

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 1

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at Nieuwmeester Dome at 14:04.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. We would like to wish happy birthday to those members who have their birthday today.

Deputy Minister Mhlauli, happy birthday. There are many June babies. Next week on Monday the 8th of June is the Deputy Speaker's birthday. So, we'll sing for her on Tuesday.

However, there are many, many other June babies here.

Hon members, I just wish to apologise for the lighting in the centre and left sections. It just went off before we started.

They are trying to fix it, but we thought that since the microphones are working, let us proceed with the business of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 2

the day because the President also has another engagement at 16:00 which he must attend to. The secretary will read the Order of the day.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Resumption of Debate on Vote No 1 – The Presidency:

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Thoko Didiza, Ministers and Deputy Ministers, hon members and fellow South Africans, I too want to join you in congratulating those who were born in this month of June, and there are quite a number that I congratulated in Cabinet this morning.

Speaker, allow me to thank the members of this House for what has been, for the most part, a debate of substance on Vote No 1. This debate has demonstrated in many ways that while we may differ on matters of policy and politics, there is generally broad agreement on the challenges confronting our nation and on the urgency with which we must address those issues.

South Africans expect all of us who are seated here, and those who are not here, not to simply diagnose the country's

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 3

problems, but to work together to solve them. They expect us to come up with solutions, they expect leadership from us, they expect accountability and results. After all, that is why they collectively put us in the position that we are in here in this House.

It is with that responsibility firmly in mind that The Presidency approaches its work every day. In order for parliamentary oversight to be effective, it is absolutely necessary to engage not just with the grand vision, but also with the granular detail that determines whether such a vision succeeds or fails.

Many issues were raised during the debate yesterday, and it is not possible to reflect on all of them in this reply. However, as we conclude this debate on The Presidency Vote No 1, there are some fundamental assertions that must be made.

We should state that this Presidency is resolutely focused on the task of growing an inclusive economy and creating jobs for the jobless in our country. We are not distracted by the clamour of some political parties for attention. We are not distracted by political theatre and noise, and electoral posturing. [Applause.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 4

We will not be sidetracked by the narrow agendas that have nothing to do with the needs and interests, as well as the concerns of the people of South Africa. We put that aside and focus on what needs to be done. [Applause.]

As an institution and as the people who lead it, we are focused on the work that must be done to move with greater urgency as well as purpose to transform our economy. This determination is shared across government. It is shared by most of the members of this House as well, and it is certainly shared by the people of our country.

Economic growth is not an abstract concept. It is about whether a young person, either in the rural areas or in our cities and towns, can find work. It is about whether a small business can expand and grow. It is about whether investors will have sufficient confidence to come and build factories, to establish enterprises that create jobs and opportunities for our people.

Our task is therefore not simply to grow the economy. It is to ensure that growth that must be generated must be inclusive, it must be sustainable and it must be capable of transforming the lives of ordinary South Africans. That is what we are

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 5

about. As Deputy Minister Morolong said, building a common future for all South Africans is our overriding priority.

We can assert with confidence that we are building a Presidency capable of driving transformation across society. That is our main task.

In many ways, we are having to rebuild The Presidency as an institution with the resources, with the capability, as well as the intent to provide strategic direction and co-ordination.

The Presidency is not intended to replace various government departments or duplicate their responsibilities. Its purpose is to ensure that there is coherence across government, to drive implementation, to remove obstacles that stand in the way of progress and to ensure that the priorities of our nation are translated into measurable outcomes.

In a complex and rapidly changing world, the centre of government must have both the capability as well as the authority to co-ordinate national efforts around growth, jobs, service delivery as well as social development.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 6

During the state capture era – if we care to remember what happened during that era – power tended to be concentrated at the centre of government, not to advance the public good but to facilitate patronage, and as the state capture commission found, to shield wrongdoing. This was true across many parts of the state.

