National Treasury has made a number of recommendations to improve the retention of investigators within the ICD. These include that appointments of investigators be made at provincial rather than national level, and that the recruitment criteria of investigators are relaxed such that investigators do not have to have a legal degree. Additional funding has also been made available for 2007-08 to upgrade the investigator posts. National Treasury is not convinced by the argument of the ICD that they cannot recruit and retain staff due to their inability to effectively compensate them. The annual growth rate of the ICD over the 2007-08 MTEF is 18,8% which is much higher than the annual growth rate for national government of 7,7% over this same period. In addition, the average annual growth rate for compensation of employees in the ICD over the past 6 years is 12%, and this will increase even further to 20% over the 2007-08 MTEF.

National Treasury is also concerned about the increasing backlog of cases. In particular, National Treasury noted that the ICD only reports on the cases received and finalised within 180 days in its Annual Report and not on the status of backlog cases. Of the 5 541 backlog cases as at 31 March 2005, only 179 (1,6%) were finalised during the 2005-06 financial year. Of the new cases for 2005-06, 23% were finalised during that year. Case backlogs are thus continuously increasing. National Treasury also questioned the case loads of investigators who deal with about 51 cases per year (or about 4) per month.

3. Presentation by the ICD on the 2007-08 Budget

3.1. 2007-08 Budget

The budget of the ICD increased by 48% in 2007-08 in comparison with the 2005-06. The most substantial increase has occurred in the Investigations of Complaints Programme. The ICD provided a provincial breakdown of allocations to the provinces which sees the largest allocation going to KwaZulu-Natal (R6 million) and the smallest allocation going to the Northern Cape (R3,6 million). An amount of R2 million is available for each of the two satellite offices which will be established in Richards Bay and Mthatha. In total, the provinces will receive R46,1 million which is 57% of the total allocation. National Office will receive R34,7 million.

The ICD stated that because they did not receive their requested allocation for 2007/08 from National Treasury, they need to reprioritise expenditure for this financial year. This includes for example, opening only two of the envisaged 12 satellite offices during this year. The ICD stated, however, that the R3,9 million that they received is actually only enough to open one satellite office, but they have reduced the optimal number of 7 staff to 4 staff for each satellite and will thus open up 2 offices with funding in the 2007-08 financial year. Each satellite offices will have 1 administrative assistant, 1 principal investigator, 1 senior investigator and 1 case analyst.

3.2. Expenditure Report for 2006-07

Underspent funds for 2006-07 (which he ICD expects to be about R2,4 million) largely due to vacancies, including the post of Executive Director, will be shifted through virement to goods and equipment. There is an over- expenditure of equipment of about R300 000 and of software of about R500 000 and funds will be shifted to these areas.

After compensation of employees, expenditure on travel is the next highest expenditure item. Expenditure on travel increased from R4,1 million in 2005-06 to R5 million in 2006-07. Expenditure for the Government Motor Transport also increased from R1,6 million in 2005-06 to R2,3 million in 2006-07. Of the total expenditure for travel and subsistence of R5 million, R1,52 million was spent by the National Office which has 80 staff and 6 investigators from the Anti-Corruption Command (ACC). In terms of provincial travel and subsistence expenditure, the Limpopo office spent the most on travel (R532 000) while the Gauteng offices spent the least (R130 000).

3.3. 2005-06 Auditor General Report

The Chief Financial Officer reiterated that the disclaimer received in the 2005-06 Auditor General Report was not due to poor financial administration but rather due to a lack of personnel capacity. The number of staff within the ICD as a whole has increased (thus increasing the number of administrative transactions) but the number of administrative support staff has not been increased. In addition, she stated that when the administrative staff are trained they are poached by other departments who can pay higher entry level salaries. The CFO reported progress made on the various qualified areas in the 2005-06 Auditor General Report. These include progress with:

- clearing of the Suspense Accounts—The outstanding balance of R1,2 million has been reduced to R326 000. Two staff members have been allocated to this function. The ICD stated that they want to clear the account totally by the end of the 2006-07 financial year
- taff debtors- The total remaining outstanding debt is R107 thousand. The ICD hopes to open up a Debtors Section in 2007-08
- the Supply Chain Management Policy, which was in draft form has been approved.

3.4. Programmes

Programme 1: Administration

Filling of vacancies remains a serious challenge in the ICD, as well as the lack of career pathing. The Executive Director post was advertised twice in 2006-07 and has been vacant for two years but has not been filled to date. The ICD has asked National Treasury for an increase of 17 additional staff members which will increase their staff complement from 231 to 248 staff in 2007-08. Of these additional 17 staff members, 14 are requested for the provinces (including the satellite offices). Three new financed posts are requested to staff the new Debtors Section at the National Office.

In 2006-07, 65% of ICD staff were allocated to the provinces and 35% were allocated to the National Office. If the new staff allocations are accepted, 33% of staff will be at the National Office and 67% will serve in the provincial offices in 2007-08.

A problem with the management of leave was identified. Quarterly management meetings have been implemented to train administers to effectively manage leave and monthly reports are been sent to National Office to ensure compliance.

Key priorities in this programme for 2007-08 are to:

- complete the audit to use Programme three staff that have LLB's as investigators, especially in terms of Domestic Violence Act and Class IV (misconduct) cases
- establish a Debtor Section in Finance from 1 April 2007
- establish an Asset Management Unit in Supply Chain Management for purpose of the segregation of duties
- maintain an Asset Register
- decentralise more financial duties as and when funds become available
- maintain the use of the monthly leave registers in all the offices.

Programme 2: Investigation of Complaints

The targets for investigation of complaints were revised in 2005-06 on the recommendation of the Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security, in the light of the fact that the ICD was not managing to reach their targets. These reductions are still not sufficient to ensure that the ICD can reach its targets and the various indictors will now be modified. The strategic Plan has been transformed to take these issues into account and new strategic objectives have been set.

During 2006-07, the ICD managed to realise two out of its three revised targets for this programme. The target for finalising misconduct cases within 90 days was not reached, but the targets for finalising deaths and criminal cases within 180 days were met.

The ICD acknowledges the problem of backlog of cases. It has initiated a project to address this problem. It was reported that 5 565 backlog cases, out of the approximately 10 000 cases that exist, have now been finalised. This success has been attributed to the business re-engineering process embarked on during 2006-07 that has identified the main causes of the backlogs. These are attributed to high workload of investigators, problems with the Vision 2005 strategy which includes the investigation of service-related complaints, and lack of uniformity in operating procedures between the provinces. Service-related complaints will now be undertaken by the provincial secretariats. Strategies to address this backlog include ongoing research by the Proactive Oversight Unit, implementation of the business process re-engineering plan, utilising a project based approach and biannual audits by the national office.

There are 71 investigators who deal with between 5 000 to 6 000 complaints per year. These investigators first need to be vetted before they can embark on their duties. Thirty three convictions were achieved in 2006-07.

The ICD is investigating establishing a call centre to facilitate the reporting of cases. This will alleviate the excuse given by the SAPS that they have problems in reaching the ICD investigators, which results in investigators been called to crime scenes late. In addition, disciplinary hearings have now become the responsibility of Station Commissioners. Thus the provincial heads of the ICD can now liaise with the Station Commissioners directly in order to follow up on the implementation of ICD recommendations. This will improve the ability of the ICD to monitor implementation of recommendations, particularly those regarding disciplinary hearings for SAPS members, by the police.

The Anti-Corruption Command (ACC) had a staff complement of four posts during 2006-07. The Command received 64 complaints of corruption during that financial year of which 31 cases were substantiated and required investigation. There are currently at least two or three vacancies within the ACC.

Key challenges faced under this programme include:

- distances that need to be travelled to attend crime scenes and for investigations
- late notification of SAPS with regard to crime scenes
- reluctance of SAPS management to implement recommendations with regard to disciplinary matters
- retention of skilled investigators especially to the ACC.

Priorities for 2007-08 include:

- the upgrading of investigators salaries
- the establishment of two satellite offices, (Richards Bay and Mthatha)
- implementing the revised targets developed from the business process project
- review the protocol with Municipal Police Services with regard to the investigation of criminal offences
- compile an investigation manual for newly appointed investigators.

Programme 3: Information Management System

In terms of performance for 2006-07 only 80% of all cases were processed within 48 hours. Two research reports were conducted—on the Investigations of deaths as a result of police action in Kwazulu-Natal, Gauteng and the Eastern Cape, and Compliance with ICD recommendations by the SAPS (which will be completed on 1 April 2007). One workshop was still to be held, on 28 March 2007. A number of station audits were completed in the various provinces to determine the level of compliance with the Domestic Violence Act (DVA).

In terms of the DVA, the ICD received 46 cases of non-compliance and 58 cases of non-compliance during the first and second semesters respectively. Both re-

ports have been produced and the second report will be tabled in Parliament soon.

Steps have been taken to improve communication with complainants through the use of technologies such as SMS's. Communication between National Office and the provincial offices will be improved through the use of the Intranet which will go live in April 2007.

Atotal of 4 950 cases were registered by the ICD during 2006-07 with the highest number of cases registered in Gauteng. The highest decrease of cases occurred in the Western Cape where cases reported to the ICD decreased by 36% in comparison with 2005-06. The highest increase of cases was in the North West province. A total of 50% of registered cases were misconduct cases, 33% related to criminal action, 14% were related to deaths and 3% were in connection to the DVA. Cases registered in terms of the DVA increased by 78% in comparison to 2005-06. The highest number of death cases took place in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, but the highest increase in death case from the previous year was in the Western Cape (increased by 29%). However, the total number of deaths in police custody was reduced in comparison with 2005-06. In 2005-06 there were 285 cases of deaths in police custody and in 2006-07 there were 248 of these cases reported. Deaths as a result of police action, in contrast, increased from 315 cases in 2005-06 to 439 cases in 2006-07.

Challenges include:

- There are specific challenges with regard to the Domestic Violence Act including the shortage of staff to do DVA station audits and cell inspections. The ICD is receiving only a fraction of the DVA complaints
- Lack of toll free number and national call centre to lodge complaints
- ICD cannot ensure that the recommendations to the SAPS are implemented and applications for exemption are not coming from the police

Priorities for 2007-08 include:

- ICD 10-year celebration
- research workshop where it is envisaged they will together with the SAPS design a strategy to decrease deaths in police custody as a result of police action
- conduct research on the Domestic Violence Act.
- implement Portfolio Committee recommendations with regard to the DVA, cell inspections and station audits
- deploy monitors to facilitate cell inspections and stations audits and task investigators to investigate DVA cases
- forge relationships with NGOs that deal with domestic violence issues
- improve communication with the SAPS and the Municipal Police Services (MPS).

4. Committee Concerns:

The following are some of the key issues of concern raised by members of the Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security on the

2007-08 budget allocation of the ICD, and the expenditure report for 2006-07 and the responses of the ICD to these concerns:

Management of leave: Members raised concern on the problem with the management of leave which was only identified during the 2005-06 audit process.

The ICD stated that the National Office had presumed that the leave information captured by the provinces was correct. Training is being provided for the relevant staff and other steps are being taken to ensure uniformity in the provinces.

Satellite offices: Members are particularly concerned about the timeframes for the establishment of the satellite offices.

The ICD stated that they will be opened on 1 April 2007 but that much depends on whether the submission for additional posts requested from the Minister, is accepted. The Minister would attend to this request in the week of this same meeting. Members reiterated their concern that the establishment date of 1 April 2007was highly unlikely to materialise, and the ICD reluctantly acknowledged that the posts for the satellite offices cannot be advertised until these have been approved by the Minister and thus they will indeed not be opened by 1 April 2007.

Travel: Members questioned how many times per year ICD members travel overseas. The ICD responded that overseas trips are funded purely by donors and do not come out of the ICD budget.

Staff debtors: Members requested clarification on whether untraceable debtors will be written off, what the time frames are to relinquish debts and what occurs if the debtor does not have the funds to pay back his or her debt.

The ICD stated that at present they do not have a Debtors Section, but hopefully they will be able to appoint staff to this section if their request to the Minister of Safety and Security for additional staff is approved, and that they expect this section to be established by 1 April 2007. Decisions around debts are made on a case by case basis and a letter of demand is sent to debtors if they refuse to pay. It is in the discretion of the head of department to write off the debt of those that are too poor to pay.

Virement: Members raised the concern that money is moved through virement from compensation of employees (salaries) and yet the ICD states that it has vacancies and requires more staff. In addition, a large proportion of staff are not investigators (73%) and only a minority of new posts are for investigators. Until this problem is addressed the ICD will not be able to effectively fulfil its investigative responsibilities.

Retention Strategy: Members enquired about the retention strategy of the ICD.

The ICD stated that they have a flat growth structure which limits the possibilities for promotion. This means that it is difficult to retain staff and this leads to a high vacancy rate. The ICD offers performance bonuses but they cannot afford to make counter-offers if staff get offers from by other departments.

High number of support staff: Members stated that the ratio of support staff to investigators is about 4:1 which is disproportionate, and that even within the provincial offices there are too many support staff in comparison with investigators.

The ICD stated that, in the future, they would like the provincial offices to manage their own budgets and thus decentralise administrative staff in this regard, but this is not a financially feasible option at present. It will cost about R4 million per province to implement this initiative. The ICD also stated that after scrutinising their organogram, they have proposed a restructuring exercise whereby case analysts and monitors become investigators. If this proposal is approved, it will increase the number of investigators to 110. No additional resources will be required to implement this plan.

The Anti-Corruption Command (ACC): Members queried the placement of the ACC at National Office.

The ICD stated that it is not the intention for the ACC to remain at National Office permanently but rather for this function to be decentralised to the provinces. However, at present this is not feasible and they will continue to function in the foreseeable future as a national reaction unit that assists all the provinces.

Cases per investigator and backlog cases: Members queried whether investigators are performing optimally when it seems as if they have to deal only with about one new case and eight backlog cases per month per investigator.

The ICD stated that the action plan that they are putting in place for 2007-08 with revised time frames for resolution of cases should begin to show better results. The opening of the satellite stations would also assist in reducing the time spent by investigators in travelling. Members also raised the problem that misconduct cases must be prioritised and dealt with effectively because if the police get away with misconduct they are then encouraged to embark on more serious criminal or corrupt activities. The oldest backlog case dates back to 2002-03.

5. Recommendations

The Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security makes the following recommendations:

Programme 1: Administration

The ICD must report to the committee on all efforts taken to fill the Executive Director post, which needs to be filled as a matter of urgency.

The ICD must forward to the committee the information on all the current vacant posts within the ICD immediately after the tabling of this report.

The ICD must inform the committee, immediately after the tabling of this report, on the status of their proposal to the Minister of Safety and Security and National Treasury with regard to an additional 17 posts for 2007-08.

The ICD must keep the committee informed on the status of the establishment of the Debtors Section at National Office, and other measures to strengthen support services at National Office, in

terms of ensuring that staff fulfil their functions effectively.

Before the ICD presents its 2008-09 budgetary requirements to National Treasury in June/July, they should present their plans to the committee, in order for the committee to give input into their prioritisation and motivations to Treasury.

The Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security did not receive a copy of the latest 2007-2010 Strategic Plan of the ICD, despite requesting this documentation. While the committee understands that according to parliamentary requirements the Strategic Plan needs to be tabled only a few days before the particular Budget Vote debate, it would greatly assist the members in their oversight function if in 2008-09, they receive this documentation prior to the hearings with the ICD on budget.

Programme 2: Investigation of Complaints

The ICD must report on the status of backlog cases in their 2006-07 and all subsequent annual reports. The ICD must provide the committee with a comprehensive action plan on how they will eradicate the backlogs.

The ICD must report to the committee on the steps that will be taken to improve the rate of finalisation of cases by investigators.

The Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security will follow up on the status of the establishment of the two satellite offices during the 2007-08 financial year. The ICD must advise the committee when the posts for the satellite offices are advertised, and keep the committee informed as to the progress of filling these posts.

The ICD must inform the committee on steps taken and progress made in filling vacancies and retaining staff, particularly in the case of investigators. This includes progress in filling vacant posts in the Anti-Corruption Command.

The ICD must provide the committee with a report outlining the ratio of cases per investigator for 2006-07, and the number of finalised cases for each investigator. In addition, the ICD must provide the committee with the total number of female investigators per province. This information must be provided immediately after the tabling of this report.

The committee supports the proposal to use case analysts/monitors as investigators. The ICD should also consider using the current investigators to do some of the domestic violence station audits and cell inspections so that when they are busy with investigations in a particular area, they can embark on these additional functions at the same time.

Programme 3: Information Management and Research

The top management of the SAPS must ensure that all members of the service take the work of the ICD seriously, and provide the ICD with the support needed to ensure that they can perform their functions effectively. This must include:

- ensuring that SAPS members implement fair recommendations made by the ICD, particularly those that recommend disciplinary action against members of the service, and together with the ICD, monitoring implementation thereof
- ensuring that the ICD investigators are promptly notified of crime scenes falling within the ambit of their work; and
- allowing access to ICD staff for cell inspections and other audit procedures.

The committee will also support initiatives taken by the ICD itself, to ensure improved follow up on recommendations and improved access of the SAPS to investigators. This includes for example, direct liaison with Station Commissioners with regard to disciplinary cases (which will now due to SAPS restructuring occur at station level); and improved use of technology to ease communication.

Operational recommendations made to the SAPS must be given to the Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security. The committee has requested the timeous delivery of reports for the past three years. The ICD should report to the committee annually on the status of their reports, including both their qualitative reports containing recommendations for the SAPS, as well as the Domestic Violence reports. Copies of the various reports should be sent, not only to Parliament, but also directly to the committee secretary.

The quality of the ICD reports must be improved, as they are generally of a poor quality. These are used by members to inform their oversight work, and thus should be of an acceptable standard.

The Community Police Forums (CPFs) should be utilised by the ICD for the marketing of their services and for improving the linkage between the community and the CPFs. The ICD must report to the Committee on efforts taken in this regard.

6. Conclusion

The Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security supports the budget allocation of the Independent Complaints Directorate for 2007-08 and the 2007 MTEF. In particular, the committee supports the decision made by National Treasury to provide funds to phase in the implementation of satellite offices over a few years, in the light of the historical inability of the ICD to effectively fill vacant posts. The committee also supports the additional allocations made to upgrade investigator and lower level support staff posts, in recognition of the fact that this will assist in the retention of these categories of staff.

Report to be considered.

TUESDAY, 29 MAY 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

The Speaker and the Chairperson

1. The Speaker and the Chairperson have on 12 April 2007 signed an agreement between the Parliament of South Africa and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) concerning the 118th Assembly of the IPU and related matters, as follows:

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INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARLIAMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION CONCERNING THE 118th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION AND RELATED MEETINGS

In conformity with the decision taken by the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at its 179th session on 17 October 2006, the Inter-Parliamentary Union will hold its 118th Assembly and related meetings in Cape Town (South Africa) from 13 to 18 April 2008, at the invitation of the Parliament of South Africa.

The respective obligations of the Parliament of South Africa and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in connection with the organisation of this Assembly are defined in the Articles of this Agreement, complemented by the provisions in the attached Additional Protocol.

General programme

Art. 1 Subject to any change resulting from decisions which might be taken by the Union's governing bodies and from the requirements of the situation, the work programme of the 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings will be as shown in Section 1 of the Additional Protocol.

Art. 2 The IPU Secretariat will immediately inform the Parliament of South Africa of any eventual changes and their implications for the organisation of the session.

Place of meetings

Art. 3 The Inaugural Ceremony, the meetings of all the Union's bodies as well as the meetings of the ASGP will take place at the Cape Town International Conference Centre.

Preliminary consultations

Art. 4 With a view to preparing for the organisation of the meetings, the Director of the Division of Assembly Affairs and Relations with Member Parliaments visited South Africa from 2 to 6 October 2006, in agreement with the host Parliament.

Invitation and visas

Art. 5 In conformity with the Union's principles, an Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union can only be held if all the IPU Members/National Groups duly affiliated or the members of a Parliament requesting affiliation to the Organisation, as well as the observers on the list established by the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, are invited and if their representatives are assured of receiving the necessary visas for participation.

Accommodation and maintenance expenses of delegates

Art. 6 Delegates to the 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings are responsible for their own accommodation and maintenance expenses in Cape Town.

Sharing of responsibilities between the host Parliament and the IPU Secretariat

Art. 7 The host Parliament, in accordance with the terms of the Additional Protocol, undertakes:

(a) To deal with all questions concerning delegates' stay in Cape Town, particularly as regards:
- Reservation of hotel accommodation;
- Welcome and transportation;
- Various services and facilities provided for delegates;
- Security;

(b) To defray the accommodation expenses of the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Secretary General of the Union, as well as their transport in Cape Town;

(c) To defray the living expenses of the permanent and temporary staff of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as well as to facilitate their transport in Cape Town;

(d) To provide the necessary local staff to meet the requirements of the various bodies of the Union during the session and to enable the IPU Secretariat to assume the responsibilities which devolve upon it;

(e) To provide the rooms needed for the meetings of the various bodies of the Union;

(f) To provide the necessary offices for the Secretariat of the Assembly;

(g) To make available the material and equipment as specified in the Additional Protocol.

Art. 8 The Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union shall be responsible for the organisation of the Secretariat of the Assembly and related meetings; it undertakes:

(a) To assist the host Parliament, on request, in preparing the English and French versions of texts which the Parliament is required to issue (e.g. invitation and information notes) and to advise it on all organisational matters, bearing in mind past experience;

(b) To prepare the basic text for the Assembly Guidebook to be printed and distributed by the host Parliament;

(c) To assist the President of the Assembly and the Presidents or Chairpersons of the various bodies;

(d) To prepare and distribute all the official documents of the session, including the convocations of the various bodies of the Union;

(e) To ensure translation of the Assembly documents from and into English and French, and interpretation into English, French, Arabic and Spanish;

(f) To provide certain equipment and material as specified in the Additional Protocol to this Agreement;

(g) To prepare, reproduce and publish the provisional and final lists of delegates and the provisional summary records of the Assembly.

Cooperation between the Parliament of South Africa and the IPU Secretariat to assure the smooth running of the Assembly

Art. 9 The host Parliament and the IPU Secretariat will work in close cooperation at all levels in order to ensure the smooth running of the session.

On behalf of the
Parliament of South Africa

Baleka MBETE
Speaker
of the National Assembly

Mninwa Johannes MAHLANGU
Chairperson
of the National Council of
Provinces

On behalf of the
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Anders B. JOHNSSON
Secretary General

City ....Cape Town..... Date: .....12 April..... 2007

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ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARLIAMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION CONCERNING THE 118th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION AND RELATED MEETINGS

Section 1

Timetable of meetings
(cf. Art. 1 of the Agreement)

Subject to decisions that might be taken by the competent bodies of the Union, the meetings in Cape Town will be held in accordance with the following timetable:

	Time	Meeting
hursday 0 April	3 – 6 p.m.	• Executive Committee*
riday 1 April	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	• Executive Committee*
	3 – 5 p.m.	• Executive Committee*
	5 - 6 p.m.	• Gender Partnership Group*
aturday 2 April	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	• Executive Committee*
	3 – 5 p.m.	• Executive Committee*
	5 – 6 p.m.	• Gender Partnership Group*
unday 3 April	8 - 9.15 a.m.	• Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians*
	9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	• Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	• Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians*
	2.30 - 6.30 p.m.	• Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
	3 – 6 p.m.	• Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians*
	7.30 p.m.	• Inaugural Ceremony of the 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings
Monday 4 April	8 – 9 a.m.	• Assembly Steering Committee*
	9 – 10 a.m.	• Governing Council (Election of the President of the Assembly, Questions relating to Members and Report on the activities of the Executive Committee)
	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	• First Committee (Peace and International Security): Presentation of the report of the Rapporteurs and of the draft resolution; debate; eventual designation of a drafting committee
	10.15 a.m. – 1 p.m.	• Assembly: Election of the President, followed by plenary debate
	10.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	• Committee on Middle East Questions*

	2.30 – 6.30 p.m.	• Assembly: Continuation of the plenary debate and at 4.30 p.m. consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item • Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians*
	2.30 – 4.30 p.m.	• First Committee (Peace and Security): continuation of the debate or drafting committee
	4.30 - 6.30 p.m.	• First Committee (Peace and Security): Start or continuation of the drafting committee* • Second Committee (Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade): Presentation of the report of the Rapporteurs and of the draft resolution; debate
Tuesday 15 April	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	• Assembly: continuation of the plenary debate • Second Committee (Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade): continuation of the debate and eventual designation of a drafting committee • First Committee (Peace and Security): Continuation of the drafting committee*
	9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	• Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians • Group of Facilitators for Cyprus*
	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.	• First Committee (Peace and Security): Continuation and end of the drafting committee*
	2.30 - 6.30 p.m.	• Third Committee (Democracy and Human Rights): Presentation of the report of the Rapporteurs and of the draft resolution; debate; eventual designation of a drafting committee • Eventual drafting committee on the emergency item* • Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians*
	4.30 - 6.30 p.m.	• Assembly: continuation of the debate
Wednesday 16 April	9 – 11 a.m.	• Third Committee (Democracy and Human Rights): continuation of the debate or start of drafting committee*
	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	• Second Committee (Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade): Start of the drafting committee*
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	• Panel
	9.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	• Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians*
	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	• Third Committee (Democracy and Human Rights): start or continuation of the drafting committee*
	11.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	• Eventual drafting committee on the emergency item*
	2.30 - 3.30 p.m.	• Meeting of the Bureau of the First Committee (Peace and Security)*
	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.	• Interactive panel discussion
	2.30 - 5.30 p.m.	• Second Committee (Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade): Continuation and end of the drafting committee * • Third Committee (Democracy and Human Rights): Continuation and end of the drafting committee * • International Humanitarian Law Committee (Bureau of the Third Standing Committee)*
	3.30 - 6.30 p.m.	• First Committee (Peace and Security): Adoption of the report and draft resolution
	5.30 - 6.30 p.m.	• Meetings of the Bureaux of the: - Second Committee (Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)* - Third Committee (Democracy and Human Rights)*
Thursday 17 April	9 - 11 a.m.	• Second Committee (Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade): Adoption of the report and draft resolution
	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	• Assembly: continuation of the debate
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	• Executive Committee*
	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	• Third Committee (Democracy and Human Rights): Adoption of the report and draft resolution
	2 - 5 p.m.	• Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians*

	2.30 - 6.30 p.m.	•	Assembly: continuation of the plenary debate
	2.30 - 3.30 p.m.	•	Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
	3.30 - 4.30 p.m.	•	Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians*
	4.30 - 5 p.m.	•	Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
	5 – 7 p.m.	•	Committee on Middle East Questions*
Friday 18 April	8.30 - 10 a.m.	•	Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians*
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	•	Governing Council (including the presentation of some of the reports of the subsidiary bodies, such as the Human Rights Committee, etc.)
	3 – 4 p.m.	•	Continuation of Governing Council
	4 – 6 p.m.	•	Closing session of the Assembly: Reports of the Committees, and adoption of the resolutions and decisions; Closure of the 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Section 2

Preliminary consultations
(cf. Art. 4 of the Agreement)

2. It is important that, at the time of these preliminary consultations, all the meeting rooms, offices and facilities needed for the Assembly be visited and that meetings be arranged with those responsible for running the various services involved.

Section 3

Invitations and visas
(cf. Art. 5 of the Agreement)

3.1 The host Parliament will send on 13 December 2007 the invitation to the IPU Member Parliaments based on a list of addresses provided by the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. In agreement with the host Parliament, the IPU Secretariat may forward the invitations to certain Member Parliaments.

3.2 Together with the invitation, the host Parliament will send a circular containing, in particular, all relevant information on:

(a) Reservation of hotel rooms and their prices;
(b) Procedure to be followed for obtaining visas;
(c) Currency regulations;
(d) Health regulations for visitors coming from different continents;
(e) Climate;
(f) The general programme of official receptions.

3.3 The host Parliament may also send with the circular other material designed to help its own services in welcoming delegates, such as luggage tags, stickers, etc.

3.4 The invitations to the international organisations and other bodies invited by the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to follow the work of the Assembly as observers (the list of which will be established by the 181st session of the Governing Council), will be forwarded by the IPU Secretariat. For this purpose, the host Parliament will send 200 copies of the invitation to the IPU Secretariat. This figure will be increased by the appropriate number of copies if

the IPU Secretariat is requested to forward invitations to certain IPU Member Parliaments/National Groups.

3.5 The host Parliament will make arrangements for the granting of visas free of charge to persons attending the session as:

(a) Delegates of regularly affiliated IPU Member Parliaments/National Groups;
(b) Delegates of Parliaments which have submitted a request for affiliation;
(c) Advisers, experts and secretariat staff officially attached to delegations;
(d) Observers;
(e) Special guests;
(f) Members of the IPU Secretariat;
(g) Persons accompanying those referred to in (a) to (f) above.

3.6 These visas will be issued by representatives, consulates and diplomatic missions of South Africa abroad.

3.7 In exceptional circumstances and in cases when delegates from countries in which South Africa does not have diplomatic representation have not been able to obtain a visa in advance, entry will be granted at the airport of arrival in South Africa.

Section 4

Services for delegates
(cf. Art. 7(a) of the Agreement)

4.1 With a view to facilitating contacts with the IPU Secretariat, the host Parliament should have a fax and e-mail address which it is requested kindly to communicate in advance to the Secretariat.

4.2 The host Parliament will make the necessary arrangements for the accommodation of approximately 1,300 persons in Cape Town. It will centralise all requests for the reservation of hotel rooms.

4.3 The host Parliament will organise a welcome service for delegates on their arrival at the airport in Cape Town and will provide transportation for them from the airport to their hotels and vice versa, as well as between their hotels and the place of the Assembly and for all official events.

4.4 The host Parliament will organise a team for the registration and information service for delegates (see Section 7.1(a) for staff). This service will include 180 pigeonholes for the delegations. Two large notice-boards will be located at the registration and information service to indicate the place and time of the official and informal meetings during the Assembly.

4.5 The host Parliament will issue, on the basis of the text prepared by the IPU Secretariat, an Assembly Guidebook which will be distributed to delegates at the time of their registration by the IPU's registration and information service.

4.6 The registration and information service may, at the request of participants and observers, place in the pigeonholes of delegations, messages and communications between them related to practical aspects of the working of the session.

The host Parliament will provide tables in an appropriate place where delegations wishing to make known to the members of the Union their point of view on any other question may leave relevant documents.

4.7 The host Parliament will organise a typing pool for delegates (see Section 7.1(b) for staff, Section 9.1(h) for premises and Section 10.1(c) for material).

4.8 The host Parliament will provide various facilities for delegates on the Assembly premises: telephone, access to the Internet and e-mail, fax and telex service, bank, post office, travel agency, first-aid station, bar and restaurant.

4.9 The host Parliament will appoint an official photographer for the Assembly who will sell copies of the photographs taken during the various meetings and at the official receptions.

The host Parliament, in coordination with the IPU Information Officer, will compile two photo albums retracing the high points of the week. These albums, one of which will enrich the Union's archives, will be handed over at the end of the Assembly to the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and to the IPU Secretariat. A meeting between the IPU Press Officer and the person in charge of the photographic service should take place before the start of the Assembly.

4.10 The host Parliament will take the necessary measures to ensure the security of participants in all places during the Assembly. The security measures will be as discreet as possible and should not hinder the free movement of delegates nor prejudice the public nature of the debates of the Assembly, Governing Council and Standing Committees.

4.11 To facilitate contacts among the participants and supervision of access to the premises, the Registration and Information Service will provide delegates with identity badges when they register.

Section 5

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Secretary General of the Union
(cf. Art. 7(b) of the Agreement)

5. The host Parliament will provide appropriate accommodation, as well as a car with driver, for the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and for the IPU Secretary General during their official stay in Cape Town. The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the IPU Secretary General will be responsible for their other expenses.

Section 6

Provisions concerning the staff of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
(cf. Art. 7(c) of the Agreement)

6.1 The host Parliament will defray the living expenses of the Assembly staff brought in by the IPU and ASGP. The number of such persons will not exceed 105 under normal circumstances. The precise figure of mission days will be provided to the host Parliament at the latest six weeks before the opening of the Assembly.

6.2 This arrangement will cover accommodation in a hotel, if possible, close to the Assembly site, and payment (in local currency) of a subsistence allowance equal to half of the official United Nations per diem during the official stay of these persons in Cape Town. The average length of official mission for the IPU staff is 10 days.

6.3 The host Parliament will facilitate the transport of the Union's staff during their official stay in Cape Town; for this purpose, buses, minibuses or cars will be provided, if necessary, to transport them between their hotels and the place of the Assembly.

6.4 The host Parliament will make available a car with driver to the Director of the Division of Assembly Affairs and Relations with Member Parliaments to enable the Union's Secretariat to carry out the numerous tasks at an IPU Assembly (reception of certain personalities or special guests, coordination, various contacts, distribution of certain documents in hotels, particularly for members of the Executive Committee, etc.).

