

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 1

THURSDAY, 04 JUNE 2026

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at Nieuwmeester Dome at 14:01.

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

UMKHONTO WESIZWE PARTY NEW CHIEF WHIP

(Announcement)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, before we proceed with today's business – order hon members!

Before we proceed with today's business I wish to announce that I have been informed by the MK party that it has designated Ms P Mkhize as the new Chief Whip of the Opposition.

Congratulations, mam. [Applause.]

IsiZulu:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 2

An HON MALE MEMBER: Naye uzobuya akhale!

An HON FEMALE MEMBER OF MKP: Ungangeni izindaba zethu wena!

Sepedi:

An HON FEMALE MEMBER: Beke libeke!

IsiZulu:

Bheka ezakho izindaba!

An HON FEMALE MEMBER: Owesingaki?

English:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, do not switch on your microphones if you have not been recognised.

Mr M G MAHLAULE: Hon Deputy Speaker, I was just checking if there is another announcement about the Gen Holomisa where he is sitting?

Is there an announcement about that?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Gen B H Holomisa): I have crossed the floor.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 3

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mahlaule, that is not a point of order. However, you can later on ask the question when we do have a break.

The secretary will read the first order of the day.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND
MILITARY VETERANS ON MILITARY DISCIPLINE SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES
AMENDMENT BILL**

There was no debate.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Moved that the Report be adopted.

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

MILITARY DISCIPLINE SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES AMENDMENT BILL

(Second Reading debate)

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Gen B H Holomisa): Hon Deputy Speaker and hon members, it is my

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 4

privilege to table before this House the Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Amendment Bill for its Second Reading and consideration. The Bill before us is the necessary and important legislative intervention aimed at strengthening South Africa's military justice system and ensuring that it remains fully compliant with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

The need for the amendment arises from the judgment of the Constitutional Court in the matter of *K B O'Brien vs Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and Others* which was delivered on 20 December 2024. The court found that certain provisions relating to the appointment assignment and removal of military judges did not sufficiently safeguard the institutional independence required of judicial officers for the military judges and senior military judges.

The executive authority has carefully considered the judgment and has brought forward the Amendment Bill to address the concerns raised by the court, while preserving the effectiveness and integrity of the military justice system.

Hon members, discipline remains one of the fundamental pillars upon which every professional military organisation is built.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 5

The SA Defence Force is no exception. However, discipline must always be administered through mechanisms that are fair, impartial, transparent and constitutionally compliant.

This Bill therefore introduces measures that strengthen the independence of the military judges by establishing the Military Judicial Advisory Committee as an independent statutory body. The committee will play a central role in matters relating to the assignment and removal of military judges and senior military judges thereby enhancing the credibility and integrity of the military justice system.

These amendments are not intended to weaken command and control within the Defence Force. On the contrary they strengthen military discipline by ensuring that those entrusted with administering military justice are able to do so independently and without any perception of undue influence.

A military justice system that commands confidence from members of the Defence Force and the public is indispensable to the maintenance of discipline, good order and military effectiveness.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 6

The Bill has undergone an extensive parliamentary process until this stage where we are today. I wish to express my appreciation to the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans for its diligence participation process, engaged stakeholders, considered submissions and undertook detailed deliberations to ensure that the final product before this House is constitutionally sound and fit for purpose. The amendment thus reflects the commitment of the Government of National Unity to strengthen constitutional governance, enhancing accountability and ensuring that all institutions of the state operate within a framework prescribed by our Constitution.

Finally, I therefore commend the Military Discipline Supplementary Amendment Bill to this House and respectfully request hon members to support this adoption. I thank you.

Mr M D LEGOETE: Madam Speaker, let me rise on the protocol as appreciated by the high table. On behalf of the revolutionary movement, the midwife of all democracies in the continent, the first revolutionary movement to stand against apartheid colonialism throughout the continent, on behalf of the ANC of President Oliver Tambo, the pioneer of the Constitution that we celebrate today in our 30 years.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 7

Today, as we debate the Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Amendment Bill, we do so during a significant year in the history of our nation. In 2026, we celebrate 30 years of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, a Constitution born out of struggle, sacrifice, and a collective determination to build a democratic society founded on equality and freedom.

Thirty years ago, our people adopted a Constitution that plays the rule of law at the centre for democracy. It established a clear principle that no person and no institution is above the law. It created a constitutional order based on equality and openness. Through this Bill, we reaffirm the commitment and continue to work in ensuring that every institution in the state reflect the values of our constitutional democracy.

Hon members, the Bill before us is a direct response to the Constitutional Court judgment delivered in the O'Brien versus the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and Others in a matter that was concluded by the Constitutional Court of South Africa, Concourt, on December 2024. In that judgment, the court found that the certain provisions governing the military judges did not adequately protect judicial independence. The court reminded us that military courts are courts required by law and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 8

recognised, and that military judges perform judicial functions that require appropriate safeguards.