The state capture commission also found that efforts were made to undermine and to repurpose institutions like the National Prosecuting Authority and the SA Revenue Service, and you could even have thought that there was an intent to set up a parallel state; a state that would possibly work at night and a state that would work during the day, and the one that worked at night in some households would erase everything that had been properly decided.

In a number of departments and state-owned enterprises, SOEs, that are key to economic growth and social development, as well as service delivery, this was considered secondary to the adjudication of massive tenders to favour vested interests. Institutions responsible for safety, security and intelligence were politicised and weakened.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 7

To understand the role, approach and priorities of The Presidency at this time in our country's history, it is necessary to recognise where we have come from. We've come from an era of state capture.

Co-ordinating the repair of the damage that was wrought by state capture from the centre of government has been, and will continue to be, a critical function of this Presidency.

Having strategic functions like structural reforms, state security or investments driven from the centre of government is common practice in a number of established economies around the world. South Africa is not alone in co-ordinating issues of national consequence from the centre of government.

The challenges facing modern states today are increasingly complex, they are interconnected and they are cross-cutting. Economic growth, energy security, infrastructure investment, climate adaptation, national security, logistics reform and public employment cannot be effectively addressed by individual departments acting in isolation. And, it is for this reason that we have sought very hard in everything that we do to break down the silo mentality that was quite perverse in government.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 8

As a result, we have found that many successful democracies have strengthened the co-ordinating role at the centre of government to ensure policy coherence, implementation discipline as well as accountability across the state.

The Presidency's role in South Africa should therefore be understood not as the centralisation of power for its own sake, but as the co-ordination of national priorities that require collective action across multiple departments, across spheres of government and social partners.

The centre of government becomes the place where obstacles are removed, competing priorities are aligned and implementation is properly monitored to ensure that national objectives are achieved in the end.

The Presidency has used this approach – working together with departments and other state entities – among other things to mobilise investment, to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, to tackle gender-based violence, GBV, and to overcome the energy crisis. It's been the collective work that The Presidency has had to co-ordinate.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 9

The Presidency has devoted much effort to rebuilding the relationship between the state as well as other social partners. The change has been most evident in the relationship between government and those who invest their money in our economy.

During the era of state capture, relations between The Presidency and business were opaque and advanced the interests of the connected few.

Today, The Presidency is working with business in a structured partnership to advance growth, to attract investment, to create jobs and to move South Africa forward. This partnership is conducted in a spirit of collaboration, mutual respect and transparency.

The partnerships that we have built with business, with labour, with civil society, with community organisations and with development organisations have proven invaluable, both in times of crisis and also in times of reconstruction.

From the COVID-19 pandemic to the load shedding crisis, from the Just Energy Transition to the Presidential Employment Stimulus, PES, we have forged strong and enduring partnerships

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 10

and relationships. We can confidently assert that the achievements of this Presidency are meaningful and measurable.

Budget debates are in the end an exercise in assessing whether public resources are translating to public value. We must therefore ask the following question. What is the value of the work that we have done as government, through the leadership of The Presidency, to end load shedding?

Over the course of nearly two decades, load shedding cost our economy billions of rand a year in lost output. Through the implementation of the Energy Action Plan through Eskom's generation recovery programme, through the massive investment in renewable generation, we have in effect brought load shedding to an end.

By the same measure we have to ask what is the value of the work underway to restore stability in other key SOEs? For years, corruption, dysfunction as well as mismanagement at Transnet was a severe constraint on growth. It has taken a great effort, involving partners across government and across industry, to turn the situation around. It has taken quite a lot of doing to also sit down with our unions to work out precisely what needs to be done.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 11

Transnet is now registering a steady increase in rail volumes and vessel traffic through its ports. Its financial position is improving and in the last financial year, cargo volumes through our ports showed its strongest growth in 15 years.

These gains have been reinforced by the work of Operation Vulindlela, which continues to remove long-standing structural constraints to growth.

The same can be said with our passenger rail network or company, the Passenger Rail Agency of SA, Prasa. We've increased the number of passengers over the past few years on our rail, saving people a lot of money that they were spending on other forms of expensive transportation to and from work. Prasa now transports many more millions of people. It was captured. It has now been revived and its working a lot better. {Applause.]