Section 7

Local staff
(cf. Art. 7(d) of the Agreement)

7.1 The host Parliament will engage the staff it deems necessary to ensure the operation of the services for which it is directly responsible: welcome, transportation, hotel reservations, access to the Internet and e-mail, typing pool for delegates, general operation of the venue of the Assembly, ushers, etc. Bearing in mind past experience, it is suggested that:

(a) Persons speaking English and/or French be used for the registration and information service. At least ten persons are required during the first three days, after which six will suffice;

(b) Four English-language and two French-language typists be engaged for the typing pool for delegates;

(c) One technician to supervise the pool of Internet-connected computers and assist the delegates with their e-mail.

7.2 The host Parliament will provide the following staff to work under the responsibility of the Inter-Parliamentary Union during the Assembly:

(a) One bilingual assistant (English/French, if possible) to work with the Director of the Division of Assembly Affairs and Relations with Member Parliaments and his Assistant. This person should have a sufficient working contact with the Organising Committee of the host Parliament so as to serve as the contact person with the host Parliament (See Section 13.2);

(b) A press officer, designated by the host Parliament, and one secretary for the press office to operate under the responsibility of the Union's Information Officer (see Section 9.1(j) for premises). It is customary for the press officer to visit the Union's Headquarters some weeks before the Assembly to be briefed on the Union's activities in general and the issues to be dealt with at the Assembly in particular;

(c) The team required for the documents reproduction service must be ready to work on a 24-hour basis, in case of need, during the Assembly. The service will also be required to operate one week before the Assembly to reproduce documents that are available at that time which will be brought to Cape Town by a member of the Union's Secretariat (see Section 9.1(i) and (g) for premises and Section 10.1 (l), (m) and (n) for equipment);

(d) Six assistants (bilingual English/French if possible, or three English-speaking and three French-speaking) for the documents distribution service;

(e) Two bilingual secretaries (English/French) for the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the IPU Secretary General;

(f) Six assistants (bilingual English/French, if possible, or three English-speaking and three French-speaking) to assist the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the meeting rooms;

(g) Two persons (speaking English and/or French) working in shifts to monitor the time taken by speakers at plenary sittings;

(h) Two secretaries (bilingual English/French if possible) for the ASGP;

(i) Two persons (bilingual English/French if possible) to assist in the Office for the submission and control of documents, and the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee, respectively (receipt of faxes, photocopies, sending of messages, etc.);

(j) Five or six assistants to assist in the setting up of the Assembly Hall and Standing Committee rooms on the eve of their first sessions, and in dismantling these rooms at the end of the Assembly.

7.3 The IPU Secretariat will inform the host Parliament of the work period of each of the persons mentioned in this Section in a separate note.

Section 8

Meeting rooms
(cf. Art. 7(e) of the Agreement)

8.1 The host Parliament will make available to the Union the following meeting rooms (with the necessary ushers, technicians and maintenance staff, see Section 7.1):

(a) One large room with seating for approximately 1,300 persons for the Inaugural Ceremony (simultaneous interpretation facilities desirable - 4 channels);

(b) One large room for the plenary meetings of the Assembly and for the Governing Council, with seating for 900 persons minimum; this room should be set up in double rows, the first rows being equipped with seats at desks or tables (450 persons minimum) and including facilities for simultaneous interpretation with one microphone to every three seats on average and interpretation channels and booths for English, French, Arabic and Spanish as well as for Chinese, Italian, Japanese and Russian, which are customarily used at IPU Assemblies.

(c) One large room for the Standing Committees, with seating at desks or tables for approximately 350 persons and including facilities for simultaneous interpretation (one microphone to every three seats and same number of interpretation channels as those mentioned in (b) above);

(d) One room for the Executive Committee, Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, and other eventual specialised Committees, with a minimum seating capacity of 80 persons. This room should be set up with a rectangular or oval table arrangement with seating for a minimum of 40 persons and a second row of chairs behind, including facilities for simultaneous interpretation (20 microphones, five channels);

(e) One room for the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians with seating for a minimum of 20 persons with a rectangular table arrangement, including facilities for simultaneous interpretation (12 microphones, four channels);

(f) Three rooms for drafting committees with seating at a rectangular table for 30 persons approximately; facilities for simultaneous interpretation are not required;

(g) One room for the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), fitted with seats at desks for a minimum of 150 persons and including facilities for simultaneous interpretation (one microphone to every three seats on average; two channels). Since the interpretation of the work of the ASGP is provided by the IPU Secretariat by a reduced team of interpreters, it is essential that the two interpreters are both seated in a single booth and can themselves switch the system between the two outgoing channels;

(h) One room for a minimum of 150 persons for informal Group meetings and including facilities for simultaneous interpretation (one microphone to every three seats on average, two channels);

(i) A second room for informal meetings is desirable with seating for a minimum of 50 persons, facilities for simultaneous interpretation are not required;

(j) A small lounge for bilateral meetings for 10 to 15 persons.

8.2 Interpretation booths, whether fixed or mobile, must correspond to the specifications drawn up by the International Organisation for Standardisation in Directives 2603 and 4043 (which will be supplied by the IPU Secretariat during the preparatory visit, if necessary).

Section 9

Offices
(cf. Art. 7(f) of the Agreement)

9.1 The host Parliament will make available to the Union the following offices:

(a) Three suitable offices for the President of the Assembly, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the IPU Secretary General, with adjoining offices for their secretaries (the arrangements concerning the office of the President of the Assembly and his Secretariat are the responsibility of the host Parliament);

(b) (i) One room for the Assembly Steering Committee that is adjacent to or near the office of the Assembly President and is equipped with a table and seating for 12 persons;

(ii) One room for the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the IPU Secretary General to be used for meetings with delegations. This same room could be used every morning for the working meetings of the IPU Secretariat with the Secretary General;

(c) Ten individual offices for the IPU Secretariat and one small meeting room for eight persons;

(d) One large office or area which can be sub-divided where the IPU submission and control of documents service and the typing pools will operate. This office or area should be sub-divided as follows:
(i) one large office for four persons equipped with a high-speed photocopier;
(ii) one working area for seven typists;
(iii) one working area for nine persons equipped with a large table and a high-speed photocopier;
(iv) and an office or working area for twelve persons;

(e) Two offices or one large room for the team that produce the provisional summary records of the plenary (15 persons);

(f) One large room fitted with sufficient shelf space (250 linear meters) for the distribution of documents; it should also be equipped with 8 to 10 meters of tables for preparing sets of documents and with two desks. This office should be located near the main Assembly hall;

(g) Premises for the documents reproduction service;

(h) Office or offices for the typing pool and photocopying service for delegates;

(i) Premises for the pool of Internet-connected computers for use by the delegates;

(j) One office for the press service (the host Parliament's press officer and a secretary) with a room or area for interviews and press conferences organised by delegations; this office should be located near the main Assembly Hall;

(k) One suitable office for the President of the ASGP with, if possible, an adjacent room for 15 persons for the ASGP Executive Committee meetings; one table for 15 persons;

(l) Two offices for the two Joint Secretaries of the ASGP;

(m) One room for the interpreters.

9.2 All these offices should be equipped with appropriate furniture, a detailed breakdown of which will be provided to the host Parliament in a separate list by the IPU Secretariat (tables, computer desks, chairs and armchairs, typing chairs, etc.). In addition to the lighting in the offices, each work station will have to be equipped with a lamp providing adequate light.

9.3 The offices of the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Secretary General, the ASGP President, the Press Office, and the office for the Submission and Control of Documents, will be equipped with telephones for making national and international calls, as well as internal calls, and with a fax machine. In addition, an Internet connection shall be provided in the IPU President's Secretariat's office, in the office of the ASGP Secretariat, and in one of the offices indicated under 9.1(d). All other offices will be equipped with telephones for outgoing internal and local calls and must be able to receive international calls. A telephone should also be installed in each of the three offices or working areas mentioned in Section 9.1(d), and a telephone with an international line and a fax machine should be installed in the working area for 9 persons which is mentioned under 9.1(d)(iii) above.

9.4 These premises are to be made available to the Secretariat from the following dates (week before the Assembly):

- Monday, 7 April 2008, one office mentioned under 9.1(c), 9.1(d) by 9 a.m., and the offices and premises mentioned under 9.1 (f) and (g);

- Tuesday, 8 April 2008, one office mentioned under 9.1(a) and (c) by 9 a.m.;

- Wednesday, 9 April 2008, the other offices by 9 a.m.

9.5 **It is imperative that the office of the Secretary General mentioned under 9.1(a), five of the offices mentioned under (c) and the premises mentioned under (d) and (f) remain at the disposal of the Secretariat until midnight on the Sunday after the close of the Assembly, 20 April 2008 included.** None of the furniture or equipment (photocopiers, telephones and fax machines, including the international line) should be removed **before midday on Monday, 21 April 2008.** All the other offices should remain available **until midnight on Saturday, 19 April 2008.**

Section 10

Material provided by the host Parliament
(cf. Art. 7(g) of the Agreement)

10.1 The host Parliament will provide the following material and equipment necessary for the work of the Assembly:

(a) It is desirable that the Assembly Centre be equipped with an internal TV network showing the work of the plenary. In this case, TV sets should be installed in the offices of the President of the Assembly, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the IPU Secretary General, in the working area of the press service for the IPU Information Officer, and the professional staff as well as in the IPU Submission and Control of Documents office;

(b) The necessary equipment for the issuing of identity badges for the registration and information service;

(c) 6 computers for the secretaries working in the delegates' typing pool (4 English and 2 French keyboards) and three or four additional computers for use by delegates;

(d) 2 desktop computers with screen for the Secretariat of the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and for the working area of the press service;

(e) 30 LCD screens, for use with the computers supplied by the IPU Secretariat;

(f) 11 laser printers (Hewlett Packard LaserJet III or later models, with the exception of LaserJet 1100), together with the corresponding number of parallel port cables;

(g) 4 computers for the ASGP Secretariat (2 English and 2 French keyboards) and 2 compatible printers.

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(h) 8 photocopiers:
- Four (4) high-speed for the following services: Submission and Control of documents - (2), Typing and photocopying for delegates, and ASGP Secretariat;
- The four (4) other photocopiers will be placed in the following services: Office of the secretary to the IPU Secretary General, Distribution of documents, Précis-writers team, and Press Centre;

The technical staff to:
- Operate the photocopier in the Typing Pool and Photocopying Service; and
- Ensure the functioning and, where necessary, repair of the other photocopiers.

(i) Arrangements for a Broadband Internet connection to be installed in the office of the IPU professional staff (9.1(d)(iv)). This connection should be available from the Monday prior to the opening of the Assembly through to the Monday after the closure of the Assembly;

(j) At least eight computers permanently connected to the Internet for use by delegates to read their e-mail;

(k) Six local network mobile phones to be rented, for the duration of the Assembly and which will be issued to some IPU staff members to facilitate the smooth running of the event;

(l) For the documents reproduction service:

At least 4 large photocopiers - with back and front photocopying (minimum output: 90 copies per minute) with sorter and built-in stapler if possible. This option has proved to work most efficiently when backed up by a technical service which is on hand at all times or which can be brought into operation very quickly when needed;

If the host Parliament intends to use this same service for its own requirements during the Assembly, the service must be sufficiently well equipped to perform both tasks without causing delays;

(m) Depending on the system chosen, the necessary material for assembling and stapling documents;

(n) Duplicating paper (DIN A4 format) in the following quantities:

- 400,000 sheets of pink paper;
- 300,000 sheets of blue paper;
- 300,000 sheets of white paper.

A reserve stock of 20 per cent of white, pink and blue paper is advisable, in case of need.

10.2 The host Parliament is responsible for selecting an appropriate logo for the Assembly letter-headed paper. This letter-headed paper (English, French, and

Bilingual) should also feature the Union's logo and the words "Inter-Parliamentary Union – 118th Assembly and related meetings - Cape Town, 10 - 18 April 2008". This matter should be discussed with the Union's Secretariat and once a decision has been taken, the final Assembly heading is to be sent to the Union's Secretariat as soon as possible.

10.3 The host Parliament will ensure that the press area is equipped with the usual facilities for media representatives, particularly computers, telephones, fax and Internet.

10.4 The host Parliament will ensure the recording, preferably on cassettes, in the original language of the speakers, and also in English, of the sessions that take place in the Plenary room, Committees' room, Executive Committee room, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians room. The taping for the ASGP meetings should be in both English and French.

Section 11

Documents
(cf. Art. 8(d) of the Agreement)

11.1 The IPU Secretariat will ensure the preparation of all official documents of the session. The issuing of all such documents will be the responsibility of the IPU Secretary General, without whose agreement no document may be distributed to delegates in the meeting rooms.

11.2 The provisional list of delegates will be prepared by the Secretariat of the Union in cooperation with the Secretariat of the host Parliament. The host Parliament will designate a person who will work as from Tuesday (of the week before the Assembly), 8 April 2008, in cooperation with the IPU staff member responsible for the list in order to compare information (based on original correspondence) received by the host Parliament and by the IPU Secretariat. The provisional list will be printed on the day preceding the opening of the registration service for delegates. The final list will be distributed no later than the penultimate day of the Assembly.

Section 12

Material provided by the Union
(cf. Art. 8.(f) of the Agreement)

12.1 The IPU Secretariat will provide the following material and equipment needed for the work of the Assembly:

(a) 2 local-area computer networks each comprising a server, work stations and connecting cables, which will be installed in the premises of the Submission and Control of Documents office and in the offices of the précis-writers' team;

(b) A complete set of the flags of the Union's members (150 x 220 cm), as well as flags with the IPU emblem;

(c) Four sets of English nameplates bearing the names of the countries represented in the Union and the observers as well as signboards to be used on the podium. These nameplates will be placed in the meeting rooms to indicate the seating arrangements for delegations;

(d) An electronic device for measuring speaking time in plenary sittings of the Assembly (power outlets should be provided for this device on the podium and close to the speaker's rostrum).

12.2 The Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will have this equipment sent by air to Cape Town and assume the cost of freight from Geneva to Cape Town international airport and back. The host Parliament will be responsible for all the requisite measures and contacts with the customs authorities to permit the temporary entry of this conference equipment and provide for its transportation from the international airport of Cape Town to the conference centre and vice-versa.

12.3 In order to facilitate the arrangements set out in the previous paragraph, the host Parliament shall inform the Secretariat of the name, title, address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of the parliamentary authority to whom the equipment should be sent. It shall also communicate the name of the transport/cargo agency with offices at the international airport and of the person whom the parliament will consider responsible for the reception of the goods and all related administrative procedures.

12.4 The IPU Secretariat will provide the host Parliament, sufficiently in advance of the Assembly, with a list of indications to be printed on signboards to show the location of the various meeting rooms, offices and services for delegates.

Section 13

Cooperation between the host Parliament and the IPU Secretariat for the running of the Assembly
(cf. Art. 9 of the Agreement)

13.1 The Director of the Division of Assembly Affairs and Relations with Member Parliaments, responsible for the organisation of the Assemblies of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the Conference Services Officer, will be at the disposal of the host Parliament throughout the session. Either the Director or the Conference Services Officer should be consulted on all practical and technical matters relating to the Assembly.

13.2 The host Parliament will appoint a staff member as Liaison Officer responsible for working with the above IPU staff member on all matters relating to the organisation and running of the Assembly.

2. Bills passed by Houses—to be submitted to President for assent

(1) Bills passed by National Council of Provinces on 29 May 2007:

(a) Government Immovable Asset Management Bill [B 1B —2006] (National Assembly —sec 75).

(b) Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment Bill [B 1—2007] (National Assembly—sec 75).

National Assembly

The Speaker

1. Message from National Council of Provinces to National Assembly in respect of Bill passed by Council and sent to Assembly

(1) Bill passed by National Council of Provinces on 29 May 2007 and transmitted for concurrence:

(a) ***Children's Amendment* Bill** [B 19B—2006] (National Council of Provinces—sec 76(2)).

The Bill has been referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Social Development** of the National Assembly.

(2) Bill amended and passed by National Council of Provinces on 29 May 2007 and returned for concurrence:

(a) ***Electricity Regulation Amendment Bill*** [B 20D—2006] (National Assembly—sec 76(1)).

The Bill has been referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Minerals and Energy** of the National Assembly.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Defence on Employment of SANDF to West Indies, dated 25 May 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 West Indies**, 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 Nepal, dated 25 May 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 Nepal**, referred to the Committee, reports that it has concluded its deliberations thereon.

3. Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Defence on Employment of SANDF to Mozambique, dated 25 May 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 Mozambique,** referred to the Committee, reports that it has concluded its deliberations thereon.

National Assembly

1. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security on Budget Vote 23 of the Department of Safety and Security for 2007/08:

The Committee has examined the Budget Vote of the Department of Safety and Security (Vote 23) for the 2007/08 financial year and the forward estimates for 2008/09 and 2009/10 included in the Estimates of National Expenditure (ENE) 2007, as well as the Department's Strategic Plan 2005 – 2010 and Planning Information for 2007/08, and reports as follows:

1. Introduction

The Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security received the following submissions on the budget of the Department of Safety and Security for 2007/08:

- Briefing by the Department of Safety and Security on 28 March 2007 on the Strategic Plan and 2007/08 Budget

- Briefing by the South African Police Unions (SAPU) and (POPCRU) on 2 May 2007
- Briefing by the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) on 4 May 2007
- The Secretariat, which receives a proportion of their budget from the Department of Safety and Security's budget, presented an outline of its budget allocation for 2007/08 in terms of its strategic priorities on 2 May 2007

2. Overview of the Strategic Priorities and Budget of the Department of Safety and Security for 2006/07

2.1. Strategic Plan 2005 – 2010 and Planning Information 2006/07

The Strategic Plan of the SAPS for 2005-2010 directs strategic and operational planning for the 5-year period. This very broad 5-year plan is supplemented each year by a one-year Planning Information, which focuses in more detail on the strategic priorities, measurable objectives and targets for that year. These are the two main documents for ascertaining the strategic objectives and goals of the Department. The ENE for each year also highlights key priorities for the year and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

The key strategic priorities for the SAPS remain those highlighted in the SAPS Strategic Plan (2005-2010) which are to:

- Combat organised crime
- Combat serious and violent crime
- Reduce the incidence of crimes against women and children
- Improve service delivery

In addition, the SAPS continues to ensure that its strategies and priorities conform to the goals established in the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster to ensure the co-ordinated achievement of sector goals. Some of the key JCPS cluster initiatives, which involve the SAPS, include:

- Reduction of levels of crime particularly contact crime, from between 7%-10% per year. This includes improvements to the detection rate
- Combating organised crime syndicates
- Improving the effectiveness of the Integrated Justice System initiatives
- Upholding national security
- Providing security during the 2009 elections and the 2010 Soccer World Cup

Other key priorities for the 2007 MTEF identified in the ENE (and in line with the State of the Nation Address) include:

- Implementation and expansion of the revised reservist system
- Improving the functioning of the Community Police Forums, implementing sector policing and improving service delivery by transferring professional and management skills to station level
- Improving police capacity especially at borderlines, ports of entry and exit, and during the 2010 World Cup. Personnel numbers will increase to 193 000 by the end of 2009/10

2.2. SAPS Budget 2006/07

2.2.1. Broad Expenditure Trends

The following table illustrates that the budget for the Department of Safety and Security for 2007/08 has increased by 10.4% in nominal terms in comparison to 2006/07.

Safety and Security Budget allocation 2006/07- 2009/10

	2006/07 (R'000)	*2007/08 (R'000)*	*2008/09 (R'000)*	*2009/10 (R'000)*
Vote	32 521 231	35 917 470	39 143 474	43 568 788
Nominal % increase		10.4%		

The relatively high increase in the budget during the 2007 MTEF period are largely due to further employment of additional police members, investments in capital infrastructure and improvements in conditions of service.

As reported to the Joint Budget Committee in November 2006, additional funding in the 2007 MTEF is intended for:

- Capital infrastructure (facilities): This includes acquisition, construction and upgrading of police facilities and the creation of additional shooting ranges, funding for the leasing of additional property and the maintenance of infrastructure
- Vehicle fleet management and deployment system: The provision of an automated vehicle location system for SAPS vehicles with a focus on improved service delivery. This will allow for the rapid deployment of vehicles to incidents of reported crime through vehicle tracking and also for fleet management purposes
- Enhancement to police capacity: Hiring of additional resources to enhance crime intelligence, crime prevention, ports of entry and detectives with a specific focus on strengthening capacity at station level. Approximately 8 000 officials and 2 000 civilians will be appointed over the medium term from this additional funding, however a total of 34 080 new recruits will be appointed over the 2007 MTEF, of which 24 180 are in addition to replacements needed due to staff turnover
- Security for 2010 Soccer World Cup: To prepare for security requirements during the 2010 Soccer World Cup. This entail the purchasing of specialised equipment, training programmes and the acquisition of software programmes that will enable facial recognition access to the FIFA database for security reasons

These additional allocations include:

- Capital infrastructures and vehicle fleet management: R556 million over the next three years
- Enhancement of capacity: R1.1 billion over the MTEF

- Security for 2010 Soccer World Cup: R665 million over the MTEF

The additional allocation increases the SAPS budget by R358 million in 2007/08, R660 million in 2008/09 and R1,3 billion in 2009/10.

Comparison of Programme Allocations for Safety and Security: 2006/07-2007/08

Programme	*2006/07 (R'000)*	*2007/08 (R'000)*	*Nominal increase/ decrease*	*Percent of total budget per programme for 2007/08*
Administration	10 522 060	11 825 922	12.4%	33%
Visible Policing	14 389 949	15 464 950	7.5%	43%
Detective Services	5 279 606	5 710 468	8%	16%
Crime Intelligence	1 119 440	1 261 729	12.7%	3%
Protection and Security Services	1 210 176	1 654 401	36.7%	4%

The Visible Policing Programme which provides for policing at station level as well as specialised interventions and the policing of borderlines receives the bulk of the allocations for the SAPS. However, this programme receives the least substantial increase in the 2007/08 budget of only 7.5%.

Once again, the Protection and Security Services Programme which provides security to dignitaries and government interests receives the highest increase of almost 37% as it is a relatively new programme. In line with the priorities identified in the State of the Nation Address, the Crime Intelligence Programme receives a relatively high increase of almost 13% in the 2007/08 budget.

2.2.2. Programme Allocations

Programme 1: Administration

	2006/07 (R'000)	*2007/08 (R'000)*
Programme 1: Administration	10 522 060	11 825 922
Nominal percentage increase		12.4%

This programme increases by 12% in comparison to 2006/07 and will continue to rise over the MTEF. Main reasons include:

- Additional allocations to build new policing facilities
- Additional allocations for maintenance and leasing of accommodation for functional members due to the recruitment of new members

- Modernisation and expansion of the vehicle fleet to keep up with increasing personnel numbers and the implementation of the vehicle location and deployment system
- Investment in Information Technology
- The Gauteng radio communication network

R1, 3 billion is the budget for property management for 2007/08 in comparison with R1,1 billion in 2006/07. The budget for Infrastructure increases from R508 million in 2006/07 to R727 million in 2007/08 and then substantially over the MTEF (i.e. R1,2 billion in 2008/09 and R1, 3 billion in 2009/10). Big projects funded for 2007/08 include:

  - Construction of the new police head office in Pretoria (R18 million was allocated in 2006/07 and R101 million is allocated for 2007/08 increasing to R550 million in 2009/10)
  - Construction of a new forensic science laboratory in Parow (R42 million was allocated in 2006/07 and R76 million allocated for 2007/08 increasing to R211 million in 2008/09 and R117 million in 2009/10)
  - New construction of police stations allocation increases from R19 million in 2006/07 to R309 million in 2007/08 and R235 million in 2008/09)

- Personnel: Increases from R23, 5 billion in 2006/07 to R25, 2 billion in 2007/08 and increases up to R30 billion in 2009/10
- Training allocation: Increases from R667 million in 2006/07 to R736 million in 2007/08

Programme 2: Visible Policing

	2006/07 (R'000)	*2007/08 (R'000)*
Programme 2: Visible Policing	14 389 949	15 464 950
Nominal percentage increase		7.5%

The Visible Policing programme is the largest programme in the SAPS budget and it increases by 7.5% in comparison to 2007/08. The subprogramme Borderline Security increases substantially from R76 million in 2006/07 to R180 million in 2007/08 and up to R233 million in 2009/10, probably in response to borderline security needs during the 2010 World Cup.

Key targets for this Programme:

- Reduction in priority crimes by 7-10%: Major contact crimes such as murder and rape did not achieve the 7-10% reduction
- Reduction in illegal firearms: Target met
- Implementation of sector policing: Target not met as sector policing was only fully implemented at 52% of sectors in the priority stations
- Ports of entry and control: Not all targets were achieved i.e. less arrests were made for drugs and illegal firearms compared to 2004/05

Programme 3: Detective Services

	2006/07 (R'000)	*2007/08 (R'000)*
Programme 3: Detective Services	5 279 606	5 710 468
Nominal percentage increase		8%

This programme increases by 8% over the MTEF. The former General Investigation subprogramme and the Specialised Investigations subprogramme have been merged into the Crime Investigations subprogramme, largely as a result of the devolvement of specialised skills to station level as a part of the restructuring process.

The increase to the Criminal Record Centre Sub Programme is 6.6% in comparison to 2006/07 and the increase for the Forensic Science Laboratory is 7.5%.

Key targets:

- Charges referred to court and detection rates: Targets met
- Forensic Science Laboratory and Criminal Record Centre: Targets not met

Programme 4: Crime Intelligence

	2006/07 (R'000)	*2007/08 (R'000)*
Programme 4: Crime Intelligence	1 119 440	1 261 729
Nominal percentage increase		12.7%

The Crime Intelligence programme receives a relatively substantial increase of 12% in comparison with 2006/07. This is in line with the priority mentioned in the State of the Nation Address to intensify intelligence work with a focus on organised crime.

Key targets:

- Operation: Number of operations increased but number of arrests and the value of goods seized decreased
- Products: Target met

Programme 5: Protection and Security Services

	2006/07 (R'000)	*2007/08 (R'000)*
Programme 5: Protection and Security Services	1 210 176	1 654 401
Nominal percentage increase		36.7%

This programme receives the largest increase in the SAPS budget of 36%. The budget for this programme as a whole is expected to grow from R576 million in 2003/04 to R2,4 billion in 2009/10. The increase over the 2007 MTEF is to fund an additional 4 050 functional members in 2007/08 and 2008/09 required for the rollout of the rail police, the government security regulator and the port of entry pilot projects. The budget for the Port of Entry subprogramme (which provides security at airports, border posts and harbours) in particular is expected to grow from R367 million in 2006/07 to R900 million in 2009/10.

Key targets:

- VIP Protection and Static and Mobile Security: Target for VIP security (17 breaches reported) was not met and the target for static and Mobile Security was also not achieved (5 complaints lodged)
- Implementation of ports of entry security projects and rails police: Progress was made in the implementation of these projects at Beit Bridge border post, Johannesburg International and Durban Harbour, and in terms of the Rail Police, progress was made in the Western Cape, in particular

3. Stakeholder Concerns:

3.1. National Treasury

The Portfolio Committee received a briefing from the Safety and Security Directorate of the Public Finance Division within National Treasury on the SAPS budget 2007/08. The National Treasury provided a summary of some of the key components of the budget. These included broad expenditure trends over time, a breakdown of the 2007/08 economic classification items in the budget and a breakdown of the budget into programmes. This Directorate also analyses the Annual Reports of the Department by comparing programme performance in relation to the ENE, identifying issues raised in the Accounting Officer's report, comparing SCOPA resolutions with the Auditor General report and following up with the Department on these issues. In addition, they look at the quarterly expenditure and programme analysis reports of the Department in order to pick up irregularities or problems.

The Directorate noted that SAPS spending on infrastructure was low due to delays in delivery of invoices from the Department of Public Works. A substantial amount was allocated for property leases to accommodate additional personnel.

3.2. Safety and Security Secretariat

As a statutory body, the two-fold purpose of the Secretariat is:

- to monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation of policing policies and ministerial directives by the SAPS; and
- to provide strategic advice to the Minister on a range of safety and security issues

The budget for the Secretariat is contained with the SAPS Budget Vote 23 under the Programme 1: Administration, Subprogramme Management. The personnel budget is allocated under personnel expenditure for the SAPS.

The following table provides a breakdown of the total budget of the Secretariat for 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Table 1: National Secretariat of Safety and Security budget 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08.

	2005/06	**2006/07**	**2007/08**
Projects		R5,9 million	R13,93 million
Personnel		R6,95 million	R13,98 million
Total allocation	R17,9 million	R12,9 million	R27,9 million
Percentage increase/decrease		-28%	116%

The Secretariat has been allocated R13,93 million for 2007/08 for expenditure on projects. An amount of R13,98 million is allocated to personnel expenditure. Thus in total, the budget for the Secretariat for expenditure on personnel and projects is R27,9 million for 2007/08 which is an increase of 116% in comparison with 2006/07.

It must be kept in mind that the budget of the Secretariat was cut substantially in 2006/07 in comparison with 2005/06, due to the large number of vacant posts within the Secretariat at the end of 2005/06 which rendered the Secretariat unable to function. It must also be remembered that in 2005/06, even though the Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security had approved an allocation to the Secretariat of R17 million, the SAPS had only allocated R4,8 million to the structure. Therefore the National Secretariat received R4, 832 million from the SAPS in 2005/06 of which R3, 123 million was for operational expenditure. The Secretariat only managed to spend R1, 117 million of their allocation for operational expenditure. They thus had an under expenditure of R2, 004 million in terms of the budget received from the SAPS and under expenditure of approximately R15 million in terms of the money that had been approved by Parliament .

Key projects prioritised by the Secretariat which are aligned to the State of the Nation Address include:

- Addressing the root causes of crime especially its violent nature
- Working in partnerships with communities to address crime
- Effective implementation of existing policies
- Effective Management of law enforcement agencies
- Enhanced training & development of police officers
- Effective and efficient Forensic Science Laboratory & Crime Records Centre in increasing serious crime convictions
- Implement Khampepe Commission recommendations
- Review regulatory systems in the private security industry
- To improve the functioning and effectiveness of Community Policing Forums

3.3. South African Police Union (SAPU)

SAPU highlighted the following concerns to the Committee:

- **The Safety of Police Officials:** Police officials get killed every year while on duty. Compensation paid to families of the deceased person amounts to only R200 000. The money is little compared to the sacrifices that SAPU members make under very difficult conditions

- **Concern about lack of capacity in the Employee Assistance Programme, particularly in the HIV/AIDS Directorate**: Research has shown that there is a lack of capacity in this directorate, particularly in terms of the shortage of social workers and psychological services. The implementation of the HIV/AIDS programme has suffered as a result of lack of capacity in this directorate. SAPU is concerned about the lack of accurate data on HIV/AIDS in the SAPS and the lack of understanding as to how the disease is impacting on members. There are still a large number of police officials committing suicide by using their own service pistols. If these cases were investigated, the results would show that these suicides can be prevented by the intervention of the psychological section

- **Retention strategy**: SAPU is of the view that more effort and incentives need to be provided to the SAPS members to retain and attract skills from other agencies. The issue of salaries and incentives for members need to be looked at particularly since the SAPS is becoming a training ground for other departments

- **Corruption**: SAPU is concerned about the problem of corruption and how it is addressed in the SAPS

- **Volunteers**: In some areas volunteers have been mobilised as night patrollers without adequate training and support. In some cases patrollers have been operating without SAPS officials, night reflectors or any kind of identification

- **2010 World Cup**: The current staff morale level needs to be improved. The quality of service delivery will be key to ensuring that South Africa hosts a successful World Cup

- **Community police forums and sector forums**: SAPU is of the view is that few resources have been deployed to strengthen these programmes. Many sectors are disorganised and completely dysfunctional. Reviving these programmes and deploying resources (manpower, vehicles, time and money) is critical if a reduction in contact and serious crimes are to be seen. At a meeting held on 18 March 2007 between the Ministry for Safety and Security, the 9 Provincial CPF Chairpersons, the SAPU National Executive Committee and POPCRU top leadership, the Minister emphasised Government's commitment in fighting crime and the importance of Community Policing Forums in helping in the fight against crime

- **Communication**: SAPU is encouraged by the lines of communication opened by the Minister for Safety and Security

- **Conditions of service**: SAPU believes that the system of transporting members with patrol vehicles is problematic. A 'public' transport system for members will go a long way in addressing transport problems that members are faced with

- **Resources**: The issuing of resources (bullet proof vests, condoms, surgical gloves, functioning touches etc) remains a matter of concern. SAPU members have to deal with high risk situations without adequate protective equipment
- **Antagonistic relationship with the SAPS:** SAPU pointed out that there is an element of union bashing that is still visible within certain quarters of the police management

3.4. State Information Technology Agency (SITA)

The SITA is an enacted company that derives its mandate from:

- SITA Act 88/1998 amended in 2002
- SITA Act 88/1998: General Regulations NR 904, DPSA, Sept 2005

SITA's objective is to improve service delivery to the public and to promote the efficiency of departments and public bodies through the use of ICT and related services in a secure environment.

