

WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 2019

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Members assembled in the Chamber of the National Assembly at 10:31.

The Serjeant-at-Arms announced the Honourable Chief Justice, Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, who was received by members standing.

The Chief Justice took the Chair.

The National Anthem was sung by the Parliamentary Choir.

[Applause.]

The CHIEF JUSTICE: If hon members may be seated for a while. It is time for prayers or meditation. I think that we need to be purposeful in embarking on this exercise. I never used to know what to meditate about; what to pray about. So, here is a guideline: Our country has challenges. Meditate about the solutions to corruption, to crime, to anything of concern that

you have. For those of us who can pray, pray for solutions. Pray for a better vision, for guidance. Those who are here, those who are at home hearing - let us be very deliberate and intentional about this exercise. It is not a meaningless ritual. If you want to do it sitting, do so. If you want to stand - or be in any other position - do so. This will be for three minutes. This is not just a question of starting and not knowing when to end. It will be for three minutes. May we do so now in whatever position we are comfortable in?

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS - see col 000.

The CHIEF JUSTICE: This meeting has been convened by me as Chief Justice of the Republic, in terms of section 51(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. In terms of section 48 of the Constitution, members of the National Assembly must swear or affirm faithfulness to the Republic and obedience to the Constitution ... nothing else ... obedience to the Constitution before they begin to perform their functions. We will now proceed with the administering of the oath or affirmation for members.

OATH AND SOLEMN AFFIRMATION

The following members made and subscribed the oath or solemn affirmation:

Abraham, P N; Abrahams, A L A; Adams, R C; Adoons, N G; April, H G; Arries, L H; August, S N; Bagraim, M; Bapela, K O; Basson, L J; Bergman, D; Besani, S J; Bilankulu, J H; Bilankulu, N K; Breedt, T; Breytenbach, G; Brink, C; Bongo, B T; Boroto, M G; Boshoff, W J; Botes, A; Bozzolli, B; Buthelezi, E M; Buthelezi, M G; Cachalia, G K Y; Capa, N; Capa, R N; Cardo, M J; Cebekhulu, R N; Cele, B H; Ceza, K; Chabane, M S; Chabangu, M M; Chetty, M; Chikunga, L S; Chirwa, N N; Clarke, M O; Creecy, B D; Cuthbert, M J; Cwele, S C; De Freitas, M S F; De Lille, P; De Villiers J N; Didiza, A T; Dikgale M C; Direko, D R; Dirks, M A; Dhlomo S M; Dlamini, B O; Dlamini, D D; Dlamini, M M; Dlamini S M; Dlamini-Zuma, N C; Dlakude, D E; Dlodlo, A; Dlulane, B N; Dunjwa, M A L; Dyantyi, P P; Dyantyi, Q R; Faber, W F; Faku, Z C; Frolick, C T; Galo, M P; Gantsho, N; Gardee, G A; Gela, A; George, D T; Gina, N; Gomba, M M; Gondwe, M M; Gordhan, P J; Graham, S J; Groenewald, I M; Groenewald, P J; Gumbi, H S; Gumbu, T T; Gumede, S N; Gungubele, M G S; Hadebe, B M; Hanekom, D A; Hendricks, M G E; Hicklin, M B; Hill-Lewis, G G; Hinana, N E; Hlengwa, M D; Hlengwa, M; Hlongo, A S; Hlongwa, B G; Hlonyana, K N F; Holomisa, B H; Holomisa, S P; Hoosen, M H; Horn, W; Hunsinger, C H H; Ismail, H; Jacobs, F; Jacobs, K L;

James, T H; Jeffery, J H; Joemat-Pettersson, T M; Jordaan, H;
Joseph, D; Julius, J W W; Keetse, P P; Kekana, P S; Khalipha, T
D; Khanyile, T A; Khawula, M S; Kibi, M T; King, C V; Kiviet, N;
Kodwa, N G; Kohler, D; Komane, R N; Koornhof, G W; Kopane, S P;
Krüger, H C C; Krumbock, G R; Kubayi-Ngubane, M T; Kubheka, N J;
Kula, S M; Kwankwa, N L S; Lamola, R O; Langa, T M; Lees, R A;
Legwase, T I; Lekota, M G P; Lesoma, R M M; Letsatsi-Duba, D B;
Letsie, W T; Lorimer, J R B; Lotriet, A; Lubengo, M L; Luthuli,
B N; Luzipo, S; Maake, J J; Mabe, B P; Mabhena, T B; Mabika, M
S; Mabiletsa, M D; Mackenzie, C; Macpherson, D W; Madisha, W M;
Madlingozi, B S; Mafanya, W T I; Mafu, N N; Magadzi, D P;
Magaxa, K E; Magwanishe, G; Mahambehllala, T; Mahlalela, A F;
Mahlatsi, K D; Mahlaule, M G; Mahlo, N P; Mahlobo, M D;
Mahumapelo, S O R; Maimane, M A; Maine, M C; Majodina, P C P;
Majola, F Z; Majola, T R; Majozi, Z; Makhubela-Mashele, L S;
Makwetla, S P; Malatji, T; Malatsi, M S; Malema, J S; Malinga, V
T; Malomane, V P; Maluleke, B; Mamabolo, J B; Manamela, K B;
Mananiso, J S; Mandela, Z M D; Maneli, B M; Manganye, J; Mangcu,
L N; Mantashe, P T; Mantashe, S G; Mapisa-Nqakula, N N;
Mapulane, M P; Marais, E J; Marais, S J F; Marawu, T L; Masango,
B S; Maseko-Jele, N H; Mashabela, N R; Mashego, M R; Mashego-
Dlamini, K C; Mashele, T V; Masipa, N P; Masondo, D; Masondo, T
S; Masualle, G P; Maswanganyi, M J; Mathafa, O M; Mathale, C C;
Mathebula, E F; Matiase, N S; Mazzone, N W A; Mbabama, T M;

Mbatha, S G N; Mbalula, F A; Mboweni, T T; Mbhele, Z N; Mbingo-
Gigaba, B P; Mbuyane, S H; Mc Donald, L E; Mc Gluwa, J J;
Mchunu, E S; Mchunu, T V B; Mdabe, S W; Mente, N V; Meshoe, K R
J; Mey, P; Mfeketo, N C; Mgweba, T; Mhaule, M R; Mhlongo, T W;
Mileham, K J; Mkhaliphi, H O; Mkhatshwa, N T; Mkhize, H B;
Mkhize, Z L; Mkhwanazi, J C N; Mlenzana, Z; Mmutle, T N;
Moatshe, R M; Modise, M; Modise, P M P; Modise, T R; Moela, D L;
Mofokeng, J M; Mohamed, H; Mohlala, M R; Mokause, M O; Mokgotho,
S M; Mokoena, L G; Mokwele, T J; Molala, L E; Molekwa, M A;
Moloi, B E; Montwedi, M K; Moroatshehla, P R; Morolong, I K;
Motaung, A; Motaung, N E; Moteka, P G; Motsepe, C C S;
Motshekga, M S; Motshekga, M A; Motsoaledi, P A; Mpambo-
Sibhukwana, T G; Mpanza, T S; Mphithi, L; Mpumza, G G; Msane, T
P; Msibi, V Z; Msimang, C T; Mthembu, A H; Mthembu, J M;
Mthenjane, D F; Mthethwa, E N; Mulaudzi, T E; Mulder, C P;
Mulder, F J; Munyai, T B; Muthambi, A F; Mvana, N Q; Myeni, E T;
Ndaba, C N; Ndabeni-Abrahams, S T; Ndlozi, M Q; Ngcobo, S;
Ngcobo, S L; Ngwenya, D B; Ngwezi, X; Nkabane, N P; Nkoana-
Mashabane, M E; Nkosi, B S; Nkosi, D M; Nodada, B B;
Nolutshungu, N J; Nontsele, M; Nqola, X; Ntlangwini, E N;
Ntobongwana, N; Ntombela, M L D; Ntshavheni, K P S; Ntshayisa, L
M; Ntuli, M M; Nyhontso, M; Nzimande, B E; Nzuza, N B; Nxesi, T
W T; Nxumalo, M N; Oliphant, M N; Opperman, G; Pambo, V; Pandor,
G N M; Papo, A H M; Patrein, S; Paulsen, M N; Peacock, N P;