The reforms in the electricity sector, in telecommunications ... You might recall, it took us years and years just to finalise the issue of telecommunications ... just the issue of opening up the telecommunications network. We have succeeded.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 12

Logistics is one other area where we have now succeeded and are succeeding.

Water and the visa system are improving the conditions for investment and economic expansion.

These reforms are not always immediately visible to many people, but they are steadily reshaping the foundations of our economy and strengthening South Africa's long-term growth prospects.

Some hon members asked what the value of investment conferences are and what the value of envoys and task teams are.

Eight years ago, fixed investment in the country had all but stalled, business confidence was low and the relationship between government and the private sector was characterised by mistrust.

The investment drive we have launched has made a significant difference. We are able to bring both local and foreign businesses together to encourage them to invest in our economy.

Some members of this House treat, say foreign investment, with disdain. I can't think of any country that does not appreciate foreign direct investment. We must improve our foreign direct investment to grow our economy. Some see it as something that should be dismissed.

Of the total of R1,5 trillion in investment pledges over the first five years, a total of R634 billion has already been invested in new factories, in new production lines, in new mines, in renewable energy plants, in data centres and in new machinery.

These investments have sustained and created employment, have developed valuable skills, have provided opportunities to emerging businesses and have also supported livelihoods in communities across the country.

They have also enabled stability in some of our established businesses that continue to grow, and some of them grow to an extent of externalising some of their operations outside our country, thus flying our flag on the African continent, in the Middle East, in the Americas and elsewhere. This is borne out of the confidence that we continue to generate for businesses to continue to invest.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 14

This year's South Africa Investment Conference recorded the highest ever cumulative value of pledges to date, encouraging us to set our ambitions even higher. This is what these investment moments do.

This is not even counting those that happen in some of our provinces. Our provinces, through their premiers, are able to hold their own provincial investment conferences. Sometimes I do go to support them, to address them, but they hold their own and they are able to rake in a number of pledges. A good number of those pledges, depending on the business plans of various companies, do reach fruition. This should not be looked down upon.

Several members here raised the challenge of youth unemployment. We recognise that unemployment among young people remains one of the greatest threats to our country's future prosperity and social stability. We recognise this.

We are not the only country that is dealing with the issue of youth unemployment. However, by and large, some of the programmes that we have introduced are admired by other nations, and they come and learn from what we are doing.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 15

As we create favourable conditions under which investment can take place – investment that creates jobs at scale – The Presidency has been central in undertaking mass public employment.

The PES, co-ordinated through The Presidency, has created work and livelihood opportunities for more than 2,5 million young unemployed South Africans.

The PES continues to demonstrate that public support for employment is a vital part of our overall employment strategy, and can create opportunities for meaningful work and create real social value in the process.

Last year, the Basic Education Employment Initiative provided work experience through the PES initiative for nearly 200 000 young people in schools across the country, with support provided to social employment, the creative sector, the metros and the National Youth Service.

The National Pathway Management Network continues to expand ... more than 900 000 young people joining SAYouth.mobi in the last year, increasing the number of young people now on that platform to 5,7 million. [Applause.] These are young people

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 16

who flight their capabilities, their curricula vitae, CVs, on this platform. Employers then throng to this platform. They come to this platform to find young people who are employable.

This is no mean feat. Some can just dismiss this, but we are one of the few countries in the world that has been able to set up a platform like this, and many other countries are coming to us to learn how we have been able to succeed in mobilising young people nationally.

From as far as the rural areas of our country, they get to know about the SAYouth.mobi platform and they register and put their CVs ... and employers then seek the skills, the knowledge and experience that they want.

While public employment programmes provide important opportunities, our ultimate objective is to create a growing economy capable of generating sustainable employment at scale.