The South African Police Service is one of the agency's larger clients. The agency is undergoing transformation to address:

- Poor image associating SITA with corruption and inefficiency
- Customer perception in terms of poor service delivery and high cost
- Low staff morale

A 2004/05 Customer Satisfaction Survey concluded that only 47% of clients were happy with service delivery. However a recent survey revealed that this figure improved to 62% in 2006/07.

Revenue in 2005/06 was at R2.9 billion and in 2006/07 was R3.1 billion. SITA is financially sustainable and has not approached the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) for help. Profits were 3.9% in 2005/06 and 5.11% in 2006/07. SITA's focus is on sustainability rather then making large profits.

SAPS is concerned that the SITA spends the majority of its budget on maintenance rather then new projects.

4. Committee Findings and Concerns:

The following are the key findings and concerns of the Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security in relation to the budget of the Department of Safety and Security and the responses of the Department, the Secretariat and the Union to these concerns:

Salary increase: The Portfolio Committee noted that the Finance Minister has set aside R1 billion for salary increases for members of the SAPS for 2007/08. Concerns were raised regarding the reasons why the R1 billion was not reflected in the budget and the fact that the SAPS 2007/08 salary increase was set at 6% before negotiations with the SAPS Unions

The SAPS stated that R450 million was made available from 1 April 2006 and an additional R450 million from 1 April 2007. These funds (approximately) R 1 billion is included in the costing of salaries. National Treasury advised the SAPS management that 6% should be used as a benchmark. However if an agreement with the SAPS Unions is reached which set the increase higher then 6%, National Treasury will assist with the additional funds.

Foreign Languages: Committee members requested an explanation on how the SAPS plan on dealing with the current and future influx of foreigners.

The SAPS stated that they are planning on requesting INTERPOL member countries to avail police members to act as liaison officers to between foreigners and SAPS police members during the 2010 Soccer World Cup. SAPS members can call a language translation centre from any police station whenever police members are faced with this problem at police stations.

Manpower at satellite police stations: The Committee raised concerns regarding the shortage of manpower at satellite police stations.

The SAPS acknowledged that there is a shortage of police members at satellite police stations and that this problem will be addressed at a meeting with Provincial Commissioners on 3 April 2007.

Private Security guards at stations: The Committee requested clarity on the reasons for SAPS employing private security guards to guard police stations.

The SAPS stated that these private security guards are employed at police stations for access control only. The use of private security guards for this purpose is more efficient than utilising police members.

Restructuring of Provincial offices: Members questioned the restructuring of SAPS provincial management and the target date for completion.

The SAPS stated that the SAPS national management is engaged in a consultative process with organised labour regarding this matter. An interim arrangement is currently in place and the process should be completed by the end of next year.

Shooting Ranges: The Committee raised concerns regarding the availability of shooting ranges for SAPS members.

The SAPS stated that they have very few shooting ranges and lease most of those currently being used by SAPS members. The National Commissioner has issued a directive that all new police training colleges should either have a shooting range on site or one close by.

Training for SAPS members: The Committee raised concerns regarding the average firearm training a SAPS member receives.

The SAPS stated that members are categorised according to the risk they encounter while on duty. Norms for how many shooting training sessions members should undertake is dependent on members risk profile (low, medium or high).

Restructuring of area offices and allocation of resources: Members enquired about the restructuring of SAPS area offices and the allocation of resources.

The SAPS stated that its focus is on ensuring that the 169 priority police stations are adequately resourced.

Allocation of new recruits: The Committee questioned the allocation of new recruits.

The SAPS stated that 30% of all new recruits will be allocated to the detective services, crime intelligence, criminal record centres and forensic science laboratories. A further 10% will be allocated to those police stations where larger shortages exist.

Social crime prevention: The Committee raised concern regarding SAPS social crime prevention strategy.

The SAPS stated that the Deputy Minister for Safety and Security is heading the Department's social crime prevention strategy. Examples of which are the street children literacy programme, basic skills training in motor mechanics, computer literacy and sports programmes. The SAPS must forward the Community project report to the Committee immediately after the tabling of this report.

Assistance in bringing down crime: Committee members asked how everyone can assist to bring down high crime levels in this country.

The Commissioner stated that the focus must be on crime prevention and most resources must therefore be placed in this area. Additional personnel must be placed in crime prevention, including the reservists. This is the key strategy of the SAPS at present.

Status of the Gauteng radio communication network: Members asked why this item was still such a large component of the budget.

The SAPS stated that the system should be fully implemented by June 2007 and has been delayed due to problems such as the lack of electricity in certain areas.

Soccer World Cup: Members enquired whether the budget for the Soccer World Cup is sufficient.

The budget for the Soccer World Cup does not include the budget for deployment during 2010 or thereafter. Most facilities used during the World Cup will be mobile and thus can be reused after the event.

Borderline security: Members questioned the difference between port of entry and border line security.

The SAPS stated that the SANDF is still deployed at some of the borders. In 2009, the final border (Zimbabwe) will be taken over by the SAPS.

Sector policing: Members asked what percentage of stations have implemented sector policing.

The SAPS stated that all stations have sectors but many do not have enough members to man these sectors. A large proportion of the new recruits will be used in sector policing, and the reservists will also be used in this regard.
It is envisaged that by 2010 all sectors will be functioning on a 24-hour basis.

Stolen vehicles: Members questioned the low recovery rate of stolen vehicles.

The SAPS stated that the 46% recovery rate is low but that criminals find many ways of getting rid of stolen vehicles. The SAPS has embarked on numerous operations with SADC countries to repatriate vehicles but are impeded by the 'innocent buyer' concept. It is thus better to ensure the return of the stolen vehicle before it leaves the country's borders.

Police killed on duty: Members enquired how many police had been killed on duty in 2006/07.

The SAPS stated that 91 members had been killed on duty during the 2006/07 financial year.

Ratio of civilian and uniform staff: Members asked what the ratio of uniform to civilian staff was.

The SAPS stated that the ratio of uniform to civilian staff was about 70:30 but that many civilian staff also do crime combating duties. The SAPS is trying to ensure that all functionally trained police are doing operational duties.

Bullet proof vests: Members enquired as to whether there are sufficient bullet proof vests for members.

The SAPS stated that there are 109 000 vests for men and 12 381 vests for women. Thus there are a total of 121 000 vests which is sufficient. Each member has his or her own outer cover and the inner plates are shared. 7 000 more vests are still to be delivered.

Safes: Members asked whether there are sufficient safes for members.

The SAPS stated that not all members need safes to keep their firearms safe at home, as these are provided primarily to junior members who may not have the funds to buy their own safes. There are 113 358 safes which have been provided for members and these are sufficient.

SITA: Members enquired about skills shortages and SITA's long term plan to address this. Further concerns were raised regarding successful projects undertaken with SAPS.

The SITA stated that they are working together with the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) to identify critical IT skills shortages in Departments. A major challenge SITA is faced with is that training offered to State Departments is not compulsory. SITA is jointly working with SAPS on upgrading the SAPS IT infrastructure. Other joint projects include:

- The upgrading of the SAPS network,
- SAPS vehicle tracking system
- Conversion of document into electronic format

The SITA must forward a written document outlining details of all the services provided to the SAPS.

5. Recommendations:

Administration Programme: The Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security supports the allocation to this programme.

Visible Policing: The Portfolio Committee supports the allocation to this programme.

Detective Services: The Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security supports the allocation to this programme. The Committee welcomes all measures to improve the capacity of detectives.

Crime Intelligence: The Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security supports this allocation.

Protection and Security Services: The Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security supports the allocation to this programme.

6. Comments:

The Portfolio Committee of Safety and Security will continue to play a role in providing oversight over the functioning of the Department of Safety and Security to ensure that the SAPS and the Secretariat function effectively in line with their legislative and policy requirements.

2. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs on Budget Vote 3 of the Department of Foreign Affairs:

Having considered the Department of Foreign Affair's Budget Vote (Budget Vote 3) on the 28 March 2007, the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs reports as follows.

1. Introduction

In considering the Department of Foreign Affairs' Budget Vote, the Committee first hosted a briefing on the Budget Vote by the Department of Foreign Affairs on 28 March 2007. Following the briefing were Hearings with a group of selected experts commenting on the Department of Foreign Affairs' Budget Vote on 08-09 May 2007. On 16 May 2007 the Committee again called the Department to respond to some of the issues raised by the invited experts during the Hearings on the Department's Budget Vote.

2. Briefing by the Department of Foreign Affairs – 28 March 2007

Dr Ntsaluba, the Director-General at the Department of Foreign Affairs gave an overview of the Strategic thrust of the DFA for 2007-2010.This is anchored by the January 2007 Cabinet Lekgotla and the President's State of the Nation Address. The Department's medium term priorities and objectives were said to be the following:

- Consolidation of the African Agenda.
- Strengthening of South-South Co-operation.
- Strengthening the North-South Co-operation.
- Participate in the Global System of Governance.
- Strengthening of Political and Economic relations.
- Organisational strengthening.
- Provision of specialised services.

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2.1 Consolidation of the African Agenda

- Strengthening of the African Union (AU) and its organs
- South Africa (SA) has contributed extensively to the strengthening of the AU and its structures.
- SA will aim to mobilise support for the harmonisation and rationalisation of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as for the regional integration process

- SA will continue to support the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and engaging the African Diaspora through AU structures.
- SA will support the implementation of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the South African Development Community (SADC).
- SA will contribute towards Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in Africa with particular attention to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Burundi and the Comoros.
- Further commitment was on contributing towards Peace, Security and Stability in Africa while bilateral relations with specific countries continued to be strengthened.

2.2 Strengthen South- South Co-operation

Dr Ntsaluba pointed out that DFA would continue to advance the development agenda of the South and strengthen co-operation amongst developing countries through active participation in groupings of the South at regional, interregional and multilateral levels. And that South Africa would be actively engaged in the Non- Aligned Movement (NAM) and G-77.

2.3 Strengthen North- South Co-operation

South Africa will maximise her favourable relations with countries of the North in trying to strengthen relations with these countries. Furthermore, relations with the G8 will be strengthened through consultations, which will focus on energy security, climate change, intellectual property and participation in the World Economic Forum.

2.4 Participation in the Global System of Governance

South Africa's assumption of the non-permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council (2007-2008) as well as chairing of the G20 and the Nuclear Suppliers Group in 2007 while chairing the Committee on Disarmament has presented specific challenges and opportunities for South Africa. One such an opportunity is that South Africa will contribute to debates on terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. Notable achievements include the establishment of the Peace Building Commission and Human Rights Council. Much work still needs to be done, though.

2.5 Resource Allocation per Departmental Programme

The following is the programme structure of the DFA:

- Programme 1:Administration
- Programme 2: Foreign Relations
- Programme 3: Public Diplomacy and Protocol Services
- Programme 4: International Transfers

2.6 Human Capital Management

With regards to the human resource issue, by December 2006 DFA posts reflected the following:

- Filled Posts at Head Office Level were 1367 and 599 at the Missions.
- Funded vacancies at Head Office level were 419 and 102 at the Mission level.
- Unfunded Vacancies remained 182 at the Head office and 172 at the Missions.

The employment equity analysis indicates that the Department has significantly improved representation of Black people. While representation of women at senior management service levels has significantly increased to 32.2 %, focus is now to improve this figure. Despite measures taken by the Department to increase representation of people with disabilities, much still needs to be done.

2.7 Asset Management Plan

Asset Management Plan covered restructuring of the asset management function, property strategy, Fixed Asset Register, redundant properties, official vehicles for Heads of Mission and programmes for 2007/08 Financial year.

2.8 New Head Office Building Project

The project consists of five (5) elements namely:

- Office space for 2285 staff with staff wellness facilities.
- A FSI to replace the present facility.
- A conference centre seating 4000 people.
- A new guest house; and
- Upgrading of the existing guesthouse in Waterkloof.

2.9 Information and Communication Technology Plan (ICT)

The intention of the plan is reportedly to modernize the Department's ICT while ensuring its optimum use. The plan also intends to project how ICT's can best be used as an enabler in supporting the Department's strategic goals. The plan will also assist the Department in making informed decisions on appropriate systems.

2.10 Comments

The Committee made the following comments:

- The African Renaissance Fund is not effectively utilised.
- A specific programme must be developed on how to utilise the Diaspora in the issues of the development of skills and transformation, as espoused in Accelerated Shard Growth Initiative for South Africa
- The incapacity in terms of human resources poses a problem for the Department, and this should be addressed as soon as possible.

3. Hearings with experts

The following experts appeared before the Committee:

- **Dr C Landsberg,** Centre for Policy Studies (CPS)
- **Dr S Zondi,** from Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD)
- **Mr B Masuku**, Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)
- **Mr J Feris,** South African National Civil Organisation (SANCO)
- **Mr A Hadland,** Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

4. Follow-up briefing by the Department of Foreign Affairs

On the 16 May 2007, the DG and his colleagues appeared before the Committee to respond to the comments and views raised by the experts during the hearings.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 14:03.

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

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

> That the House debates the situation in Israel and Palestine and in particular the arrest and detention of members of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

Mev D VAN DER WALT: Agb Speaker, hiermee gee ek kennis van my voorneme om die volgende voorstel voor die Huis te laat dien:

> Dat die Huis dringend die kwessie van naamveranderings in ons land debatteer.

(Translation of Afrikaans notice of motion follows.)

[Mrs D VAN DER WALT: Hon Speaker, I give notice that I intend to bring the following motion before the House:

> That the House urgently debates the issues around name changes in our country.]

Mrs C DUDLEY: On behalf of the ACDP I shall move:

> That the House calls for a debate on Pan-African Parliament's discussions on a United African State.

Thank you.

TIME ALLOCATIONS FOR PARTY RESPONSES

(Draft Resolution)

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

> That, notwithstanding Rule 106(5), the time allocated for party responses to executive statements for the remainder of the Third Parliament be as follows: African National Congress: 8 minutes; Democratic Alliance: 3 minutes; Inkatha Freedom Party: 2 minutes; and all other parties: 1 minute each.

Agreed to.

TIME ALLOCATED TO THE PRESIDENT FOR REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

(Draft Resolution)

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

> That, notwithstanding Rule 113, time allocated to the President for replies to questions be unlimited for the remainder of the Third Parliament.

Agreed to.

PUBLIC SERVICE WAGE NEGOTIATIONS

(Statement)

The MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: Madam Speaker and hon members of this House, I want to express my appreciation for the opportunity to make a statement on the current wage negotiations. Please allow me to take us all back to 1994, when we first gathered in this House as representatives of a democratic dispensation.

One of our first tasks was to forge a public service able to serve the needs of a democracy; a democracy facing the challenges of serving a widely disparate society with extreme inequities where services had been offered to the privileged few and denied to the disadvantaged majority. The challenge was not only to provide services within an established structure, but was far more complex.

The Public Service was faced with the challenge of acting as agents of change and transformation, while being transformed and reformed itself—a challenge and obligation that we were later to codify in our Constitution, which in Chapter 10 speaks of the values that must underlie and mandate the developmental role which characterises our Public Service. Thirteen years later the challenge of building a public service that has the capability to deliver to the needs of the developmental state is still with us as we strive to consolidate the transformation and build on the considerable advances we have made since we embarked on our transformation project.

You may wonder what this has to do with the topic at hand. In one word: Everything. The conditions of service for our cadre of public servants are central to the building of a skilled, dedicated and innovative Public Service. This must be our starting point when we consider the conditions of service of our public servants. Public servants must be properly rewarded for their labour, their skills, their performance and their dedication. We must have the framework in place to attract and retain the best and brightest of our labour pool. Our public servants must work in conditions that are conducive to good performance, receiving payment that recognises their worth in line with market conditions and with opportunities for advancement and career development.

The general welfare of public servants is a prime consideration. As employer we have the responsibility to ensure that these benefits in areas such as pension provision and healthcare are available to ensure a healthy workforce and retirement free of insecurity. We must be vigilant—and I want to emphasise it—that these provisions are not eroded though short-term expediency, such as high salaries at the expense of longer term security and broader conditions of service. Those who labour under particular conditions, such as weekends or at night, must receive proper compensation for the toll this takes on their personal lives.

The state must balance what it spends on wages and benefits with what it spends on the goods and services it provides to the populace. This is particularly important considering that the developmental character of our state requires that we consider the long-term implications of this expenditure on the lives of the disadvantaged and needy as we seek to fulfil their justified aspirations to a better life.

Our offer seeks to ensure that the buying power of public servants is not eroded through inflation, that the general wellbeing of public servants is addressed through provision of appropriate medical aid and housing allowances and that in certain special categories nonpensionable allowances are adjusted. In addition we put on the table a new dispensation for professionals and specialists in order to ensure that we are able to attract people with these skills to the public service and ensure that their careers are developed within the service in order to retain them.

Much is made of the low levels of pay of public servants, but it is important to note that between 1997 and 2006 employees on salary levels 1-8 received a real increase, over and above inflation. Level one, unskilled general workers received a real increase—after inflation is taken into account—of 13,3%. We do, however, recognise that levels 9 to 12, which includes those in the professional categories, received a below-inflation increase over this period

and this is what we want to address. Since 2002 there has been a real increase above inflation at higher levels, but we want to move forward much more dramatically with a proposed new structure.

I will not go into too many figures, but I would just like to point out some detail of the earnings of our public officials. The lowest level worker in the Public Service currently earns R35 916 per annum. If we were to include macro benefits—and this is medical, pensions, service bonus and housing—the total package at this level would be R71 850. The macro benefits therefore constitute more than 50% of the package. With a hypothetical 6% salary adjustment, the minimum salary will be R38 070 and the total package will be R75 940. I want to leave you to draw your own conclusions, bearing in mind that this is the salary that a general worker, a cleaner, earns in the Public Service.

To give further detail with regard to the new salary structure, our key focus over the next few years will be to develop and implement occupation-specific dispensations with the aim to improve the Public Service's ability to attract and retain skilled employees. Our biggest challenge encountered in the Public Service is to adequately remunerate the diverse categories of employees by means of a single salary scale. This is further aggravated by the current lack of appropriate progression and promotion opportunities in certain occupations. It is therefore accepted that in a number of occupations salaries are generally not competitive for the more skilled and experienced employees.

To address these challenges, the introduction of the occupation-specific dispensation will be developed and implemented for identified occupational categories. This entails introducing unique salary structures per occupation, including grading structures and job profiles, as well as progression and career opportunities based on competencies, experience and performance.

This House is well aware that labour originally tabled demands which were impossible for the state to meet. Their demands would have added R200 billion to the wage bill in the first year of implementation, more than doubling the current wage bill. Clearly we were a long way apart. The House is also aware that over the last two days, at the request of the employer, the parties reconvened to discuss a way forward. The purpose of this meeting was to find a way of coming together and to this end a technical working group with representatives from each side—nine a side—sat through Monday night and came back with a working document. Discussions around this continued yesterday, up to the early hours of this morning, and I am happy to announce that in the past few minutes this document has been tabled before the Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council as a working document to adopt official status in the bargaining chamber. This is a major breakthrough, and while much work still needs to be done, we can now start charting our way forward.

The objectives of this document are: To provide a basis for the general salary adjustments for employees for the forthcoming years; to introduce revised salary structures for specific occupations in the professional area, catering for career-pathing, pay progression, grade progression, seniority, increased competencies and performance, with a view to attracting and retaining professionals and specialists. This covers educators, health professionals and legal professionals, amongst others, and will ultimately reach 80% of the Public Service; to replace the existing Scarce Skills Framework for the Public Service with the introduction of the revised salary structures; to review the nonpensionable allowances; to deal with certain leave matters; to provide for the adjustment of the medical aid subsidy; to provide for the alignment of the Public Service with the requirements of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1997;

and to provide for processes to review certain existing terms and conditions of employment.

Labour has agreed to consider this proposal in its entirety, while negotiating certain aspects within the proposal. Agreement has been reached on the larger part of this proposal, with exceptions amongst others being the level of the salary increase, the conditions relating to medical aid and the pay progression for those who will remain outside the new pay framework for professionals and other specialists. We consider this a major advance. We have collectively moved from a deadlock situation to one in which we are able to negotiate on the future nature of the Public Service.

Madam Speaker, I would like to use my remaining time to give a little detail to our proposal for the occupation-specific salary structures, developed to attract and retain certain employees. This structure will enable us to address the current "one size fits all" approach which we use to remunerate a wide range of occupation categories. Much is made of the poor conditions under which such professionals, for example educators and nurses, work and we recognise the need for their salaries to be revised. This system will recognise the unique skills and experience of such categories. It will offer a unique salary structure per occupation with centrally determined grading structures and broad job profiles. No longer will professionals reach a plateau early on in their careers, which is often the cause of their departing from their chosen occupation or from the Public Service. They will now have career-pathing opportunities based on competencies, experience and performance. The system will cater for pay progression within the salary level and certain current benefits and allowances will be incorporated into their salaries. We will, where appropriate, align salaries to the market, enhancing the Public Service as an employer of choice.

We are proposing to implement the new structure for nurses with effect from 1 July 2007. Certain categories of nurses with ten years or longer experience stand to earn a very significant increase in the area of 50%. Legal professionals within the justice cluster will become eligible from July 2007, educators will be included from 1 January 2008 and social workers engineers and architects from July 2008, followed by correctional officials, environmentalists and other identified professionals in July 2009. Other professionals in these sectors are also catered for, and the detail is available.

The negotiations related to each of these occupations will be dealt with at the relevant sectoral bargaining council, but these professionals can rest assured that they will see very significant increases. These negotiations are not only about a percentage increase, but about a change in the nature of the Public Service, where those who work hard and have skills and experience will be recognised and rewarded.

Provisions for the roll-out of the housing allowance are also on the table and represent very significant assistance, particularly to the lower levels of workers. We also agree to undertake a comprehensive review of the current housing allowance and undertake to complete this and negotiate the recommendations by July 2008.

The employer also recognises the need to reward improvement in qualifications that are job related and will enhance performance and service delivery, as well as the need to revise the existing long-service award, in order to retain skills and reward loyalty.

Madam Speaker, while these provisions often pale against the heat generated by the debate on percentages, it is these benefits that make an organisation an employer of choice.

It was that great revolutionary, leader and

thinker V I Lenin who coined the term "economism" to describe certain groupings in the terrain of social change, who sought to reduce the needs of the workers to the mere monetary, ignoring the long-term needs and aspirations of those who toil for their salary.

He wrote: "If the economic struggle is taken as something complete in itself, there will be nothing socialist in it."

I am happy that we have moved from such positioning in our negotiations and that we can now face the challenge of shaping our Public Service so that it is both able to cater for the needs of its employees and the needs of our nation.

Mr K J MINNIE: Mevrou die Speaker, agb Minister, agb kollegas . . . [Madam Speaker, hon Minister, hon colleagues . . .]

. . . while the DA acknowledges the constitutional right of workers including the public servants to strike, we would like to urge all stakeholders to ensure that the looming national strike, reportedly scheduled to begin on 1 June, takes place within the ambit of the law and that violence is avoided at all cost. Public servants play a key role in the delivery of services such as emergency services, water, electricity, education and health. If the rendering of these crucial services were to grind to a halt, most South Africans, especially our children, our elderly and the sick would suffer immensely.

Die swak vlak van dienslewering waaraan Suid-Afrika se mense blootgestel word, kan deur 'n staking net verder versleg. Belangrike projekte met die oog op, onder meer, die 2010-Wêreldbeker is reeds agter. Dit kan tot verdere verleentheid vir Suid-Afrika lei, sou dit verder ontwrig word. *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.)*

[The poor level of service delivery to which the people of South Africa are exposed, can only deteriorate further through a strike. Important projects with regard to, among others, the 2010 World Cup are already behind schedule. Should these be disrupted even further, it can only lead to additional embarrassment for South Africa.]

In the not-so-distant future our children will be sitting for their mid-year examinations. Needless to say, their preparations will be hampered by an indefinite strike and precious time may never be recovered.

Daarom doen die DA 'n beroep op almal wat aan die staking gaan deelneem om respek te toon, ook aan die staatsamptenare wat hulle grondwetlike reg uitoefen om nie te staak nie. Verder moet die regering alles in sy vermoë doen om die veiligheid en sekuriteit van diegene wat nie aan die staking wil deelneem nie, te verseker. Ek dink dit is die plig van die regering om dit te doen. *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.)*

[The DA therefore calls on all those who are going to participate in the strike to show respect, *inter alia* to those public servants who exercise their constitutional right not to strike. Furthermore, the government must do everything in its power to ensure the safety and security of those who do not wish to participate in the strike. I believe it is the government's duty to do so.]

The DA believes that it is not too late for the parties to reconsider their positions in the name of the wellbeing of all South Africans.

Wanneer voordele beding is, behoort meriete die oorwegende faktor te wees in die toekenning van hierdie voordele. Ek wil vir u sê, agb Minister: U moet u nie deur kwetsende plakkate van stryk laat bring nie. U moet u oog op die bal hou. Ons is dankbaar dat daar vordering gemaak is met die oog op 'n oplossing vir dit wat vir ons voorlê. Ons wens u en u onderhandelingspan baie sterkte toe. Ek dank u. [Applous.] *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.)*

[Once benefits have been negotiated, merit ought to be the determining factor in the allocation of these benefits. I want to say to

you, hon Minister: Don't allow yourself to be distracted by insulting placards. You must keep your eye on the ball. We are grateful that progress has been made with regard to a solution to what lies in store for us. We wish you and your negotiating team all the strength. Thank you. [Applause.]]

Mr H J BEKKER: Madam Speaker, we thank the hon Minister for her statement and we wish her all the best for the future. We can only trust that a breakthrough will come in these negotiations and that the preliminary agreement will subsequently be fulfilled.

We would like to know—and the Minister hasn't mentioned anything in this regard—what is going to happen on Friday? Is that particular strike off, and what is going to happen in the succeeding weeks? There was no clarity with regard to that in the Minister's statement.

Furthermore, what will be the position of this discussion, and does the Minister believe that we will have a way forward before the end of June and whether we will be on an even keel after that?

The IFP is very concerned about the stalling in the negotiations and that it is only as a last-ditch effort that these things come to the fore. We agree with the Minister that public servants must receive an equitable remuneration and that we must attract the best possible employees that the labour market can offer, and that special skills must be developed and retained.

The IFP, however, also understands the anxiety of public servants who believe that they are receiving on average marginally more than the inflation rate. Perhaps more emphasis should have been placed on the monetary value, which is what is at stake here—what goes into the public servant's pocket—and not on the other aspects that are not directly measurable to people on the outside of the process.

Regarding the different categories that have been mentioned by the Minister, we would like to know what is going to be the position with regard to the police in future, etc? Having said all that, the IFP can only wish that this unfortunate situation comes to an end and that we can hold hands and move forward united. I thank you very much.

Mr A HARDING: Madam Speaker, firstly, it would appear that some progress has been made, and as the ID we sincerely hope that both parties in this dispute can find each other. We say this on the basis that if the labour unions go ahead with the strike, South Africa will lose because this will have dire consequences for service delivery to the poor and for our economy.

This democracy was built on compromise, finding each other and reaching out to each other, and we as the ID therefore make the call that the same spirit resonates in the negotiations between government and the unions.

The fact that all 19 unions are standing together cannot be ignored, and therefore it is very important that both parties in this dispute find each other. I thank you.

Mrs C DUDLEY: Madam Speaker, the ACDP is of the opinion that the 6% wage increase that government offered public servants was yet another blow to the already crippling shortages of skills and dwindling capacity at all levels of service delivery. The ACDP believes that this was a missed opportunity.

This year's annual increase could have carried a message of government's commitment to ensuring that those delivering much-needed services in our country are valued and that retaining and attracting skills have been prioritised. In view of much talk and promises by government, of ensuring retention of skills, the increases proposed by the state were unrealistic.

The new system that the Minister has outlined, however, which recognises scarce skills and competence, sounds like a prom-

ising solution, positively influencing critical areas of service delivery. It is imperative that the government adequately addresses the current perceptions and serious lack of skills and capacity owing to unrealistic salaries.

The ACDP, however, calls on protesters to continue to commit to a negotiated solution. Thank you.

Mnr W D SPIES: Speaker, drie jaar gelede het staatsdienswerkers en die regering onder moeilike omstandighede geskik op 'n drie-jaarplan vir salarisverhogings. Daardie plan het behels dat salarisse aan die hand van die inflasiekoers aangepas sou word.

Dit is goed so en die VF Plus het dit destyds verwelkom. Die realiteit wat egter elke werker in die gesig staar, is dat daar 'n groeiende gaping bestaan tussen die amptelike inflasiekoers en wat deur baie gedefinieer word as "werkersinflasie", met ander woorde, die styging in lewenskoste wat elke deursnee werker in die land beleef.

Ons moet daarvan kennis neem en ons moet dit ook in berekening bring by die formules en die persentasies wat ons bepaal. Terwyl die VF Plus dus begrip het vir die staat se posisie in hierdie opsig, wil ons nietemin pleit dat die omstandighede van die land se werkers, en spesifiek sy onderwysers en die beskermingsdienste, nie uit die oog verloor moet word nie.

Ons verwelkom daarom die aankondiging van die Minister, veral ten opsigte van gesondheidswerkers, verpleegsters en onderwysers om hul salarisse op 'n nuwe spoor te plaas. Ons steun die Minister in hierdie verband en ons verwelkom ook die aankondiging. Baie dankie. *(Translation of Afrikaans speech follows.)*

[Mr W D SPIES: Speaker, three years ago civil servants and the government agreed, under very difficult circumstances, on a three year plan for salary increases. The plan entailed the adjustment of salaries according to the inflation rate.

It was well done and at the time the FF Plus welcomed the agreement. However, the reality that every worker has to face up to is the growing gap between the official inflation rate and that which has been defined by many as "workers' inflation", in other words, the increases in the cost of living experienced by the average worker in the country.

We must take cognisance of this and we must also include it in our calculations when we decide on the formulae and the percentages. While the FF Plus understands the government's position in this respect, we nevertheless want to plead that sight should not be lost of the circumstances of the workers in the country, specifically its educators and the protection services.

We therefore welcome the announcement by the Minister, especially in regard to health workers, nurses and educators' salaries being placed on a new track. We support the Minister in this regard and we also welcome the announcement. Thank you very much.]

Mr M T LIKOTSI: Madam Speaker, our position as the PAC of Azania is crystal clear: Let's avert the workers' strike at all cost because it will have a negative impact on the stability and the growth of our economy. Let there be a political will to resolve the impasse.

Our country has been hurt several times by disagreements between the government and the workers. Common sense tells us that where two big, strong and fat elephants fight, it is the grass that most suffers.

Madam Minister, the government's offer to the workers, as you explained it here, appears reasonable. On the contrary, the workers' demands in comparison also look most reasonable.

When a Cabinet Minister, after work, goes home with a wheelbarrow full of wage, the poor Member of Parliament, with half a

spade of wage, the poorest of the workers with a spoonful of wage, then there is a problem.

Let the government, through the Minister, try its best and become most reasonable. Let the Minister be reminded of Marie Antoinette who, when hungry people called for bread, said: "Let them eat cake." Let this government abandon capitalist policies and move towards socialism. It is a well-known fact that capitalism is about the rich becoming richer and the poor becoming poorer.

The PAC says, avert the strike by the workers and negotiate a middle deal for all parties to enjoy the fruits of their toil. I thank you. [Applause.]

Ms S RAJBALLY: Madam Speaker, Ministers, strike action throughout the country will create some instability in service delivery. In view of the Minister for the Public Service and Administration's multiterm agreement, the MF calls for reasonable and open negotiations.

The scales of the multiterm agreement need to be weighed against the benefits demanded by labour unions. We are a poverty-stricken nation, working hard to develop and grow both socially and economically.

Under no circumstances does the MF support the exploitation of labour. While the MF supports the plea by labour, we also call for reasonable and flexible negotiations to settle the pending matter with little consequence to the Public Service.

Hon Minister, the MF wishes you and the other party well in your negotiations and hopes that you reach a compromise. I thank you.

Mr P J NEFOLOVHODWE: Madam Speaker, Azapo is of the view that Public Service workers have had a hard blow for sometime now. Their salaries had been in the lower brackets compared to other workers in the country. Some of these workers perform essential services. Those services are fundamental to our lives and to the country. Azapo believes these services deserve recognition and workers should therefore be paid reasonably well.

The Minister of Finance has complicated the matter by issuing a statement that in fact there is money that can be used to this effect. And to paraphrase the Minister of Finance, we must surely prioritise our budget and share with those workers so that every individual's life has equal worth.