The remedial action contained in the Bill is necessary to address the constitutional deficiencies identified by the Concourt. The previous framework created a risk of the rest of the perceived interference in the military justice system because military judges lack sufficient security of tenure and institutional independence. Therefore, the Bill demonstrates our commitment to strengthening constitutional governance while preserving the discipline and effectiveness that are essential to a military service.

The Bill introduces several important reforms in the remedial actions. Firstly, it establishes an independent military judicial advisory committee chaired by a High Court judge. This committee will provide advice on matters relating to the appointment and conditions of service of military judges. In doing so, it strengthens transparency and protects the judicial officers from undue influence.

Secondly, the Bill provides greater security of tenure through the introduction of a fixed non-renewable attempt. Judicial officials must be able to perform their duties without fear,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 9

favour or prejudice. By strengthening their independence, we enhance confidence in the military justice system.

Thirdly, the Bill creates a clear institutional safeguard to ensure that the military judges can carry out their responsibilities independently while remaining part of the disciplined military environment. This ensures alignment with the provisions of the Constitution, Section 200(1) which says in this country as part of constitutional democracy we will build one of the most disciplined military forces. They are complementary principles. A professional military requires discipline, but discipline must always be exercised within the framework of justice and legality.

A soldier who appears before a military court must have the confidence that the process is fair and impartial. Commander must have confidence that the disciplinary decisions are credible and respected. The public must have confidence that the military justice system operates in accordance with the provisions of the supreme law of the republic, which is our Constitution, which celebrates 30 years today.

By strengthening judicial independence, this Bill strengthens the legitimacy of military discipline. It reinforces the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 10

integrity of military courts, contributes to the professionalism of the SA National Defence Force. This legislation also speaks to the broader challenges facing the Defence Force. As we continue working to strengthen the National Defence Force, we must ensure that it remains capable, professional, and responsive to the demands of the changing security and environment in the globe today.

We must also continue building a military institution that reflects the constitutional values of equality, dignity, and respect.

The fight against corruption, misconduct, and gender-based violence remains central in strengthening the credibility of the SA National Defence Force.

A professional Defence Force requires strong systems of accountability and justice. The Bill is another important step in the journey. It demonstrates that our democracy has the capacity to reform itself strengthen its institution and respond to the constitutional imperatives.

As the ANC, we remain committed in building a capable, ethical, and developmental state, as said by our Commander-in-Chief and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 11

the President of the Republic, His Excellency, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa.

We remain committed to strengthening democratic governance and promoting accountability across all sectors of government, including the National Defence Force. I therefore call upon hon members of this House to support the Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Amendment Bill and its aim to align defence legislation with the constitutional imperative.

Let us use this occasion to reaffirm our commitment to constitutional supremacy, judicial independence, and the rule of law. Let us continue building institution that service our people with integrity and professionalism, in particular the National Defence Force, which is the first line of defence and the last line of defence, and the most disciplined organisation according to the provision of the Constitution, Section 200(1).

Let us strengthen the SA National Defence Force and the constitutional democracy that exists, that we must also defend, not only the constitutional democracy, but our people, our republic, our territorial integrity, our sovereignty, our Constitution, all the laws, including international laws. It is our responsibility as the National Defence Force in terms of

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 12

Section 200(2) to defend all those particular needs of our people because at any time, peace is not permanent. At any time, even our nation can be attacked, it can be annexed. There is even now a chance by the criminal element to undermine our democracy, including the safety of our people. But we can only achieve in fighting back by ensuring that we have a credible National Defence Force with credible laws which are inconsiderate with the objectives of our Constitution and the spirit of our Constitution. I thank you. [Time expired.]

[Applause.]

Mr P KUBUKELI: Hon Deputy Speaker, as I rise today on behalf of the MK Party, this House is required to discharge a constitutional obligation. The Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Amendment Bill is before Parliament because the Constitutional Court has declared aspects of the military justice system invalid.

The court held that the current framework where military judges are appointed, advanced, disciplined and removed by the same command authority whose decisions they may be required to adjudicate is constitutionally impermissible. The defect is structural, it violates separation of powers, undermines

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 13

independence, creates a reasonable apprehension of bias, and offends the rule of law.

A judicial officer cannot be subordinate to the executive authority whose conduct they must review. Independence is structural, not symbolic. It requires insulation from executive influence, transparent appointments, secured tenure, and protection from interference. The existing framework fails these requirements.