Peter, Z J; Peters, E D; Phaahla, M J; Phillips, C; Phiri, C M;
Pilane-Majake, M C C; Powell, E L; Qayiso, X S; Radebe, B A;
Radebe, J T; Ramadwa, M M; Ramaphosa, M C; Roos, A C; Sarupen, A
N; Schreiber, L A; Seabi, A M; Selfe, J; Seithloho, I S;
Semenya, M R; Shabalala, L F; Shabalala, N F; Shabangu, S;
Sharif, N K; Shelembe, M L; Shembeni, H A; Shivambu, N F;
Sibisi, C H M; Sibiya, D P; Sihlwayi, N N; Sindane, P; Singh, N;
Sisulu, L N; Sithole, K P; Siwela, E K; Siwela, V S; Siweya, R
T; Siwisa, A M; Skosana, G J; Skwatsha, M; Sokatsha, M S; Somyo,
S S; Sonti, N P; Sotyu, M M; Spies, E R J; Steenhuisen, J H;
Steyn, A; Stock, D M; Sukers, M E; Swart, S N; Swarts, B;
Tarabella Marchesi, N I; Terblanche, O S; Thembekwayo, S S;
Thring, W M; Tito, L F; Tlhomelang, K B; Tlou, M M; Tolashe, N
G; Tseke, G K; Tseki, M A; Tsenoli, S L; Tshabalala, J; Tshwaku,
M; Tshwete, B; Tshwete, P; Van Damme, P T; Van Der Merwe, L L;
Van Der Walt, D; Van Dyk, V; Van Minnen, B M; Van Staden, P A;
Walters, T C R; Waters, M; Weber, A M M; Wessels, W W;
Whitfield, A G; Winkler, H S; Wilson, E R; Xaba, V C; Xaba-
Ntshaba, P P; Xasa, F D; Xasa, T; Xego, S T; Yabo, B S; Yako, Y
N; Zibula, B T; Zulu, L D; Zuma, A S; Zungu, T R M; Zungula, V;
Zwane, M J.

The CHIEF JUSTICE: Please call out if there are still others.
Are there any members present who have not yet taken an oath or affirmation? Are there any?

AN HON MEMBER: That's Cronin! Where is Cronin?

HON MEMBERS: Jeremy Cronin!

RULES FOR ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The CHIEF JUSTICE: Let us make some progress, please! It is time for the election of the Speaker of this House. As members have been sworn in, we will now proceed to the election of office bearers as envisaged in sections 52(1) and 86(1) of the Constitution. I have to announce that I have made available Rules in terms of which this meeting is to be conducted, as contemplated by the Constitution in Schedule 3, Item 9.

I have been reliably informed that each member has been furnished with a copy of those Rules should they become necessary.

APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICERS

I also have to make it known that I have appointed the following persons to be Returning Officers to assist me in the proceedings in this meeting should it be necessary to vote by way of secret ballot. They are Ms P N Tyawa as Returning Officer, and as Assistant Returning Officers: Mr M Xaso, Mr C V Mahlangu, Dr N Ismail, Ms M R Mohlomi, Mr M H Plaatjies, Adv V P Ngaleka, Ms T V Lyons, Adv J Manyange, Mr A T Nage, Adv A A Ephraim, Ms R Thinda, Mr M Toti, Mr G Matakane, Mr F J Basson, Ms N C Manjezi, Adv Z Naidoo, Mr T R Maleeme and Mr P Hahndiek.

They took the oath and affirmation for such office before me yesterday, and I now request the Returning Officer to read the notice whereby this meeting has been called.

NOTICE CALLING MEETING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Returning Officer read out the following Notice, dated 16 May 2019:

By virtue of the power vested in me in terms of section 51(1) read with sections 52(2), 64(4) and 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, I, Mogoeng Mogoeng, Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, have

determined the First Sitting for the Sixth Democratic Parliament as follows:

- (1) That the First Sitting of the National Assembly, at which the President of the Republic of South Africa, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly will be elected, shall take place on Wednesday, 22 May 2019, at 10h30, and
- (2) That the First Sitting of the National Council of Provinces, at which the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces will be elected, shall take place on Thursday, 23 May 2019 at 10h30.

Signed

Mogoeng Mogoeng

Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa

The CHIEF JUSTICE: In anticipation of what transpired in 2014, let me just confirm that we have gone out of our way to satisfy ourselves that everybody to whom an oath or affirmation has been

administered meets the constitutional requirements. That's all I am required to do. Anything beyond that belongs elsewhere.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The House proceeded to the election of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Chief Justice reminded members that nominations had to be submitted in the prescribed form and duly seconded.

The Chief Justice informed members that in terms of Item 4 of Part A of Schedule 3 to the Constitution no debate would be allowed.

The Chief Justice called for nominations.

Dr Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini-Zuma, seconded by Mr Derek André Hanekom, nominated Ms Thandi Ruth Modise for election as Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Returning Officer reported to the Chief Justice that the nomination paper had been properly completed.

Mr John Henry Steenhuisen, seconded by Mr Michael Waters, nominated Mr Thembekile Richard Majola for election as Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Returning Officer reported to the Chief Justice that the nomination paper had been properly completed.

There being more than one candidate nominated, the Chief Justice announced that a secret ballot would take place in terms of Item 6 of Part A of Schedule 3 to the Constitution and suspended proceedings for preparation of ballot papers.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT 12:19 AND RESUMED AT 14:01.

The House proceeded to the secret ballot for the election of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Chief Justice announced that business would be suspended to allow the votes to be counted.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT 14:46 AND RESUMED AT 15:57.

The Chief Justice took the Chair and announced the results of the ballot as follows:

Ms Thandi Ruth Modise: 250.

Mr Thembekile Richard Majola: 83.

Spoilt ballots: 17.

The CHIEF JUSTICE: I apologise for the delay. The reconciliation of the ballot papers with ... I forgot the terminology now. This part, which they tear from, took a long time. Because thoroughness is key, we had to spend as much time as was necessary to do the right thing, so our apologies. [Applause.]

HON MEMBER: [Singing.]

The CHIEF JUSTICE: In terms of Item 6 of Part A of Schedule 3 to the Constitution, I accordingly declare the hon T R Modise duly elected Speaker of the National Assembly. [Applause.]

HON MEMBER: [Singing.]

The CHIEF JUSTICE: We would do well to expedite this, because, from the look of things, we have a long day. Hon Modise, on behalf of all present, I have the singular honour to congratulate you on your election as the hon Speaker of this

House. [Applause.] I now call upon the Serjeant-at-Arms to conduct the hon Speaker to the Chair. [Applause.]

The Serjeant-at-arms conducted the Speaker to the Chair and placed the mace in its position.

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY NEW SPEAKER

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Please allow me to thank the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa. President-Elect, hon members, ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured by the nomination and the election of Speaker of the National Assembly, the second Chamber of the Parliament of South Africa. I understand fully the struggle to move South Africa forward, to recognise all her people and to recognise all languages, all cultures and traditions of South Africa.