To negotiate on the basis of inflation targeting alone does not help since the government does not control prices. Azapo urges all parties to continue with negotiations until a solution is found. I thank you.

Mnr S SIMMONS: Speaker, ek is seker dat die agb Minister dit duidelik aan Cosatu sou verduidelik het dat die fiskus nie so 'n groot uitgawe van 12%-verhoging aan staatsamptenare sal kan dra nie, tensy ander dienste soos behuising, gesondheidsdienste en welsyndienste se begrotings gesny word. Die vraag is: Kan dit bekostig word en is dit in belang van Suid-Afrika? Daar sal maar voortgegaan moet word met die onderhandelingsproses omdat daar geen ander manier is om oplossings te vind nie. Ons kinders wat ons toekoms is, sal die hardste geslaan word indien daar voortgegaan word met die beoogde staking. Ek wil nie eens verwys na die negatiewe uitwerking wat dit sal hê op dienslewering nie en hoe dit die ekonomie sal raak nie. Ek wil net sê dat dit vir Suid-Afrika miljarde rande gaan kos, wat ons nie kan bekostig nie.

Die UPSA wil hiermee 'n pleidooi tot die betrokke partye rig om terug te keer na die onderhandelingstafel en in belang van Suid-Afrika en sy mense op te tree. Die vordering wat die Minister genoem het, word waardeer. [Applous.] *(Translation of Afrikaans speech follows.)*

[Mr S SIMMONS: Speaker, I am certain the hon Minister will have made it clear to Cosatu that the fiscus cannot afford such a

great expenditure as a 12% raise for public servants, unless the budget for other services such as housing, health services and welfare services is reduced. The question is: Can this be afforded, and is it in South Africa's interest? The negotiation process will have to be continued, because there is no other way to find solutions. Our children, who are our future, will be hardest hit if the planned strike goes ahead. I don't even want to refer to the negative impact it will have on service delivery, or to how it will affect the economy, except to say that it will cost South Africa billions of rand, which we cannot afford.

The UPSA wishes to appeal to the parties concerned to return to the negotiating table, and to act in the best interest of South Africa and her people. The progress which the Minister had mentioned is appreciated. [Applause.]]

Mr P J GOMOMO: Madam Speaker, hon Minister for the Public Service and Administration and hon members of Parliament, at occasions like this, where one has to respond to the statement on wage negotiations, one always has a responsibility to tread responsibly. We all know that the negotiation process in itself is sensitive and therefore places an enormous challenge on all involved to be equally responsible.

On this score, we want to congratulate all parties involved in the negotiations who went back to the negotiating table. We know that they did that with a view to trying to find one another. We know that they did so with the intention to manage the gap that kept them so far from each other. We knew and expected that such a move was an opportunity that could possibly to respond to address the possible collapse of negotiations and the declaration of a dispute. We knew and understood that a move back to the negotiating table was a voluntary and responsible step taken by the parties themselves and that it coincided with calls that some of us made even at this very podium last week.

Once more, we salute you for that bold, relevant and responsible move. Of course, we were not naïve to expect that such move back to the negotiating table was going to be a smooth one. We know that people at wage negotiations are emotional themselves and that they always have two extreme positions. We are only lucky that we sometimes have a position in the centre. It is common cause that both of the extreme positions will always seek to maximise their position to have their shine over the other and they each put their points forward in such a manner that they are seen to be committed to the agenda of the constituency they represent.

Given an opportunity, each side will like to talk of the other as if to suggest that the other party is out of order and they call one another all sorts of names. Some of us understand this kind of undertone.

The question that society is asking is: If responsibility is the name of the game in dealing with the negotiations, is a sense of responsibility at all times maintained by all the negotiators? In this current wage negotiation, I leave it to society to judge and to the negotiators themselves to do an introspection as to how they think they project of themselves.

As Parliament, we have a duty to tread more responsibly and be part of the solution that is being seen as part of the problem. We should therefore occupy space at the centre to give support and encouragement to the parties at the negotiating table that they should try their best to address the negotiations issues to such an extent that society does not get the worst out of their dispute.

Not long ago, President Thabo Mbeki led us to acknowledge that we have entered a season of hope. This did not come like manna from heaven, but it came as the fruit of our own labour. We soiled our hands in the management of the tight programme that we had and we still have to transform South Africa to be a better nation and an influential player in the international family of nations.

We have acquitted ourselves quite well and the weapon that was delivered to all of us as a nation is dialogue. This has been a master key that has opened so many closed doors that today we speak of ourselves as a nation to be relied on.

It is not surprising therefore that even this statement presented to us today confirms that some breakthroughs have been recorded in the Public Service wage negotiations. It confirms that even today we still have champions of the struggle to use this weapon to advance the course of transformation and settlement of dispute. We know that parties may not claim that they achieve all they intend from the negotiations. But our call as Parliament should be that as they continue to engage on these matters, they should do so in such a manner as not to distract the nation from the broad national agenda that we as a country have adopted and enshrined in the Constitution.

We call on the parties, as they continue to advance the cause of the mandate to compete in the democracy, that they should also look at the bigger picture to ensure that there is peace and stability.

Addressing Codesa on 20 December 1991, Comrade Nelson Mandela said:

> Nothing could be more irresponsible than for us to deny our people the right to peace and freedom of association and deny our country its due economic growth.

He continued to say:

> We want to make a strong appeal to everybody to place the compelling national concerns above narrow sectoral interests.

We need to demonstrate that we are capable of dealing with these issues in an amicable way so as to confirm that indeed the tool of dialogue is working for us as it worked before and that we are ready to keep on sharpening it at every encounter. Let us march forward with responsible negotiations and let us remain in a season of hope forever. I wish you well, Minister. I really hope you reach a conclusion so that everyone in this society will be a happy person. I thank you very much. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Members are reminded that the Extended Public Committee on the Minerals and Energy Budget Vote starts at three o'clock in the Old Assembly Chamber.

Debate concluded.

The House adjourned at 14:47.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMITTEE—OLD ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

Members of the Extended Public Committee met in the Old Assembly Chamber at 15:03.

House Chairperson Mr G Q M Doidge, as Chairperson, took the Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS—see col 4700.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Debate on Vote No 29—Minerals and Energy:

The MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY: Chairperson, colleagues, hon members, captains of industry, members of the trade union movement here present, ladies and gentlemen, when the people of South Africa bestowed on us the mandate to govern this country, the first step was to initiate the relevant reforms which would enable us to successfully effect good governance and government. The time has now arrived for us to successfully implement the policies we have so far formulated, which are mainly aimed at redressing the imbalances of the apartheid past.

In my maiden Budget Vote speech as the Minister of Minerals and Energy, I would like to affirm, as a cadre of the ANC, that I will continue the legacy left by my predecessors of advancing the mining and energy sectors to greater heights. [Applause.] Commitment to this legacy is more pressing today than ever to holistically address some of the issues highlighted by President Mbeki in his state of the nation address of 2007, in which he reminded us of our key challenges which included intensifying the fight against poverty, addressing the challenges of the second economy, providing basic services and reducing the cost of doing business in South Africa.

The Department of Minerals and Energy is responsible for key sectors in the South African economy and, therefore, is well placed to heed the call made by President Mbeki and drive South Africa towards a sustainable energy supply and mineral wealth that is shared by all her people. I therefore would like to table the department's 2007-08 budget of R2,96 billion of which 63% is allocated to the electrification programme, which includes Eskom and municipalities. The department only receives 21% of this amount. In the 2006-07 financial year, the department was allocated a budget of R2,6 billion, and members will be pleased to note that we spent 99% of that budget.

Capacity challenges that have manifested themselves in frequent blackouts and fuel shortages have been a concern for me as the Minister charged with the security of energy supply. These are as a consequence of infrastructure constraints as well as the inadequacy of some of the demand-and-supply plans that were put in place years ago. In addressing these challenges, we will present an Energy Master Plan, which incorporates a detailed energy infrastructure plan covering the next five years, by June this year. Following this, we will develop an integrated energy modelling system that will inform integrated energy planning. This modelling system, which will be in place by 2009, will allow for data capturing and the development of a long-term energy plan.

By the end of October 2007, we would have introduced a piece of legislation that will mandate provision of energy data and the use of healthy, safe, energy-efficient and energy-friendly appliances. A key aspect of this piece of legislation will be the creation of entities that will promote energy efficiency, renewable energies, energy planning and environmental protection. However, these plans will have but a minimal impact on the modelling system, unless all consumers take a conscious decision to use energy efficiently.

Energy efficiency will be key in our comprehensive strategy aimed at ensuring security of energy supply. On Friday, 1 June, I will launch an intensive multimedia energy efficiency campaign in partnership with the Department of Public Enterprises, Eskom and other state organs. The campaign will target ordinary households and industrial consumers with a view to influencing prudent consumer behavioural patterns without negatively impacting on the economy.

We are confident that this intervention will yield enormous benefits in the form of overall reduction in energy demand, promote energy security, and contribute towards environmental conservation and savings for individual households.

A few weeks ago, the National Energy Regulator of SA—Nersa—released an audit report conducted in 11 electricity distribution utilities in the country. The report showed that the distribution industry's operations are suboptimal, with an infrastructure maintenance backlog of approximately R7 billion. This scenario poses a serious challenge for the restructuring of the electricity industry in the country and calls for the acceleration of the electricity distribution industry restructuring process.

To this end, I will be presenting the Electricity Distribution Industry—EDI—Restructuring Bill to Parliament before the end of this year. This will be in line with the Cabinet decision of 25 October 2006 in terms of which the EDI will be restructured into six wall-to-wall REDs—regional electricity distributors—as public entities managed through the Public Finance Management Act and regulated by Nersa. I have taken note of what South Africans have been saying about the process and would like to reassure all stakeholders that the proposed legislative framework will accommodate all the concerns that have been raised.

Within the implementation of the Integrated National Electrification Programme—INEP—the absence of bulk infrastructure, especially in rural areas, has put a strain on the performance of the programme. Last year an amount of R282 million had to be channelled from electricity connections to bulk infrastructure, resulting in a reduced number of connections planned for the year. This year, again, out of a total of R1,4 billion allocated for household electrification, a further R380 million has been set aside for the building of 10 substations. This year we will electrify 150 000 households and 700 schools and also improve the quality of supply in preparation for the 2010 Fifa World Cup and beyond.

However, our rallying cry "a better life for all" is not a hollow promise. There can never be a better life if we don't have electricity for our health facilities and if our children continue to study in the dark. We will eradicate the backlog at all clinics by the end of this financial year and at all schools within three years. A challenge which continues to confront us is that most of our people have limited access to energy to meet their thermal needs. Even when they have electricity, they continue to use low-grade coal and paraffin for heating and cooking.

We have launched a pilot project in partnership with municipalities in Tshwane and Tembisile to provide 30 000 households with modern thermal fuels, in the form of liquefied petroleum gas—LPG. This pilot will allow us to set the regulatory framework on two counts: for using a more energy-efficient carrier like LP gas as a demand-side management initiative in the face of the peak electricity supply crunch that we are currently experiencing, and for an appropriate pricing mechanism for LP gas.

It is unacceptable that LP gas is priced as a leisure energy carrier, when there might be an opportunity to utilise it to substitute traditional carriers like biomass and paraffin. We have, over the years, made noises that we thought would trigger an appropriate market solution, but the price of LP gas has re-

mained unacceptably high. We now have no choice but to regulate the LPG industry.

The President in his state of the nation address indicated that government would be accelerating preparatory work to ensure greater reliance on nuclear energy and other renewable energies. In this regard, the department recently tabled a draft nuclear energy policy and strategy in Cabinet. The policy will guide the expanded nuclear programme and address the issue of investment in uranium beneficiation.

The policy will ensure that uranium output from our mines will always be used first to satisfy our own beneficiation needs. Safety and our commitment to peaceful uses will always guide our beneficiation programme. Technology transfer and localisation of manufacturing will be mandatory for any procurement of nuclear power plants and equipment. The Nuclear Energy Corporation of SA, Necsa, will be central in implementing uranium beneficiation strategy.

The expanded nuclear programme is expected to result in the development of a nuclear energy industrial complex, which will lead to the creation of jobs in the nuclear sector. This envisaged energy complex will be anchored on uranium beneficiation and power plant manufacturing infrastructure.

In line with this anticipated need and the objectives of the Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition, I launched the SA Young Nuclear Professionals Society which is aimed at boosting the potential skills pool in this critical sector.

In keeping with the empowerment of women, we will, as we have in the past, continue to support their participation through the Women in Nuclear SA—Winsa—programme.

In response to the Moerane commission's recommendations, the department together with the oil industry established a Fuel-Strategic Supply Task Team. The team has identified current and future supply constraints. It has formulated possible strategies and options to deal with these issues.

The initial indications are pointing to the need for investment by state-owned entities in pipelines, storage and handling facilities. The findings have, however, pointed to inefficiencies emanating from industry practices, especially in port and railway operations. Changes in industry operation will result in the capacity of rail infrastructure being more than doubled and the port capacity increased by a factor of three. PetroSA, the implementing agency of the Central Energy Fund, will invest in the development of the requisite energy infrastructure network. The findings of this task team have also informed the contents of our integrated energy master plan that will be released in June this year.

Last year we started with the licensing of petroleum activities. We have received over 12 500 applications to date, mostly in the last week of the conversion period which closed on 17 September 2006. We expect to issue all licences by the end of this financial year. The transformation of the petroleum sector has been slow. And indeed, if anything, we would want to see women benefiting from this transformation, especially women in Winsa, and taking leadership in that regard.

Licensing under the Petroleum Products Amendment Act provides us with an invaluable tool to effect transformation in the sector. Drawing from our experiences in the processing of mining licences, we ensured that our implementation plans were geared towards preventing any possible backlogs.

The draft biofuels strategy served before Cabinet last year, and was published for public comment. We have just completed an extensive public consultation process on it. The final strategy will be concluded before the end of the financial year.

As part of our efforts to ensure access to energy by all South Africans, the depart-

ment, in collaboration with municipalities, Total SA, Sasol and other stakeholders, committed to increasing the number of integrated energy centres countrywide. The main objective is to bring affordable and sustainable energy services and information closer to the poor communities.

Underlying this is a strong social responsibility aimed at ensuring sustainable energy supply and a wealth that is shared by all our people, job creation and capacity-building. A strategy and roll-out plan to establish more integrated energy centres until 2015 have been approved.

Previously, the role played by energy globally was underestimated, and recent geopolitical and technological developments indicate beyond doubt the significance of energy in shaping the economies and foreign policies of many countries in the world. To this end, I will be convening a stakeholder summit in September, during which these issues will be discussed. The summit will also deliberate on climate change issues as well as energy challenges facing South Africa and Africa in general.

The commodities boom of 2005 continued into 2006 and, as preliminary figures for 2006 indicate, mineral sales grew by 36,7% to R195,2 billion and those of processed minerals grew at a moderate 14,5%. Sadly, this strong growth in mineral sales was initially not matched by any meaningful fixed capital investment unlike in other mining countries.

Recently, we have noted a marked improvement in this area. We have also seen new black-economic-empowerment-compliant mines opening, especially in Limpopo and North West, as you might have seen in the newspapers over the weekend. As recently as yesterday, near Brits in the North West, International Ferro Metals SA was officially opened. This is a further sign of confidence in our regulatory environment.

Reports about lack of direct investment in the sector resulted in the Department of Minerals and Energy conducting international road shows to understand the obstacles to investments. In addition, together with the Chamber of Mines and the National Union of Mineworkers, we conducted a desktop study that helped provide us with an indication of what some of the causes of this lack of investment were. The first that was identified was geographical location of South Africa compared to its competitors in that most of the commodities in South Africa are mined far inland. The second was the promotion of beneficiation in South Africa when its competitors are eager to continue supplying raw material. The third was the advent of democracy, which has made South African companies more global and therefore they are able to invest anywhere and are not necessarily limited to South Africa. The regulatory framework and the lack of infrastructure development was another factor.

Despite all this, prospects for job creation in the South African mining industry look very promising based on the sound regulatory foundation that we have laid.

We are also organising an all-inclusive indaba for 11 June 2007, where we will be discussing all the aspects of the industry in order to come up with concrete strategies. All players, as well as suppliers of infrastructure, will be urged to attend. The results from this indaba will be fed into the work of Asgisa and could possibly form part of future National Assembly debates.

The department has continued to roll out its support to the development of small-scale mining and, for the first time this year, extended this support to jewellery fabrication projects as they are easily portable. Both these interventions have made an immense contribution to the second economy.

Regarding beneficiation, we are developing skills in the jewellery sector for our people to be able to take leadership roles and for the provinces to be able to play a supporting role when we start implementing the Diamonds

Amendment Act, the Diamonds Second Amendment Act and the Precious Metals Act. These amendments will usher in a more representative SA Diamonds and Precious Metals Regulator to replace the SA Diamond Board. The Diamond Exchange and Export Centre that will be introduced will monitor the export of diamonds whilst the State Diamond Trader will make diamonds available solely to the diamond beneficiators.

All these institutions will be in place when the President promulgates these pieces of legislation, which promulgation is expected to be not later than August this year. Hon members should be aware that the State Diamond Trader will initially open in Johannesburg but, with time, it will move permanently to Kimberley, making Kimberley the real diamond hub of South Africa. [Applause.] I would also like to thank De Beers for offering the services of Diamdel to the State Diamond Trader and also express appreciation to the Diamond Bourse of SA for offering its facilities to be used by the Diamond Exchange and Export Centre. This shows the co-operative way in which we work in this country in a true public-private partnership.

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of women in mining, I would like to introduce to the House a woman who has taken full advantage of this new dispensation: Angelina Nofolovhodwe . . . [Applause.] I want you to listen carefully as I relate her story. Angelina is 50 years old, she only passed Standard 4, she is a rural mother of seven, and she is well on her way to becoming South Africa's first self-made female mining magnate. [Applause.] Only a few years ago, this Limpopo businesswoman was jobless, with grim prospects. Acting on a dream she had of holding gold in her hand, she decided to go into mining in 2002. True to her dream, she soon won her first licence for a gold mine, but things continued to be tough until 2005. Today, she is a happy mother and humble businesswoman who has offices in Sandton, and travels the world. [Applause.] She is wanted in Canada and in Zimbabwe. Actually, she has licences for mines in Zimbabwe. [Applause.] It's very nice. She is married, so she is not available.

Our efforts to pursue and consolidate gender empowerment in the mining industry have culminated in the revitalisation of the SA Women in Mining Association and the official launch of their national offices in Johannesburg. Women empowerment is duly assured when women's organisations are placed on a sound administrative and financial footing. We shall continue to do this with all women's organisations.

Our demonstrable will to facilitate the participation of women and youth in the minerals and energy sectors saw the birth of yet another sector group during 2006. It is called Youth in Energy and Mining, which serves as a vehicle to facilitate youth programmes and also to reach out to as many youth in our country as possible. To further fulfil the objectives of the Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition, the Council for Geoscience and the CEF group of companies, together with the University of Fort Hare, have entered into a collaborative programme for skills development in the fields of geology, chemistry and economics.

Angelina is not the only person whose life has been transformed by the existence of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, MPRDA, or who now finds herself presented with opportunities she never imagined possible. The department has received 11 447 applications for various types of rights since the promulgation of the MPRDA. The number of applications received is unprecedented in the history of mining in this country. I also want to inform you that there is no backlog in respect of applications received. [Applause.] We have processed everything within the timeframes prescribed in the MPRDA.

The department further utilises the MPRDA through its requirements for a social and labour plan to intensify the "struggle against

poverty". We want to ensure that the communities where these mining activities occur survive beyond the depletion of the ore body. We expect the mining companies to act as a catalyst for positive change in areas where there may be few opportunities for economic and social development.

Last week I had the privilege of meeting 10 students from OR Tambo and 10 others from Taung. I think they are in the gallery. [Applause.] Those are the beneficiaries of the social labour plan from Impala Platinum Holdings Limited, Implats. Implats is going to pay for their studies at university until they complete their education. Thereafter, they will be placed in the employ of Implats. [Applause.]

Over this past year I have been privileged to visit a number of housing projects, schools and clinics which are initiatives undertaken by mining companies in an effort to fulfil the criteria as set out in the MPRDA. This is truly encouraging, and I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the companies for responding positively to this transformation that is happening. Without their co-operation we wouldn't be achieving what we are in the projects I have spoken about. It is encouraging to see that some progress is being made in terms of ensuring that the mineral wealth of our country is shared by all our people.

However, we still have some way to go. Many of our workers are still forced to live in dehumanising conditions. They are still forced to live in same-sex hostels, away from their families with all the social consequences that this presents. We applaud those companies that have embraced the transformation agenda and have taken steps to voluntarily comply and, in some cases, exceed the requirements in terms of their quest to improve human dignity. We wish to send a strong message to the industry not to doubt our resolve to use the means at our disposal to ensure that transformation of this industry takes place.

A database for derelict and ownerless mines and a ranking system were developed to assist the department in prioritising the rehabilitation of derelict and ownerless mines. This will form part of a bigger strategy on the rehabilitation of derelict and ownerless mines to be finalised in the next financial year. The rehabilitation of unsafe, derelict and ownerless mine shafts and subsidence projects was initiated by the department in 2005, and 600 shafts and subsidence projects have been identified. Forty-four extremely hazardous openings—including subsidence—have been closed as part of phase 1. Of the 600, a total of 201 are ownerless and will become government's responsibility to close and rehabilitate in the interests of the communities.

Mining companies that are responsible for the closure and rehabilitation of the remaining 399 will be instructed to do so in terms of the Mine Health and Safety Act of 1996. We will continue to forge links with local authorities in identifying these hot spots, so that incidents such as the one in which a lady fell into a sinkhole can be avoided.

The health and safety of all employees on our mines will remain a key concern for us. In line with government's objective of achieving a better life for all South Africans, the Mine Health and Safety Inspectorate is responsible for ensuring that the mining operation's impact on the health and safety of employees and host communities is minimised.

For the first time in the history of the South African mining industry, there were fewer than 200 fatalities recorded in one year. I am glad to inform you that there has been a significant improvement in rock-related accidents over the past year.

However, there is an alarming increase in fatal accidents that are not rock-related, especially in the gold sector. In response to these seismic and rock-related accidents, I have requested that a mini-indaba be held to find a way forward in addressing these issues. This mini indaba will be held on

7 September 2007 in Carletonville. We hope that it will really help us in finding solutions, although we know for a fact that this industry is naturally very dangerous.

Illegal mining remains one of the biggest threats to employees' health and safety on the mines. The Department of Minerals and Energy will continue to work with security forces to develop a strategy of combating this criminal activity.

It is appropriate at this stage to announce that the biennial Mine Health and Safety Council Summit will be held on 5 October this year in Johannesburg, where the status of occupational health and safety in our mines will be discussed, including progress in achieving the milestones agreed to in 2003. The department, together with the Department of Labour and employers, is committed to combating the HIV and Aids epidemic in the mining industry. It is for this reason that the Mining Industry Tripartite HIV and Aids Committee will observe the 2007 World Aids Day by holding an event at a venue still to be announced at a later stage.

The fourth African Mining Partnership plenary was held in Pretoria in February this year, during which collective efforts by African mining ministers were further advanced to seek optimal ways of alleviating poverty throughout the continent. During this project-based forum of all African mining countries, specific small-scale mining projects were identified and are currently being evaluated for their respective economic feasibility prospects. There's vast recognition among African mining ministers that poverty alleviation is the cornerstone for achieving everlasting peace on the continent, and mining projects have a significant role to play. Accordingly, African mining countries also recognise that there's a direct need to harmonise the mining environment across the entire continent in order to optimise benefits for host countries.

During the African Mining Partnership plenary, the Association of African Geological Surveys was launched. Due to close collaboration of these science institutions, the compilation of the Council for Geoscience geological map for Southern African Development Community countries is very close to completion. The map will be published during the 2007-08 financial year.

Due to the commodity boom, Mintek has re-established itself as one of the foremost uranium laboratories in the country and the centre of excellence. It has played a significant role in ensuring the development and optimisation of new uranium projects on the African continent.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Mr Nathi Mthethwa, and members of the portfolio committee for their unwavering support as well as the director-general and staff of the department for their loyalty and commitment to their work. Of course, they did nurture me. I was stumbling when I came in, but they were there for me. I now feel that I belong to a big family. [Applause.] I would also like to thank my family, especially my mother, my daughter and my two grandchildren, for their understanding. [Applause.] When I had been away and came back home they would say, "Hlala kuloo Pitoli yakho, Makhulu." [Stay in your Pretoria, granny!] But I understand this to be a way of saying "Continue with your work; we support you."

Chairperson, I request the House to approve my department's budget of R2,9 billion for the 2007-08 financial year. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mnu E N MTHETHWA: Somlomo weNdlu yethu ehloniphekile, Phini lika Mongameli wezwe noNgqongqoshe abakhona, abaphathi bomnyango bezokumbiwa phansi namandla, Bantu bonke bakithi, bantwana baka Magkatho u Luthuli no Tambo. Umbutho wesizwe uKhongolose uyalweseka lolu hlahlomali. Lokhu sikwenza ngaphansi kwesiqubulo esithi, silwa nobuphofu sisebenzisa amagugu ambiwa phansi

namandla. *Lenkulumo ngiyethula ngokuhlonipha lowo owayengumongameli wombutho wesizwe ongasekho ubaba u Oliver Tambo. Nonyaka ubezobe ehlanganisa amashumi ayisishiyagalolunye njengoba wayezalwe zingamashumi amabili nesikhombisa ku Mfumfu ngawo unyaka ka 1927. Sikhuluma ke lapha ngo Tambo, uTambo dala kade bemqongqontha, uDizadala kade bemkhwahlaza, uyadela wena osulapho.

Umqulu wenkululeko uthi abantu boyokwabelana emnothweni wezwe. Umnotho ombiwa phansi uyifa lesizwe sonke. Umnyango wezokumbiwa phansi namandla uyinqolobane yomnotho wezwe lethu futhi yiwo obhekwe ukufeza lama phupho akumqulu wenkululeko. Imithetho efana nokuthuthukiswa kwamagugu kwezamandla nokumbiwa phansi iMPRBA ibalulekile ekuguqulweni kwemboni yezimayini kanye neka oyela. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[Mr E N MTHETHWA: Madam Speaker of our august House, the Deputy President, Ministers present, officials of the Department of Minerals and Energy, and our fellow people—the children of Makgatho, Luthuli and Tambo. The African National Congress supports this Bugdet Vote.

We are doing this under the theme: "We are fighting poverty using minerals and energy". I dedicate this speech to the late president of the ANC, Comrade Oliver Tambo. This year he would be turning 90, as he was born on the 27th of October 1927. I am talking here about Tambo, whose praises go as follows:

> The one whom they constantly hammered,
> Didazala—the one who was constantly flapped,
> Happy is he who is already there.

The Freedom Charter says people shall share in the country's wealth. The mineral wealth is the whole nation's inheritance. The Department of Minerals and Energy is the backbone of our country's wealth and it is expected to deliver on the objectives of the Freedom Charter. Legislation like the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Amendment Bill, the MPRDA, is very important in the transformation of the mining and petroleum industries.]

Whilst precious metals like gold are becoming depleted, it is important to note that the platinum group metals are soaring both in demand and production, especially in our country where you have more than 80% of the world's reserves. We need to ask ourselves, as lawmakers, what to do with this precious resource which will be of benefit to the majority of the people of South Africa. How do we ensure that we intervene as a developmental state in the making, in order to fight poverty and create meaningful jobs?

We commend government's resolve to speed up the implementation of the Diamond Amendment Act of 2005, which is one of the watershed pieces of legislation. When we passed this piece of legislation, we knew that we were on the path of ensuring that the wealth of the country was shared amongst all. We knew that, because we came to a resolution that we were no longer going to have the diamonds from our country exported to London to be bought there. We knew that we were going to change the status quo of having a London mix—and now a Gaborone mix—as part of the SADC region.

In order for this portfolio committee to live up to expectations, there are three main strategic areas: security of supply, cutting across the portfolio, improvement around the attainment of scarce skills, and ensuring that the majority in our country can access what they need.

The office of the chairperson of Minerals and Energy, with some officials from the Department of Minerals and Energy, has been visiting different provinces. To date, we have covered eight. We have been to district municipalities; we have been to a metro in

the country; and we have been to different local municipalities regarding the issue of access to electricity. These visits confirmed what the department has raised as a major challenge on this front, and that is the lack of bulk infrastructure. The negative effects of fragmentation in this industry, especially in terms of distribution, are another impediment to electricity access.

It has become evident to us that access to electricity will remain a pipe dream for the majority of our communities if the status quo stays intact. Some municipalities have no capacity to render this important service to the people. Others have capacity but do not bother to make investments in the servicing of the networks. In all these instances, people readily raise their powers enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic.

A point must be made that this Parliament and government have an obligation to satisfy the aspirations of the majority of the people of our land. The Constitution is therefore one of the tools in the hands of the democratic majority for social progress. If it comes to pass that with this very tool of democracy there are provisions open to abuse by those who stall progress, then it must be changed. We are saying this without taking this issue lightly. We are fully aware and appreciate what we are saying and what it means.

We have now reached the Rubicon on this matter: we either have to fold our arms and let the status quo prevail or intervene in order to restructure the industry. To this extent, we need to applaud the Department of Minerals and Energy for its devotion to ensuring that the legislative framework is in place to achieve our strategic objective on this front. It is against this backdrop that we welcome the Minister's statement that she will release the energy master plan in June this year. It also gives us joy to hear the Minister announcing the plan to construct 10 substations in this financial year. This will go a along way in ensuring universal access. The substations will deal with the network overload which produces weak quality of electricity.

Our committee met with the National Treasury in October 2006 on the need for additional resources for the electrification programme. This has proved to be fruitful and positive and, in turn, helps the Department of Minerals and Energy's projected target of universal access by 2012.

We note the Minister's concern on the slow pace of transformation in the petroleum section of energy. We believe that it is not unfounded. The committee itself is embarking on visits to oil companies individually as part of our oversight duty. We will, at the end of these engagements, give our comprehensive views about the goings-on in the industry.

We hope that the commencement of the Petroleum Products Act will help to change this situation. Also, flowing from the EmpowerDEX report presented to us last year, we note that only 3% of goods and services are procured from historically disadvantaged South Africans, HDSAs, in this industry. This is too little and needs no serious comment, really. We hope that those goods and services procured are not only on the periphery of the core business of the industry. We also hope that on the equity side, black people employed in senior positions are not just relegated to having government liaison officer functions, with strategic decisions and directions being taken somewhere in Europe and such places. On this matter, only time will tell. [Applause.]

We would like to warn against fronting in this industry, especially those of our brothers and sisters lured into this for a quick buck. This disease is killing our economy transformation programme et al. In the same breath, we have learnt that now, all of a sudden, there are white Mkhizes and Dlaminis whose disguises are such as to thwart the objectives of transformation. This corrupt practice will be uprooted since it is pure

hooliganism. On the issue of BEE, the challenge remains in the main one of ensuring human resource development and the attainment of resources in the minerals and energy sector, because if we do not do that and only focus on the transaction part of BEE, we will have missed meeting the challenge.

In conclusion, work in other energy sectors continues. We have received a strategy on biofuels, which is being processed. The Minister has alluded to that. The committee has been presented with a strategy and policy on nuclear waste management. I thank you.

Adv H C SCHMIDT: Chair, approximately eight years ago Cabinet decided to disallow Eskom building new power stations for the provisioning of electricity in order, reportedly, to provide a market in which international investors would be interested in investing in the South African electricity market.

This decision has clearly come unstuck, with major ramifications for South Africa due to either the failed policy of luring international role-players to South Africa and/or a failure to realise in time that the decision was detrimental to the country. Cabinet failed to act timeously to allow Eskom to build new capacity in an environment in which government, albeit local government, allowed the condition of the distribution networks to worsen to the point of blackouts—and the threat of blackouts—being an unavoidable occurrence.

Currently, we are faced with a reserve margin of less than 5%, in comparison to the accepted international norm of 15%, indeed a very unfortunate position considering that three power stations were mothballed approximately 20 years ago due to an oversupply of electricity. Eskom has clearly failed in its fiduciary duty towards the public by not influencing Cabinet to take the required emergency steps much earlier by, *inter alia*, planning new power stations and "demothballing" the above-mentioned power stations.

Demand-side management initiatives, such as the use of various forms of alternative and renewable energy resources as advanced by Eskom, will need to be supported if we intend to experience a winter with the least impact of interruptions, owing to applied and forced rolling blackouts, on the economy by Eskom.