The Bill corrects that failure. It strengthens the military code of appeal, clarifies appointment and tenure, and aligns the Defence Force with constitutional standards. However, judicial independence cannot survive within an institution in constitutional decline. The Constitution binds the Defence Force, its command structures, its administration, and its treatment of soldiers. Where it fails, Parliament must intervene.

Not far from where we are is Fort Ikapa, a military base which houses soldiers deployed to reinforce the South African Police Service. It is in an unbearable condition with leaking roofs, collapsed sanitation, cold water, and living conditions that cannot withstand scrutiny under the Bill of Rights. These are

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 14

not operational shortcomings. They are constitutional violations.

A defence force that cannot maintain its own facilities cannot credibly enforce discipline or sustain judicial independence. This is part of a broader pattern in the state. We have seen, even in yesterday's South African Police Service briefings, a growing instinct to speak the language of state security rather than constitutional accountability. Citizens are framed as risks before they are recognised as right bearers. The state appears more comfortable warning the public than acknowledging its own failures.

A government that fears its citizens more than it fears violating the Constitution cannot credibly enforce discipline within the Defence Force. Parliament must therefore ensure that soldier living conditions meet constitutional minimum standards, that command structures are accountable, and that administration supports and does not undermine judicial independence.

The MK Party submits that implementation must be accompanied by a constitutional rectification programme, an audit of soldier living conditions, a national restoration plan, a command

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 15

accountability framework, and quarterly reporting to Parliament. The defect is structural. The violation is constitutional and the remedy is mandatory.

As I conclude, it becomes necessary to address a grave constitutional breach, the unauthorised engagements between the Western Cape government, the City of Cape Town, and the soldiers of the United States Marines. It constitutes a direct violation of the national executive's duty to safeguard the republic's sovereignty and maintain the constitutional chain of command. The US Marines are not a neighbourhood training outfit; they are the special forces arm of the United States Armed Forces.

The danger becomes undeniable when we test the logic. If the DA in the Western Cape may summon the United States Marines, then the ANC in the Eastern Cape may summon Cuba and the IFP in KwaZulu-Natal may summon Israel. At that moment, the Republic ceases to function as a unitary state. Foreign military engagement is an exclusive national competence. No province may negotiate it. No municipality may operationalise it. No political party may appropriate it. Any attempt to do so fractures the Republic.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 16

On these same Western Cape shores, Iran, a sworn adversary of the United States, recently participated in a military exercise, creating diplomatic tension between the Department of International Relations and Co-operation, Dirco, the Presidency, and the Defence Force. Against that backdrop, the DA-led Western Cape's invitation of the marines resembles geopolitical appeasement, a signal to Washington that, "we are still with you. Do not abandon us."

This pattern of unauthorised foreign military engagement borders on the kind of external interference and regime-changed behaviour that the United States has been accused of perpetuating globally. South Africa cannot allow any province to open the door, even inadvertently, to geopolitical manipulation. Our constitutional order cannot be exposed to the vulnerabilities that have destabilised other nations.

It must further be stated for the record that the conduct of the DA in the Western Cape increasingly resembles the creation of an Orania-like enclave – a province seeking to exercise self-government outside the constitutional framework. The pattern is unmistakable. Parallel authority, unilateral foreign military engagements and a political posture that treats national sovereignty as optional. It is for this reason that

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 17

the MK Party has advanced the position that the Western Cape and the Eastern Cape should be reunified into a single cape province, restoring constitutional coherence and preventing the rise of self-governing enclaves.

The Presidency is the apex custodian of national security and foreign relations authority. Where a province intrudes into exclusive national competencies, the Presidency is constitutionally obliged to assess the breach, determine accountability and ensure non-recurrence.

We therefore demand to know what accountability measures were applied. Was an inquiry instituted? Were directives issued? Were violations recorded? Were any officials sanctioned? Was the matter escalated to the security cluster or Cabinet? This is a matter of national strategic importance. The MK Party places it on record that the Presidency must account fully and transparently. The Republic cannot sustain a defence system where constitutional violations occur without consequences.

We cannot restore military justice as an isolated phenomenon, while the broader constitutional architecture remains compromised. Discipline in the Defence Force cannot be rebuilt on foundations that are themselves unstable. The Constitution

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 18

requires coherence, lawful command, lawful administration and lawful governance. The Military Discipline Amendment Bill fulfils a judicial directive, but its success depends on the constitutional integrity of the institution ... [Time expired.] ... Thank you.

Mr C HATTINGH Hon Deputy Speaker, today, we debate a Bill that owes its existence to a Constitutional Court judgment and to the persistence of one serving officer who refused to abandon a principle. At first glance, the Military Disciplinary Supplementary Measures Amendment Bill appears to be a technical piece of legislation dealing with military judges, appointments, assignments and disciplinary procedures. But this Bill is about something much greater. It is about the Constitution, it is about the rule of law, it is about judicial independence and it is about the courage required to defend constitutional principles, even when doing so come at a personal and professional cost.