As elected representatives, we are both the product and the custodian of the values enshrined in our Constitution. These values set the tone for how we conduct ourselves and how we manage the affairs of our people for the common good. I understand the continuing battle for dignity and respect for the majority of South Africans. I understand the differences and diversity of citizens and others who reside within our borders.

I also understand the responsibilities of public representatives. I further understand the responsibility of Parliament as a site for debate and public education, and as a defender of all laws, rights and liberties. I understand the role of the presiding officers as enablers of debate and protectors of the rights of the public, and that public representatives must hold the executive to account, and, to capacitate themselves these public representatives in this House must adequately use the power of the purse strings to hold and continue holding the executive to account.

I, together with the other presiding officers, must at all times be fair and unbiased. The decorum of the House and the image of Parliament must be maintained. We do not represent ourselves, hon members; we represent the people of our country. So, at the start of this term, let us represent well those who sent us to Parliament; let us respect those who are asking us and entrusting us with the running of our country; let us respect the tiniest of the voices of those who have been elected to this House.

In other words, it doesn't matter how angry you might be or how different the views of other members may be. A member of this House represents a constituency out there, and before we jump

down another member's throat, we must remember that there are thousands of people who voted for the member to come and represent their interests and be their voice in this House.

[Applause.]

I also want to say that I have learnt a lot through working with former Speaker Mbete and the House Chairpersons. I hope that the tradition of consulting and of ensuring that the business of Parliament is shared accordingly will continue, and I hope that we will continue to run this Parliament of South Africa in a very dignified manner. I want to thank you once more for the trust you have placed in me. I thank you. [Applause.]

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The House proceeded to the election of a Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Speaker called for nominations.

Mr Alvin Botes, seconded by Ms Hlengiwe Buhle Mkhize, nominated Mr Solomon Lechesa Tsenoli for election as Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Returning Officer reported to the Speaker that the nomination paper had been properly completed.

The SPEAKER: Hon Solomon Lechesa Tsenoli, do you accept the nomination as the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly?

Mr S L TSENOLI: I do. [Laughter.] [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, the form is in order. I now proceed to ask the House if there are any further nominations?

Mr J S MALEMA: I want to check if I'm allowed to nominate Mam'uKhawula? [Laughter.] [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: All members of the House are eligible. Order, members! Hon Malema, all members are eligible to be elected. Are you saying that you are, in fact, nominating Mme Khawula?

[Laughter.] Thank you very much. Is there any other party that wishes to nominate? Hon members, I do not see any hand.

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

The SPEAKER: Hon Steenhuizen?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Our candidate has just withdrawn the nomination of the hon Khawula. So, we don't have someone to second. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, there being no other contender, I declare that the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly has been duly elected. [Applause.] Hon Lechesa Tsenoli, on behalf of all of us, I congratulate you on your election as Deputy Speaker. You now have the opportunity to address the House.

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY NEW DEPUTY SPEAKER

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam Speaker, congratulations. I thank you first as a priority. Comrade President-Designate and all members present here, I'm very grateful for what you have just done. I would like to start by thanking the people who brought us here with the hope that we will work with them to effectively fight poverty, inequality and unemployment. [Applause.]

I do also want us to thank them for returning the ANC to lead. [Applause.] I also wish that we do not forget those who have been with us inside and in the corridors here.

Ba weleng ka phatla ... (*Translation of Sesotho phrase follows.*)

[Those who are no longer with us ...]

... who we should remember. I would like to specifically mention Eric Mtshali, Fezeka Loliwe and Moss Chikane. Their spears have not fallen on the ground, and the struggle to reclaim a clean and corruption-free management of the affairs of state across the board continues. I do wish, finally, to thank the ANC for entrusting us with the responsibility of carrying out this job. Also, I can but only thank the hon Thandi Modise - in her previous capacity - and the hon Papi Tau, as well as the rest of the House Chairpersons in both Houses, for the very warm and co-operative relationship that helped us to work better.

Thank you very much all of you, hon members. We hope we will co-operate. I undertake to do so, as long as we agree on the important issues of conduct in the House. Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

Congratulations, once again. Hon members, that concludes the process to elect the Deputy Speaker of the House. We now proceed to call on the religious leaders to bless the House.

BLESSINGS OF THE HOUSE

Moulana Sabrie Davids of the Muslim Judicial Council, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, representative of the Jewish community, Priest Guru Krishnna, a representative of the Hindu community, and Reverend Paulus Vilakazi, a representative of the Zion Christian Church blessed the House.

The SPEAKER: Amen. Re a leboga, Moruti [Thank you, Reverend].

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

The SPEAKER: Hon members, we shall now proceed with the election of the President of the Republic. I now call upon the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa.

The Chief Justice took the Chair as required under section 86(2) of the Constitution.

The CHIEF JUSTICE: This is now the time for nominations for President of the Republic of South Africa. Any nominations in terms of the said procedure? Yes, hon member?

Ms P C M MAJODINA: Chief Justice, I, Pemmy Majodina, hereby ...

... egameni lezigidigidi zezakhamuzi zaseNingizimu Afrika ...

(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)

[... on behalf of billions of South African citizens ...]

... lebitsong la dimiliyone tsa baahi ba Afrika Borwa ...

(Translation of the Sesotho sentence follows.)

[... on behalf of the millions of South Africans ...]

... ndiphakamisa ngochulumanco nesihomo nesithozela, omnye wabantwana bomgquba kulo Mzantsi Afrika ... *(Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.)*

[... I elect with excitement, solemnity and dignity one of the children of the soil in this South Africa ...]

... a constitutionalist, a former union leader ...

... lowo ngutata uMatamela ... *(Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.)*

[... that is Mr Matamela ...]

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Point of order, Chief Justice. [Interjections.]

Chief Justice, with the greatest respect, the hon member must rise to nominate a candidate, not recite a poem here.

[Interjections.] We are not here for poems. We don't have time.

We must serve the people of South Africa. We are not here for you. Please, Chief Justice, with the greatest of respect. You will praise her in your kitchen somewhere. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF JUSTICE: Thank you, hon Ndlozi. Hon member, your nomination please.

Ms P C M MAJODINA: I hereby nominate Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa. Thank you. [Applause.]

The CHIEF JUSTICE: Is the nomination seconded?

Mr M L D NTOMBELA: Chief Justice, I, Madala David Ntombela, rise to second the nomination of the hon Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa as President of the Republic of South Africa. Thank you.

[Applause.]

The CHIEF JUSTICE: Well, as far as I know you are still the President until Friday. Hon President, do you accept the nomination?

The PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE REPUBLIC: Yes, I do accept the nomination. [Applause.]

The Returning Officer reported to the Chief Justice that the nomination paper had been properly completed.

The CHIEF JUSTICE: This nomination is in order. Is there any other nomination? Is there any other nomination? Very well. I was deliberately looking around because I was sending a message. I just wanted to make sure that that message had been withdrawn. There are no further nominations, and only one candidate has been nominated, namely the hon Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa.

[Applause.] The nomination is in order, and in terms of Item 5 of Part A of Schedule 3 to the Constitution - and I, accordingly, declare - the hon Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa is duly elected President of the Republic of South Africa. [Applause.] I seize this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr President, on your election as President of the Republic of South Africa. I now hand over to the Speaker. [Applause.]

The Speaker took the Chair.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, is there any party that wishes to make remarks? The hon Maimane?

PARTIES AND PRESIDENT-ELECT ADDRESS HOUSE

MOETELEDIPELE WA LEKOKOKGANETSO: Bagaetsho, dumelang.

(Translation of Setswana sentence follows.)

[The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Greetings, fellow South Africans.]