Government's policy on regional electricity distributors—REDs—is unfortunately an unmitigated disaster. The President indicated in his speech to the nation in 2005 that all six intended REDs would be functional by approximately the end of 2007. I see the Chair is smiling. And here comes the best part, Mr Chair. Currently, none of the REDs is in existence at all, whilst RED 1 proved to be a failure due to a variety of reasons—least of all due to the lack of an asset management transfer framework, the responsibility of the National Treasury, a surprising lack of coordination between this department—the Department of Minerals and Energy—the National Treasury, and the Department of Provincial and Local Government, and a failure to introduce legislation to deal with REDs. The hon Minister, together with the department and the portfolio committee, should discuss and workshop the way forward, as it is clear that very little direction exists as to the necessary end result and time framework.

It is further disconcerting to note that a misalignment exists with regard to the presidential priorities, as stated by the President himself, espoused in his latest address to the nation earlier this year and the priorities set by this department. Information Services: Research clearly illustrates the point that it seems there is a disjuncture between the priorities identified in the state of the nation address and the departmental budget allocations. The budget reflects that the priorities of the department are focused on associated

services and not on those that are identified annually. This raises a number of critical questions.

Firstly, why is the departmental budget not linked to the priorities identified in the state of the nation address? Secondly, how is this department going to manage own contribution to South Africa's economic development when its own priorities differ from government priorities? Thirdly, why are the departmental priorities not in line with the priorities identified in the state of the nation address? This is a very critical question and a very valid comment indeed by Information Services: Research.

The price of fuel has clearly increased enormously and the next increase, due very shortly, will set a record price of way above R7 per litre. Increasing demand has, in the past, led to a shortage of fuel with the supply margin once again coming under pressure, with the result that possibly by the end of this year, alternatively next year, we will become a net importer of refined fuel in instances in which the industry for many decades provided sufficient refining capacity to fulfil South Africa's needs as well as those of its neighbours, including Zimbabwe. In this regard, it is reassuring and welcome to see a company like Sasol contemplating the construction of a gas-to-liquid refinery of approximately 80 000 barrels per day.

The high fuel price is unfortunately also due to the recent government-imposed increase in the compulsory fuel levy and the levy to the Motor Vehicle Assurance Fund. It is thus clear that although extraneous factors exist with regard to the increase in the fuel price, government has its fair share of shouldering the blame for this. Government, and more particularly the department, will have to approach this matter with much more ingenuity than it has thus far in ensuring that the increase in the cost of fuel, the very essence on which the economy runs, is mitigated.

The limited contents of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Amendment Bill currently before the portfolio committee is, to say the least, disappointing. The hon Minister has publicly indicated at various forums and platforms that government is serious about effecting amendments to the onerous Act which regulates the approval of new applications and conversions of existing rights to prospect and mine. The failure by government to effect meaningful changes to the Act, as the hon Minister has been indicating all along, is unfair and inappropriate to the mining industry. If government is serious about ensuring that international investment is made in the local industry, removing her wide unbridled powers in certain instances in return for regulatory certainty is an important requirement—especially when South Africa, as was said yesterday in the portfolio committee in terms of the Fraser Institute survey, an independent international survey, is ranked a shocking 53rd out of 65 countries in respect of mineral policy potential.

Lastly, I intend dealing with the issue of the responsibility of the department and the mining industry regarding environmental rehabilitation. An increase in the budget of the department would put paid to the lip service environmental rehabilitation is receiving. Currently, the department is not in a position to enforce the Act owing to a lack of budget provisions and the inherent capacity in enforcing the environmental considerations in the Act. In light of the above, the DA will not be supporting the budget. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr G Q M Doidge): Order! Order, hon members! It has come to my notice that the interpretation services are not functioning and we will not be in a position to provide for members speaking in their language of choice. We will take Mr Lucas, who is the next speaker, but if during the speech of the hon Seadimo the Setswana is not interpreted, we will have to change venues and go back to the National Assembly.

Mr E J LUCAS: Chairperson, the Depart-

ment of Minerals and Energy has a very important role to play in the social and economic upliftment of South Africa, as well as in helping our country attain a higher level of economic growth.

Our natural endowment of mineral resources has undoubtedly played a significant part in the economic development of our country, and even though the contribution to the economy of imported minerals like gold has decreased, I feel that mining and minerals can still play an important role and contribute to the future economic development of our country.

We are pleased that the allocation to the Department of Minerals and Energy has increased and we do believe the department will spend the funds effectively. We, in the IFP, believe the key to real broad-based black economic empowerment in the mining industry lies with the growth of small-scale mining. The department has accomplished a great deal in this regard and has levelled the playing field to some extent and for this they deserve congratulations.

The recipients of prospecting licences, however, still have a major obstacle to overcome in that they face a lack of access to the funding needed to advance their mining aspirations and become successful small-scale miners. Financial institutions do not readily provide financing to high-risk projects. It is only once the prospecting has been completed that a real value is placed on the project and only then do the banks show any real interest and willingness to assist and participate in these ventures.

The provision of financial assistance to those in possession of prospecting licences needs to be addressed if the small-scale mining industry is to grow at an increased rate. We therefore urge the department, together with the relevant financial institutions, to try to find ways for the holders of prospecting licences to get access to the necessary finance needed to grow their operations.

Another important area with regard to mining is the rehabilitation of abandoned mines. This has already cost the department large sums of money and even more will be spent in future to try to rehabilitate mines where the owners can't be found. The department must try its utmost to find the owners of these mines.

In the past I have raised the concern about the ever-increasing price of fuel, but the situation has now become unreasonable with motorists paying astronomical prices for petrol. This is very worrying as the price of fuel affects the prices of a whole range of goods, including food. Although we are aware that the fuel price is controlled and determined by external elements, we do believe that the department needs to look at the composition of the fuel price in order to find ways to lessen the burden on the final user who ends up carrying the bulk of the cost in the price they pay at the pumps.

The Road Accident Fund, for example, has been badly managed for a number of years and needs to be re-examined and so must the fuel tax. We, in the IFP, believe that solutions have to be found to try to lessen the price that final consumers pay for fuel as it also affects many, mostly poor, people who still rely on paraffin for their energy needs.

The very important issue of biofuels and the role that they can play in the South African energy mix needs to be explored further. A workshop together with the relevant departments and industry must be held to explore the viability and the possibilities as well as the drawbacks of biofuels.

The expansion of our economy and high economic growth targets that we have set, as well as the growth of our population, mean that there is an increased demand for reliable and consistent electricity supply. Considering the power outages experienced in many parts of the country and the resultant loss of revenue to businesses and individuals, it seems as if we are not able to meet the electricity demands of our growing economy and population.

The current situation with regard to the supply of electricity is a hindrance to growth and is not conducive to investment. It must be addressed urgently. Our current energy mix is too reliant on coal and needs to be expanded to include other energy sources which can supplement and support coal. This will also increase our readiness and preparedness to develop these sources once our coal reserves are depleted. We must make it a priority to develop and expand alternative energy sources. There must also be increased investment in technology to make use of coal in a more environmentally friendly way.

Nuclear energy and specifically the PBMR have been debated for some time. With the current inability to provide a reliable and constant electricity supply, it is time we pursue that form of energy. Before we do this, though, we must ensure that the public is thoroughly aware of and educated about nuclear energy and its various safety aspects. The department should also consider the expansion of solar energy, especially as a means to heat water. Government departments should take the lead and set an example in this regard by using solar power to heat water in all their buildings.

We have often been told that we in South Africa are very fortunate as our electricity is amongst the cheapest in the world. Although this might be true for urban and city dwellers, it is definitely not the case for many, mostly poor, people who live in rural areas. These people are often forced to supplement their electricity use with wood or gas as they cannot afford the prices that are being charged. These prices are usually much higher than those their counterparts in the big cities and urban areas are charged, while the standard of service that they get in return is much lower with more frequent power outages. The situation needs to be corrected and the needs of the people in rural areas must be given just as much attention as those in urban areas.

This department has done a very good job in the past, and I do believe that it will find solutions to the many challenges that it faces and that it will address some of the issues that I've mentioned in my speech. The IFP supports the Budget Vote. I thank you. [Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr G Q M Doidge): I now call the hon member M D Seadimo. Hon member, I think in fairness to you—before you proceed with your speech—I'll have to suspend the proceedings of this EPC and we'll move over to the National Assembly. The service is not there for us to follow your speech.

Business suspended at 16:06 due to technical problems and resumed in the National Assembly Chamber at 16:26.

Mme M D SEADIMO: Modulasetulo, Tona ya Lefapha la Dimenerale le Maatla, Maloko a Palamente a Kokoano Bosetshaba, ke bua ka Tlhopho ya Tekanyetsokabo ya Dimenerale le Maatla. Lefapha la Dimenerale le Maatla ka gale le neelana ka ditirelo tsa maemo a a kwa godimo go badirisi ba Aforika Borwa. Le fa go na le tswelelo e kgolo ya palogotlhe ya badiri eo re e itemogetseng mo ngwageng di le mmalwa tse di fetileng, go na le phokotsego e e sa reng sepe ya palogotlhe ya badiri ya lefapha lotlhe fa go tshwantshanngwa le dingwaga di le pedi tse di fetileng.

Palogotlhe ya badiri ya lefapha lotlhe ke 16% ya bofelo jwa ngwaga wa ditšhelete wa 2006-07 fa go tshwantshanngwa le 18% ka ngwaga wa ditšhelete wa 2005-06. Palogotlhe mo dikantorong tse di farologaneng tsa dikgaolo, ke palo e e tlhakantseng ya palogare ya ngwaga ka 16%. Palogotlhe kwa kantorong tse dingwe tsa dikgaolo e fetile palogotlhe ya palogare ya 16%, mme se se diragala thata kwa kgaolong tse mo go tsona ditiro di oketsegileng ka ntlha ya go tsenngwa tirisong ga Molao wa Tlhabololo ya Didiriswa tsa Dimenerale le Peteroliamo. *(Translation of Setswana paragraphs follows.)*

[Ms M D SEADIMO: Chairperson, Minister of Minerals and Energy, Members of the National Assembly, my speech is about the Budget Vote of the Department of Minerals and Energy. The Department of Minerals and Energy has always provided South African consumers with a high standard of service. Even though we experienced a substantial growth continuance of the total number of the department's employees in the previous years, there is a slight decrease in the total number of employees in the department compared to the past two years.

At the end of 2006-07 financial year, the total number in respect of employees in the department was 16%, compared to 18% in the 2005-06 financial year. The total number in respect of different district offices, on average, is 16%. In other district offices, the total number has exceeded the total average of 16%. This occurs in districts with increased workloads as a result of the implementation of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act.]

The promulgation of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act introduced a legal and regulatory framework which is different from that which exists under the Minerals Act of 1991 and other repealed mining and minerals-related legislation. It should be noted, however, that the increased number of applications did not increase commensuration with the required human resource capacity and, as such, this resulted in serving employees being overworked.

The large increase in applications for new prospecting rights occurred with the expiry of many unused old-order rights and this resulted in a situation in which the department also had to deal with different prescriptions and requirements. The newly required skills and human resource capacity to deal with different and complex prescripts and new legislation called for a different interpretation and actions by employees at regional offices, a new set of skills and working procedures which the Department of Minerals and Energy did not readily have in place at the time.

The lack of human resource capacity within the department has also compelled serving employees to do more work and to work overtime so as to alleviate the backlog, thus resulting in work overloads and consequently high staff turnover rates during the financial year. The aforementioned, and an inability to implement the approved scarce skills recruitment and retention strategy owing to the unavailability of funding, has resulted in the vacancy rate of the department always being above the required limit of at least 5%.

The department has introduced the corporate services branch, whose priorities will be skills development, building the department's corporate culture, turning the Department of Minerals and Energy into a learning organisation, and enhancing the observance and implementation of the Batho Pele principles within the department.

The department is committed to capacitating and developing its staff members. To this effect, the department has established the Directorate: Human Resource Development to focus on building staff competencies and the provision of training and development interventions in order to build capacity to ensure that it delivers on its core mandate.

The department has also established the Education, Training and Development Committee to advise and oversee the training and development of staff. The committee has representatives from different branches as well as representatives of the unions.

The department focuses on the following programmes. There is the management development programme for senior managers. The executive public development programme is presented over a period of 10 months. It is an interactive programme and covers the following modules: strategic capacity and leadership; programme and

project management; public-sector financial management; change and conflict management; knowledge and information management; service delivery and management tools; problem solving and analysis; people management and empowerment; client orientation and customer focus; and communication. This programme is aligned with an honours qualification in a Bachelor of Administration: Public Administration degree.

The aim of the middle-management development programme for deputy directors, Levels 11 and 12, is to provide middle managers with cutting-edge competencies and also to prepare them for the challenges of senior management services. The programme is presented over 15 days, three blocks of five days each. The programme covers the following modules: applied strategic thinking; communication and information management; problem solving and decision-making; budgeting and financial management; continuous improvement/ improvement/planning and organising/ project management; impact and influence/ networking and building bonds; and developing others/diversity management/ managing interpersonal conflict and resolving problems eam leadership.

In terms of programmes targeted at administrative level, frontline training courses and courses identified during the process of training needs analysis, the department is intensifying its planning around the issue of accredited service providers and ensuring targeted training for a technical and line-function component. Significant sponsorships have been signed with AngloGold Ashanti to offer bursaries to middle managers so as to participate in the management development programme provided by the University of Cape Town.

The second sponsorship was signed with Sasol to sponsor two officials to do MBA degrees. The ANC supports the Budget Vote. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Mr H B CUPIDO: Hon Chairperson and hon Minister, South Africa has entered the 2007 winter season with some of the lowest minimum temperatures recorded and some of the lowest maximum temperatures recorded in recent history. What many predicted and expected was lots of power outages across the country. This, fortunately, did not happen and the electricity-providing arm of the Department of Minerals and Energy affairs, Eskom, must be applauded for this achievement thus far.

The ACDP also congratulates the broader public and the industrial sector on contributing to the saving of electricity. A well-performing energy sector is critical to economic development and social transformation.

The President, in his state of the nation address in 2007, identified at least five key priorities, which are: beneficiation, biofuels, renewable energy, natural gas and nuclear energy as strategic objectives for the minerals and energy sectors. This would require the government to allocate adequate resources to achieve its goals.

The ACDP welcomes the establishment of the beneficiation processes in Kimberley. It is ironic that while diamonds have been coming from Kimberley and the Northern Cape ever since they were discovered in the 1800s, the people of the Northern Cape are still amongst the poorest people in our country.

Despite biofuels being named as the key area by the hon President, the departmental priorities do not include biofuels or any strategic policy issues to invest in the development of the biofuels industry.

The ACDP is also concerned and questions the department's statutory mandate to protect the health and safety of mine employees and people affected by mining activities. The ACDP welcomes the increase in the budget from R117 million to R124 million to address this problem during the 2007-08 budget, but believes that additional funds should

have been allocated to address the health and safety of mine workers more seriously.

Our reason for this suggestion is that the mining sector experiences many accidents, and it is often termed as an accident waiting to happen. Two hundred and seventy deaths were reported in 2003 and 264 in 2004, which is only a decrease of six fatalities. The department has set a target of a zero fatality rate for 2013, and we have picked up that the budget allocation for this strategy doesn't reflect in any form in the report. However, it is an initiative that the ACDP welcomes.

The ACDP supports the budget on Minerals and Energy. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr C H F GREYLING: Chairperson, hon Minister, South Africa and the world are at an extremely critical juncture concerning choices that need to be made with regard to energy. On the one hand, the world is fast approaching the point of peak oil, which some commentators claim is being reflected through the steep increases in the oil price.

Regardless of how far off that peak oil point is, though, it is clear that oil is a finite resource that is fast running out. As the Deputy Minister of Science and Technology, Derek Hanekom, stated last week, coal is also a finite resource, and although South Africa has large reserves, we have to start planning for alternative energy sources.

One of the biggest drivers away from fossils fuels such as oil and coal, however, is the urgent need to avoid the catastrophic effects of climate change. Einstein once said that we cannot solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.

In order to solve our challenge of energy security and mitigate the effects of climate change, we need to embrace an innovative approach to energy. Unfortunately, the ID believes that South Africa is fast losing the opportunity to play a leading role in confronting not only our own energy challenges, but those of the world as a whole.

Renewable energy is quite simply the way of the future and we need to start putting our money, our research and our legislative capabilities behind it. The entire portfolio committee was shocked a few months ago to see how little resources are currently dedicated to the development of renewable energies.

Despite constant promises over the last five years, the renewable energy strategy has, to date, not materialised. We need this strategy urgently to put forward measures such as feed-in tariffs, which can enable our energy entrepreneurs to create viable renewable energy enterprises in South Africa.

Instead of promoting technology such as wind, solar and wave, we now hear that 75% of our already small renewable energy target will be met by biofuels. Biofuels certainly have a role to play in the energy mix, but they are also problematic in a number of ways. Sangoco, for instance, has already called for a moratorium on maize to ethanol, as this could adversely affect food security and it offers no greenhouse gas mitigation benefits.

On the other side of the coin, the mandatory standards of our energy efficiency strategy, which was gazetted in 2005, have still not been implemented and the National Energy Efficiency Agency that was launched last year has no funds and is only staffed by one person, who has been seconded from Eskom.

We need to start getting serious about renewable energy and energy efficiency if we are going to have any hope of bringing down our sizeable greenhouse gas emissions.

The choices regarding our future energy security options are complex and the decisions that we make today will lock us into an energy future for the next 30 years. It is therefore vital that we make these choices in an informed and participatory manner. I was going to ask you today when we were going

to have the long-overdue energy summit that you promised the committee last year, but I think you did announce it in your speech and I welcome that.

The Integrated Energy Planning Process, though, also seems to have stalled because of a lack of donor funding for the externalities of energy study. We should not have to depend on donor funding for this study; money should have been set aside by the department as this study is crucial in informing our decisions around future energy supply.

This study, for instance, will be able to answer questions as to whether it is wise to be selling large amounts of energy to Alcan at hugely discounted rates, given the supply-side and emission problems that our country is experiencing. I have a vision of South Africa leading the world in the coming renewable energy revolution, but it will require foresight and bold moves on the part of this government. The time has come for us to firmly commit ourselves to this vision before we get left behind by a fast-changing world. Thank you.

Mr S K LOUW: Chairperson, I first need to respond to the hon Schmidt's input as a member of this committee. He does have full knowledge of the fact that there are power stations—and he admits to that—that have been closed before. And the reality and the historical facts are simple: they used apartheid to deprive the masses of the supply of energy, of electricity.

We never knew what it was to have electricity in many, many of our houses. [Interjections.] I want to go further. He also blames our department for the disaster, according to him, of the REDs. Now there is a monkey circus somewhere outside there; they call it the Cape Town City Council. [Laughter.] They are responsible for closing down the REDs, not the ANC. [Applause.]

I want to go further on the fuel pricing issue. It is obvious and it is a fact that fuel prices are determined internationally and not by the Department of Minerals and Energy. I want to comment further and respond to the unfair and political naiveness of the hon Schmidt when he commented on the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, the MPRD Act. He knows very well—he is part of the committee—that that Bill has a long way to go.

We have to be very careful when dealing with that Bill. We cannot come and comment about that Bill now. It is not the opportunity and it is not the time to do so. So, please, learn a little bit about politics! [Laughter.]

Our theme for this debate fits perfectly with our economic theme: "Fighting Poverty through Minerals and Energy Resources". In supporting this Budget Vote, the ANC-led government, guided by the pillars of the Freedom Charter, advances policies and legislation that advocate social inclusion, economic inclusion and social justice. In seeking to redress the unbalanced, skewed ownership patterns of our mineral resources, progressive legislation such as the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, the Diamonds Act and the Precious Metals Act have been promulgated in this House.

While debating this Budget Vote, we need to be reminded that we celebrate Africa Day, and it is appropriate that we reflect on the rich historically important issues relating to various commodities in and around Africa. Africa is rich and we are compelled to take the lead as South Africans in the annual meetings of Nepad and the African Mining Partnership, AMP. We must assist our neighbouring countries out of conflicts and disputes. The resources of Africa can lift our region out of the jaws of poverty.

Mineral policy and promotion is a critical branch that is mandated to formulate minerals-related policies and promote the mining industry. It must ensure a comfortable opportunity for investors in order to encourage more investment. It further regulates the minerals and mining sector in the region

under its jurisdiction and ensures that regional offices are efficiently administered, while the mineral policy branch develops new policies, reviews existing policies and amends legislation to achieve transformation.

The mineral promotion branch promotes mineral development and gives advice on trends in the mining industry in order to attract investment. Because of the mineral wealth of the country, the ANC at its 51st national congress in Stellenbosch in 2002 resolved that the establishment of a vehicle to support mineral exploration by previously disadvantaged groups should be explored.

Resources such as platinum, uranium, chrome, manganese and coal are currently in high demand and we should ensure that the previously disadvantaged groups are given an opportunity to be involved and explore the mineral potential to the maximum. It is our time to claim a fair share of the wealth of this country.

The communities that have surface rights to minerals, especially rural communities, women's groups, youth groups and disability organisations, should be brought on board and should secure full participatory status. Empowerment will sustain the industry and bring in new entrants through legislation.

In the state of the nation address of 2007, the President clearly focused on beneficiation as a critical need for development. The ANC government will forever emerge victorious for the benefit of the poor masses of our country.

Access to a variety of minerals such as diamonds and precious metals for local beneficiation will and must unleash a strong job-creating downstream industry. We must add value to our resources. We believe that the development of a beneficiation industry and industrial development zones will result in the creation of opportunities for the youth and the unemployed, and will stimulate the development and growth of the local beneficiation industry.

We must further ensure a mechanism to monitor these developments, as beneficiation is one of our main priorities. Strategies need to be put in place to ensure success. We must tighten and monitor progress in the beneficiation opportunities that the department offers. To train 300 learners in how to cut and polish diamonds is and must not be the only opportunity, but we must cover a broad spectrum of all minerals.

We must manufacture our raw minerals instead of exporting them. We must deepen the challenges that we have. Manufacturing is an expanding fact for an entrepreneur that has sustainability of the industry in mind.

We are concerned about the lack of progress regarding black economic empowerment in the mining industry. Our country has the resources, but there has been little movement from industrial players towards the achievement of black economic empowerment. And, yet, mining remains a key pillar of the South African economy.

According to the *Mining Weekly* magazine of 5 December 2006, a clear indication can be traced as far back as September 2006 in which independent junior mining and exploration companies listed on the JSE, excluding mining companies included in the top 40 index, have reportedly reached a free-float weight market capitalisation of R63,1 billion, an increase of R14,3 billion since their launch. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr W D SPIES: Chairperson, South Africa's mineral and energy dispensation is in many respects the backbone of our economy. If you do not agree, just ask the shop owners at the Eastgate shopping centre what three days without electricity at the beginning of this month meant to their business, or you can ask the hundreds of thousands of mineworkers and their families and dependants how much mining and the envi-

ronment within which they work actually affect their lives. For this reason, the Department of Minerals and Energy plays a crucial role in the development of our economy in a sustainable manner, which really serves all the people of South Africa. There are, however, a couple of concerns.

Although the FF Plus welcomes the initiatives to stimulate a greener economy, we are concerned about the department's plans to suggest a levy on the purchase of high-emission vehicles. We prefer an approach of using a carrot rather than a stick. In this regard, government could rather consider lowering the VAT rate charged on environmentally friendly cars instead of imposing new taxes.

The FF Plus is concerned about too much emphasis being placed on so-called transformation and black economic empowerment in most government structures. This point was also proven by my friend, the chairman of the committee, when he complained about too many white Dlaminis in the mining sector. Nevertheless, many questions often arise about the levels of service delivery by the department.

We note with concern the many complaints received from members of the public, black as well as white, rich as well as poor, about the lack of response received in many instances from the regional offices of the Department of Minerals and Energy. Issues that are involved are applications for mining and prospecting licences, closure certificates and the release of rehabilitation guarantees after closure, in terms of which many people say they just don't get any response.

Also of concern is the still unresolved position with regard to the status of R15 million in public money paid by PetroSA to Imvume Management. According to a report published in the *Sunday Times* of 6 May 2007, Mr Sandi Majali of Imvume indicated that the payment was never intended as an advance, but that the intention all along was to channel the funds to the ANC. Although Mr Majali afterwards denied these allegations, we need to establish the truth.

The FF Plus, therefore, believes that the Minister should initiate an inquiry. Up to now only the version provided by PetroSA on this matter was considered. Mr Majali was neither summoned by the Public Protector nor by the committee. The police did not take the trouble to get a statement from Mr Majali, pursuant to the complaints filed by the FF Plus in this regard. The public still wants answers about this issue and the questions will not disappear unless acceptable answers are given. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr K O Bapela): I am informed that hon member Mr M J Nene will be presenting his maiden speech and I hope members do know what happens when a maiden speech is presented. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M J NENE: Chairperson, hon Ministers, hon Members of Parliament, comrades, ladies and gentlemen . . . ekungeneni kukahulumeni wentando yeningi kwenzeke izinguquko ezinkulu ezimbonini nakwezabasebenzi, ikakhulukazi embonini yokumbiwa phansi. Maqondana nezinguquko ezinkulu ezibe khona, siyakhumbula ukuthi esikhathini esingaphambili, kusabusa uhulumeni ,omdala, impilo yabasebenzi yayinganakiwe kodwa into eyayenziwa nje ukuthi kufuneke usebenza ngokucophelela ukuze ukwazi ukukhipha umkhiqizo, bathole inzuzo.

Thina-ke, njengoKhongolose, njengoba silandela uSomqulu Wenkululeko, sathi uma singena senza lezi zinguquko. Ukuba babevele bezwile ngesikhathi abantu behlangene eKlipsruit bekhuluma, base bededa embusweni, ngabe lezi zinguquko kudala zaba khona. NjengoKhongolose, sizimisele ukuthi lezi zinguquko zenzeke mawala, kanjalo futhi sithatha abasebenzi basembonini le yezokumbiwa phansi njengabantu ababaluleke kakhulu futhi njengabantu abawukushaya kwenhliziyo

komkhiqizo• wasezimayini. Sikuyaqonda futhi ukuthi ngaphambi kuka-1994 abasebenzi abaningi babengenwa yizifo ezahlukahlukene ngenxa yokuthi impilo yayinganakiwe kodwa into eyayinakiwe kuphela kwakungeyokuthi sebenza, usebenze mawala, ukhiphe umkhiqizo ukuze bathole inzuzo ongxiwankulu.

Ngalezo zizathu, emuva kuka-1994, yingakho sibone lezi zinguquko ezingaka ezenziwa uhulumeni ka-ANC. Siyaziqhenya-ke nokho ukuthi leli gxathu esesilenzile eminyakeni embalwa kangaka libonakala lilikhulu uma uqhathanisa nohulumeni omdala owahlala iminyaka engamashumi amaningi kodwa kungabonakali lutho. Uma ngenza umfanekiso owaziwayo umhlaba wonke, izimayini zetsheboya mukhulu umonakalo ezawenza kubantu bakithi nomonakalo osenzeka ngisho namanje. Abantu basafa namanje kanti abanye banezifo lezo ezadalwa yilemboni yetsheboya. Okukhombisa ngokusobala futhi ukuthi ongxiwankulu abanandaba nempilo yomsebenzi, banendaba kuphela nezinzuzo.

Kuthe uma sebeyivala le mboni abaze basusa ngisho imfucuza le abayishiya, le mfucuza esadala ukuthi umoya odlula khona uphinde ugulise abantu abahlala endaweni. Baningi abantu asebefile abasemphakathini, ngaphandle kwabasebenzi abebesebenza khona ngoba bonke abantu abakhele leya ndawo bahlukunyezwa yilesi sifo esiqhamuka kule mboni. Yingakho-ke sithi, njengoKhongolose, siqalisa ukusebenza kukaSomqulu Wenkululeko njengoba senza kanje. Asizenzeli thina kodwa senzela abantu. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[. . . when the democratic government took power; major changes took place in industries and labour sectors, particularly in the mining industry. Regarding the major changes that took place, you will recall that previously, when the apartheid regime was still in power, the health and safety of employees were not taken care of, and the employees had to be very cautious when performing their duties so as to be productive and the employers in turn would make huge profits.

We, in the African National Congress, in compliance with the Freedom Charter, brought these changes when we took power. If they had bothered to listen when the people spoke in Klipspruit, and brought democracy, these changes would have been implemented a long time ago. As the African National Congress, we are determined to see these changes happening soon. We regard the employees of this mining industry as important people and they are the essence of the mining production.

We are also aware that prior to 1994 many workers were affected by different diseases because their health was not taken care of, and what was important was that they had to work, and work very hard and produce, so that the capitalists could make huge profits.

It is for these very reasons that, after 1994, the ANC-led government made enormous changes. We are immensely proud that the stride that we have taken seems to be huge if you compare it with the previous government, which was in power for many years without any substantial results. A notorious example here known by the whole world is that of the huge misery caused by asbestos mines to our people and which is still happening even now. People are still dying and others have deadly diseases caused by the asbestos industry. This clearly shows that the capitalists do not care about the health of workers; they are only interested in making profits.

When they decided to close down this industry, they did not even remove the asbestos fibres. These airborne asbestos fibres are still inhaled and they make people who stay in affected areas sick. There are many ordinary people who have died in communities because of asbestos fibres. Some people were not even working for the

asbestos industry, and yet they got sick. It is for these reasons that we, the ANC, say that by doing all these things we are doing, we are putting the Freedom Charter into practice. We are not doing these things for ourselves, but for the people.]

The Mine Health and Safety Inspectorate is responsible for ensuring that a mining operation's impact on the health and safety of employees and the communities is minimised.

The department's statutory mandate is to safeguard the health and safety of mine employees and the people affected by the mining activities. The objective is to reduce the mining-related deaths, injuries and ill-health through the formulation of national policy and legislation, the provision of advice, and the application of systems that monitor, audit and enforce compliance in the mining sector.

The Mine Health and Safety Inspectorate, as a representative in the Mine Health and Safety Council's tripartite structures, has provided extensive advice to the Minister on the continued development of a revised regulatory framework for the industry. Acceptance of these recommendations led to the promulgation of the new regulations and guidelines for mandatory codes of practice at mines.

The following Mine Health and Safety Act regulations were completed during the reporting period: underwater mining; winding engine drivers and onsetters; water storage and pumping; ore passes and draw points; exit certificates and records of hazardous work; emergency preparedness and response; process plants; and flammable gas regulations.

Guidelines for mandatory codes of practice approved during the reporting period are for a diving operations procedure manual for underwater mining operations; the design, development, safe operation and maintenance of draw points, tipping points, rock passes and box fronts; the safe operation of monorail systems; and combating rock mass failure accidents in massive mining operations, emergency preparedness and response.

For the first time in the history of the South African mining industry there were fewer than 200 fatalities recorded in one year, namely 199. However, the fatality rate stayed the same as in 2005, at the rate of 0,20 per million hours worked. The injury rate for the industry as a whole increased by 1,7%.

At the Mine Health and Safety Summit of 2003, it was decided that it was imperative that the South African industry's safety statistics declined by 20% per year in order to become comparable with international trends.

In accordance with the milestones, the platinum industry did well by registering a drop of 21,43% in fatality rates. However, the gold sector still presents a problem, with an increase of 9,68% in fatality rates and a 2,48% increase in injury rates. The higher gold rates can be attributed to the increasing risk due to the mining of remnants and the increasing depths. These milestones will be revised at the end of 2009.

Fatality rates in coal mines increased by 23,08% and the injury rates by 38,51%. However, the higher injury rate can be largely attributed to the underreporting of previous years, which was identified and rectified in 2006.

With regard to small-scale mining, since the promulgation of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act of 2004, the issuing of mining permits to the SMMEs has increased dramatically and has stretched the regulatory capacity of the inspectorate.

Maqondana nalabo abafaka izicelo bezimboni ezincane, uma ngabe sicwaninga izicelo zabo siyaye sizicwaninge ngendlela yokuthi sibone ukuthi bazokunaka wenza yini lokhu kuphila nokuphepha. Uma kungenjalo, siye sizichithe ukuze sibeluleke

ukuthi kubaluleke kangakanani ukuphepha nempilo ezimbonini. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[With regard to those SMMEs making applications for mining permits, when we process their applications, we first scrutinise them to see whether they comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act or not. And if they are found not to be in compliance with the Act, their applications are rejected with a view to alerting them about the importance of health and safety issues in this industry.]

Concerning HIV, Aids and occupational health, the Departments of Minerals and Energy and of Labour and employers together in partnership are committed to combating the HIV and Aids epidemic in the mining industry. The ANC supports the Bill. Thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr K O Bapela): Hon S Rajbally—she is certainly not delivering her maiden speech, not so? [Laughter.]

Ms S RAJBALLY: Chairperson, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the hon Nene on his maiden speech.

This sector is to be one of the forerunners in achieving the objectives of Asgisa. Priority in this financial term has been given to beneficiation, biofuels, renewable energy, natural gas and nuclear energy.