The story behind this Bill is the story of Lieutenant Colonel Kevin O'Brien. As a serving military judge and officer with three decades of service, Lieutenant Colonel Kevin O'Brien raised concerns about aspects of military justice system that allowed executive influence over military judges. He questioned

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 19

whether military judges could truly be independent when they served on renewable assignments, when executive authorities could investigate judges through boards of enquiry, and when judges could be removed without an independent process. Many people would have remained silent or chosen a safer path.

Lieutenant Colonel O'Brien did not. He challenged the system from within despite the personal and professional consequences, and the risks were significant. He found himself opposed by the Minister of Defence, the Chief of the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, and the institution to which he had devoted his professional life, yet he persisted. This was not about rank, position or personal advancement. It was about ensuring that military justice complies with the Constitution and that every member of the SANDF who appears before a military court receives a fair hearing before an independent judicial officer.

The Constitutional Court captured the essence of this case in the Minister of Defence v Potsane and Another when it stated:

Modern soldiers in a democracy are not mindless automatons.

They are to be thinking men and women imbued with the values of the Constitution.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 20

Those words capture precisely what happened in this case. Lieutenant Colonel O'Brien did not act against the Constitution. He acted because of the Constitution, the very Constitution we celebrated and commemorated in this House this morning. He believed that military disciplines and constitutional accountability are not opposing principles, but complementary ones.

By challenging aspects of the military justice system that allowed executive interference in judicial functions, he sought to strengthen confidence in military justice and uphold the constitutional values that every member of the SANDF is sworn to defend. He lost in the High Court, and he lost in the Supreme Court of Appeal. Many would have accepted defeat. He did not. He continued because he believed that the principles at stake were bigger than any individual.

Ultimately, the Constitutional Court vindicated the central concerns he had raised. The court declared unconstitutional provisions of the Act that allowed executive authorities to investigate military judges through boards of enquiry, assign them on renewable terms and remove them without an independent enquiry and recommendation. The Constitutional Court affirmed a simple but vital principle. Military justice must be

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 21

independent of executive interference. At his heart, the O'Brien case asked whether military judges should be protected from the executive influence through an independent process. The Constitutional Court answered that question, and today this Bill is Parliament's response.

The significance of this judgement extends far beyond one officer. Every soldier, every commander and every South African has an interest in ensuring that military courts operate according to constitutional principles. An independent military judiciary does not weaken discipline. It strengthens discipline, legitimacy and confidence in military justice.

For the first time, this legislation establishes a military judicial advisory committee chaired by a judge, designated by the Chief Justice and supported by experienced legal professionals. Appointments and removals of military judges will now be subjected to a more independent process, while military judges will receive nonrenewable seven-year assignments that address one of the Constitutional Court's principal concerns.

These reforms neither remove civilian control of the military nor should they. But they do strengthen the separation between

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 22

those who command and those who adjudicate. They reduce the possibility of executive influence over judicial functions, and they strengthen confidence in the fairness and independence of military justice. At the same time, Parliament must remain vigilant. Judicial independence is not achieved merely because legislation says so. It must be protected, respected and defended in practise.

As this new system is implemented, Parliament must ensure that no indirect mechanisms emerge that undermine these reforms or the spirit of the Constitutional Court judgment. History often remembers Ministers, generals and commanders. Less often does it remember individuals who quietly insist that institutions live up to constitutional standards.

If Lieutenant Colonel O'Brien remained silent or accepted defeat after losing in the courts, this Bill and these protections would not have been before Parliament today. This Bill is not a victory for Kevin O'Brien. It is a victory for every soldier who one day may stand before a military court and expect justice to be independent. It is a victory for constitutionalism, the rule of law and the principle that a disciplined military force and a constitutional military force are one and the same.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 23

Today, by passing this bill, we affirm that military justice must be independent, military justice must be protected from improper executive interference and that the SA National Defence Force is strongest when it is firmly rooted in the Constitution. The DA supports the acceptance of this Bill. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Ms B K DIALE: Hon Deputy Speaker, the commander-in-chief, officials, commissars, ground forces of the EFF and members of progressive left organisations in Parliament, greetings. indeed, this Bill is a product of the ruling of the Constitutional Court in O'Brien v Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, a 2024 decision. We worked insistently in the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans to ensure that both the spirit and the letter of the judgment are encapsulated in these amendments.

The EFF therefore rise in support of the Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Amendment Bill. This Bill gives practical effects to the Constitutional Court's order. The court declared section 15 of the Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Act unconstitutional because it empowers the Minister, acting on the recommendation of the adjutant general to assign military judges for short, renewable periods.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 24

The arrangement kept military judges in a state of perpetual dependence on the executive, violating the constitutional requirements of judicial independence and security of tenure.