We must also appreciate the contribution of the social wage towards inclusive economic growth, social development and improved livelihoods. In some ways, the employment programmes that we have created and continue to create also prepare a fertile ground for employers. In a way we are also

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 17

contributing to the business community finding young people who have certain capabilities.

On the social wage side, we spend approximately 61% of our Budget before interest costs on the social wage. This is an investment that the country is making in our people.

Studies have shown that social grants have enabled a number of beneficiaries to pursue diverse livelihoods, to start and sustain small businesses, to search for employment and to invest in a child's education.

As I go through the streets and pathways of our country, I have met a number of people who say, for instance that the social relief of distress, SRD, grant has helped them to save some money, little as it is, because it does cost us billions ... 54 billion and more a year, or 40 ... something billion, and our fiscal position is rather limited.

I do wish that we could immediately introduce the Basic Income Grant and sustain the livelihoods of more people ...

[Applause.] ... but we are limited by our resources. The will and the wish is there.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 18

This is where we would have to make difficult trade-offs. What do we fund? What do we support and what do we give up on? With our purse being as limited as it is, we've got to do patchwork and see the extent to which we can still have a social wage that is amongst the better ones in the world to support the livelihoods of our people.

Recipients, for instance of the child support grant ... Well, let me finish this story first. I met a young woman who said that out of the then R350, she was able to save money and start an egg-selling business. By the time I met her she said, I now earn R15 000 a month ... [Applause.] ... I earn R15 000 a month. From the little money that I saved with the R350, I have now started a business.

Recipients of the child support grant complete significantly more years of schooling and consistently achieve higher test scores at school. This is a significant development that we should not lose sight of, particularly ourselves here as the leaders of the country.

Of all the investments we are making, I do believe that the most enduring and impactful one is the investment we are making in our children.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 19

The Presidency was centrally involved in developing the National Strategy to Accelerate Action for Children, which was approved by Cabinet in December last year.

Central to this strategy is our mission to end child stunting and malnutrition. In line with the commitment made in Sona, we have established an intergovernmental department task team and are setting up mechanisms to engage civil society, business and trade unions to address the issue of hunger and malnutrition.

This is taking place alongside the commitment of substantial new resources to ensure that every child benefits from early childhood development, ECD. Now, I often say that of all the things that we missed, it is ECD. We should've started with ECD much earlier. We should've done that in 1995. We are latecomers.

Over the past years, we've just let our young children run around the streets, to go to creches which were unstructured. We've woken up now, and The Presidency is leading this process, together with Basic Education.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 20

You will remember that we moved childhood development from social welfare to education where it should reside and that has been a fundamental area of progress, because we want our children to have both the food and the intellectual stimulation to grow their brain power and their bodies to full potential. That is what we are about.

Another question to ask in this Budget Vote is what is the value of the work we have done – driven from The Presidency – to root out corruption and state capture?

The state capture commission estimated that more than R57 billion was lost through state capture. Sometimes I think it's much more.

However, the true cost of state capture to the economy is lost investment, higher borrowing costs, collapsed institutions, and foregone growth and jobs. ... is much greater than what it will be said we lost through losing R57 billion.

Work has begun in earnest to recover as much of those funds or stolen money as possible. As I reported yesterday, recoveries by law enforcement agencies linked to the work of the commission now stand at over R17 billion.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 21

You will recall that everyone criticised the work of the commission and the cost that ... why should we spend a billion rand in supporting the state capture commission?

Well, you can do the maths. The return has been more than phenomenal. Imagine investing R1 and getting R17 as a return. Phenomenal! You can do the sums. [Applause.]

Sometimes we become critical because maybe our thoughts do not extend to the point of seeing what the real outcome could well be.

As a result of Presidential Proclamations, the Special Investigating Unit, SIU, has recovered R1,3 billion in cash and assets just in the past financial year alone. The SIU has been one of our most effective tools that we are using today.

A number of hon members correctly pointed out that corruption weakens the capacity of the state, undermines public trust and diverts resources away from the needs of our people. ... absolutely correct.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 22

The fight against corruption is therefore not simply a governance issue. It is a development issue, it is a service-delivery issue and it is also a moral imperative.