It is difficult to think that many in South Africa remain without electricity. However, the Budget for 2007-08 made available R600 million to prioritise electrification and a further R950 million to deliver water and electricity to schools and clinics. However, we remain plagued by common blackouts that don't just hinder local businesses and people's lives, but also cause a stir in investor confidence in South Africa.

In view of our failure to meet targets in the electrification of households, schools and clinics last year and in terms of this year's budget allocation not differing much, how are the targets for this year supposed to be met? We also acknowledge that the priorities identified in the state of the nation address and those of the department differ to some extent. It would be helpful if priorities were similar so we could gain direction and measure progress.

The MF is also concerned about safety on mines, as a total 270 deaths in 2003 and 264 in 2004 have been reported. The department's aim to improve facilities by 2013 seems not to be supported by the budget. The MF calls for some reassessment in order to enable these endeavours to be successful. In view of the budget allocation for the department, the MF feels that development in minerals and energy in South Africa is possible.

We are greatly concerned about the power cuts and call on the department to address the issue earnestly if we are to progress as a nation. The bitter cold has claimed a number of lives and the lack of electricity and power cuts may share the blame.

The MF would like the celebration of our natural resources to be enhanced nationally and internationally. While we favour domestic investment, we believe that foreign investment yields great revenue and should not be neglected. Hon Minister, we wish you all the success in electrifying our country in all corners. The MF supports Budget Vote No 29. I thank you. [Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr K O Bapela): Hon T L Mahlaba will also be presenting his maiden speech. [Applause.]

Mr T L MAHLABA: Chairperson, Ministers, the Minister of Minerals and Energy in particular, hon members, ladies and gentlemen, firstly, as the ANC, we support the Budget Vote.

As the ANC-led government, we acknowledge the significance of energy to the economy. Energy contributes about 15% of the GDP. It is a critical vehicle in ensuring that the growth trajectory we have

set for ourselves is achievable and it is also critical to the betterment of the lives of poor South Africans.

I am very proud to learn that this year, 73% of South African households have access to electricity. We must applaud the good work that has been done in the Western Cape, as this province will join the Northern Cape in achieving universal access to electricity. All schools and clinics in these provinces have also been electrified. To all the sceptics out there, a promise that we as the ANC make, is a promise we keep. Viva ANC!

More needs to be done to achieve our dreams of universal access to electricity by our people. Whilst we understand from the Minister that the electrification programme is focusing on the creation of bulk infrastructure, especially in areas where it has become impossible to connect new households to the network, we must emphasise that the target date for universal access must remain 2012.

It is also paramount for us to have very accurate backlog studies per municipality, which can assist in the projected targets of response to the 2012 target. Although this is not directly relevant to the Ministry concerned, poor expenditure on relevant grants by municipalities is of concern and should be monitored and remedied. This is more relevant to the free basic electricity dispensation, and also the availability of alternative energy to the local communities in terms of Dora—the Division of Revenue Act.

The shifting of more funding towards municipalities is challenged by infrastructure backlogs, especially of substations and putting more monies and focus on Limpopo, the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, which actually constitute the bulk of the backlog. Of course, access to electricity is meaningless without a reliable supply. In this regard, the regulation of electricity distributors is critical.

The recent blackouts we have experienced in various parts of the country bear testimony to the need for the regulatory framework to be tightened up in order to address the maintenance backlogs and poor investment in infrastructure. This brings into focus the issue of electricity tariffs. When it comes to poor households, it is important that the poverty net be extended to cover them through free basic electricity and improved access to modern, thermal carriers. Tariffs must continue to remain affordable for households.

However, it is inevitable that tariffs will rise as electricity investments are made by the distributors as they improve the quality of the service. There will also be upward pressure on tariffs due to upstream investments at generation level. The electricity consumer must be made more aware of the need to conserve energy and to be vigilant about not wasting it.

With the recent conclusion of the Electricity Regulation Amendment Bill, the jurisdiction of the National Electricity Regulator of SA—Nersa—will cover municipalities in so far as electricity regulation is concerned. Finally, we will have a framework relating to Nersa's jurisdiction of municipalities, covering the setting of tariffs, quality of supply standards, and so forth.

Problems emanating from poor regulatory oversight in relation to municipalities are well-known: rampant blackouts due to poor maintenance, tariffs that are not aligned with the cost of supply, no sanction in the event of poor service, and so on. Nersa oversight, with all its energy, will deal with these matters.

As the ANC, we take note of the challenges brought about with the REDs—the regional electricity distributors—which are forcing a constitutional amendment. This refers to part B of schedule 4 of the Constitution; and to REDs in conjunction with section 155(6)(a) and (7) with regard to the powers and functions of municipalities. It is obvious that some still have time to play political games with the lives of our people in the name of

democracy, and some claim failure by the ANC because of the very same voluntary participation in the REDs.

In a parallel process, the restructuring of electricity distributors into six regional electricity distributors must continue. We understand that the Electricity Distribution Industry (EDI) Restructuring Bill will be introduced to Parliament this year, to provide the legislative environment for the creation of REDs. At the same time, the road map for RED creation is in place, setting the scene for negotiations with the respective municipalities and Eskom about this complex process.

We understand that this is the biggest merger and restructuring process in South Africa ever, involving about 10 million customers and with far-reaching consequences in the energy sphere. We are confident that this is the year in which great strides will be taken to make the process a reality.

Lolu daba engikhuluma ngalo lukhombisa ngokusobala ukuthi uma singawavali wonke amazibuko, angafenyisa izinhlelo ezinhle zikahulumeni wosuku. Lapha siqonde odabeni lokuzikhethela ukungena nokungangeni ekuhlelweni kabusha kwemisebenzi yezamandla kagesi komasipala. Kubaluleke kakhulu ukuthi senze isiqiniseko ukuthi zonke izindawo okungenzeka ukuthi isitha sisebenzise zona ukuba sivimbe ukuqhubeka kokuhlela kabusha sizivale.

Sinethemba lokuthi uMnyango Wezezimali uzophuthumisa inqubomgomo emayelana nokudlulisela nokulawula izimpahla ezithinteka ekusebenzeni kwezikagesi, okuyinto esetshenziswa ngenjehawu ekulibaziseni inqubekelaphambili. Lapha sikhuluma ngomqomo wokunikezela ngezimpahla zikagesi. Njengekomiti, silinde ngamehlo abomvu ukuphuthumiswa kokugunyazwa kwalesi siqondiso. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[The issue that I am talking about clearly shows that if we do not close all the loopholes, they can jeopardise good programmes of the government of the day. Here we are referring to the choice to be made by municipalities whether they take part in the restructuring of electricity or not. It is very important that we make sure that we close all the places that can be used by the enemy to sabotage the programme of restructuring.

We hope that the Department of Finance will speed up the Electricity Distribution Industry Restructuring Bill which is about the electrical utensils, as it is used as means to delay progress. Here we are talking about the procedure of procuring electrical appliances. As a committee, we are anxiously waiting for the speedy authorisation of this directive.]

South Africa is committed to good nuclear governance, and this has been demonstrated by the number of conventions that have been brought before Parliament by the department. Last year, as Parliament, we approved the ratification of the International Atomic Energy Agency Joint Convention on Radioactive Waste Management and we also recommended accession to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

We are aware that this year the department will be submitting the country's report on nuclear safety to the International Atomic Energy Agency—IAEA. We have no doubt that it will reflect positively on the state of nuclear safety in South Africa. More funding will be necessary to fast-track greater outcomes in nuclear spin-offs that are very obvious, which include the clean environment, long term, versus the availability of mineral resources, in the long term.

Abanye omasipala bazithola behlela uhlahlo lwezimali bethathela kwisabiwomali soMnyango Wezezimali kodwa okuthi ekupheleni kosuku uthole ukuthi uEskom, njengomnyango okuyiwo ofanele wenze leyo misebenzi egameni le mikhandlu, ubike uthi lezo zimali awukaze uzithole wona

njengo-Eskom. Kubalulekile ukuthi zilandelwe lezo zindawo ukuze kube nesiqiniseko sokuthi laphaya komasipala, uma benza izethembiso, benza nabo i-IDP, lokho bakwenze kube nesiqiniseko sokuthi kwenzekile.

Ukubaluleka kwamakhono nobuchule bezi

hdkagesi angeke sakushiya ngaphandle, njengoba ukukhula kokusetshenziswa nesidingo sikagesi kubeka ngokusobala ukuthi kumele kwenziwe imizamo yokukhulisa lo mkhakha wemfundo entsheni nokugcina labo abangabasebenzi esinabo bekhona.

Kukho konke lokhu okungasenhla, kubalulekile ukuthi sibhekelele ukuthi ababencishwe amathuba ikakhulukazi kwezokuhweba kulo mkhakha bayabhekelelwa bese kuvinjwa nalabo abazama ukushintsha ibala labo lesikhumba ukuze bakwazi ukuthi basizakale. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[Certain municipalities model their budgets on that of the Department of Finance, but at the end of the day you find that when they have to pay for services rendered by service providers like Eskom, there is no money to do so and Eskom in turn reports that it has not received the monies due to them. It is important that such areas should be monitored so as to ensure that when municipalities make promises and draw up their IDPs, they must adhere to it and ensure that it is implemented.

We cannot ignore the importance of skills and technology in electricity, as there is growth in electricity usage and the need for electricity clearly indicates that something must be done to nurture this sphere of education to the youth and keep the workers that we have at present.

In all of this, it is important that we cater for those that were previously disadvantaged, especially in the economy. We must also stop those who are trying to change the colour of their skin with the intention of also benefiting from this.]

I do want to say that of skills development and indeed deployment still remain a challenge, and I would like the department to accelerate efforts at ensuring a co-ordinated approach to the programme on nuclear skills development for South Africa. In this coming financial year we would also want the department to focus on uranium beneficiation. Indeed, uranium must create jobs in this country and ensure that we sell value-added material.

As debate on climate change is going on, I have often wondered why nuclear energy does not qualify for carbon-credit financing. Has time not come for South Africa to champion that debate throughout the world? [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Mr C M MORKEL: Chair, Minister, committee chair, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, the PIM is concerned that mine health and safety will remain major challenges in South Africa. Although we are unsure as to why the mini-indaba did not take place on 28 February, we are encouraged to hear that it will now take place on 7 September, making the issues raised there more relevant and actual when the Mine Health and Safety Biennial Summit takes place on 5 October 2007.

We do hope that the PIM's proposal to subject mine-support systems to mandatory dynamic load-testing will be debated further by the experts there so that we can simulate seismic events, such as those at TauTona last year, and avert deaths that are not an act of God, deaths that are preventable by the intervention of mere mortals.

We are also concerned by the exodus of top-level staff at the Mine Health and Safety Inspectorate, especially in the past 12 months, for example the chief inspector and two of his deputy chief inspectors. Although the former chief inspector has now joined

academia; the two former deputy chief inspectors have joined the private sector, apparently. At least two referees have now become players.

We therefore need to ask ourselves whether these and other losses were due to some anxiety caused by the uncertainty of their future, with the integration of occupational health and safety inspectorates under the Department of Labour.

Noting that the chief inspector's position at the Department of Labour has been vacant for a number of years and that the integration process has seemingly ground to a halt, we propose a solution: that the Minister and department grab this window of opportunity to ensure that the wording of the multisectoral draft legislation does not dilute the Mine Health and Safety Inspectorate as a specialist inspectorate. We believe that this would have a major impact on the morale of the inspectors, who would otherwise join the private sector where they could quadruple their salaries. We can't stop referees from becoming players.

I now come to mining permits, and specifically the public hearings on the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Amendment Bill. We have studied the submissions of the SA Diamond Producers Organisation and the Chamber of Mines, and share the view that another type of permit or right be considered to promote sustainable small-scale mining, and that it thus be issued for a five-year period, especially for the small-scale alluvial mining sector.

The proposed new permit should not be based merely on the size in hectares of an alluvial mine, but should also take into account the financing options available to small miners besides the rates of return typical of a small-scale mine, as would be reflected in their business plans upon application.

In the oil and gas sectors, especially the offshore exploration sectors, we view as a major challenge the fact that in the absence of the royalty Bill and other fiscal incentives as proposed some time ago, we may not be mitigating the high risk of investing in offshore exploration, especially in our deeper waters.

We note that Petroleum Agency SA has nevertheless invited and received a number of permit applications, but this does not translate into concomitant contractual obligations with clear and concise fiscal terms that would incentivise sustainable mineralisation of our potential oil and gas reserves.

Minister, we are losing the race against Namibia and Mozambique, particularly in terms of attracting investors to our shores, by not putting the appropriate regulatory framework and fiscal regime in place.

Concerning the energy mix, with a regular and secure supply of gas, for example available through our energy mix in addition to nuclear and renewable sources—sources that are cleaner than coal—we could lead the way in Africa and the developing world in creating tradable carbon credits that could fund the acquisition and development of renewable energy technology.

Noting the challenges we face with the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, we are also of the view that efforts at demand-side management should focus more attention on business and government electricity consumers than on household consumers who collectively consume a mere 5% of our present capacity.

The PIM has not merely whinged and identified challenges, we also offer you practical solutions for your consideration and pray that you will use your budget to implement these solutions. We will therefore support the Budget Vote. I thank you.

Mr G R MORGAN: Chair, hon members, firstly, I'd like to congratulate the hon Minister on plans to launch the energy efficiency programme this Friday. It was

interesting to note recently a report by the International Energy Agency that said that by the year 2050 we'll be able to save an equivalent of half the energy we use today in the world just through energy efficiency initiatives. It's long overdue, and it's a good thing.

Securing the energy security of South Africa is critically important for the success of our economy and the alleviation of poverty. Whilst Eskom has been caught napping in the past with its energy demand scenario planning, amazingly they did not back the potential of our economy to grow as fast as it does. An ambitious R150 billion capital spending plan has been announced for the next four years.

It is clear that government has pinned our immediate energy future on coal-generated electricity. While a 100 megawatt wind farm has been commissioned, the vast majority of our new-generation capacity will come from coal. We know that electricity from coal is cheap, at only a few cents per kilowatt per hour, but that price does not include environmental externalities, those being pollution and climate-change-inducing greenhouse gases. Of course, we have a problem here: we need the economy to keep on pumping. Cheap electricity is good for that process, but we will pay in the long term.

The department and Eskom often say that renewable energy is too expensive. Indeed, at approximately 48 cents per kilowatt per hour for wind and at over 50 cents per kilowatt per hour for solar, it is costly, despite not having any environmental costs.

However, wind and solar generation will always be the ugly stepchild of the energy economy if not given support. The learning curves for these technologies are still steep, but so were the learning curves for nuclear energy in the not-too-distant past. And what happened? Nuclear energy was given support for research and development. It was subsidised and provided with capital start-up costs, and the same has now been done for renewable energy in order to make it cheaper.

Indeed, private investors could be lured to the sector if there were signals that government was seriously interested in it, and not just in building the odd demonstration plant. Currently, the budget of the Department of Minerals and Energy for renewable start-ups is unbelievably low. The situation must change.

While South Africa may not have binding targets in the post-2012 Kyoto Framework, we can be sure that by 2020 the likes of China, India and South Africa will be asked to sign up for emission reductions. We cannot merely tie ourselves down to a cold future.

Of course, it does not just have to be the government that commits itself to technology funding. There is also the existence of clean development mechanisms under the existing climate framework. Regrettably, the CDM programme managed by this department has barely gotten off the ground. The approximately 10 CDM projects that have so far been approved in South Africa are far fewer than the amount in India and China. While there are capacity constraints, such as a lack of project managers, the department must send out the correct signals that we are open for CDM business.

With regard to the nuclear programme of South Africa, I urge the government to tread carefully. While the DA believes that nuclear power generation does have a role to play in our energy mix, government must be open about its plans.

Minister Erwin must not overstate the case for support for nuclear energy from South Africans. Ordinary South Africans have the right to feel concerned about government's ambitious nuclear programme. Transparency and consultation with stakeholders must be conducted by government. Potential sites, such as the four announced by Eskom

in the Northern, Eastern and Western Cape, must withstand rigorous public participation processes. Government can be sure that if this is not the case litigation from interest groups will be imminent.

Lastly, the DA welcomes the biofuels industrial strategy. Implemented correctly, it will help to improve rural livelihoods, especially for emerging farmers, and will improve energy security. It is important, however, that land that is currently underutilised be targeted for biofuel crop growth and that the type of crops chosen for biofuel production actually serve to reduce carbon emissions. I thank you. [Applause.]

Ms N F MATHIBELA: Chairperson, members of the committee, hon Minister and Deputy Minister, ladies and gentlemen, hon members, with the little time that I have been allocated to address my colleagues from other committees, allow me from the outset to say that the ANC supports the Budget Vote of the department. In the same breath, I wish to state that I will confine my speech to one of the most important programmes in the Department of Minerals and Energy—the hydrocarbons and energy planning programme.

It is very fortunate for me that we have this debate when the ANC is debating its policy on economic transformation. The central pillar of the debate around the economic transformation is economic improvement of the lives of our people and delivering quality and better services. In February this year, Parliament approved the Budget Vote for the Department of Minerals and Energy. In the budget R52,6 million was allocated to the hydrocarbons and energy planning programme. The Department of Minerals and Energy has been at the forefront of trying to deliver services to all the people, including businesspeople. We as Parliament have monitored the work of the department and have made inputs in the processes that ensued, and have developed legislation that has been passed by our Parliament.

As the ANC we have not steered away from our responsibility to govern and contribute towards the development of the minerals and energy sector to deliver quality service for sustainable livelihoods. In as much as we in the ANC support the Budget Vote for all the departmental programmes, we have consistently said there is a need to strengthen the capacity of the department to transform the hydrocarbons sector and, more especially, the petroleum industry.

Many members of the House are aware that there are few blacks who own, control and manage oil companies in South Africa. The petroleum industry is the key industry in the country which oils the economy and cannot be left in the hands of the current white monopoly capital to transform itself.

In the past 12 years, since the 1994 democratic breakthrough, the ANC has been trying to encourage all companies to transform from white, male-dominated companies to fully transformed companies that reflect the demographics of the country. To date, the demographics of staff in the different oil companies do not correspond with the demographics of the country. It was for this reason that the ANC-led Portfolio Committee on Minerals and Energy decided to invite oil companies to present their progress reports regarding black economic empowerment. It is unacceptable to the ANC that we currently have only about 6% ownership and control of the oil companies while the rest is still in the hands of the old white monopoly.

Modulasetulo, go a kgotsofatsa gore Sasol e lekile go fetola maemo a yona mabapi le maloko a komiti go akaretsa bathobaso. Se e tloga e le kgatelopele ye kgolo yeo e kgotsofatsago; efela dikhamphani tse dingwe di a swabisa. *(Translation of Sepedi paragraph follows.)*

[Chairperson, it is commendable that Sasol has tried to change the structure of their committee to incorporate black people. This is a truly commendable step. The other companies are still a shame.]

This is very frightening. May I remind the House that we are no longer living under apartheid, when the main decision-makers in companies were white males in black suits,

speaking about how to maintain white domination. We are now in a new political dispensation, under a democratic government which represents the interests of all.

If I may turn to renewable energy, it is important to acknowledge that interest in renewable energy has increased dramatically in various sectors, including the industrial and financial sectors and the public in general. The department is working closely with project developers in order to enhance the development and uptake of renewable energy technologies in South Africa.

The department will thus intensify its renewable energy awareness campaign, to ensure that all stakeholders have sufficient knowledge on the subject. It is imperative to note that there are various barriers hampering the implementation of renewable energy technologies. As a result, the department will continue with its investigation of a potential mechanism that could be implemented to supplement our existing mechanisms that are aimed at reducing the barriers associated with the implementation of renewable energy technologies.

The government is also looking at renewables and the pricing mechanisms. Many of the members in this House have cars and are affected by the high price of petrol, which continues to increase. We need to use the current budget to assist in developing policies that will help the issue of price hikes.

One way is to ensure that we develop a biofuels industry. A biofuels strategy has been approved by Cabinet and will be presented before the committee in June. It is our view that this will have both environmental benefits and cushion the current prices. I trust that all members in the House will benefit from the biofuels that will be introduced and developed through the assistance and work of the department. This shows how seriously we take issues of renewable energy sources.

We need to transform our country if we are to better the lives of our people. The ANC in Parliament will continue to support a budget allocation that is intended to redress the past imbalances and diversify our energy sources. With the focus on renewables and other sources of energy, we as the ANC support the Budget Vote because it seeks to do exactly that. It is against this background that the President in his state of the nation address said that we need to fight poverty this year as a way of addressing all these interrelated challenges. I thank you for the little time that I have been given. [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY: Chairperson, can you believe it? He says I must "gooi kole" [make a go for it]. You know I will "gooi die kole", because Mr Smith displayed ignorance here about executive programmes—if he said that there's a disjuncture between the state of the nation address and the departmental priorities, which is really not true. The budget is informed by strategic plans, whose contents are informed by the state of the nation address, Mr Smith—and that is free education.

I also think that the challenges that we face in the generation of electricity are overstated. Yes, we acknowledge that we have challenges and I did indicate upfront that, as the Minister responsible for ensuring the security of supply of energy in the country, I am indeed concerned. However, we are not facing a crisis situation.

We have challenges that are not unique to South Africa. In recent months there were power outages in America, so they are not only happening in this country. These things also happen elsewhere, but they do happen in this country, and I think we need to look at the reasons why.

Okokuqala, ixesha elide uqoqosho weli lizwe lwalungahlumi [Our economy in this country did not grow for a long time].

For the first time we have a very fast-growing economy, which then poses a strain on the supply of energy to the country. That is a fact, because energy is central to the growth of the economy. Eskom's energy efficiency, while not enough, also contributes to managing the crisis. So we must not

pretend as if there is nothing happening in terms of dealing with the problem. We can also not ignore the fact that power-generation projects have already been undertaken by both Eskom and my department. These include the construction of open-cycle gas turbines and power plants by Eskom, as well as the new-generation capacity projects from the independent power producers, which are championed by my department.

The project of demothballing the existing power stations that you referred to is also on track. The construction of coal-fired plants has also been unveiled. As we have stated, a number of the blackouts were largely as a result of challenges in the distribution sector, amongst other things. Unfortunately, however, your party has been holding the restructuring process to ransom. I'm happy that the hon executive mayor is now coming on board. She wrote me a nice letter that she will comply, because this is not about us. We don't have to be political about this matter, as it is a matter to benefit the whole nation.

The restructuring of the electricity distribution industry is going to happen. There shall be six wall-to-wall REDs, because that is a decision of Cabinet. We are committed to implementing that decision until we are told otherwise. We are also committed to ensuring that this process is owned by South Africans. That is why we have embarked on another round of consultation—I don't know how many rounds of consultation we have held. I am physically involved in that consultation process.

We are visiting the provinces as we want this to be owned by South Africans, because it stands to benefit them. It is going to happen, and we hope that Mr Smith and his party will support us fully this time.

I'm not going to get into the reasons for the failure of RED 1. RED 1 was established as a pilot project from which we would be able to learn, and this is what we are doing.

Concerning the biofuels; well, they are in our strategic plan—MaMkhize responded to the people who spoke about biofuels. As I said earlier on, the strategy is almost complete. Surely we will make sure that it comes to the House for discussion.

The issue of food security is our concern as well. I have seen the newspapers today indicating that already there is a spike in food prices because of the biofuels programme. The focus of farmers is shifting to biofuels, of course, because there is more profit there, and people would really want to go where there is more money. And those would be people who are not patriotic enough. However, we would urge the farmers that our priority is food security. This is not new to us. We were warned by Brazil—we are doing this in consultation with and with the guidance of Brazil. So we are mindful of the impact this programme may have on food security. We will make sure that we minimise that impact as much as possible. Of course, the Departments of Agriculture and of Land Affairs are deeply involved in helping us out with a strategy, as far as this is concerned.

Regarding the choice of energy and the implementation of renewable energy, Mr Greyling, all of those issues are in our strategic plan. I note your concerns around the issues that you have raised, which are quite valid, but indeed we are looking at alternative energy. I agree with you that the implementation of our renewable energy strategy has been very slow, and indeed I think we do need to give it a little bit of a push so that we can deliver on this front.

Concerning the study that you have referred to on setting aside money, we are supposed to benefit from the research and development, which is located in the Science and Technology department. However, again, I take note of the point. Maybe we could find a way of accommodating that.

Mr Spies, we don't have a policy on heavy vehicles at all. Every policy is announced by the Minister, and nobody else will do that. So anything that you have seen somewhere else, which does not come from the Minister, whether it is in print or verbal, is not policy. I think somebody is just jealous because both of my official cars are 4x4s . . . [Laugh-

ter.] . . . and I am not about to let go of them until the Minister has come up with a policy that would otherwise require me in my official capacity to do so.

On the issue of regional offices, well, I will accept the criticism positively. However, I do not think we should exaggerate, because if there were such problems in the regions, surely the regional officials wouldn't have been able to clear the backlog of applications, which they have done.

Regarding black economic empowerment, really, given the 100 years of mining in South Africa, with black people on the periphery of the mining sector, I don't think that there is anybody who can complain about our changing the situation to ensure that we bring our people into the mainstream of this industry so that they can participate meaningfully. We must remember that that these minerals belong to the people of South Africa, black and white. [Applause.] That is the essence of Asgisa, that the wealth that comes from these minerals be shared amongst all South Africans. So there is no way that we can let go of black economic empowerment. It has its own challenges, but it also has the potential to deliver to our black people. I think that we need to look at how best we can improve it so that it can change the capital ownership patterns for the better and in favour of the black people of this country.

Regarding the Majali-Public Protector issue, let me say that on 15 November 2005 . . . [Time expired.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr A Mlangeni): Hon Minister, I will give you one minute to round off.

The MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY: Thank you very much for that, sir. The matter was closed on 15 November 2005, when the report from the Public Protector was adopted by this House. A total of 267 people voted in favour of the findings and recommendations in the report with 48 against, and they lost that vote. Unless there is new information, we cannot really entertain that issue, hon members. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr A Mlangeni): Before we end our debate, I want to thank the public in the gallery for having sat right through with us this afternoon. It definitely shows that we are all concerned about energy in South Africa. Without energy, there would be no lights here in this very Assembly and no lights in the streets. Thanks to energy, there is light everywhere today. I hope the Minister will provide us with dinner. [Laughter.]

Debate concluded.

The Committee rose at 17:51.

ANNOUNCMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

The Speaker and the Chairperson

1. Introduction of Bills

(1) **The Minister for Public Enterprises**

(a) ***South African Express Bill*** [B 14—2007] (National Assembly—proposed sec 75) [Explanatory summary of Bill and prior notice of its introduction published in *Government Gazette* No 29879 of 11 May 2007.]

Introduction and referral to the **Portfolio Committee on Public Enterprises** 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 classifi-

cation of the Bill may be submitted to the JTM within three parliamentary working days.

(2) **The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development**

(a) ***Criminal Law (Sentencing) Amendment Bill*** [B 15—2007] (National Assembly—proposed sec 75) [Explanatory summary of Bill and prior notice of its introduction published in ***Government Gazette*** No 29908 of 22 May 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.

(3) **The Minister of Science and Technology**

(a) ***Human Sciences Research Council Bill*** [B 16—2007] (National Assembly—proposed sec 75) [Explanatory summary of Bill and prior notice of its introduction published in ***Government Gazette*** No 29897 of 25 May 2007.]

(b) ***Astronomy Geographic Advantage Bill*** [B 17—2007] (National Assembly proposed sec 75) [Explanatory summary of Bill and prior notice of its introduction published in ***Government Gazette*** No 29897 of 25 May 2007.]

Introduction and referral to the **Portfolio Committee on Science and Technology** 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 Bills may be submitted to the JTM within three parliamentary working days

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. The Speaker and the Chairperson

(a) Strategic Plan for the Office of the Public Protector (OPP) for April 2007 to March 2010.

2. The Minister of Finance

(a) Government Notice No R.435 published in Government Gazette No 29881 dated 18 May 2007: Determination of amounts for purposes of the Military Pension Act, 1976 (Act No 84 of 1976).

3. The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

(a) Annual Review of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism for 2006-07.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 14:03.

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 4755.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Proposed rationalisation of number of provinces

7. The Leader of the Opposition (DA) asked the President of the Republic:

> Whether, in light of the recent call made by a Member of the Executive for a review of the number of provinces, the Government is considering rationalising the number of provinces; if not, why not; if so, (a) on what basis was such a decision taken, (b) when is that process envisaged to begin and (c) how will this impact on governance? N949E

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: It's clear, Madam Speaker, that there are many changes in Parliament. This microphone here . . . [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: I hope it doesn't intimidate the President.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: It might . . . the microphones there on this front row and the Leader of the DA. [Applause.] Congratulations, hon Sandra Botha.

With regard to the first part of the question from the hon Leader of the Opposition concerning the issue of provinces, if I may, I would like to begin by referring to the Constitution of our Republic so that we can remind ourselves about what it says regarding our system of governance.

The Constitution says that the Republic of South Africa is one sovereign, democratic state in which all citizens are equally entitled to the rights, privileges and benefits of citizenship, and are equally subject to the duties and responsibilities of citizenship. In this regard, the Constitution enjoins all the spheres of government, and all the organs of state within each sphere, to secure the wellbeing of all our people, irrespective of where they reside in the Republic.

We recall these constitutional provisions because our approach to the question of the permutation of subnational spheres of government should be informed by the recognition that our country is one sovereign, democratic state.

In direct response to the question posed by the hon Leader of the Opposition, let me state categorically that our government has not taken any decision to reduce the number of provinces, nor are we considering rationalising the number of provinces, as the hon member put it.

What Cabinet has decided to do, within the context of examining the macro organisation of the state, is to assess whether the central objective of government, to serve the people, is being advanced by the current provincial and local government arrangements and what actions would be required to address this imperative.

In my recollection this matter has formally been aired publicly on a number of occasions on behalf of Cabinet in the past two years and, as such, there is nothing new in what I have just said. Our government proceeds from the understanding that government exists for one purpose and one purpose only: to serve the people.

As such, in actual practice, ours should be a people-centred society. This is a central

criterion that we need to apply in addressing the question of the role, the place, the number and the status of the provinces as it would apply in considering the other spheres of government.

As hon members of the House know, since the establishment of our democratic system of governance we have taken several measures to strengthen the capacity of government institutions so that they can meet the fundamental task of efficiently serving the people. Indeed, as happens with all other policies of government, monitoring and evaluation of implementation dictate that we should, from time to time, assess whether the goals we have set ourselves and our country are being realised. This is the context in which this matter of the provinces has arisen.

When I addressed the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on 9 February this year, I made the following statement:

> Many of the weaknesses in improving services to the population derive in part from inadequate capacity and systems to monitor implementation. As such, in the period leading up to 2009, the issue of the organisation and capacity of the state will remain high on our agenda.

In light of this, our Minister for Provincial and Local Government has been mandated by Cabinet to undertake a review of the current system of provincial and local government, and the manner in which this review will be undertaken and these processes, I'm informed, will be announced by the Minister during his Budget Vote debate in the National Assembly on 6 June.

Needless to say, in the same measure that our system of government should be people-centred and people-driven, the process that examines such fundamental questions as the role and place of each of the spheres of government will need, similarly, to be people-centred and people-driven. Naturally, therefore, public representatives of our people in all spheres—citizens of our country—will be afforded the opportunity to participate fully in such a process.

So, no decision has been taken to reduce the number of provinces and no decision has been taken to consider rationalising the number of provinces. There is no a priori or preconceived standpoint in the task that the Minister for Provincial and Local Government has been given with regard to the number of our provinces.

Let me conclude by setting the record straight on two critical matters. The first of these is a fantastic suggestion that this nonexistent decision to rationalise the number of provinces, to gerrymander the system of governance, is driven by a hunger for power which is intended to promote the objectives of the political incumbents in the national and provincial spheres. This is pure fiction.

In this regard, I'd like to advise against seeking partisan political advantage by misrepresenting government positions, thus also undermining the possibility for a rational discussion of important questions facing our country.

The second question pertains to the grossly erroneous idea harboured by some in our society that residing in one or another part of our country determines whether one gets better or worse access to the rights, privileges, benefits and responsibilities to which citizenship equally entitles each citizen. Our nation is indivisible, and I want to repeat what our Constitution says: that the Republic of South Africa is one sovereign, democratic state that belongs to all South Africans.

Therefore, the idea that living in one part of the country rather than another means that one would be denied the rights, the privileges, the benefits and the responsibilities to which every citizen is entitled is very wrong. I'd like to thank you, Madam Speaker. [Applause.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.]

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: You can use my microphone on this side. [Laughter.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Mr President, can I warn you that I am going to say most of this in Afrikaans.