Let me congratulate, firstly, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. I think this is a crucial time in our nation, and we need a Parliament that will work for the people of South Africa. Therefore, I want to remind the leadership of this House that we have been entrusted with the most privileged duty our nation could ever ask us to do, which is to serve the people of this country. And, therefore, I want to give our congratulations and I call upon all of us as Members Parliament to have as our objective serving the people of this country. We had better not fail them at a moment such as this one. [Applause.]

I would also like to say to Ntate Cyril Ramaphosa: this election takes place at a time when 10 million of our people are unemployed; it takes place at a time when our citizens are feeling unsafe; it takes place at a time when our young people need to get through school. You, Sir, have been entrusted with

the great privilege of leading our nation at such a time as this. I want to say, from our party and from me personally: I wish you great success.

A morena a go boloke. (*Translation of Setswana sentence follows.*)

[May the Lord protect you.]

And I wish to say to you that when the decisions that you take are in the interests of our nation and the people of this country, we will be the first to support you. [Applause.] I also want to say that if those interests are about shielding those who need to take accountability for the time that has come before us - for those who have looted from our nation - we will be holding you to account so that those members who have looted from our country actually see jail. [Applause.]

Lastly, I wish say, Ntate Ramaphosa, may this be a season of better collaboration. We may have been opponents - stood in opposite aisles - but more than anything both of us are proud patriots of our country and we have been elected to serve our people. Therefore, may it be that we collaborate better in the term of this Sixth Parliament, and may it be that we serve our

people better so that this country can be the country it is destined to become. So, I thank you, rra. Ke a leboga. [Thank you.] [Applause.]

Mr J S MALEMA: I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Mbokodo, Umkhonto weSizwe, Thandi Modise, the militant and uncompromising woman who led from the front when it was not fashionable to do so. Here, the ANC has managed to deploy a trusted force of our people ... [Applause.] ... and for that, we congratulate her. We hope we will work together, Ms Thandi.

There will be heated moments. There will be robust debate. You should never degenerate into being partisan when the House degenerates. You should remain the Speaker and be the Speaker of all of us, because if you degenerate, you will never get this House in order. Always know that you might be coming from a particular political party, but sitting up there you now preside over all of us. We are all your children and you must not discriminate against us. Treat us equally, with respect, and we will return the favour. [Applause.]

Once we feel targeted, neglected and rejected, we shall show you the other side of us. [Laughter.] So, if we all treat each other with respect, you have nothing to worry about. We grew under

your leadership and we know that when we see you we see Winnie Mandela in action. [Applause.] And we are happy that you are not part of the people who once denounced and disowned Winnie Mandela. You stood with her when it was not fashionable to do so. That is why you are a dependable force of our people.

Deputy Speaker, we congratulate you and we hope that we will work together for the next five years. You had a difficulty with 25; I don't know how you will manage with 44. [Laughter.] I hope that you will indeed try to navigate through and make sure that we succeed.

Comrade President, we congratulate you and we hope that you will be a President of a corruption-free government and that you will not subject yourself to the views of factionalism. There are people who thrive through patronising presidents. They tell you all you want to hear and, as a result, you are unable to make informed decisions because you surround yourself with praise singers and yes-men and yes-women.

I have seen young men and women from the benches of the ANC: maybe it is time to consider them so that they can come to you with fresh and new ideas. If they don't like certain positions, they will be able to be honest with you. You need someone who is

going to be honest with you. The position you occupy needs someone who is going to be honest with you, because those who failed were told many a time that they were right even when they were wrong; even when the Constitutional Court said to them, "You are wrong"; even when the Public Protector said to them, "You are wrong." Those around them kept telling them that they were right, and that's where they got it wrong.

You must never ever listen to those who say you are right against the courts of South Africa and against the Chapter 9 institutions of South Africa. Those are the institutions which are meant to defend our democracy and they will forever guide us. So, President, there are people who have served a long time in Cabinet, from Mandela's time. I have nothing against them. [Interjections.] I don't know why they are not making your work easy by coming to you and saying, "We are not available ... maybe as advisers." [Applause.] This would be so that they gave room for new ideas.

Comrade President, Stellenbosch is a big problem. We know your proximity to Stellenbosch. We know your proximity to the Oppenheimers. We have not elected the Oppenheimers. We have not elected Stellenbosch here. [Applause.] I told your predecessor in 2011 that we had not elected the Guptas; that we elected him

and that he must lead us. He refused to listen to that. We are warning you, President: We have not elected the Ruperts here. We have not elected the Oppenheimers. Listen to the collective wisdom of the people you have been elected with and not white monopoly capital. [Applause.] It will not be here to defend you.

Once you listen to white monopoly capital, you must know that you are likely not to finish your term. All the best, President. We are here. We are watching you, and we will continue to engage you openly, not in secret.

Re na ga re rapeletše boroko ka go budulala. (*Translation of Sepedi sentence follows.*)

[We don't care.]

Thank you. [Applause.]

Prince M G BUTHELEZI: Hon Speaker, hon Deputy Speaker, hon Chief Justice, His Excellency our President, hon members, I consider it a privilege to congratulate His Excellency, our elected President of the Republic. On behalf of the IFP, I wish you strength, I wish you wisdom and I wish you support.

As the oldest member of this august House, it is my prerogative to speak about the past. I have served my country for more than 60 years and have witnessed the leadership of J G Strijdom, H F Verwoerd, B J Vorster, Marais Viljoen, P W Botha and President F W de Klerk. And I had the privilege of serving this country under President Mandela and President Mbeki. I have entered this House alongside these great sons of the soil.

In all these years, I have seen our country at a crossroads more than once, and I have come to recognise the leadership it takes to navigate South Africa safely onto the right path.

Undoubtedly, we stand now at the crossroads again, desperate to move away from the shadows of corruption and towards the light of growth, investment, unity and justice. It will take a unique leader to navigate this course. Such a leader deserves support from among his own ranks as well as from us in the opposition benches.

We are not here to overlook mistakes or to turn a blind eye to wrongs; we are here to secure the best interests of our country. If you are serving the best interests of our country, Your Excellency, I can assure you of our support, and, if you do the right thing for South Africa, we will always support you. This

is the kind of constructive opposition we have tried to give to this House.

History has chosen President Ramaphosa for the present task. May he be the leader that our country needs at this crucial time. I thank you, Madam Speaker. [Applause.]

Dr P J GROENEWALD: Geagte Speaker, ek weet u is Afrikaans goed magtig. Ek ken u al sedert 1994. Van die VF Plus se kant wens ons u baie hartlik geluk. Ons dink u is die regte kandidaat, en dat u u taak as Speaker van hierdie Huis met gesag, respek, en orde sal uitvoer en weereens die Nasionale Vergadering met die herstel van integriteit sal bestuur. Baie sterkte.

Die agb Malema het na u verwys. U was 'n soldaat. Ek weet u was 'n regte soldaat; nie soos mense wat maak asof hulle soldate was nie! U het die dissipline en ek glo en ek weet u sal dit handhaaf. Baie geluk, en baie sterkte! (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.*)

[Dr P J GROENEWALD: Hon Speaker, I know you are well versed in Afrikaans. I have known you since 1994. From the side of the FF Plus, we sincerely congratulate you. We think you are the right candidate, and that you will perform your task as Speaker of

this House with authority, respect and order and once again guide the National Assembly in the restoration of integrity. Good luck.

The hon Malema referred to you. You were a soldier. I know you were a real soldier; not like people who pretend that they were soldiers! You have the discipline and I believe and I know you will maintain it. Congratulations, and good luck!]