The Bill therefore corrects that defect. It establishes the military judicial advisory committee which brings together the military legal practitioners, members drawn from the judiciary, the legal profession and the Sergeant Major of the SA National Defence Force to advise on assignments. It sets a minimum assignment period of three years and introduces a mandatory two-year cooling off period before any reassignment may be considered. These changes move military judicial appointments away from direct executive discretion and towards a more structured institutional process.

The portfolio committee considers this Bill together with extensive public submissions. Comments from serving officers, legal academics, trade unions, representatives and concerned citizens raised important questions about the composition of the military judicial advisory committee, the length of judicial terms and the need for transparent nomination and removal procedures. The EFF engaged with submissions seriously. We argued for the strongest possible protection of military

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 25

judicial independence from both the executive authority and the SA National Defence Force command structure.

While the Bill does not incorporate every proposal, it constitutes a substantial and necessary advance. The creation of an advisory committee that includes independent legal voices, the longer minimum term and the explicit cooling off requirement are concrete steps towards compliance with the Constitutional Court order.

The department has indicated that regulations will elaborate on the nomination processes, eligibility criteria and removal procedures. The EFF will monitor those regulations closely to ensure that they do not reintroduce executive dominance. The independence of the military judges cannot be secured in isolation. That is why the companion Defence Amendment Bill is inseparable from the legislation before us. The Bill inserts section 102(a) into the Defence Act, expressly excluding military judges and senior military judges from boards of enquiry that investigate the content or merits of the judgments and rulings. The provision directly implements the Constitutional Court's declaration that section 101 and section 102 of the Defence Act were unconstitutional to the extent that

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 26

they permitted the executive to convene boards of enquiry into military judges.

We supported this exclusion in the portfolio committee because boards of enquiry must remain focused on operational, logistical and disciplinary matters that properly fall within the military command structure. They must never become instruments through which the executive or senior officers second guess or penalise judicial officers for substance of their ruling. By removing judicial functions from the scope of the boards of enquiry, we separate the investigative power of the executive from the adjudicative independence of the military judiciary.

This separation is essential if military courts are to function as courts envisaged under section 166(e) of the Constitution.

The EFF has consistently championed the principle that administration of the military judge must insulate and undue influence by the SA National Defence Force hierarchy and by political executive authority. We have done so because we understand the genuine transformation of Defence Force requires institutions that are accountable, transparent and independent where Constitution demands independence - a judiciary that must

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 27

look to the executive for renewal of its mandate or that fears investigation into content of judgments cannot dispense justice without fear or favour.

The Bill, written together with the Defence Amendment Bill, begins to translate that principle into law. It responds to the complaints raised during public participation and in the portfolio committee during new institutional safeguards. Further refinement through regulations will strengthen it further. The EFF therefore supports the Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Amendment Bill. We call on the House to pass it without delay so that the constitutional lacuna identified by the court can be filled and so that military judges may discharge their duties with the security of tenure and institutional independence that our Constitution requires. I thank you.

Inkosi R N CEBEKHULU: Deputy Speaker, the IFP supports the Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Amendment Bill because no person, including those in our defence and police forces, should be beyond the rule of law.

The President has deployed 2 200 SA National Defence Force, SANDF, soldiers to five provinces across the country, with this

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 28

deployment made to combat crime. The people must be able to trust that the military themselves can be held accountable. South Africans must be able to believe that the military's judicial system is independent, fair, and insulated from improper influence.

The Bill responds directly to the Constitutional Court's judgment in *O'Brien N O v Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and Others*. Guided by this judgment, the Bill is a necessary constitutional correction to ensure judicial independence within the military justice system. The IFP then welcomes the establishment of the Military Judicial Advisory Committee. This brings a clear and more independent process for the assignment and removal military judges and senior military judges. The Bill also brings legal expertise into the process through a chairperson that is a judge, whilst still retaining the participation of senior defence leaders. This is a needed balance.

The SA National Defence Force's operations must be transparent and resistant to improper interference, whilst also remaining disciplined and operationally effective. The IFP recognises that the military justice process should reflect the same constitutional discipline that underpins the Judicial Service

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 29

Commission and independent appointments and removals. This reduces the space for political interference and strengthens public confidence that no institution stands above the long arm of the law.

In a constitutional democracy, accountability must reach every sphere of the state, including the military, because there can be no parallel system of justice for different parts of our society. The IFP therefore advocates for a stronger, more accountable SA National Defence Force, a zero-tolerance approach to corruption, and a more professional institutional structure.

We therefore support this Bill because it is exactly the kind of reform South Africa needs. It strengthens institutions, protects the rule of law, and supports a state that is disciplined enough to serve the people with integrity. I thank you.