Mnr die President, ek is gerusgestel deur u antwoord dat u nie huidiglik 'n plan het, soos deur twee Ministers in hierdie Huis in ons midde gelê is nie. Waar dit wel genoem is dat daar oorweging geskenk gaan word . . . [Mr President, I am reassured by your answer that you do not currently have such a plan as has been set before us by two Ministers in this House. Whereas it has indeed been mentioned that it will be given consideration.]

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: I am terribly sorry . . . Can I . . .

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: You may, certainly. Would you like me to do this in English? Would it be easier?

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: There is nothing happening here.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Okay. Hon President, I will put this question in English. I think that would be easier. Thank you. I'm reassured by your assurances this afternoon that there will be no unwise action in terms of provinces, although, I'm afraid, this idea has been placed in our midst by two Ministers present here today, and it is not going to go away.

However, you would probably know better than I do that the Constitution makes clear provision for interventions in the provinces on the basis of assistance with capacity and resources. I would appreciate it if you would again reassure the House that you will take this route and that the Minister for Provincial and Local Government will also do so, and not tamper injudiciously with the constitutional framework and, certainly, not embark—although you said this is fiction, but sometimes truth is stranger than fiction—on any politically expedient changes, particularly with regard to the Western Cape. [Applause.]

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, apart from the people in the country who are listening to this discussion, I'm told that we have senior citizens from Nyanga here in Cape Town, learners from the Oscar Mpetha Senior Secondary School in Nyanga East, and constituents organised by parliamentary constituency offices in Grassy Park, Hout Bay, Langa, Philippi, Sea Point and Surrey Estate, and I would like to say welcome to them. [Applause.]

Also, I'd like to say, hon Botha, that, indeed, as I have said, the Minister for Provincial and Local Government, Sydney Mufamadi, has been asked by Cabinet to look at this matter. I think the last time I stood here I did say that one of the reasons for this was that we introduced a new system of local government in 2000 and didn't then take the next logical step, which would be to look at what impact that had on our system of provincial government with regard to the allocation of tasks and responsibilities. That is one of the matters that the Minister will address.

The Ministers who have commented on this, as you indicated, reflect the concern which I have again explained, that in the context of looking at the macro organisation of the state, we have been concerned about making sure that government functions effectively, efficiently, meets its obligation to serve the people. That is what the intention of this exercise is.

Indeed, the Minister will address this matter before Parliament, precisely because there is nothing secretive or sinister about it. Indeed, we would want to make sure that Members of Parliament engage in this matter, hopefully with a view to advancing such ideas as

they may have to improve the capacity of the state to serve the people.

So, this is not a matter of tampering with the Constitution with any evil intention, but of looking at the manner in which government works, so that, indeed, it discharges its responsibilities to the people. And I'd really like that matter to be clear. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Dr P W A MULDER: Mr President, we all know that Africa's borders were drawn in Europe, with the result that often people with vastly different interests found themselves in one country. The only way . . . [Inaudible.] It seems they don't like what I am saying, sir, so they cut me off. [Laughter.]

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: They prefer your younger brother. [Laughter.]

Dr P W A MULDER: I think you're right, yes. I was saying, sir, that the problem was often that people with vastly different interests found themselves in one country. The only way to govern some of these countries is with regional principles. For example, Nigeria started in the sixties with three regions; later it was 12 states; and at the moment Nigeria has 36 states.

Now, does the President agree that it is wrong to address current capacity and administrative problems by changing the Constitution or abandoning the principle of co-operative governance that also brings government closer to the people, as we see also in the rest of Africa?

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: No, hon Mulder, there is no intention of any kind to abandon the system of co-operative governance in our country. Indeed, it is in the Constitution, and we have not spoken about any constitutional changes.

We are also, as I have indicated, very interested that any proposals there may be, even about reallocating responsibilities among the spheres of government, should be matters for public discussion. And, indeed, Parliament—all the parties that are here—should participate in that process, so that we can look to see whether this allocation of responsibilities among the spheres of government best serves this purpose of changing the lives of our people for the better.

I would imagine, in this context, that issues will arise, for instance, that relate to a difficult matter—a matter that might not be peculiar to South Africa—which is how one manages the process of governance in the context of concurrent powers among the different spheres of government. This is clearly a challenge. Certainly, I know from the government's side that it is a challenge that we face.

But these are matters that we should all discuss. If we approach these matters not with suspicions, not with presumptions about people with secret agendas and agendas up their sleeves, but to address properly—systematically—the actual situation that faces us in the country, I think that that would be the best way to move with regard to this. Certainly, as government, we are very interested that everybody should participate in this discussion. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Mr W P DOMAN: Thank you very much, Speaker. I would just like to ask the hon President, given the fact that he has just referred to functions and powers, whether the government's intention is also to look at local government and to describe the powers and functions specifically of the district municipalities vis-à-vis the functions and powers of the provinces—that these could be described more clearly and possibly shifted to enhance the power of the provinces.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: The issue, Madam Speaker, of the powers, the role and the functions of the district municipalities relative to the local municipalities, and the powers and the role and so on of the district municipalities relative to

the provincial governments, has indeed arisen in the context of our interactions with the municipalities in the imbizo process.

As the hon member, I am sure, knows, various procedures have been put in place in various areas of our country. For instance, as regards water services: in some areas this responsibility has been shifted from local municipalities to the district municipalities, and certain complications have arisen.

So it is natural that, as we discuss this matter, this issue of the local municipalities, the district municipalities, the provincial government—all of these matters—will arise, to see what, indeed, is the most effective way to function in terms of the relationship between these different spheres of government. So, yes, indeed, the issue of the district municipalities relative to the provinces will arise.

As I was saying, we are not proceeding from the position that there is a priori justification for any constitutional changes. But we do believe that, in terms of practice, as has been said, we do need to see how our system of governance is functioning so that, indeed, we are able effectively to address the challenges facing us. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I now call the hon M M Gumede, ANC.

Mr M M S LEKGORO: It's Lekgoro. Thank you, Madam Speaker . . .

The SPEAKER: Hon members, stop pressing your "to talk" buttons if you have no intention of speaking, because your names appear here. Once you have pressed your button, your name will show up on the screen.

Mr M M S LEKGORO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to ask Mr President this question: In the experience of government, does the existence of provinces add value and increase the capacity of the state to address the developmental needs of society, or do they tend to cause inefficiencies?

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: The government is bound by our Constitution. The government believes that it is important that we should do everything to respect that Constitution. The national government works very well with the provincial governments together to address all manner of issues. I don't believe that the national government has found the provinces to be a hindrance in terms of the implementation of policies, or even the elaboration of policies.

Therefore, as I was saying, when the Cabinet decided that the Minister for Provincial and Local Government should have a look at how the system was working, it was not based on any presumption that we should question the existence of the provinces or in any way proceed from a first assumption that there was any need to change our system of governance.

So the hon member may have a different view about the provinces, but certainly the national government hasn't held any view that the provincial system of government is an obstacle in terms of what the country needs to do. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Progress towards integration of Southern African region

8. Ms D M Ramodibe (ANC) asked the President of the Republic:

> What progress has been made towards integrating the Southern African region in pursuance of advancing a common political and economic agenda for the African continent? N994E

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, with regard to this matter of regional integration and especially with regard to Southern Africa, our approach to regional integration is informed by the African agenda. The African agenda is driven by the vision of an African Renaissance, as given concrete expression by the SADC Treaty and SADC programmes, the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the programmes contained in Nepad.

In this context, South Africa's democratic transformation, stability, security and economic development are interlinked to that of our immediate region and the whole of the African continent. This means that the stability and development of South Africa cannot be assured if any part of the region is characterised by underdevelopment, instability, poverty and marginalisation. That is why, Madam Speaker, South Africa takes regional integration very seriously.

With regard to our own region and our regional economic community, the first point that I would like to emphasize is that we have made enormous progress in the area of the policies and programmes that we need to advance regional integration.

In this regard I'd like to draw attention to the following important documents which our Parliament has ratified: The SADC Treaty, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan, the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation, the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections and the 23 protocols which cover such areas as trade, energy, facilitation of movement of persons, health, education and training, mining, tourism, shared watercourses, corruption, combating illegal drugs and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

The hon Ramodibe will understand that it is not possible to review the implementation of all these agreements in the time that we have. We will therefore speak only briefly to some of the matters contained in the SADC agreements that we have mentioned.

The central point that we would like to re-emphasize is that we believe that SADC has indeed established a policy and programme base for the all-round integration of our region. At the same time I believe that the region as a whole is not satisfied with the progress we are making in terms of the implementation of the agreed programmes.

For this reason, efforts have been made to improve the implementation organs of the community and this matter remains under constant review. It is, however, clear that all of us will have to put in a lot more work and effort to advance the goal of regional integration so as to meet the objectives that we have set ourselves.

The SADC Treaty contains a set of objectives, which member states are to achieve. This includes the promotion of sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development that will ensure poverty alleviation and the ultimate objective of its eradication; promoting self-sustaining development on the basis of collective self-reliance, and interdependence among the member states; achieving complementarity between the national and regional strategies and programmes; promoting and maximising productive employment and utilisation of the resources of the region; and consolidating, defending and maintaining democracy, peace, security, stability and so on.

In pursuit of the socioeconomic objectives set out in the SADC Treaty, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan, which provides strategic direction for the operationalisation of the SADC common agenda, was adopted in August 2003. One of the main focus areas of the development plan is the attainment of a SADC free trade area by 2008, a customs union by 2010, a common market by 2015 and a monetary union by 2016.

At the annual summit meeting last year in Maseru, SADC heads of state and government prioritised the following areas of regional co-operation and integration: Politics, defence, peace and security; trade and economic liberalisation; regional infrastructure and services; and special programmes of regional dimensions, such as food security, HIV and Aids, and gender equality.

The Maseru Summit further constituted a task force of Ministers of trade, finance and investment, to review the regional economic

integration agenda, in particular the milestones for achieving a free trade area and the SADC customs union. This task force reported to the extraordinary SADC summit held in Midrand in October 2006, whereafter the summit adopted measures to accelerate the implementation of the SADC economic integration agenda.

These measures include the mobilisation of resources to address issues of infrastructure, food security and supply-side challenges within the Southern African region. There is a need to diversify the economies of SADC member states and increase intraregional trade and growth and proceed with the establishment of the SADC free trade area, taking cognisance of issues such as infrastructure, poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

At the upcoming SADC summit in August 2007, comprehensive reports on the economic integration process will be considered, including the road map towards both the free trade area and the customs union, taking into account the need for compatibility of national trade policies.

In this regard, South Africa has co-operated closely with her partners in the SADC customs union, whose members are all members of SADC. In this regard we have put together a national regional economic integration task team comprising of the Department of Trade and Industry, Foreign Affairs, National Treasury, SA Revenue Services and Agriculture to work with other SACU members in examining the impact of the envisaged SADC customs union. This initiative will fit into the work of the SADC task force on a free trade area in particular and economic integration in general.

We should also mention that SADC has also decided to create a monitoring, surveillance and performance unit by June 2007 to measure macroeconomic convergence in the region, which must be achieved as an important part of the process of regional economic integration.

Madam Speaker, I do not know quite what to do, because this clock is not working.

The SPEAKER: No, hon President, we no longer intend limiting your answers. [Applause.]

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: I would imagine that is a bit dangerous, Madam Speaker. [Laughter.] Perhaps, let me stop here for now, Madam Speaker.

Ms D M RAMODIBE: I thank you, Mr President, for your comprehensive and elaborate response. It is quite evident that the steps taken along the path to integration cannot be measured against technical indicators but by the extent to which they contribute to our shared developmental goals. Of the priorities that are set, and notwithstanding the immense progress made thus far in this regard, to what extent are there challenges in terms of the funding and capacity-building of a regional bloc?

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: The hon member is correct to refer to these challenges. As I have said, the region as a whole is not satisfied with the progress that we are making with regard to the implementation of the agreements and programmes that have been agreed on.

In the past we looked at the implementation structures and we did change them and have continued to keep this matter very much on the agenda. One of the tasks is the matter of resources to which the hon member referred. If we take into account what we said earlier about the fact that, apart from the things mentioned, like the indicative plan, you have a number of protocols, which also form part of the package of measures that need to be implemented, obviously they need all the resources required.

This matter would also affect the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation and the indicative plan that was adopted to make sure that we implement that. In that particular context, indeed, some progress has been made. We have signed a mutual

defence pact. We have adopted the principles governing democratic elections and we have moved with regard to the establishment of a SADC stand-by force, which includes a stand-by brigade, a civilian police force and an early warning system.

There is progress but, indeed, the hon member is correct in saying that one of the biggest challenges with regard to implementation is a resource limitation issue, not only financial resources but also a human resource limitation. This is why this matter remains constantly on the SADC agenda.

Mr W J SEREMANE: Hon President, we thank you for your extensive and informative response, but what comes to mind immediately is: How far and wide is that kind of information reaching the ordinary citizens living in the region, especially with reference to the political agenda? What progress is being made in areas such as Swaziland and Zimbabwe, given the difficulties prevailing in those areas? On the economic front, how does the pursuit of advancing the economic agenda shape up, especially in the light of the initiatives, such as Nepad and the APRM, and as seen and understood by the people of the region?

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: I think that the hon Seremane is quite correct to draw attention to the fact that the knowledge and information about SADC, what it stands for and what it is doing doesn't reach the ordinary masses of our people. That is quite correct. Clearly, it is something that we need to address, given the importance of the community in terms of the impact that it would potentially have on all of our countries. This is something that indeed needs to be addressed.

I mentioned that SADC adopted a programme to address the implementation of the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security. That deals with the political matters to which the hon member has referred and it is indeed within that context that SADC took the decision that we should act as a facilitator with regard to the challenges facing Zimbabwe. That is a practical implementation of the decisions and protocols of SADC and I would imagine that the people generally in the region are familiar with what is happening in that particular regard.

In that context I must add, as we were coming to the House this afternoon, I was told that it is alleged that the South African government has information that there are divisions in Zanu-PF and there are questions raised about the candidacy of President Mugabe, in terms of the elections next year. In that regard, I would really like to say that the South African government has no such information about divisions in Zanu-PF or any problems on whatever decisions Zanu-PF might take with regard to who might be its presidential candidate.

I am not quite sure where the allegation comes from, but it certainly doesn't represent any knowledge that the South African government has. It is not anything that we would want to cook up. There may very well be other people in society who think so or may have that information, but we don't.

With regard to these political challenges, indeed the region has in the past discussed the matter of Swaziland and in that context and at that particular time, the matter was handled by the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth deployed people to work with the government of Swaziland with regard to the constitution of Swaziland. Indeed, at the end of that process the Commonwealth gave a report about this particular matter. It is an issue about which SADC is interested.

The impact and relationship to Nepad, APRM and so on, of course derives from the implementation of our own programmes. All the socioeconomic programmes, which SADC is addressing, are very consistent with what the Nepad programmes are, and indeed all of these other matters that relate to good governance are matters that also are consistent with the protocols of the APRM.

Critically, the manner in which SADC would relate to Nepad and the APRM is by implementing the programmes that we have agreed on.

Rev K R J MESHOE: Hon President, advancing a common political and economic agenda for the African continent has, we believe, the ultimate goal of uniting all member states politically, economically and otherwise. This might result in a single central government enjoying legislative and executive powers and the loss of sovereignty of all member states.

Would the President agree with the assumption that the resulting loss of sovereignty and the negative economic effects would by far outweigh any benefits? What would the economic impact on our GDP be if our relatively stronger economy was integrated with that, for example, of Zimbabwe, in pursuance of advancing this common political and economic agenda?

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: I would imagine that all of us are agreed on the strategic objective of African unity. We cannot be agreed on African disunity. We must be in agreement, I would imagine, on the matter of African unity. Quite how that expresses itself is the matter that needs to be discussed. That includes the issue of regional integration.

We have the regions of Southern Africa, Central Africa, West Africa, East Africa and North Africa, and so on. They must get together, because it is obviously beneficial, as one can see this process of regionalisation that is taking place all over the world. We are not immune from that. That would be of benefit, as would be further co-operation among those regions. That is a process that I again imagine we all agree about.

There is a discussion that is, indeed, taking place about the possible formation of an African government. At the last summit meeting of the AU in January, it was decided that the AU summit should set aside two days when it meets in July in Accra, specifically to discuss this matter.

What should we do, especially on the political side but also the economical side, further to advance that process of the integration of the African continent and the matter of the possibility of taking steps towards the formation of an all-African government? This is a matter that has been tabled and that will be discussed.

The South African government has certainly not arrived at a position where we would say: Suppose it was to be this type of government—what are the pros and cons? We are quite convinced that in a sense one can only build that African unity from below. It has to start at these regional levels and, as I was indicating earlier, we really do have challenges with regard to the implementation of the programmes that we have agreed to within SADC.

While we still face those challenges, whether it is free trade areas or whatever else, clearly one can't start running before one is able to walk. I don't think, as far as South Africa is concerned, that we would want to start speculating now as to what might happen if some government were to emerge in the future.

The immediate challenge is, indeed, to address this matter of regional integration and see how this region interacts with the rest, as well as implementing the already agreed programmes of Nepad, which are cross boundary, multicountry and so on. Our time would be better spent looking at what it is that we need to do in order to achieve regional integration, rather than to spend time speculating on what might be lost or gained by the formation of an African government.

The matter will be discussed in July. I don't know what the outcome of that will be, but certainly the position of the South African government would be that it wouldn't work to come at this matter from above and

proclaim: Let there be an all-African government. That is not going to work. Let it evolve as part of the process of the development of our regions and the linkage between our regions.

Dr P W A MULDER: Mr President, the FF Plus believes, as you just stated, that successful African co-operation is only possible after successful regional integration and co-operation. From time to time South Africa experiences power shortages. I dream of a Southern African region where we share a strong infrastructure. With the almost unlimited hydro electrical potential of the Inga Falls, Cahora Bassa, Ruacana and our own power plants, all power shortages in the region can be eradicated. If I may ask: How far are we with establishing this electrical power infrastructure in the SADC region?

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: As I indicated, one of the SADC protocols deals with this matter, namely the SADC Protocol on Energy. As a consequence of this, a SADC power pool exists. There is an arrangement already by which all of the power utilities in the region co-operate. In that context, this particular challenge has been identified by the whole region.

There is an urgent challenge to make sure that we build up the capacity to generate and transmit electricity. The Inga Project is indeed part of this. I am sure that the hon member knows of work that is already going on to rehabilitate the existing facilities at Inga, but there has also been work going on and a feasibility study being carried out to look at the further expansion of Inga, which means new investment and new generating capacity.

Everybody recognises the fact that there is enormous hydroelectric potential at Inga, which indeed would meet the needs of the region and beyond, as well as address the environmental questions about the environmentally safe generation of electrical power. It is indeed one of our most active elements in terms of integration, this matter of power generation and power sharing in the region. The hon member would know because the Ministers have referred to this.

A decision has been taken to build a major coal-fired power station in Botswana, which should be seen within the context of this energy provision. We have also reported on the work we had been doing with the governments of Mozambique and Portugal with regard to Cahora Bassa. Fortunately, the agreement between Portugal and Mozambique has been concluded, which makes it possible to put Cahora Bassa within the context of that Southern African power pool, given that the ownership will now shift to the Mozambican government.

Effects of proposed change of place names

9. Mr M A Mncwango (IFP) asked the President of the Republic:

> Whether (a) changing the names of places or (b) the rewriting of history to reflect a dominant political position will provide any opportunity for reconciliation and nation-building; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? N948E

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, with regard to this important matter of place names, I'd like to say that it is indeed one of the critical challenges facing our transformation process. Dealing with this matter should help all of us to reflect on and grapple with the true nature of the history of our country, and not just deal with positions of dominant political formations.

This history will tell us that more than 300 years of colonial and apartheid domination have left a serious imprint on the identity of South Africa, an imprint that in most instances communicates a wrong message, that we are citizens of European outposts, rather than belonging to a proudly and full-fledged African country.

It is when we openly address these matters of who we are, what is our history is and how we arrived at this democracy that we create an opportunity for true reconciliation and nation-building through the issue of place names.

Further, to attain real reconciliation and nation-building we need to answer honestly a number of important questions related to the issue of place names, and these include: What is the true history of each of the places where name changes are suggested? Was the original and indigenous name changed during colonial or apartheid conquest, and, if so, what do we do with the original name? Was there consensus when a specific name was given to an area or was the name unilaterally imposed?

When changing the name, how do we contribute to reconciliation and nation-building? Is the current name offensive to some sections of the community? How does the name reflect and define the people and the area in question? And how does the name reflect the experiences, the challenges, the work and the struggles of the local people?

And, clearly, Madam Speaker, part of the colonial and apartheid strategy was indeed to destroy the identity of the majority of the people in this country so that this majority should see itself in the image of the colonial and apartheid masters. Hence we have places such as East London, Parys and Newcastle here in South Africa, because this was seen as an extension of Europe. So, naturally, it would be remiss for a free South Africa, an African country with citizens who are Africans, not to address this matter.

As we know, during the difficult years of colonialism and apartheid many South Africans engaged in heroic struggles against oppression, and because of their sacrifices, today we live in a democratic country. The question is: How do we remember and recognise their contribution to the freedom that we enjoy today? Indeed, I agree that when we recognise and remember these heroes and heroines we should not be partisan, but acknowledge the contribution of all those who sacrificed for our freedom.

In this regard, in dealing with the matter of place names and in the process of attempting to answer, as we should, the questions I've cited, we have to engage all sections of our communities, so that there's a general understanding of why we have embarked on this task. We should answer these questions, so that we don't repeat the mistakes made in the past, when many of the names we have inherited were imposed without any input from the majority of the people. [Applause.]

By engaging the mass of our people, we'll create the possibility, through that process, to reflect the true history and the views of the majority of the people in the area. Hon members will also recall that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommended the renaming of geographical features as a form of symbolic reparation to address South Africa's unjust past. Therefore, the issue of changing names is part of redressing the imbalances of the past as mandated by the Constitution and recommended by the TRC.

It is noted that among the injustices of the past was the degradation of African place names. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the government to ensure that all South African geographical features or places are representative of all South African citizens.

At the same time, a matter that hon members may wish to reflect upon in the coming period is that the process of place name changes is correctly a grass-roots one, emerging at times at various unco-ordinated moments as each local municipality, with its municipal government, finalises its own reflections on the matter. However, the disadvantage of this is that disjointed national discourse may take place, informed by the flavour of the moment, with generalisations that have little to do with the national state of affairs.

So I would think that it might very well be better if the SA Geographical Names Council, working with the provincial geographical names committees and the local municipalities, conducted hearings across the country and established a slate of changes that we could refer to as "base changes", that accord with the new dispensation, and changes that would also take into account the legitimate sensitivities about the culture and histories of our diverse communities.

This would give the nation a clearer picture of the modifications being made on a national scale. In my view this would also help to debunk the myth that specific communities, languages and legitimate schools of thought within the broad constitutional framework are being marginalised. I do hope that hon members will respond to this suggestion.

For our part, as the executive, this is an issue that is exercising our minds, and we will in due course place a proposal before the nation on this matter. Thank you, Madam Speaker. [Applause.]

Mr M A MNCWANGO: Thank you, Mr President, for your comprehensive answer to my question. I must say that I was very impressed and very satisfied. However, I do want to say that true reconciliation between all races and amongst blacks in particular is very fundamental for this country in underpinning and advancing the cause of our hard-fought democracy. And for that reason, Mr President, I want to say that the naming and renaming of public buildings, streets and other public facilities is one of those important instruments, I believe, that could be used to unite all the people of this country and also promote the cause of nation-building.

I want to say that all those people who had contributed to the development of this country, socially, politically, economically and otherwise, should be recognised without any due consideration for their political, racial and linguistic backgrounds. I am not too sure that the manner in which the name change process currently being undertaken by the ANC administration in the City of Durban . . .

The SPEAKER: Umbuzo, baba, umbuzo. [Please ask a question, sir.]

Mr M A MNCWANGO: . . . is in any way contributing to nation-building and reconciliation. My question, Madam Speaker, is: Would the President be adverse to the idea of an all-inclusive forum, to be established at all three levels of government, to deal with this important issue in such a manner that in the end an outcome, which will be based on consensus as opposed to majoritanism, is achieved? Thank you.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, let me, first of all, say that with regard to the matter of the processes at the eThekwini metro, I'm sure the hon member is aware of the decision that the national government took, which was to ask the Ministers of Arts and Culture, and Provincial and Local Government to interact with the municipal government to address this, precisely because we are indeed fully in agreement with you with regard to the manner in which these processes should be handled. That is the reason the national Cabinet decided to ask those two Ministers to interact with the municipal administration in the eThekwini metro.

As I've indicated, hon member, we have the geographical names council, which operates in terms of legislation that was approved by this Parliament, I think in 1998, which lays down particular procedures, as well as various criteria, that we need to adopt as we address this matter of place names. I think that that is really what we need to do to ensure that that council operates as visualised in the piece of legislation concerned.

I've just said that indeed it might be very useful if the National Geographical Names

Council interacts with the provincial geographical names committees, as well as the municipalities, so that before any change takes place anywhere, it is involved in that particular process to ensure consistency nationally, but also to ensure sensitivity to all of these basic principles.

I think that, indeed, without derogating from the powers and privileges that the different spheres of government might have, granted to them by the Constitution and legislation, it would be important to have an inclusive process. And I do believe that the National Geographical Names Council would have the ability to bring together these other spheres of government so that, indeed, we achieve these objectives of reconciliation, about which I'm quite certain we are all agreed. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Nksz P TSHWETE: Mongameli, ndiyabulela ngengcaciso ecacileyo yokutshintshwa kwamagama eendawo. Uwuchaphazele umba wokudala uxolo, nomba weziphumo zomzabalazo wenkululeko. Ngokutshintsha amagama eendawo senzela ukuba singayilibali imbali yethu.

Kukho ingxolo enkulu mva nje, ngokubhekisele kutshintsho lwamagama, nangona uzicacisile ngokupheleleyo iinkqubo zohlengahlengiso okanye inguqu. Siyazi ngokupheleleyo ukuba olu hlengahlengiso lulungiselelwe kuMgaqo-siseko woMzantsi Afrika.

Ngaba, Mongameli, sithini ngabantu abangafuni kulandela uMgaqo-siseko nabaphikisana nawo? Asazi ukuba masenze ntoni ngabo. Enkosi. [Kwahlekwa.]

UMONGAMELI WERIPHABLIKI: Ngekhe sivumelane nabo, sizimanye nabo ekuphikiseni umthetho kwanoMgaqo-siseko wethu. *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.)*

[Ms P TSHWETE: President, I thank you for the clear explanation of the changing of place names. You highlighted the issue of reconciliation, and the outcome of the struggle. In changing the names of places, we want to maintain our history.

There is a complaint as far as name changing is concerned, even though you have explained the transformation processes. We are aware that this transformation is catered for, in the South African Constitution.

However, President, what do we do about people who do not conform to the Constitution and who are against it? We do not know what to do about them. Thank you. [Applause.]

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: We cannot agree with them, and align ourselves with them in violating legislation and our Constitution.]

But, I think, hon member, as regards the issues that are being raised . . . Well, let me say that I hope that all of us are agreed that we approved the legislation setting up the geographical names council. This matter needs to be addressed, and we can't avoid it.

Indeed, regarding the area that you come from, why do we need a town named after King William—King William's Town? You and I know that that place is called eQonce, but why don't we say so? So I'm saying that I'm quite sure that all of us are agreed about that. [Applause.]

But the issues that are being raised about the process, about procedure, about inclusivity and about sensitivity to all manner of issues, of culture, of history and so on, are very important. And I think that we need to respond to those very positively, without commenting on the substance of the processes.

In the eThekwini metro, for instance, you have a great heroine of our people, honoured in our national orders, Princess Magogo—she's a national hero. She has received a Gold Award in the Order of Ikhamanga for her contribution to culture. I wouldn't imagine that there's anybody in the country who would not want to honour her.

So I'm saying that the processes, the inclusivity, respect for the principles and finding all these difficult balances in this regard are important, starting from the point that change is both necessary and inevitable. The sensitivities ought not to be used to block change.

You can't still have, I think, names like Boesmansrivier. Who is a "Boesman"? [Interjections.] I mean apart from Peter Hendrickse? [Laughter.] Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Mrs D VAN DER WALT: Dankie, agb Speaker. [Thank you, hon Speaker.]

Hon President, the DA supports name changes where current names do cause offence, have become irrelevant or are not of any historical significance. We truly believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, and therefore believe that the history and heritage of all communities must be recognised when any name changes are made.

The manner in which Cape Town is approaching name changing seems to us to be an example for the whole of the country to follow. Mr President, I was listening very carefully when you were answering the previous follow-up questions on this specific issue, and because it is not happening the way you prescribed it and want it to happen, I ask you: Will you, Mr President, so that we do not make the same mistakes as in the past, undertake to ensure that name changes will be properly and sensitively handled, with all stakeholders consulted and everyone's history, heroes and heritage being recognised? I thank you.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, we would want to handle this matter in the manner that is prescribed by law—and I did say that the legislation was approved in this Parliament. This legislation set up the council that succeeded an earlier committee, which, I am told, had been in existence since 1939 and had dealt with the same question.

We must handle it within the context of the law, and if the hon member has a look again at that legislation, it will indicate what needs to be done and the criteria that need to be respected, etc. We do indeed need to follow that and I believe that the legislation and the procedures set out therein are sufficient to achieve these requirements of inclusivity, consultation and so on that we need.

The point that we are making, further to entrench that system, is to move more formally to institute a system of regular consultation, a point the hon Mncwango raised, and of some inclusive forum that would include bringing in national government, the provinces and municipalities.

I do believe that what is said in the legislation is sufficient to address these particular purposes. I do not believe, therefore, that there is any intervention that needs to be made by the President beyond what the legislation provides. It is a matter of the implementation of the law of the land, and if we do as we should, it should indeed address these controversies that have arisen. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Rev K R J MESHOE: Hon President, the renaming of streets and places is a very sensitive issue, as it is used to rewrite the history and/or to erase the imprint of previous political regimes, as the President has correctly said. While recognising the enormous costs incurred by taxpayers and business in the process, the ACDP nevertheless supports the changing of offensive names and those in honour of former apartheid architects and leaders.

I appreciated what the President said about the importance of inclusivity and sensitivity. But, I still want the President to give an assurance that he will consider the impact that name changing will have on nation-building and reconciliation before endorsing or agreeing with decisions that have been

made to include names of people who had no respect for life and those who caused physical injury, pain and suffering to many of our people. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, I am quite certain that the hon member is aware of the processes to which I have referred, and which are required in terms of our legislation. When the proclamations are issued with regard to these name changes, by the Minister of Arts and Culture, it is after there has been a process. The names are recommended to him as a result of processes that have been carried through by the National Geographical Names Council. So I would not imagine that this body of very distinguished South Africans would indeed find it possible to recommend the honouring of people who had done harm to the nation. I wouldn't imagine that this would happen.

The Minister does not wake up one day and decide that he is going to rename Cape Town or any other place. This is a matter that comes to him via prescribed legal processes. Indeed, I am quite sure that both the council and the Minister would be sensitive to what the hon member raised here. He may very well have some specific examples of places that have been named after people who had done the kind of harm to the nation that he referred to. I am not aware of that. If that should happen, it surely ought to be corrected. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Progress in the fight against poverty and the reduction of unemployment

10. Mr L V J Ngculu (ANC) asked the President of the Republic:

(a) What progress has been made in view of the Government's resolve to fight poverty and create conditions conducive to the economic development of the masses of our people and (b) what key successes have been achieved in (i) fighting poverty and (ii) reducing unemployment? N995E

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, with regard to this matter of economic development and the fight against poverty, we have indeed, on a number of occasions in this House, provided details of our efforts on poverty eradication. My Cabinet colleagues have likewise, from time to time, provided their sector-specific details on this matter. Our main message in this regard is that we have indeed made progress since 1994 in fighting poverty, but such is the legacy of the inequities we inherited that much more needs to be done to ensure that all South Africans experience a dignified quality of life.

The government is indeed determined to speed up the process that will help us to achieve higher rates of economic growth and job creation and improve the provision of social services. As the hon member knows, government has resolved to halve unemployment and poverty by 2014 and, as such, we have put into place a number of key programmes to ensure that this objective is attained.

At the core of these interventions are programmes such as sustainable growth, largely through stimulating opportunities for formal sector employment, bringing the economically marginalised sector of our people into the mainstream of our economy through support for small and micro enterprises and co-operatives, speeding up land reform, skills development, the Expanded Public Works Programme and improving our social interventions directed especially at poor citizens.

As hon members know, economic growth averaged about 3% during the first decade of our freedom, from 1994 to 2004, which was itself a considerable improvement on the decade before 1994 when growth averaged 1% a year. Since 2004 growth has exceeded 4% a year, reaching about 5% in 2005-06. Growth is focused to rise to over 5% in the years commencing in 2009. Of course, as the member knows, government intends that that should rise to 6% and above.