Hon President, firstly, I want to congratulate you on being elected for the next five years, but in saying that, hon President, I also want to say that there is a huge responsibility on your shoulders. The people of South Africa want hope; they want hope for the future. That's what we need in South Africa. [Interjections.] And if I say that and when I say that, I also want to say to you that part of that responsibility is that you are now also the President of the people - all the people of South Africa, South African citizens. Therefore, you must ensure that the interests of the people of South Africa are more important than the interests of your political party, the ANC.

You have certain constitutional obligations, such as section 83. You have to ensure and enhance nation-building in South Africa.

And it's actually a pity that I hear again the narrative of white people still doing this and doing that. Hon President, it will be your task to ensure that that narrative just disappears; that we are all South Africans. The FF Plus always says that we want to build South Africa.

Throughout my campaign I have used the analogy that you cannot be a tree in a bush and, if the bush is on fire, think that you are not going to burn; you are also going to burn. We are in South Africa together. The FF Plus wants to build South Africa ...

... maar as ons sê ons wil Suid-Afrika bou, dan sê ons ook dat die regte van minderhede erken moet word en dat almal billik en regverdig behandel moet word. Ons wil sien dat daar regverdige behandeling is. Ons wil sien dat daar 'n wil is by u as President dat almal moet hande vat om Suid-Afrika te bou.

Ek wil ook vir u sê, dit was vir my 'n besondere geleentheid toe die Hoofregter vanoggend op sy knieë gegaan het en gebid het.

(Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.)

[But if we say that we want to build South Africa, then we also say that the rights of minorities must be recognised and that

everyone should be treated equitably and fairly. We want to see that there is fair treatment. We want to see that there is a will on your side as President for everyone to join hands to build South Africa.

I also want to say to you: It was a special occasion for me when the Chief Justice got down on his knees this morning and prayed.]

It is a pity, hon Chief Justice, that you did not have a microphone with you so that the whole of South Africa could hear what you were praying for. But, as a Christian, I also want to say that that was the correct thing you did this morning because this is what South Africa needs. We have to pray to ensure that there is hope for the future.

Kom ek sê vir u, agb President, as Christene wil ons ook sê dat as ons ons land wil genees, dan moet u maar 2 Kronieke 7:14 gaan lees, want die Here sê vir ons, as ons onself verontmoedig en ons sondes bely, dan sal Hy ons uit die hemel hoor en ons land genees. (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.*)

[Let me say to you, hon President, as Christians, we also want to say that if we want to heal our country, then we should read

2 Chronicles 7:14, for the Lord says to us that if we humble ourselves and confess our sins, then He will hear us from heaven and heal our land.]

Hon President, as the FF Plus, we say: Let's stop fighting for a better past; let's fight for a better future.

En in gebed sal ons oorwin. Baie geluk, en baie sterkte!

[Applous.] *(Translation of Afrikaans phrases follows.)*

[... and in prayer we will prevail. Congratulations, and good luck! [Applause.]]

Rev K R J MESHOE: Hon Chief Justice, hon Speaker, hon President, I stand on behalf of the ACDP to wish you God's best during this five-year term. But may I remind the Speaker, as I also congratulate her on being elected as Speaker of the National Assembly, that there are people out there who are not happy to hear about the South African Parliament, particularly the National Assembly, being a circus.

There are people out there who are saying that the decorum of Parliament should be restored. There are people out there who want to see leaders who respect one another, leaders who operate

in line with the Constitution, and leaders who understand that people who differ from you are not your enemies. Therefore, they would want to see order in this place. Those who refer to your past as a soldier know you as a person of order.

So, the ACDP says: Let the people of South Africa see that there is change in this House, that there is order. So, I congratulate you and hope that the expectations and wishes of South Africans are going to be realised.

To the President, we understood that there were things that you could not do earlier because you were an acting interim President but now you have been fully elected. We expect the President to show the strength that he did not show the first few years when he was acting. We expect the President to be tough on corruption.

Corruption is the number one giant facing South Africa, and we hope that the President, now having all the powers of the President, will be able to deal with corruption wherever it raises its head; that the President will know that he is not just the president of a political party, the ANC, but the President of the rest of South Africa. And may the expectations

of the international community and of South Africans in particular not be disappointed.

You would be surprised to know, Mr President, that there are people who are not members of the ANC who voted for you, because they hoped that if they gave you a chance you would deliver. My wish and prayer is that you will become bold, bold to act when you have to act. My prayer is that you will not fear the face of men. My prayer for you, Mr President, is that you will be like a living fish. You know that a dead fish follows the stream, and goes where the stream goes, but a living fish can turn against the stream and go where it wants to go.

So, I pray and I wish, Mr President, that you will show your strength, you will show courage, and you will show boldness; and, if there is corruption on your side, that you will act decisively; and when there is corruption on my left, that you will also act decisively. I pray that the next five years will become some of the best since the days of the late Mr Mandela. Thank you and God bless you. [Applause.]

Dr B H HOLOMISA: Madam Speaker, hon President and hon members
...

... mhlekazi unobhala ndize kuvuyisana nawe. Ndiqinisekile nekhehle apho likhoyo lithi, "Oh nimonyulile. Nguye uMongameli?"
(*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[... hon Secretary, I came here to congratulate you. I am sure that the old man where he is, is saying, "Oh you elected him. Is he the President?"]

Congratulations, Sir. I hope that in solving the problems of this country you will apply a nonpartisan approach. In that way you will get a lot of support from this House. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Mr M G E HENDRICKS: As-Salaamu-alaikum [Peace be upon you]. Hon Speaker, the liberation movement has delivered its best Speaker, it's delivered its best Deputy Speaker, and it has delivered the best President, In Shaa Allah [God willing]. I want to share with this House the words of Chief Albert Luthuli. He said, "Let my people go." This has a special meaning for Al Jama-ah. It means that the President of the country or the leader of the country must also listen to the voices of those from the liberation movement. I want to ask the President to do that and to ignore other voices. Ignore voices that want to spill blood and distract you from your very important way forward.

Al Jama-ah is the new kid on the block. Our forefathers started the liberation movement 325 years ago. They were the first fighters. I told the hon Julius Malema that and that the first fighters came from Malaysia. They came to conquer colonialism in Cape Town, and there's still some work to be done. We hope to make a contribution in that regard. Congratulations, Mr President. [Applause.]

Ms P DE LILLE: Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate you and the Deputy Speaker on your election this afternoon, and I want to promise you that I will behave. Mr President, I remember 25 years ago, when we first arrived in this House, that there was a relatively young man who was leading us in writing the final Constitution - and that was you. I'm not saying you're not young anymore. [Laughter.] During that time, Mr President, we were in a country with unprecedented hope. We only wanted the best for our country. In fact, the whole world joined us to bring an end to racial division and class division. Now, following a decade of despair, the formerly young man returns to Parliament to lead us. But what is weighing you down, Mr President, is the expectation of our people: the expectation that we will see a mature government, a government of integrity, a government that can deliver better services, a government that can deal with inequality and injustice.

So, I would like to congratulate you, Mr President, on your election to the first office of our land. I want to offer to you the support of GOOD and the love of GOOD. But the love is not unconditional, Mr President. You may get unconditional love from that side of the House, but we would like to see the whole government being accountable in a constructive way; in a way that can build this country, because the most vulnerable and the poor people in our country deserve better. I think the electorate has spoken and we must respect that.

I do hope that we can all agree that it was unacceptable that we had such a low voter turnout. We must interrogate why that was. God forbid that 25 years into our new democracy many of our people decided to stay at home. So, I'm sure, Mr President, we can make progress by making our people more responsive to our democracy and to participating. As GOOD we will be there to help. May God bless Africa and may God bless the leaders of Africa. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr B P SIBISI: Madam Speaker and the Deputy Speaker ...

