been taxed twice and thus they are in uproar. They believe that you pay more tax in Limpopo. It is something that we will resolve together with the government of Limpopo in the next 48 hours, but these kinds of things happen.

We think that provinces are adequately resourced to deal with the changes. We have

calculated this very carefully and we have been in very close consultation with them. So, there are no real additional costs. There is an endeavour to hide costs or to recalibrate the costs in some way where it's clearly unaffordable, but I think we are on top of that.

About issues raised by the hon Likotsi, monitoring and control are issues that are part of political oversight. Don't leave it to the Treasury. Our constituency officers should be doing a lot more of this and we must defend the rights and the responsibilities of Members of Parliament to be part of that monitoring and oversight, ensuring that the IDPs are there and are linked to provincial growth and development plans, and that the money is spent as planned.

This Parliament should be a repository of all that information, so that monitoring and evaluation of the money that we allocate would be much better. Democracy would be better served because all Members of Parliament would be involved in the process. Thank you very much for the support from all parties. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

Bill read a second time.

The House adjourned at 18:20.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

The Speaker and the Chairperson

1. Introduction of Bill

(1) The Minister of Finance

- (a) *Finance Bill* [B 5—2007] (National Assembly—proposed sec 77).

Introduction and referral to the Portfolio Committee on Finance of the National Assembly, as well as referral to the Joint Tagging Mechanism (JTM) for classification in terms of Joint Rule 160.

In terms of Joint Rule 154 written views on the classification of the Bill may be submitted to the JTM within three parliamentary working days.

2. Translation of Bill submitted

(1) The Minister of Sport and Recreation

- (a) *Molao o Fetotsweng wa Institjhute ya Afrika Borwa wa Dipapadi tse hlokanang Dithethefatsi wa 2006* [B 7D—2006] (National Assembly—sec 75).

This is the official translation into Sesotho of the *South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport Amendment Bill* [B 7—2006] (National Assembly—sec 75).

3. Bill passed by Houses—to be submitted to President for assent

(1) Bill passed by National Council of Provinces on 27 February 2007:

- (a) *Transnet Pension Fund Amendment Bill* [B 30B—2006] (National Assembly—sec 75).

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. The Minister of Finance

- (a) Government Notice No R.146 published in Government Gazette No 29644 dated 20 February 2007: Amendment of Treasury Regulations in terms of section 76 of the

Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999).

2. The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development

- (a) Draft Rules submitted by the Rules Board for Courts of Law, in terms of section 7(2)(c) of the Criminal Procedure Amendment Act, 2003 (Act No 42 of 2003).
- (b) Draft Rules submitted by the Rules Board for Courts of Law, in terms of section 79(3) of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (Act No 2 of 2000).

National Assembly

1. The Speaker

- (a) Request from the Minister of Communications for approval by the National Assembly of the following candidate recommended for appointment to the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Icasa) in terms of section 7 of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa Act, 2000 (Act No 13 of 2000), as amended:

Dr M Socikwa.

Referred to the Portfolio Committee on Communications for consideration and report, the committee to report as soon as possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Enterprises on the *South African Airways Bill* [B 35—2006] (National Assembly—sec 75), dated 28 February 2007:

The Portfolio Committee on Public Enterprises, having considered the subject of the *South African Airways Bill* [B 35—2006] (National Assembly—

sec 75), referred to it and classified by the Joint Tagging Mechanism as a section 75 Bill, reports the Bill with Amendments [B 35A—2006].

The Committee further reports as follows:

1. The Committee is acutely aware of the financial and other strategic challenges confronting SAA and the need for this Bill.
2. Consistent with the government's new emerging shareholder management model and the Committee's views on this, the Committee decided to effect amendments to the Bill that would provide for:
 - A Preamble to convey the sense of SAA as a national carrier and strategic asset.
 - The strategic role that SAA plays.
 - The need for the Minister to account to Parliament for any major changes in SAA's role and decisions about converting SAA into a public company.
3. The Committee believes that the temperate amendments it proposed would not discourage potential investors or unduly bind the Minister.
4. The Minister for Public Enterprises, Mr Alec Erwin, stressed that he agrees with the amendments proposed but explained that it would be more appropriate to provide for them in the forthcoming Shareholder Management Bill. A key reason for this is that the provisions that the Committee wants in regards to SAA apply to state-owned entities generally. In a letter to the Committee, the Minister said "... with respect to the recommendation to involve Parliament in the decision to convert