On average, in the decade before 1994, per capita growth was negative, but the situation has changed a great deal. With the faster growth rate has come a rapid improvement in job creation. Again, as the hon member would know, close to 1,5 million net new jobs were created over the past three years. In the last year, measured to March 2006, around 540 000 net new jobs were created.

Though unemployment remains high, this is considerably better than the unemployment rate registered a few years ago. Recent research indicates that the real income of the poorest 20% of South Africans rose by 30% in real terms between 1994 and 2004. As part of that process of ensuring that our economy grows, by the last quarter of 2006 fixed investment had reached 19,5% of the gross domestic product and its rate of growth is even higher than that envisaged in Asgisa. Planned public sector investment has increased to over R415 billion—an increase of more than 15,8%.

The infrastructure investment is in projects across government, including investment for the 2010 Fifa World Cup and 37% is invested by the state-owned enterprises in power generation, transmission and distribution, port, rail and pipeline infrastructure.

We cite this issue of economic growth because job creation and promotion of self-employment are critical interventions in dealing with poverty. As such, what the hon member referred to as "economic development of the mass of our people" should be at the heart of our poverty-reduction efforts. A critical element of this should be deliberate action on the part of government to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are shared among all our people, including the poor. Let me stop there and I will continue later.

Mr L V J NGCULU: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Thank you very much, hon President . . . [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: She is the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Uyangisukela uJames. [Uhleko.] [James is teasing me.] [Laughter.]

Mr L V J NGCULU: Thank you very much, hon President, for your elaborate reply and also for the extensive manner in which you replied to the question regarding the issue of poverty and unemployment.

In my own view, Comrade President, I think this challenge varies and is multidimensional, in terms of the challenges we face in reducing unemployment and fighting poverty. Could the President perhaps respond to the view that one of the ways of addressing this question is to ensure that people engage in sustainable programmes of self-employment or sustainable programmes for their own empowerment? Put differently, perhaps: how best could we re-ignite your call of Vukuzenzele?

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, I am very privileged to reinstate you in your position as Speaker rather than "Deputy" to which the hon Ngculu had demoted you. [Laughter.] Yes, indeed, I would agree, hon member, that it is important that we inspire that sense of Vukuzenzele among our people to ensure that they themselves join this process of development. But it is important that the government should play it's role in terms of empowerment of people, so that "bakwazi ukuvuka bazenzele" [they can stand up and do things for themselves], not to act on their own but to act with the support of the government.

In that context, it is important that we should continue and improve our performance with regard to the development of the small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) to ensure that we address all of these matters that relate to this. Indeed, as people stand up to take care of their own development and ensure that those matters are addressed, we need to deal with these issues pertaining to problems of regulatory burdens and problems of institutional state support for such people, problems of access to financing,

problems of access to proper training and education to equip people to run these enterprises on their own. It's necessary to do that, so that, indeed, people are empowered to do precisely what the hon member correctly said needs to be done.

In this regard, I would say that, indeed, a significant amount of work has been done towards the integration of the SMME development through the strengthening of our institutional mechanisms. That would relate to Seda, Khula, the Apex Fund and the Umsobomvu Fund. Indeed, this particular challenge is going to become, I think, sharper as we decide on the 10 products set aside for government to procure services and goods from SMMEs.

We must also address these other matters where government has acted negatively with regard to these developments. We have, for instance, failed to settle SMME accounts within the 30 days that we said should be the longest period before the government pays for what it has bought. [Applause.] I am saying, yes indeed, we need to encourage that spirit of Vukuzenzele, but we must also make sure that this is properly supported by government. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Mr C M LOWE: Madam Speaker, Mr President, as you have indicated in your very comprehensive reply this afternoon, the question of unemployment is at the heart of poverty and is certainly one of the key things we have to address if we are going to successfully address poverty in South Africa. As you have also indicated, you have had some successes and you have also been less successful in other areas.

I think you particularly mentioned the Growth and Development Summit and the targets that were set there. The Sector Education and Training Authorities tried to address the skills deficit in the training of people. And, of course, there is the question of labour legislation—whether it's too flexible or not flexible enough—and the whole question of affirmative action and employment equity.

Regarding all of these things you have had success, but you also, I think, would agree that you have been less than successful in other areas. The DA has criticised your government. We have done so honestly at all times in an attempt to find solutions. We have always put forward alternatives, and we have made proposals that we think would work better, based on research and overseas best practice in a real attempt to find solutions to the problems that face us.

Mr President, my question to you this afternoon is: Would you be prepared to meet with a delegation or send a delegation from your government to meet with the DA to sit down and talk about these real problems and about unemployment in South Africa, the question of skills and the question of making a difference in poverty, because we really do believe that we have some answers that we could look at? Perhaps, they are not the only answers but we believe that they are constructive and are real answers we want to work with to find solutions. Would you be prepared to meet with us, either yourself or as a delegation of people to sit down and come up with some constructive solutions for all the people in South Africa? Thank you.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, the answer to that question is: Yes. [Applause.] We would certainly be quite happy to do that and listen to the views of the DA on the matters that the hon member has raised, all of which are important. I am quite certain that, perhaps, in that process both sides might learn something, including learning how to respond, in a balanced way, to these various challenges that the country faces.

In that sense, it might help to drag us out of our partisan spaces to really address these matters as national challenges rather than the promotion of particular parties and agendas. Certainly, hon member, yes, we would be quite happy to meet with the DA. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Mr H B CUPIDO: Madam Speaker, hon President, in order to address the mammoth challenge of reducing unemployment and fighting poverty, can the hon President give us an indication which industries have been identified as potential hubs for creating employment and how these objectives will be achieved while South Africa is currently experiencing a critical shortage of skills? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: I understand that the hon Minister of Trade and Industry addressed this question the day before yesterday when he presented his Budget Vote. [Interjections.] Well, he was not listening, Madam Speaker. [Laughter.] I saw that . . . [Laughter.]

Indeed, hon member, he would have identified those. I would really like to suggest that you have a look at that, because we have addressed this matter before and said that, in terms of that industrial policy framework, we would want to focus on particular sectors to address a variety of matters, some of which have to do with job creation and others with other elements in terms of ensuring that the economy grows at the pace that is required.

That would include, with regard to these sectors that you are talking about, tourism, which all of us have spoken about. It is very important. We have spoken about business process outsourcing, a very important sector. We have spoken about the whole approach towards labour-intensive methods of construction. All of these are part of this. There are also a variety of other matters, such as the development of the small and medium enterprises sector as a sector of the economy that would generate and be a source of jobs.

But I would recommend that the hon member has a look at the Minister's speech that he made when he presented his Budget Vote. I am quite confident that he did address this particular matter. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Recommendations by, and role of African Peer Review Mechanism

11. The Leader of the Opposition (DA) asked the President of the Republic:

(1) Whether, in light of recent reports that the Government has rejected 149 out of 150 African Peer Review Mechanism recommendations on South Africa, the Government has rejected any such recommendations; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, on what basis;

(2) whether the African Peer Review Mechanism still has an important role to play in assessing governance in (a) South Africa and (b) the African continent; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N951E

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, with regard to this matter of the African Peer Review Mechanism, let me commence by reiterating what we have consistently stated before, that we are indeed committed to the APRM process, whose primary purpose is to foster the adoption of policies and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated subregional and continental integration through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practice.

It's for this reason that we welcome the African Peer Review Mechanism's country review report on South Africa, which will be presented to the African Union, and which will be introduced to the members of the peer review system during the African Union heads of state and government meeting in Accra next month.

Reports that our government has rejected the report are devoid of any truth. On the contrary, virtually all of the report's recom-

mendations have been integrated into the South African APRM's national programme of action.

The APRM process has an important role to play in assessing good governance, accountability and transparency in South Africa, as it did in other countries thus far assessed, and we know they will continue to do so in future.

It was set up by the leadership of the continent precisely because we seek, as peers, to improve the performance of our governments and other sectors of society so as to build a better life for all of the people of the continent.

According to the guidelines of the APRM, for countries to prepare for and participate in the APRM process, the country review panel receives a country's self-assessment report, undertakes its own review, and thereafter drafts a country review report which assesses political, economic and corporate governance as well as the state of socio-economic development.

The guidelines further stipulate that the draft report should first be discussed with the government concerned with a view to ensuring the accuracy of the information, and to provide the government with an opportunity both to react to the APRM team's findings and to put forward its own views on how the identified shortcomings might be addressed.

Those responses of the government are then appended to the report of the APRM team. Once the discussions are completed, the country being assessed finalises its programme of action, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of what would have been the draft report.

This is precisely what has happened in our country, and we are confident that, as the APRM process unfolds in more countries, it will continue to draw important lessons from experiences gathered in its initial undertakings.

Unfortunately, for purposes of this discussion, but quite correctly in the general order of things, the APRM process stipulates that the country report, which includes comments by the government of the country being assessed and the national programme of action, assumes the status of a draft until they have been considered by the summit meeting, and it is only then that documents are made public, six months thereafter.

As such we are, therefore, not at liberty to reflect on the actual substance of the issues that the report on South Africa covers. We are constrained in this way because we respect the protocols of the APRM, and fully understand the rationale behind that.

I must say that this is in contradistinction to the posture of some individuals in some civil society organisations and some in the media who took advantage of the very important process of public consultation to get their hands on initial drafts of the report, and publicly air their content in a selective manner that seeks to discredit our country and our government.

We wish to assure hon members that once these processes have been completed, we will be only too happy to engage the House on issues that have risen so that, together, we can enhance the work we have already done to build a better South Africa. In that regard, let me again say that virtually all of the recommendations made by the APRM report have been integrated into our national programme of action. Thank you very much.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Speaker, Mr President, South Africa and you personally were a driving force behind the establishment of the African Peer Review Mechanism process. We've rightly taken great pride in the acceptance of this process by our peers.

Numerous reputable commentators have assured us that our report has now been heavily edited. We have had reports of the flawed public participation process, which in a way

you have now disputed, but which nevertheless has been said often. There was even our pleading of extenuating circumstances in areas of poor performance.

Can you reassure us that this is not going to devalue the eventual report and also the credibility of the future processes?

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: I do believe that, hon Botha, I have the advantage that I have been part of this process, and therefore, not having listened to commentators, I do not know what the commentators have been saying, but what I am saying is that, yes, that's all you will have to go by, hon Botha. It requires a little bit of patience.

I am trying to explain what happens. There are set procedures in terms of the APRM process. As I have explained, we do a country report. The panel comes and does its own report. They look at our report, and so, when they prepare their report, they make their comments and send a draft. You make your own comments which, as I said, they will attach to their own report.

They report on the peer review to the peers. As a result of that, six months afterwards, these documents are published. I am afraid that you have to be patient for that. You see, my advice to you, hon Botha, is that if anybody comes to you to tell you that this is what this report says, and this is what has happened, and this is the outcome, chase them away, because they are not telling you the truth. [Laughter.] They aren't telling you the truth at all, and I promise that.

You will see. Keep the press cuttings of the commentators, and when the report comes out, then you can have a look at what the commentators said, and what the report may say. I am quite certain that you will find that, in this particular instance, I am being more truthful than the commentators. Thanks, Madam Speaker. [Applause.]

Mr M R MOHLALOGA: Madam Speaker and hon President, in the context of the discourse on the African Renaissance, there is an Afropessimistic perspective that has persistently and consistently been drumming in the message that the process of the revival of the continent is destined for inevitable failure, and that, therefore, the African Peer Review Mechanism process would not yield any results, and the undertone of this perspective is both implied and embedded in the question you are responding to, asked by the Leader of the Opposition.

My question, therefore, is given the fact that we are not the first country to undergo this process, what lessons have we learned that reinforce our confidence in the APRM process, and defeat the Afropessimistic perspective?

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Indeed, I would say that, with regard to the reports that we have considered, coming out of the peer review system, they have fully demonstrated the need for the system and its efficacy.

In all of the instances that we have considered, at the end of the process when these reports are presented at peer review level, they have never seemed to seek to hide whatever might be wrong in any country. In all instances, when these reports have been presented—that is for Ghana, Rwanda, and Kenya—the peers have been there. The heads of state of all of those countries have been present when the reports have been presented and discussed.

Indeed, when they then come back to report to their peers about their responses in terms of the actual programme of action that they have adopted to respond to the outcome of the peer review system, again, those reports have been submitted by the heads of state of those various governments, and they have given us a chance, because we've got their response. Here's a response in terms of our programme of action, and at the same time, you have a copy of the report. You are then able to challenge the programme of action to say, "But you have not addressed some matters".

So, I think the process has gone very well. The one issue that we have not yet addressed, which we have to address, is part of the objective of the peer review system, which is not to throw stones at people but, indeed, to identify these challenges that face us with regard to good governance—political, economic and corporate—to say what it is that we need to do. We also need to say how the rest of us—the peers—assist to give support in order to ensure that what might have been wrong is addressed.

I am saying that that particular issue of what we might do is not one, I believe, we have addressed adequately. I just want to give a quick example, hon member. The peer review system, for instance, will address the issue of the auditing of public accounts: Is the process being done properly? Are the institutions there? Is the legislation there? Are there processes, etc?

You find that, in some instances, we've dealt with weaknesses in the institutions that would do that auditing, not because the governments don't want to do it, but because they don't have the resources to set up these systems.

It then becomes the responsibility of the rest of the peers to ask what it is that they can do to help to provide the resources so that this problem that's been identified and accepted is addressed. I am saying that with regard to that particular matter.

We haven't done as well as we should, I believe. Certainly, there is nothing that has happened with regard to the APRM process which indicates that Africa is set on a path of failure. I think that what happened is precisely the opposite—that the African continent is looking very frankly and very objectively at the challenges it faces and is seeking to address that.

Indeed, as I was indicating earlier, those reports, within the context of the processes that the APRM carried out, have become public reports so that the whole nation and the whole continent can make their own assessment as to the objectivity and so on of those reports.

I think all of this points to the fact that the continent is indeed trying to do something about its renaissance. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Mrs C DUDLEY: Madam Speaker, we understand, Mr President, that hon Minister Fraser-Moleketi has already denied claims that government has rejected all but one African Peer Review Mechanism recommendation, but, in view of the hon Minister's statement yesterday, we know that you will understand why the question still had to be asked.

Does the President believe that South Africa has an additional responsibility when it comes to the manner in which we respond to the APRM recommendations? If so, what responsibility and why? Will South Africans or the representatives of the people of South Africa be informed of government's intention or intended response to the report before it is tabled at the African Union summit in Ghana later this year? What will the process be? Thank you.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: No, Madam Speaker. We have to respect the rules and regulations that have been set, that have bound everybody. I don't believe that we should set our own rules with regard to this matter. I have explained this process, as I am sure Minister Fraser-Moleketi has explained this many times.

Indeed, everybody who participated in the process of drawing up that country report—that includes the nongovernmental organisations, and, indeed, Parliament—I would imagine, by the time we did all of this, were all familiar with the set procedures and set processes for this. I am saying that I do not believe that it would be correct for South Africa to decide to place itself outside of those rules and regulations and procedures that have been agreed on by the continent.

There are set rules, set procedures, with arguments as to why those particular procedures are necessary in order to achieve a peer review system.

So, no, we will proceed according to the rules, and the rules say that we must respond to the report of the peer review team, which we have done. The peer review team will take those reports and submit them to their peers, that is, its own report and our response. The peers will respond to both as they see fit, and that will include our response, in terms of a programme of action arising out of the recommendations of the peer review team.

The peers will then look at all of that, make their own determinations, and then, subsequently, all of those documents will be published. That's the process, and we will stick to that. We don't want an exceptional South African process outside of these processes that have bound everybody—Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda and everybody—since this is what applied to them. For South Africa to say, "No, we are very special. Bend the rules for us.", I think, would be wrong.

There's no additional responsibility that rests on South Africa that is different from the responsibilities that people who have acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism have. I do not know what such additional responsibilities would refer to. I don't believe there are any. There is a responsibility for us to respect the rules and regulations to participate fully in this process, and, indeed, an obligation and a responsibility that I am sure affects everybody, which is a responsibility to make sure that we don't do anything which undermines and discredits and renders irrelevant and meaningless this particular process. That is a responsibility that I am sure is binding on everybody, not just South Africa. I don't know what additional responsibility we would have.

So, let's proceed, hon members, in terms of this House. This House participated in the peer review system. It made its own contributions. I would imagine that by the time you did that, you knew what the rules are and what the framework is, and what it is that happens. We can't, halfway through that process, now seek to change all of this. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Adv Z L MADASA: Hon President, would you agree with my observation that despite the cynicism that this process may target the so-called "troubled states", the fact that the process was not deterred from raising issues with South Africa speaks to the legitimacy of the process, and its credibility, and the upholding of the principle of equality of states within the African Union, and should finally act as an incentive to all other member states to follow suit and subject themselves to the process? Thank you.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Yes, I would agree very much with the hon member. Indeed, it is important that the peer review system should, even in our case, whatever we think of ourselves, come at us in an objective manner within the context of what it seeks to achieve, within the context of its framework, and indeed be critical about any matter that it finds necessary to be critical about.

I agree with you, hon member, that it ought to add to the legitimacy and the credibility of the system, and indeed, hopefully, people will see that, indeed, this was not intended to identify particular countries, condemn them, demonise them or marginalize them, but indeed, it was intended to ensure that we do identify the challenges that we face in order to say what it is that we need to do to overcome them. I think you are quite right. Hopefully, this particular experience in South Africa will convince everybody that, indeed, it's a very worthwhile thing, and that it would be useful for all African countries to accede to the African Peer Review Mechanism. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Key outcomes of International Investment Council (IIC) meeting

12. Mr Y S Bhamjee (ANC) asked the President of the Republic:

(a) What are the key outcomes of the International Investment Council (IIC) meeting hosted by the Government from 11 to 13 May 2007 and (b) how do these outcomes advance the Government's developmental agenda and confidence in the South African economy? N996E

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, let me begin by saying this question refers to the International Investment Council's last meeting earlier this month. Alicedale, where the IIC met, is a small town in the Eastern Cape, which for decades has been poverty-stricken, with high levels of unemployment. However, investments by the public and private sectors and a series of public-private partnerships, encouraged by the provincial government of the Eastern Cape, have led to the rebuilding of the centre of the town and the development of a range of new employment opportunities that have helped to reduce the chronic unemployment in the region. Indeed, all the members of the IIC were impressed with this exciting example of social partnership leading to economic recovery and development in a poor region.

The meeting was well attended by members of the Cabinet and the overwhelming majority of members of the IIC. The council discussed current economic trends, report-backs on Asgisa and Jipsa, various other issues relating to economic growth and poverty reduction, a report on the progress towards the 2010 Fifa World Cup, a report on strategies to reduce crime in South Africa and a general discussion on communication of South Africa's progress.

The council did indicate that it was very pleased with South Africa's economic progress and urged that the Asgisa and Jipsa programmes should continue to be implemented with more vigour. One of the members of the council, Percy Barnevik, who has assisted in the Jobs for Growth Programme that is centred on the development of co-operatives focusing on poor women, reported that that programme is making good progress.

The council welcomed the presentation made on the preparations for the 2010 Fifa World Cup and recommended that the message of progress towards 2010 should be communicated more broadly.

Similarly, the council was positive about the presentation on combating crime made by Deputy National Police Commissioner Singh and proposed that government should publicise its anti-crime strategy and its implementation again more broadly.

Members of the council continued to help South Africa in communication, especially among the business community internationally. They advised us on how to communicate more effectively and the manner in which they act as ambassadors for South Africa themselves.

An improved international confidence in our economy was clearly indicated this month, when the government issued an international 15-year bond at the lowest cost premium we have ever paid.

Records of the meetings of the council would show that members of the council speak their minds on issues as they see them and that government benefits greatly from their frank but broadly supportive role on areas on which they have immense knowledge and experience.

With regard to the impact of the discussions on our development agenda and confidence in our economy, the discussion has shifted towards a careful analysis of South Africa's potential areas of competitive advantage in future. In the context of a world where some countries compete on the basis of low production costs, the question was posed whether South Africa intended to compete on the same grounds or if South Africa would not be more realistically capable of competing through other advantages such as industry specialization, quality and technological innovation.

As a result, a discussion on industrial and sectoral development strategy was initiated.

At the end of the meeting it was concluded that we should now spend more time in the council discussing this question further to refine our industrial strategy.

Given the wide and comprehensive business and economic experience that members of the IIC have, this will help us to position our economy better to compete on both the domestic and the international markets. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Mr Y S BHAMJEE: Madam Speaker, through you, given the fact that our ability to meet our international obligations is highly respected, is it possible for the President to enlighten us on how the IIC views the trend of investment in South Africa for the next three to five years? I know you have touched on that and I'd appreciate it if you could kindly elaborate on it a bit further. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, the hon member would recall that the IIC has taken the position for some time that we should focus on this matter of achieving higher rates of growth, that even when we say 6%, we should say at least 6%, because they strongly believe that the capacity and the possibility is there to raise the levels of growth of the economy to address all of the challenges we are facing, including the challenge of unemployment. That's part of the reason that they raised this question, which relates to industrial policy, to say that we need to have a closer look at this question as to which ought to be the lead sectors in the South African economy within the context of addressing the competitiveness of the South African economy.

That's why they raised the question, and certainly didn't believe that we should seek to ensure the competitiveness of the South African economy on the basis of cheap labour. They didn't think that would be correct and therefore we need to take other directions.

Now, having taken those directions and identified those various sectors, which would be the lead sectors in addressing that competitiveness matter, that also creates a better possibility to address investment possibilities because, again, one of the issues they have been raising is related to the question of communication about what South Africa is—that, indeed, South Africa ought to be attracting larger volumes of foreign capital and that the more we focus on these particular things the easier it becomes to target particular investors who might come into the various sectors that we might have identified.

I'm saying they also raised the matter of proper communication about South Africa in that context, because here you have senior international businesspeople who know this country well, who follow what is happening and are very confident about its future, but who say that a wrong message is going out about South Africa to the rest of the world, which might discourage other investors. It is a wrong message about what is happening, and we therefore need to address the matter of communication properly to address this. We therefore need to do all of these things, as a result of which we will be able to focus on particular investors rather than just communicating a general message.

Of course, they haven't said that they believe that in two, three or five years' time these are the additional volumes of foreign capital that will have flowed into the country, but they are raising the issue of taking the necessary practical steps to ensure those larger inflows of capital into the country. I must say that, in that context, one of the things they are doing, as I was saying, is that they themselves are acting as ambassadors, because they come from all over the world—Japan, India, France, Germany, the US, Brazil, etc.

Whenever any of our leadership comes to their country they do, indeed, organise the domestic business leadership to interact with our people as part of that process of the sensitisation of the possibilities that exist in

this country. But, indeed, we haven't asked them, and they haven't offered. I do not believe we will ask them to make any predictions about how much new foreign investment will have flowed into the country in three years' time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr H J BEKKER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon President, thank you very much for your response. The IFP appreciate the contribution from the IIC, particularly their expertise, which is so useful to South Africa. We would furthermore just like to enquire, with regard to your indication of the job creation situation, if there could be further details, particularly with regard to the development of scarce skills in South Africa for those special occupations.

During their previous visit it was mentioned, with regard to the situation in Zimbabwe, that this specific IIC had mentioned that the government's present position is the only viable option. I would just like to enquire whether they are still of this particular opinion or whether they have deviated from it.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, with regard to the matter of the Jobs for Growth Programme, the programme that I said was led by one of the members of the IIC, Percy Barnevik, I think the Deputy President would agree that we can give more information on that. It is, indeed, a very important programme and very promising. So, I'll negotiate with the Deputy President that she should address that, including the skills and everything else that you need to ensure its success.

I must say it is based on a very big programme of that kind that is going on in India, which has drawn millions of Indian women into actual productive economic activity. Indeed I agree, hon member, that we will try and persuade the Deputy President to give a report on that.

With regard to Zimbabwe, members of the council knew of the decision that had been taken by SADC—that we should facilitate the discussions between the government of Zimbabwe and the opposition parties. Indeed, as far I could determine—this was not a matter that was on the agenda—they welcome that and obviously hope that it will produce the necessary results. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The hon Gibson.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: It's actually his successor, Madam Speaker. [Laughter.] Thank you, hon President, for your reply. I think it was a very broad reply in terms of what progress has been made in that council and what contribution that council can make. Can I ask the hon President a couple of specific questions as to whether, indeed, that council has given him any advice in respect of the purchase by foreigners of land in South Africa and, secondly, whether there has been any advice given to him in respect of our imbalance in trade, in respect of China more specifically with regard to textiles, and how we should deal with it? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: No, Madam Speaker, there hasn't been any discussion that I can recall on the matter of land purchases by foreigners here. I certainly know of one of the members of the council, in fact probably more, who've got properties here and it has never been a matter of debate really.

With regard to the issue of China, yes, the matter has been discussed, not specifically with regard to South Africa, but the issue of the role of China, the impact of the Chinese economy not only on Africa but globally, and the challenges that we might face in that context, have been discussed. The issue was raised for that reason.

Let's have a closer look at what's happening to the global economy, the place of China within that global economy, the experience of many countries with regard to that—

whether it's the US or the EU and so on—and how that might impact on South Africa and therefore how we should respond as South Africa to that general process. So, it wouldn't be product-specific, like how South Africa should deal with the matter of clothing and textiles.

In the context of this discussion, of course, that matter came up because, as the hon member knows, we have already acted on that and have an agreement with China about that. The discussion itself wasn't product-specific, but they felt, given where they stand and their own experience, that it was important that this matter should be discussed, because inevitably it would have some impact or other on South Africa and South Africa needs to position itself to be in a position to respond to this issue of the growth and expansion of the Chinese economy in a way that it would be beneficial to the country. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr S N SWART: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon President, a strong economy and world ranking is, indeed, an achievement of your presidency, where strict fiscal and monetary discipline has been exercised, for which we can be very grateful as a nation. An area of concern, however, relates to the large deficit on our current account. Was this issue discussed at the IIC meeting? If so, does the council support our attempts to increase foreign direct investment and exports to reduce the deficit on our current account? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, in our own account to the members of the IIC on the performance of the South African economy, yes, we raised this matter because, obviously, it is an important part, it's a feature of the contemporary economy of South Africa. Yes, indeed, the matter was discussed, arising out of that report that we presented.

I do not believe that we have sounded alarm bells that need to frighten anybody about this. It's an important matter that needs to be addressed. And, in that context, indeed, so is the point that was raised earlier that it is important to increase the volume of exports from South Africa.

An interesting point was made by members of the IIC about the need to focus on technological innovation. I don't know whether this is allowed. This is not to be treated as advertising. For instance, specific mention was made of Sasol and the fact that as regards this technology, the best in the world, we ought to be communicating this message to the population of South Africa, so that this must become part of our national heritage.

We must generate a sense of national pride that South African brains and engineering and science and technology have been able to do this, in order to inspire others to focus on this, so that you do, indeed, get a national movement for innovation. This is one of the national tasks that we've got to carry out precisely so that, among other things, we are able then to address this challenge of increasing our exports.

The point was made that there is a feeling among some of the members of the IIC that a lot of our businesspeople are too accustomed to importing things rather than producing things. As part of innovative discussions, we need to find a way of saying we should take greater pride in producing something on a competitive basis than finding it so easy to import something else, because it is available elsewhere.

Certainly, we need a response to these challenges that arise from this deficit on our current account, which derives in part anyway from the weakness of our industrial structures, as a result of which we've got to import all sorts of things. So that, indeed, is related very directly to the matter that they raised, which we will come back to at the next meeting, which is: Which are the sectors of the South African economy on which we should focus, including with regard to this innovation issue, so that,

indeed, these become the sectors that make certain that we are competitive, both domestically and internationally? Thank you, Madam Speaker. [Applause.]

See also **QUESTIONS AND REPLIES.**

The House adjourned at 16:14.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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1. **Draft Bills submitted in terms of Joint Rule 159**

   (1) ***Cross-boundary Municipalities Laws Repeal and Related Matters Amendment Bill***, 2007, submitted by the Minister for Provincial and Local Government. Referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Provincial and Local Government** and the **Select Committee on Local Government and Administration.**

TABLINGS

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   (a) Report of the Auditor-General on an investigation into procurement at the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development—March 2007 [RP 38-2007].

   (b) Report of the Auditor-General on a performance audit of the import inspection services at the Department of Agriculture—March 2007 [RP 42-2007].

2. **The Minister of Finance**

   (a) Government Notice No R.368 published in Government Gazette No 29834 dated 26 April 2007: Amendment of Schedule No. 2 (No. 2/287) in terms of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964).

   (b) Government Notice No R.289 published in Government Gazette No 29855 dated 4 May 2007: Amendment of Schedule No. 2 (No. 2/288) in terms of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964).

   (c) Government Notice No R.290 published in Government Gazette No 29855 dated 4 May 2007: Amendment of Schedule No. 2 (No. 2/289) in terms of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964).

   (d) Government Notice No R.445 published in Government Gazette No 29889 dated 11 May 2007: Imposition of Provisional Payment (PP/127) in terms of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964).

   (e) Government Notice No R.397 published in Government Gazette No 29858 dated 11 May 2007: Amendment of Schedule No. 1 (No. 1/1/1335) in terms of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964).

   (f) Government Notice No

R.398 published in Government Gazette No 29858 dated 11 May 2007: Amendment of Schedule N/1/1336) in terms of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964).

(g) Government Notice No R.399 published in Government Gazette No 29858 dated 11 May 2007: Amendment of Schedule No. 3 (No. 3/611) in terms of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964).

(h) Government Notice No R.400 published in Government Gazette No 29858 dated 11 May 2007: Amendment of Schedule No. 3 (No. 3/612) in terms of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964).

(i) Government Notice No R.401 published in Government Gazette No 29858 dated 11 May 2007: Amendment of Schedule No. 3 (No. 3/613) in terms of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964).

(j) Government Notice No R.402 published in Government Gazette No 29858 dated 11 May 2007: Amendment of Schedule No. 4 (No. 4/305) in terms of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964).

(k) Government Notice No R.403 published in Government Gazette No 29858 dated 11 May 2007: Amendment of Schedule No. 5 (No. 5/84) in terms of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964).

3. **The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development**

(a) Report on the withholding of remuneration of Mr M F Mathe, an additional magistrate at Pinetown, in terms of section 13(4A)(b) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act No 90 of 1993).

4. **The Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs**

(a) Report of the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights for 2006–07 [RP 90-2007].

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.

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Abbreviations: (A) = Amendment; 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

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[Minister of Transport]
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RAMGOBIN, Mr M:
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ROOPNARAIN, Dr U:
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SEATON, Ms S A:
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[Deputy Minister of Safety and Security]
Bill:
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SIBANYONI, Mr J B:
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SIBOZA, Mr S:
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SISULU, Dr L N:
[Minister of Housing]
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[Minister of Social Development]
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SMUTS, Ms M:
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SONJICA, Ms B P:
[Minister of Minerals and Energy]
Bill:
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Bill:
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SPIES, Mr W D:
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STOFILE, Rev M A:
[Minister of Sport and Recreation]
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SURTY, Mr M E:
[Deputy Minister of Education]
Bill:
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[Deputy Minister of Social Development: Dr J Benjamin prior to her marriage on 31 March 2007]
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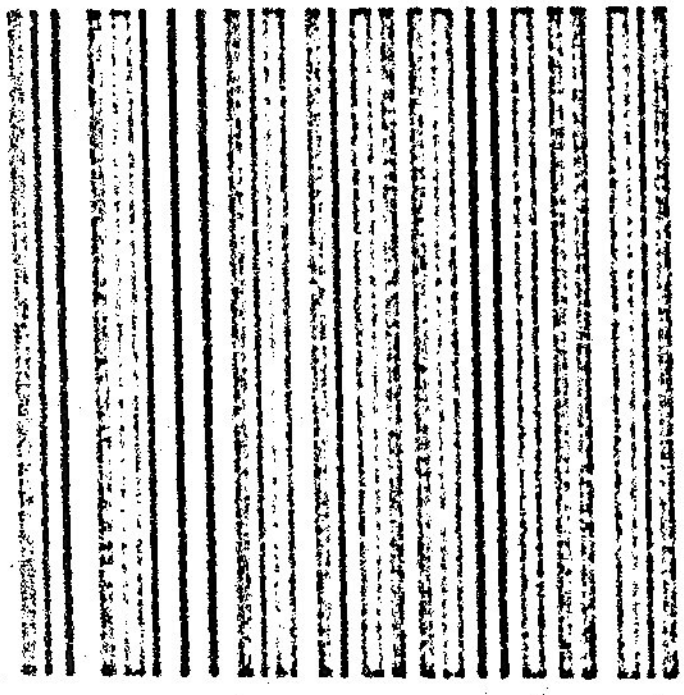
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