... ngimi la ngifisa ukukhuluma ... (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[... I'm on my feet because I would like to speak ...]

... on behalf of the NFP president, V Z Magwaza.

Uthi, uyanibongela ngokuthi namhlanje ... (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[She says congratulations, for today ...]

... you have been elected as the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

Uthi, ufisa ukuthi lo msebenzi ningawubamba niwuphathise okwezikhali zamaNtungwa. (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[She hopes that you will hold and treat these positions with respect.]

To our elected, hon President, Matamela Ramaphosa ...

... uthi, uNkosikazi V Z kaMagwaza-Msibi uzizwa ethobekile wukuthi uphinde wathola ithuba elifana naleli lokuthi uqokwe bese uholo izwe. Uthi, abantu baseNingizimu Afrika bakhombise ukukwethemba. Ukhumbule Mongameli ukuthi akusibona abantu abangu-ANC kuphela abakhombise ukukwethemba. Ukhumbule Mongameli

kunabantu emakhaya la sisuka khona njengoba kuzoqala ubusika abangeke bawathole amanzi. Ukhumbule Mongameli ukuthi kunabantu abakuvotele bengenawo umhlaba. Ake silusheshise-ke udaba lomhlaba. Abantu emakhaya baswele bahluphekile, ungakushayi indiva lokho. Ukhumbule Mongameli ukunxusa ondunankulu ezifundazweni aholwa ngu-ANC, ngoba intuthuko bayiletha inkethabakhona. Kunezindawo la uma ungeyona i-ANC ongeke uyithole intuthuko. Yimpilo esesiyiphilile iminyaka engamashumi amabili nesihlanu. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[... Mrs Magwaza-Msibi says that it humbles her that you have been given yet another chance to be elected and lead the country. She says that South Africans have expressed their faith in you. You need to remember, Mr President, that it is not only members of the ANC who have expressed their trust in you. Please remember that there are people in the rural areas, where we come from, who won't have access to water this coming winter. Don't forget that there are people who voted for you, even though they don't have land. Let us please speed up the land issue. People in the rural areas are impoverished - don't turn a blind eye to that. Please remember to urge provincial premiers to render a fair service to all. There are places where, if you are not an ANC member, you will not receive services. This is the kind of life we have been living for the past 25 years.]

Now, as the NFP, we are saying, we want you to make a change and we want to see change.

Sikufisela inhlanhla, siyokwezeka kukhokonke oyokwenza okuyothuthukisa, ukhathalele abantu baseNingizimu Afrika. La okumele sikusekele khona, siyokusekela, la okuyobe kungahambi khona kahle, siyosho Mongameli ukuthi, lokhu akukuhle. Inhloso yethu siwu-NFP, sifisa ukubona izwe lethu iNingizimu Afrika lidlondlobala likhula ngisho nakwezomnotho. (*Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.*)

[We wish you all the best. We will support you in everything you do in order to improve the lives of South Africans. In supporting you, we will also point out where you do things correctly and where you do incorrectly. The NFP would like to see South Africa developing and even growing economically.]

We thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M NYHONTSO: Madam Speaker, Mr President, on behalf of the PAC, the party of land and revolution, we congratulate the President. In congratulating you, Mr President, we are happy that the Fifth Parliament saw that our land was in the hands of the wrong people. We hope and wish that the Sixth Parliament

will repossess and restore our land to its rightful owners.
Congratulations. [Applause].

Mnu V ZUNGULA: Ndithanda ukubulisa kuni nonke malungu
ahloniphekileyo. Tata uMongameli, ndicinga ukuba bonke abantu
baseMzantsi Afrika banovuyo ngalo mzuzu xa bebona iPalamente
inoxolo kwaye inocwangco. Le nto singayijonga phaya kwiJaji
eyiNtloko ethe yathandaza, yamema uThixo ukuze sikwazi ukuqhuba
ngale ndlela siqhube ngayo. Into esiyicelayo siyi-ATM yile, xa
ukhokela ilizwe uze ukhumbule ukuba iJaji eyiNtloko imise uThixo
phambi kwethu sisonke.

Kwezi ngxaki zikhoyo apha eMzantsi Afrika nelizwe liphela,
akukho namnye umntu onako ukuzisombulula eyedwa. Ezi ngxaki
zifuna ukuba sonke sihlangane singamaqela ezopolitiko. Sicela
ukuba uThixo akukhokele ukuze usihlanganise siyile Palamente,
ukuze sisebenzele abantu baseMzantsi Afrika. Abantu baseMzantsi
Afrika sebedlulile ekufuneni ithemba, bafuna ukusonjululwa
kweengxaki ezikhoyo. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs
follows.*)

[Mr V ZUNGULA: I would like to greet all hon members. Hon
President, I think all the people of South Africa are very happy
at this moment when they see peace and order in Parliament. This

we can see from the Chief Justice who prayed and invited God in so that we could proceed the way we did. What we ask as the ATM is this: When you lead the country you must remember that the Chief Justice placed God in front of all of us.

In all the problems we have in South Africa and the world at large, there is no one who can solve them alone. These problems need all political parties to work together. We ask God to lead you in order for you to unite us as this Parliament, so that we can work for the people of South Africa. The people of South Africa have passed the stage of wanting hope; they want solutions to the problems that exist.]

We are tired of having hope; we want practical solutions to the problems that we have in the country. As the ATM, we want to make a commitment to Parliament that we will put South Africa first, and if you also put South Africa first you will be working with us. I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, sir. I now call the hon Lekota.

[Interjections.] Order! Order!

Mr M G P LEKOTA: Madam Speaker, because I have been a presiding officer before, I think ... [Interjections.] ... I may venture

to give you advice on how to be a presiding officer.

[Interjections.] Well, I am not saying I am an expert. I am saying "I will venture" unless I am not allowed to do so. Am I allowed?

HON MEMBERS: No!

Mr M G P LEKOTA: Well, I am not allowed to venture, so I won't, Madam Speaker. Mr President, having congratulated the Speaker, let me just say I have not been a president before. I have not even been an acting president, so I will not venture to give you advice on how to do the task you have been given. I would like to congratulate you on this position. Like all citizens of our country, we will place our fate in your hands. We will pray and we will follow assiduously as you do your work, and we will provide what support we can give.

If we think we are about to be in trouble, we will indicate that to you, saying "We think that this is not right." But we will come and say that here and say that to you, not in some shebeen, or tavern or drinking place where you cannot hear what we think about that. I would like to say congratulations to you on your rise to this highest office of our land. You can count on all of us. Thank you, Sir. [Applause.]

Mr M P GALO: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, for this opportunity. At least today you didn't give us three minutes. Thank you for that. Hon President, I am sure you know that in each and every human being there are two fighting spirits, the positive one and the negative one. We will work tirelessly with you, hon President, to defeat the spirit of negativity inside our bodies, because, if you can defeat the spirit that is negative inside your body, you will be able to work for all South Africans. When you see a black person scavenging from the dustbin, you will know that you are not doing the correct thing. It cannot be correct that after 25 years of so-called democracy, black people in this country are still kissing the dust. There is something wrong.

Hon President, we are going to support you only when you assist black people in this country to be at the level of economic freedom that would satisfy their needs. Otherwise, hon President, it would be too late and the people of South Africa would have given you a last chance. [Interjections.] You and your ANC must do the correct thing. Lastly, hon President, we are in a coalition. Please don't forget the plea of the people of Matatiele. [Interjections.] Don't forget the people of Matatiele. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Galo ... Hon Galo, I am simply saying if you were a brand new member to the House I would not talk about your finger, but please remember the rules about finger-pointing. Next time control the finger. Hon members, may I ask that we suspend the House for three minutes. The bells will be rung to bring us all back. Thank you.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT 17:14 AND RESUMED AT 17:20.