Mr S H M VAN WYK: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, and fellow South Africans, the PA supports the report of the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans on the Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Amendment Bill.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 30

This Bill strengthens the framework of the South African National Defence Force, ensuring that military discipline is upheld in a manner that is fair, constitutional, and aligned with modern defence requirements. A defence force is essential for national security, operational readiness, and public trust. This Bill must be consistent, transparent, and applied without fear or favour.

From the PA's perspective, this Bill is an important step towards restoring professionalism and accountability within the SANDF, but it must also correct long-standing patterns of exclusion that have affected members from marginalised communities, including the so-called coloured communities that have served with loyalty yet remain underrepresented in the SANDF and often overexposed to unfair processes.

We further call on the Department of Defence and Military Veterans to pair legislative reform with broader institutional improvements, including leadership development, proper resourcing, and support systems for soldiers and military veterans.

Deputy Speaker, I am reading this speech here and, to be quite honest, I do not want to do this. I actually want to speak

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 31

about the military veterans we have in this House today. They are sitting there at the back. They are from the SA Cape Corps, SACC. Now, with the transition between 1994 and 1996, they were excluded. Everybody from the Azanian People's Liberation Army, uMkhonto weSizwe, and the Azanian People's Organisation was integrated into the SA National Defence Force, except for the SACC.

Today, I have invited them here. They have travelled very long to come here to Parliament so that we can ask the Deputy Minister, in the absence of the hon Minister, why they were never integrated. So, this speech here, I do not have time for it. The fact of the matter is that our SACC veterans are here.

Afrikaans:

Die ding dat daar teen kleurlinge gediskrimineer word, is sommer pure nonsens. Hulle is hier, en daar moet met hulle gepraat word hier vandag.

English:

Unfortunately, this one here ...

Afrikaans:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 32

... haal ek af van die rekord. Die SA Kaapse Korps is hier.
Hulle soek hul antwoorde. Baie dankie. Ons baiza nie.
[Applous.]

English:

Mr W W WESSELS: Deputy Speaker, we all know that our armed forces are in crisis, and one step to fix it is to restore discipline. One way to restore discipline, or what is crucial to restore discipline, is to have functional military courts that are independent and are free from abuse by high-ranking officials but are also there to serve their purpose to bring transgressors to ... and serve the purpose with regard to anybody that transgresses.

The O'Brien judgment is a landmark judgment, as many speakers in this debate have alluded to. It is also significant that we are considering this Amendment Bill on the day that we are commemorating 30 years of our codified Constitution, as it highlights the very important issue that, just because a principle is contained in our codified Constitution but is not enacted in practice across all spheres, it actually remains redundant, and it does not improve the livelihoods of South Africans or South Africa as a whole.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 33

The unconstitutionality of this Act was highlighted by the Constitutional Court. The contestation by the department and the Minister that military courts are not courts was also dealt with by the Constitutional Court, and that must be welcomed. These are courts. They have jurisdiction, and they deal with very important matters, especially in terms of gender-based violence within the military. That is why these courts must be independent and functional so that it also deals with such matters without interference by high-ranking officials or by the executive. There should be independence. The constitutional principle of the separation of powers should be enacted in these courts.

We welcome the judgment. We welcome this Bill addressing the mischief, and the FF Plus supports the Bill. I thank you.

Ms L M NGOBENI: Hon Deputy Speaker, this Bill is not expansion of the powers of the SA National Defence Force, SANDF. It is a necessary response to the Constitutional Court's O'Brien judgment, which found that aspects of the military justice system lacked sufficient safeguards to guarantee the independence of military judges.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 34

This Bill, therefore, seeks to address those deficiencies through the establishment of the Military Judicial Advisory Committee to make recommendations regarding the appointment, assignment and removal of military judges and senior military judges. It is for this reason that ActionSA this objective.

In fact, we believe that this Bill represents an important step towards strengthening the legitimacy of the military justice system and ensuring that those entrusted with administering justice within the SANDF do so free from improper influence.

The SANDF performs a critical constitutional function. It protects our sovereignty, safeguards our borders and contributes to national security.

Those entrusted with administering military justice must, therefore, be independent, impartial and free from undue influence.

We, therefore, welcome the introduction of a more transparent and structured process for the assignment and removal of military judges, which strengthens confidence in military courts and aligns the system with constitutional requirements.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 35

While ActionSA supports this reform and welcomes the strengthening of judicial independence within the SANDF, Parliament cannot ignore the broader challenges confronting our defence force.

Today, South Africa's defence capability faces serious challenges. Our soldiers are repeatedly asked to do more with less. Infrastructure is deteriorating, operational rigidity is under pressure and accountability failures continue to undermine public confidence.