Beyond the recovery of stolen funds and the prosecution of wrongdoing, we are working to build institutions that are transparent, accountable and resilient against future abuse.

We are building the system that will support much better governance going forward, so that even those who may come later and want to capture the state, will find that the system just does not allow it.

We are working hard to strengthen consequence management as well, to improve procurement oversight and to promote ethical leadership across the public sector. It could be said that maybe we are not doing enough. We need to do much more to promote consequence management. Yes, we will take criticism, and we will strengthen our resolve to have more and more consequence management.

We have been dealing with those who do not do their work. Recently, we even had to dismiss a director-general for not doing the work that they were supposed to do. They were

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 23

dismissed. Those are the many steps that we are taking to make sure that consequence management becomes a culture that all of us will embrace. It's a long way to go but we will get there.

Several speakers raised concerns about crime, violence and the effectiveness of our criminal justice system. These concerns are both legitimate and urgent, and they need to be addressed, because several members who raised this are absolutely correct. Some even made suggestions which we will take up.

Every day, South Africans experience the devastating consequences of violent crime, organised criminal activity, GBV and the exploitation of vulnerable communities.

As we said in the state of the nation address, the fight against crime cannot be approached as a routine function of government. It must be approached as a national priority requiring urgency, co-ordination and sustained effort.

We must be one of the very few countries in the world where we engage or seek to engage the community to help in fighting crime. The community policing forums are such an intervention, because it speaks to how we can all work together.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 24

That is why we have placed specific focus on tackling organised crime, reducing gun violence and restoring stability and security in communities ravaged by gang warfare.

The SA Police Service has achieved much success with its specialised task forces as well as units to deal with specific forms of criminality, and will continue to refine this approach.

Some members called on us to set up some of these task forces in various parts of the country. ... useful suggestion ... it has to be incorporated into the generalised work that the police do.

A number of members reminded this House that the measure of society is how it treats its most vulnerable. The scourge of gender-based violence and femicide remains one of the greatest challenges confronting our nation.

We agree with the hon members who said that the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide must be established without delay because that will give the matter priority.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 25

Yes, the government remains committed to ensuring that we strengthen our fight against GBV. The Minister has finalised the names which she will now bring forward to me to sign off, to make sure that the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide is set up. So it is ready to be set up right away.

However, I must remind us that we took a long time as the National Assembly to arrive at a conclusion on setting this up, but we will do it quickly from our side.

As I said yesterday, we remain committed to strengthening prevention efforts, improving support services for survivors of GBV, enhancing the effectiveness of the criminal justice system and respond to addressing the social conditions that contribute to violence against women and children.

This work requires the collective effort of government, communities, faith-based organisations, civil society as well as the private sector.

We can state with conviction that as a nation we look to the future with confidence, because we have seen what we are capable of.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 26

Five months from now, South Africans will participate in local government elections where they will signal with their votes how they want their municipalities to be run.

The elections will be overseen by the Independent Electoral Commission, IEC, one of our finest and most trusted institutions constitutionally mandated to safeguard our democracy.

It was quite disappointing to hear aspersions being cast on the IEC by a member of this House. Since the dawn of democracy in 1994, this country has held seven national and provincial elections and six local government elections. Without exception, all of these elections were declared free and fair, and took place under conditions free from violence. As a developing democracy, we should be proud of that. [Applause.]

At a time where there is democratic backsliding in many parts of the world, that participatory democracy remains strong in South Africa. This is a credit to our constitutional order and to the work of the IEC.

I urge members of this House and indeed all South Africans, to rally behind the IEC as we prepare to head to the local

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 27

government elections, because these elections are taking place at an important time as we work to fashion a new approach to local government.

The Draft Revised White Paper on Local Government, which has been developed through extensive consultations, proposes far-reaching changes to the governance arrangements that we have. These are intended to reduce overlapping powers as well as functions, and ensure that each municipality is able to fulfil its responsibilities.