SAA into a public company, the Department is in the process of drafting legislation to regulate State-Owned Enterprises (SOE) such as SAA. This SOE legislation will facilitate a role for Parliament in the formation and change in status of any SOE. I believe this will accommodate the important point made by the Committee that if an enterprise is strategic enough that we bring the matter to Parliament, then surely Parliament should have some role if that status is changed. Our intention is to bring this piece of legislation to the Committee in the second half of this year." Of course, the "recommendation" the Minister refers to is a proposed "amendment"—but the Committee recognises the value of what the Minister proposes and accepts it. However, consistent with paragraph 2 and what is set out in this paragraph, we have effected the Preamble referred to above.

5. The Minister said that the Shareholder Management Bill will provide for each SOE to have a Charter that sets out its strategic role. Any major change to this Charter would be brought to Parliament.
6. The Minister said that he would explain his intention to provide for the measures in the pending Shareholder Management Bill during the debate in the National Assembly on the SAA Bill.
7. The Committee agrees that the amendments it proposes to the SAA Bill are better addressed in the pending Shareholder Management Bill and will attend to this in the processing of that Bill.
8. Of course, the Committee recognises the volatility of the

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EXPLANATORY NOTE:

In view of the fact that bound volumes will henceforth be published on a quarterly basis, the number in parentheses directly after the column reference number indicates the number of the volume in which the relevant information may be found.

INDEX TO SPEECHES

Abbreviations: AhC = Ad hoc Committee; AhJC = Ad hoc Joint Committee; JBC = Joint Budget Committee; JC = Joint Committee; JMC = Joint Monitoring Committee; JPC = Joint Programming Committee; JPSC = Joint Programming Subcommittee; JR = Joint Rule; JSC = Joint Standing Committee; JTM = Joint Tagging Mechanism; NA = National Assembly; NCOP = National Council of Provinces; NHTL = National House of Traditional Leaders; PC = Portfolio Committee; RC = Rules Committee; SC = Select Committee; StC = Standing Committee

ANTHONY, Mr T G:

Consideration of Report of PC on International Labour Conference, 2576(104)

ARENDSE, Mr J D:

Question for Oral Reply:

Access to water, sanitation and electricity, (Question put to Deputy President),
1108(103)

ASIYA, Mr S E:

Subject for Discussion:

President's state of the nation address, 735(103)

BALFOUR, B M N:

[Minister of Correctional Services]

Minister's Responses:

Determination of parole and correctional supervision, 1294(104)

Government committed to fighting crime, 1294(104)

Questions for Oral Reply:

Attack on nurses at youth centre in the Baviaanspoort Management Area, 1147(103)

Shortage of artisans in Correctional Services, 1127(103)

Escapes from prison, method of escape, escapees assisted by police officers and prosecutions, 1135(103)

BALOYI, Mr M R:

Statement:

Ekurhuleni declaration on the fight against corruption and the forthcoming global forum on combating corruption and safeguarding integrity, 1839(104)

Subject for Discussion:

President's state of the nation address, 725(103)

BAPELA, Mr K O:

[House Chairperson]

Subject for Discussion:

President's state of the nation address, 102(103)

BATYI, Ms F:

Bill:

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Debate:

Ensuring respect for and peaceful coexistence between all religious communities and beliefs in a globalised world, 1016(103)

Member's Statement:

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Subject for Discussion:

The role of Parliament in intensifying the struggle against poverty, 856(103)

BEKKER, Mr H J:

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Consideration of third report of SC on Public Accounts — Marine Living Resources Fund, 1060(103)

Consideration of fourth report of SC on Public Accounts — The Sheltered Employment Factory, 1060(103)

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BENJAMIN, Dr J *See Also* **SWANSON-JACOBS, Dr J**

[Deputy Minister of Social Development]

Bill:

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Vote — Social Development, 2419(104)

Minister's Response:

Problems regarding social workers, 838(103)

BEUKMAN, Mr F:

Subject for Discussion:

The role of Parliament in intensifying the struggle against poverty, 869(103)

BHAMJEE, Mr Y S:

Member's Statement:

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BHENGU, Mr F:

Bills:

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Vote — Public Works, 2329(104)

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BHENGU, Mr M J:

Bill:

SA Airways, (2R), 1222(104)

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Debates:

Job creation and employment security in the era of globalisation (IPU topic), 1250(104)

Political, economic and social situation in the world with the overall theme of global warming ten years after Kyoto (IPU topic), 1736(104)

BHENGU, Ms P:

Question for Oral Reply:

Expenditure of capital budgets by municipalities falling under Project Consolidate, (Question put to Minister), 1388(104)

BHOOLA, Mr R B:

Bills:

Appropriation, (1R), 1566(104)

Tobacco Products Control, (A), (2R), 2568(104)

Subjects for Discussion:

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The role of Parliament in intensifying the struggle against poverty, 868(103)

BICI, Mr J:

Bills:

Appropriation, (1R), 1513(104)

Vote — Social Development, 2412(104)

Division of Revenue, (2R), 1167(103)

Debate:

The deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe, and its political, economic and social consequences for Zimbabwe, South Africa and the Southern African region, 2313(104)

Member's Statement:

Murder of Sheldean Human, 1282(104)

BIYELA, Chief B P:

Question for Oral Reply:

Departmental strategy in relation to failed farming operations, (Question put to Minister), 1691(104)

BLANCHÉ, Mr J P I:

Bill:

Appropriation,

Vote — Public Works, 2380(104)

BLOEM, Mr D V:

Member's Statement:

Determination of parole and correctional supervision, 1281(104)

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Shortage of artisans in Correctional Services, (Question put to Minister), 1126(103)

BOINAMO, Mr G G:

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Question for Oral Reply:

School Nutrition Programme: Status and plans for extension, (Question put to Minister), 1397(104)

BONHOMME, Mr T J:

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Consideration of second report of SC on Public Accounts — Department of Correctional Services (DCS), 1062(103)

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Question for Oral Reply:

Escapes from prison, method of escape, escapees assisted by police officers and prosecutions, (Question put to Minister), 1136(103)

BOTHA, Mr A B:

Bill:

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Vote — Defence, 1859(104)

BOTHA, Ms C-S:

[House Chairperson]

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Subject for Discussion:

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Promoting diversity and equal rights for all through universal democratic and electoral standards, 1485(104)

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CHANG, Prof E S:

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1657(104)

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[Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry]

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Adequacy of institutional and human resource funding arrangements for understaffed municipalities, (Question put to Minister), 1359(104)

Expenditure of capital budgets by municipalities falling under Project Consolidate, (Question put to Minister), 1390(104)

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[Deputy Minister for Provincial and Local Government]

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(Deputy Minister of Health)

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[Minister of Science and Technology]

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[Minister of Home Affairs]

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MBEKI, Mr T M:

[The President of the Republic of South Africa]

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[Minister of Safety and Security]

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PADAYACHIE, Mr R L:

[Deputy Minister of Communications]

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PAHAD, Mr A G H:

[Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs]

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PANDOR, Mrs G N M:

[Minister of Education]

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PULE, Mr B E:

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RADEBE, Mr B A:

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RADEBE, Mr J T:

[Minister of Transport]

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- Human Rights Day: Promoting human rights and intensifying the struggle against poverty, 1772(104)
- International Women's Day: Deepening the debate on gender mainstreaming in the work of Parliament, 1447(104)
- Political, economic and social situation in the world with the overall theme of global warming ten years after Kyoto (IPU topic), 1742(104)
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- Rape and murder of women and children, 1412(104)

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- The late Dr I M Phillips*, 2514(104)
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- Attack on nurses at youth centre in the Baviaanspoort Management Area, (Question put to Minister), 1150(103)
- Community policing forums in fight against crime, (Question put to Minister), 1117(103)
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- Ekurhuleni declaration on the fight against corruption and the forthcoming global forum on combating corruption and safeguarding integrity, 1838(104)

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- Ensuring respect for and peaceful coexistence between all religious communities and beliefs in a globalised world, 1026(103)

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- Government Immovable Asset Management, (2R), 2542(104)

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RWEXANA, Ms S P:

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Attack on nurses at youth centre in the Baviaanspoort Management Area, (Question put to Minister), 1149(103)