But the greatest threat to any institution is not always found beyond its borders, sometimes it is found within. It is found when those entrusted with responsibility fail in their duty. It is found when leaders ask for sacrifice from those in uniform while failing to uphold the same standards of accountability for themselves. That is not merely poor administration, it is a betrayal of trust.

The Auditor-General, AG's, report's findings regarding weaknesses in asset management and financial controls should concern every South African, because a state that cannot account for its resources will ultimately struggle to account to its people. Which is why it is regrettable that the Minister

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 36

is not present in this House today. Accountability cannot be demanded from soldiers and officials while those entrusted with political leadership are absent from scrutiny. Respect for Parliament is demonstrated through presence and accountability.

Hon Deputy Speaker, a military court must never be seen as an extension of command, it must be seen as an extension of justice. Because when justice becomes vulnerable to influence, discipline becomes vulnerable to abuse. And when discipline becomes vulnerable to abuse, trust begins to erode.

It is for that reason that ActionSA supports the strengthening of judicial independence within the SA National Defence Force and proudly supports the Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Amendment Bill. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr W D T PLAATJIES: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Ministers and Deputy Ministers, Chairperson of the portfolio committee, hon members, I rise in support of this Military Discipline Supplementary Amendment Bill. This amendment is a strategic step to enhance a long-term effectiveness and professionalism of the SA National Defence Force.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 37

Thirty years into our constitutional democracy, we have reached a stage of maturity where we can align the institution with the transformation vision of our Constitution. This foundational document not only enshrines the supremacy of the rule of law, but also demands that every arm of the state, including the military, embodies the values and human dignity, equality and justice.

This Bill gives practical expression to the constitutional vision in the unique context of the military service. Our Constitution is a living instrument that continues to guide the evaluation of our state institutions.

By applying its principles to the military justice system, we are not only complying with the court judgments but also deepening the democratic character of the SANDF. This reform reaffirms that the defence force belongs to the people and must serve them within the framework of the rights and accountability.

Our country faces a dynamic security environment. Our borders continue to require robust protection against transitional threats. Our maritime domain needs strong safeguarding to protect our marine's resources across the continent,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 38

particularly in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC. Our troops are making valuable contribution to peace and stability under difficult conditions.

At home, the SA National Defence Force stands ready to support communities during disasters and emergencies. In all these ... [Inaudible.] ... our soldiers perform their duties with dedication and courage.

This Bill strengthens the foundation that they operate on by enhancing judicial independence in the military justice system which will build greater internal confidence and trust.

When our men and women in uniform know that disciplinary processes are fair and constitutionally sound, they serve with even higher moral and commitment. When commanders can rely on robust and lawful processes, they can maintain discipline more effectively.

This amendment further advances the constitutional project of building an inclusive South Africa. It creates conditions where talent from all corners of the society can thrive, knowing that fairness and justice are guaranteed regardless of rank, background or gender.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 39

A modern and credible military justice system also helps us to attract and retain the best young talent in South Africa as it is offered by youth.

We are equally determined to build a defence force where every member is treated with dignity and respect. By strengthening accountability, we create an environment that better prevents misconduct and supports advancement of women in the military.

This contributes directly to forces of rejuvenations and helps us to develop the younger soldiers, more skilled and representatives SANDF-ready for the challenges of the future.

Hon members, this reform is very relatable to ordinary South Africans. Think of a mother in Limpopo whose son is serving on the borders. She wants to know that the system that is governing him is just a fair system. Think of a young woman in the Eastern Cape considering the military career, she needs confidence that the institution will uphold her rights while demanding the highest standard of discipline.

The Bill speaks directly to those families and to the future of our defence force.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 40

In today's complex security landscape, it marks by high threats, regional instability, increased demands of immaterial assistance, the quality of our institutions matters more than ever.

Our Constitution provides this guiding compass for navigating these challenges by ensuring military reflected in the constitutional principle.

We improve operational effectiveness, strengthen retention and enhance South Africa's credibility in Southern African Development Community, SADC, and the African union, AU, as well as our internal peace keeping missions.

Thirty years after its adoption, our Constitution continues to prove its relevance by enabling us to modernise critical state institutions.

This Bill demonstrates that institutional supremacy and military professionalism are mutually reinforcing. It equips the SA National Defence Force to protect our sovereignty, secure our people and contribute meaningfully to regional stability with even greater legitimacy and public trust.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 41

This is another important step is building a professional, accountable and constitutional defence force our nation deserves. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr S N SWART: House Chair, the ACDP believes that a highly disciplined and professional Defence Force where rank is respected and orders are obeyed is crucial for military operations whether deployed on foreign peacekeeping missions, humanitarian missions or to assist police in fighting criminal syndicates in our townships.