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Thank you very much. The last party to speak will be the ANC. I now call the hon Gwede.

Mr S G MANTASHE: Amandla! Amandla! Thank you very much. On behalf of the ANC, I would like to congratulate the Speaker first, Mme Thandi, the Deputy Speaker ... don't do this to me ... [Laughter.] ... and the President. We are quite heartened by the fact that today we are co-operating. We hope that that will be the character of this Sixth Parliament and that we work together.

This doesn't mean that when you are co-operating you are captured; it just means we are working together with one objective, which is to build a better country - and that is the responsibility of all of us. Once we build that better country,

we will all accept the fact that a better country is good for the citizens of this country. That will be our focus.

From the ANC's side, we will work with all of you. But I want to appeal to all of you not to drag us into the mud, because when you drag us into the mud we will have to walk out of that mud.

[Interjections.] Once we get out of that mud, it will not go as smoothly as it was to drag us there.

We are quite excited that we got the support for President Cyril Ramaphosa. We must thank the South African people who voted us back to govern the country and to govern eight of the provinces. It was quite tight in Gauteng in electing a premier, but that went through. We hope that the support from our people is appreciated, and we will be expected to do the right thing.

We are committing ourselves here, as the ANC, that we will do the right thing. The ANC will serve its people. We will go and walk in the streets, not during the elections. As we move out of this Parliament, we will send all our people to go and serve the people of South Africa. That is our commitment.

Congratulations, President. We are quite happy that you are the President of the Republic. We are excited. We will support you

and we are committing ourselves to working hard and doing what is in the best interests of our people. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now call the hon President-Elect. [Applause.]

The PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Justice of our country and Deputy Chief Justice, Isithwalandwe uBaba u-Andrew Mlangeni who is here with us ... [Applause.] ... Members of Parliament, leaders of faith-based formations who are here with us, distinguished guests and fellow South Africans, I would like to start off on a wonderful, light note. Today is somebody's birthday. This person said to me: President, once you are confirmed, could you - as your very first presidential act - sing a happy birthday song for me? [Laughter.] That was from Ayanda Dlodlo who is celebrating her birthday today. [Applause.] I have perfected my singing, hon Malema, particularly in private. I said I would only sing for her if she disclosed her age to me. [Applause.] She did not want to disclose her age. So, I am not going to sing.

Hon members and fellow South Africans, I am truly honoured and humbled to have been elected to serve the people of our country

and, indeed, our country as President of the Republic of South Africa. This is a deep honour for me and I am humbled by this. It is a responsibility that I intend to discharge with the greatest of care, but also to the best of my ability. This is a responsibility that I undertake mindful of the needs, aspirations, hopes and expectations of the people of South Africa.

In this regard, I will seek to act and be the President of all South Africans, and not just the president of those who voted for the party that I lead and those who voted for the parties that are here. So, I will be the President for all South Africans and not just a president for the ANC and those who voted. [Applause.]

It has been two weeks since the people of our country went to the polls to elect the hon members who are now gathered in this House. The people of our country went to the polls in peace and with a great deal of pride and dignity. I stand here to applaud the masses of our people who braved terrible weather conditions, who braved all manner of challenges and difficulties to go out and vote and participate in the elections that have brought us all here today. Let us applaud them and thank them. [Applause.]

We all know that we had a hotly contested and often discordant election campaign. All political parties present here and those that could not win a seat did their utmost to undo each other, but the people of South Africa have had their say. In some cases, some of the parties did undo the others, but we are all here united as Members of Parliament to do what our people would like to see done.

Our people have spoken. They have spoken very clearly and they have also spoken quite emphatically. In its composition, this House is a reflection of the will of the people. Together, we are their representatives. I think, though, we should also regard ourselves as their champions.

Together, despite our different party affiliations, we carry a common mandate to build the nation our people yearn for, where all will be free, not just free from poverty, hunger and unemployment but free to feel secure, equal and able to lead a livelihood that will be able to support their households and their families.

Collectively, all of us who are here have a mandate to build a nation founded on the principles of social justice, solidarity and equality. We also have a mandate to build a nation that is

at peace with itself and the world. We have been given this responsibility on an overriding basis to revive our economy, to create jobs, to not only bring hope to the masses of our people, but to actualise that hope and make sure that indeed their aspirations are met.

We have also been given a responsibility to revive and rekindle the institutions that we have in our country, institutions that not only support democracy but institutions that advance the lives of our people. The people of this country expect us to work together, they expect us to collaborate, and they also expect us to build consensus and to effect change. They expect us to find solutions, solutions when people might believe that the difficulties are intractable, but they expect us to tackle those difficult issues and find solutions for them.

Certainly, they expect a robust exchange of views in this House. They understand that we may not often agree. They also know that we will differ quite a lot on a number of issues, but they also would like to see us dealing with each other with honour, dignity and respect. [Applause.] That is what our people expect. They also would like us to respect their wishes. The majority of people in our country want us to respect them.

As we debate here, they don't want to see a House that, as you said, hon Malema, could degenerate into chaos and disorder. They want to see a House - this House; their House - being a House of debate and robust discussion and not a House of chaos and disorder and underpinned by disrespect for one another.

As we enter the sixth democratic administration, please be assured of my personal commitment and the commitment of the incoming executive to fulfil these obligations of seeking consensus, of collaborating and of working together to find solutions to all the challenges that our country faces. Please be assured of our commitment to working with Parliament - with the National Assembly and yes, indeed, with the National Council of Provinces - with all parties represented here to create the conditions for meaningful social and economic transformation.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Chief Justice for presiding over the establishment of this new Parliament. But I also want to thank you, Chief Justice, for doing an unprecedented act of going down on your knees and praying, not only for this Parliament but also for our nation. [Applause.] The hon Groenewald could not hear his prayer, but, hon Groenewald, I heard the Chief Justice's prayer. Like you, I wish it was broadcast so that everyone in the land could hear what

prayer the Chief Justice was offering. And it is wonderful to have a Chief Justice who is not only a person deeply steeped in jurisprudence, but also a person deeply steeped in matters of faith. Thank you very much, Chief Justice. [Applause.]

Hon Maimane, thank you for your kind words. Your words about collaboration are going to underpin my work as President. My mandate is to build a social compact amongst all South Africans. I will be proceeding to do precisely that and also to extend and deepen the consultation - to work together with you and various other leaders of other parties who are represented here.

We will be doing so to ensure that we improve the lives of all South Africans. So, collaboration, Mr Maimane or hon Maimane, is my second name. I will be collaborating with you quite extensively. So, join me as I extend my hand of collaboration. [Applause.]

Hon Malema, thank you for your kind words of congratulations. I want to assure you that my interest in serving our people will not be derived from serving special interest groups or whoever they may be. You've named them. But whoever they may be, my mandate is derived from the masses of our people.

Like you, I have to speak to all South Africans and advance the interests of our people. Yes, I will be able to work with whomever - be they in business, be they be in community-based organisations. I will, like Madiba did, be able to walk and work with kings and queens, captains of industry and all and sundry, without losing the common touch of the masses of our people. That I will not do. [Applause.]

My focus, hon Malema, is going to be on advancing the interests of our people. When I was a trade unionist I was able to talk to the bosses and managers of various companies. As I did that my sole interest was to advance the interests of mine workers. In this case, it will be to advance the interests of the masses of our people, who still suffer under the burden of unemployment, the burden of inequality and the burden of poverty. That is going to be the driving lodestar that will lead me to do all those things in the interests of our people. I can assure you of that; no special interests, only the interests of our people as a whole - be assured. [Applause.]