In particular, we need to reorganise how water and electricity services are delivered. We continue to move forward in establishing a utility model which allows water and electricity services to be ring-fenced, professionally managed and which is able to invest in essential infrastructure maintenance and improvements. In many parts of our country, this is not happening.

With the proposed changes, municipalities will be held to stricter account on how they spend public money. Effective local government is critical and absolutely necessary for the progress that we want to see in our country. We all carry a

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 28

responsibility, wherever we are, to ensure that local government works for all South Africans.

Thirty-two years after the achievement of democracy, South Africa remains a country where political contestations take place openly, where the courts are independent, where the media operates freely and where citizens are able to hold those in power accountable.

These are achievements that we should never take for granted because it does not happen in many countries, and all of us have a responsibility to protect these great achievements and freedoms.

Having come from the apartheid past where all these freedoms were not present and were not enjoyed, we need to continue protecting all these rights and freedoms. These are the valuable rights and freedoms that we must protect.

Reference was made by a number of speakers to the section 89 process that Parliament has embarked upon following the Constitutional Court judgment.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 29

What I can say is that my approach to this matter is guided, as it has always been, by the supremacy of our Constitution and the rule of law.

The institutions of our democracy must be allowed to perform their work without interference and without any form of intimidation. [Applause.]

I will continue to uphold the principles and safeguard the integrity of my office. I will respect the work and authority of Parliament and abide by the rulings of our courts.

I have every confidence in the constitutional processes of our country and will continue to respect and abide by them.

We will not allow anything to slow the momentum of growth and transformation that with each passing day is gaining more and more pace.

South Africans in the end do not judge government by the speeches that we make or the debates that we have had in this House. They judge us by whether they feel safe in their homes, whether they can find work, whether services are delivered,

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 30

whether corruption is punished and whether their children can look to a future with a great deal of hope.

Those are the standards by which this Presidency wishes to be measured and to be judged by, and those are the outcomes towards which we direct all our efforts.

... myself, the Deputy President, the Minister and Deputy Ministers in the Presidency, our officials, our advisors and all our Ministers and Deputy Ministers who work in the various departments, this is our function.

South Africa has faced many challenges over the course of its democratic journey. We have confronted division and instability, and some of the manifestations of instability have been violent. We have confronted corruption and state capture. We have confronted a devastating pandemic and an unprecedented energy crisis.

Each time, through determination, resilience and collective effort, we have prevailed as South Africans.

Today we are seeing the results of the efforts that we have made. Investment is growing. Infrastructure is being rebuilt.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 31

Energy supply has stabilised. Institutions that were wrecked are being restored and those that were weakened are being restored, and opportunities are being created for many South Africans.

While much work remains to be done, we can say here with confidence that our country is moving forward. Let us therefore reject pessimism and cynicism. We must draw strength from what we have achieved together ... [Applause.] ... and from what remains possible.

We should continue to work together to build a South Africa that is growing, inclusive, prosperous and united. I know that one of our members here will get very excited when I say we must build a South Africa that is successful, a South Africa in which every person can realise their potential, a South Africa that works for all and leaves no one behind.

That is our remit. That is our determination, and as The Presidency, we will not move backwards. We will always be moving forward, improving the lives of South Africans. Thank you, Madam Speaker. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Malibongwe!

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

Page: 32

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon President, for your concluding remarks on your budget. I am sure the members have received the responses. As you said, you would not have been able to do many of them, given the time that we have. However, I'm sure that in the ongoing engagements with Members of Parliament, as you always come to this House, they will be able to continue to engage. Thank you very much.

Thank you, hon members. This concludes the debate on this Budget Vote and the business of the day.

HON MEMBERS: Malibongwe!

The SPEAKER: Order. I request members ... Order, hon members. I request members to stand and wait for the Speaker and the mace to leave the Chamber. The House is adjourned.

Debate concluded.

The House adjourned at 14:54.