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SEMPLE, Ms J A:

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SEPTEMBER, Ms C C:

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SMUTS, Ms M:

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Outcome of inquiry into alleged blacklisting of commentators, (Question put to Minister), 1343(104)

SOLO, Mr B M:

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SONJICA, Ms B P:

[Minister of Minerals and Energy]

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SPIES, Mr W D:

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SURTY, Mr M E:

[Deputy Minister of Education]

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THABETHE, Ms E:

[Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry]

Subject for Discussion:

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VAN DER MERWE, Ms S C:

[Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs]

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[Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism]

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XINGWANA, Ms L M:

[Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs]

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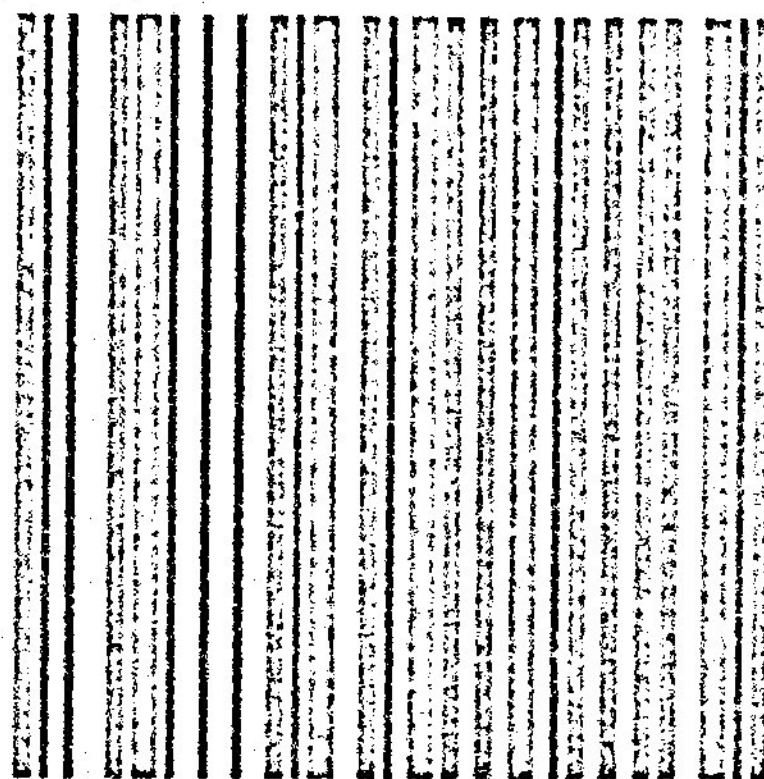
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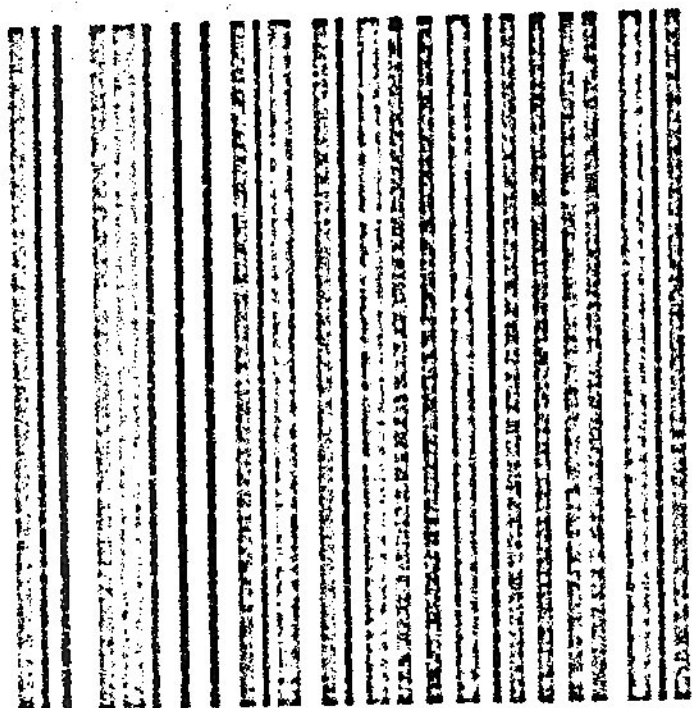
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