A number of leaders have spoken and congratulated me, and I thank them for all that. Hon Groenewald: Yes, our people want hope, but they also want much more than hope. We need to get down to working to ensure that our people, indeed, can see that

we are addressing their needs and aspirations; so that they can see that, indeed, this is a government that is going to work for them.

I want to say I am prepared to work with the FF Plus in making sure that we build South Africa. And thank you for articulating your wish to work with us to build this South Africa so we can make South Africa the South Africa of our dreams. We want to live into the future, but we must also remember that the past should not define what should happen in the future. We must address that past in order for us to plot a way to the future. That is what we are going to do. [Applause.]

Rev Meshoe: Yes, you want tough leadership. Yes, there will be toughness because the problems that we confront are huge. They are immense. Yes, we are going to have to be tough and to make tough choices as well. We are going to have to ensure that as we address the needs of our people, we take difficult decisions. Some of those difficult decisions may be tough decisions against certain people and certain interest groups.

Rev Meshoe, I am a fisherman. Yes, I know you talked about a living fish that could turn upstream. As I go out to catch fish, that's precisely what I always observe. We will be able to be

good fishermen so that we can fully address the interests of our people; yes, also by turning upstream.

General Holomisa, you said that Madiba would be smiling from wherever he was, but I see Madiba smiling for all of us. He is not singling out a single individual. He is smiling for all of us as he sees this Parliament. This Parliament that he worked so hard for to help put together is now the Sixth Parliament, and that would please him immensely. Madiba, wherever you are, I know that your smile is for all of us.

O R Tambo, wherever you are, I know that as you look at us you are smiling with deep pleasure. Walter Sisulu, Mama Albertina and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela all look at us and say that we are on the right path. I think they would all say: Keep on the right path, continue to do the right things and work in a way that does not defile the image of this South Africa, a South Africa that they worked so hard to build.

Hon Hendricks, thank you very much for your congratulatory message. Yes, it is our intention that we all work together to achieve the great ideals that our people have. My dearest sister, hon Patricia de Lille: I am glad to hear that GOOD will

not only give support but will also offer love. I am so much in need of love. [Laughter.] Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Yes, we will make sure that, indeed, government does become accountable. We will work hard. You have been a great advocate for accountability. We will make sure that we do have a government that is not only accountable to the people of our country but also accountable for what it does. That we will ensure.

Hon Sibisi, speaking on behalf of uMama Magwaza Msibi, the leader of the NFP: Yes, you said you wanted to see change. Change is what you are going to see. This sixth administration is going to be about change. Our people yearn for change and change is what we are going to offer them. Thank you very much for your kind message.

The party of land and revolution, the PAC: Thank you very much for your very kind message of congratulations. The land question is what is on the table in this Parliament. It did not die with the Fifth Parliament. It is now here on this table and we are going to solve the land question. [Applause.]

Hon Zungu, you said, and correctly so, that our people want more than hope. I am able to join you in saying that we need to go beyond hope. We must build hope because hope should spring eternal in the hearts of our people. But our people cannot eat hope. Our people want more than hope, and we are going to work extremely hard to give them more than just hope.

Ntate Lekota, ke a leboha. (*Translation of Sesotho sentence follows.*)

[Thank you, hon Lekota.]

You say that the fate of our people is in my hands. I look at it differently. The fate of our people is in our collective hands here in this Parliament. [Applause.] All of us must see ourselves as holding the hopes, the aspirations and, yes, the fate of our people in our hands. What we do here is what should improve the lives of our people. You said that you had never been President before. My recollection is that you are president of Cope. [Laughter.]

O a rata kapa ha o rate o Mopresidente. Ke kopa hee monghadi wa ka, tseo tse o ntse o di bona o le Mopresidente wa Cope, ha eba dintle, o di fitise o di tlise mona ho nna, hore le nna ke kgone

ho ithuta tseo tse o di etsang hantle mane ho Cope. (*Translation of Sesotho paragraph follows.*)

[Whether you like it or not you are the president. I am therefore asking you, sir, in whatever good things you experience or do as the president of Cope, to please pass them on to me so that I can also learn from the good things that you do.]

So, both of us are presidents. I am president of the ANC and you are president of Cope. Maybe where we differ is that you have never been President of the country; I have.

Ke moo re fapanang teng. Ke tla o ruta tse ding; le wena o tla nthuta tse ding he. Ke a leboha ntate Lekota. (*Translation of Sesotho paragraph follows.*)

[That is where we differ. I will teach you some things; and you will teach me other things. Thank you, hon Lekota.]

Hon Galo, thank you very much for your very kind message as well. We will continue to fight for the interests and the rights of our people. You said the fighting spirits should be positive

and I join you in that. We want positive spirits, and I just wish that those positive spirits continue to prevail here.

I thank all the leaders of the political parties for the manner in which they expressed their congratulatory messages.

Nawe ke Gwede ... *(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)*

[You too, hon Gwede ...]

... Mantashe, thank you very much for your congratulatory message. For a minute you came to me and asked what you should say, but you found your words. Thank you very much for those wonderful words. [Interjections.]

Now, lastly, allow me then to thank you for all those wonderful messages of support and congratulations. [Interjections.]

Hhawu ngingakhohlwa kanjani ubaba uButhelezi. Hhawu ilungu elihloniphekile uButhelezi, Shenge ... *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[Ooh! How could I forget Mr Buthelezi? The hon Buthelezi, Shenge ...]

... you are the sage of this Parliament. There is no one who competes with you when it comes to age. There is no one in this Parliament who competes with you so far as experience and wisdom are concerned. You are a reservoir of wisdom. [Applause.]

The hon Buthelezi gave me his written message, and that was the reason that I nearly skipped mentioning him. It's a beautifully written message that I will cherish. I will cherish it because it is a message that is meant from the heart. I thank you for the wisdom that is embedded in this message.

Nginyabonga kakhulu Shenge ... *(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)*

[Thank you very much, Shenge ...]

... with all these wonderful words that you have expressed. I just wish that your wisdom could continue to be spread amongst all of us who are here. As the House in the Fifth Parliament got into disorder, you were the one sane and most experienced voice that sought to keep us together. I just wish that that continues in this Sixth Parliament. Thank you very much for your very kind words.

Allow me then to thank all of you, as Members of Parliament, in advance for all the work that we are all going to do. This is a word of congratulations to all of us, because by being here we have been singled out by the masses of our people to come and work for them.

So, this is a word of congratulations, but, at the same time, this is a call to arms and hard work. As we get engaged and involved in the robust debate and work that we are going to do, let us remember all the time that our people have stored a great deal of confidence and hope in us.

Lastly, allow me to congratulate the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker on their election. Today, we sit here in a House that has been made by our people, because our people have spoken. They have given us their clear mandate. It is now time for us to go to work and work for our people.

As for me, I commit myself to working very hard day and night, and, at the same time, working in the interests of our people. I am therefore humbled with this honour that has been bestowed on me to be President of the people of South Africa, as President of the Republic of South Africa. I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr President. Hon members, I know it has been a very long day. [Interjections.] Permit me to make an announcement. We wish to announce that upon leaving this House, hon members are requested to go straight to the steps of the National Assembly for a group photo of all of us. That group photo will be preceded by a photograph of the Chief Whip, the President and the presiding officers.

Hon members, this concludes the proceedings of the day. Members and guests are requested to remain in their places until the procession has left the Chamber. The procession will leave this House in the following order: the Serjeant-at-arms, the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the President-Elect, the Chief Justice and the Acting Secretary to Parliament.

The House Adjourned at 17:52.

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