Yet sadly, there is an increasing skill discipline as highlighted recently by the Chief of the SA National Defence Force, SANDF. Military courts then are crucial to maintain and enforce military discipline.

This Bill which the ACDP supports arises from the O'Brien Constitutional Court judgment which re-emphasised the importance of judicial independence. We too as the ACDP commend Lieutenant Colonel O'Brien for his principled stance despite immense pressure from his superiors.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 42

Judges as we know in terms of our Constitution are required to apply the law impartially without fear, favour or prejudice and without interference from the executive or Parliament.

Crucially, the court found that this important principle does not stop at the gates of military bases.

Like every citizen, every soldier is entitled to and deserves a military justice system that is fair, credible and constitutionally compliant. The independence of military judges as in the case of civilian judges is thus crucial for justice to be properly dispensed.

In this regard, the Constitutional Court quoted with approval the LeBlanc case where it was stated that it is important for the accused person that the military judge not be or appear to be beholden to the members of the chain of command, that his or her security of tenure is not subject to reappointment and that his or her institutional independence provides the accused with the assurance of a fair and equitable trial.

In this regard, the ACDP agrees with the Constitutional Court.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 43

This Bill implements the findings of the Constitutional Court. Whilst we thus support this very important Bill, we trust that military courts will be properly capacitated to ensure that the many offences that are being tried in such courts and including the high levels of gender-based violence are properly investigated and prosecuted.

This particularly where complaints in the military sector are often pressurised by senior officers not to pursue their cases, particularly where and those complainants are often fearful that the chances of promotion and prospects will be jeopardised by their pursuing these complaints.

These complainants must be fully protected to ensure that justice including in the military justice concept is ensured. The ACDP supports this Bill.

I thank you.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Chairperson, hon Ministers, hon esteemed members, beloved family of South Africans, in the name of Almighty, the most gracious and the most merciful, I greet our beloved nation in the warmest greetings of prayer, peace and love.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 44

Al Jama-ah supports the strengthening of discipline, accountability and professionalism. A disciplined military is essential for maintaining operational readiness, protecting our constitutional democracy and ensuring the members of the Defence Force uphold the highest standards of conduct.

This Bill seeks to improve the military justice system by addressing procedural shortcomings and ensuring greater efficiency, fairness and legal certainty. As Parliament, we have the responsibility to ensure that military discipline is balanced with the constitutional rights of military personnel. Discipline must never be arbitrary. It must be lawful, transparent and consistent with the values of our Constitution.

The Bill therefore represents an important step in modernising military justice while maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of the Defence Force. At the same time, we must acknowledge the challenges facing our soldiers, including resource constraints, ageing infrastructure and the welfare needs of members and their families. Discipline flourishes best where morale, support and leadership are strong.

We therefore call on the department to continue investing in the wellbeing, training and development of our military

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 45

personnel. South Africa's men and women in uniform serve under difficult circumstances, both at home and in peacekeeping missions across the African continent. They deserve a military justice system that is fair, credible and capable of maintaining good order and discipline.

Al Jama-ah therefore supports this amendment Bill. A disciplined defence force safeguards our democracy, protects our people and strengthens our nation. Moving forward, Al Jama-ah believes in a strong disciplined defence and a strong African nation.

I thank you.

Malibongwe!

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Chairperson ...

Sesotho:

... kgotso Maafrica.

English:

This Bill is a necessary response to the Constitutional Court's judgement of the O'Brien matter, which found shortcomings in

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 46

the appointment and removal of military judges. We welcome the establishment of an independent Military Judicial Advisory Committee and the measures introduced to strengthen the independence, transparency and credibility of military courts.

A disciplined Defence Force requires an independent military justice system. Without justice, discipline becomes arbitrary. Without discipline, national security becomes vulnerable.

However, Chairperson, while we support this Bill, we must also identify the gaps that remain. The Bill focuses on military judges, but it does not sufficiently address the broader conditions that affect discipline within the SA National Defence Force. Military discipline cannot be separated from the reality faced by our own soldiers on the ground.

Today, the SANDF faces a declining budget, ageing equipment, deteriorating infrastructure, inadequate accommodation, limited resources and reduced operational readiness. We cannot expect world-class discipline from soldiers while ignoring the conditions under which they serve.

The Bill also fails to address the growing importance of mental health support within the military environment. Soldiers

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 47

deployed in peacekeeping operations, border safeguarding missions and high-risk environments face significant psychological pressures. A modern military justice system must recognise these realities.

Furthermore, there is insufficient emphasis on transformation and skills development within military judicial structure. We must ensure that young African legal practitioners, women and previously disadvantaged South Africans are afforded meaningful opportunities to participate in military justice institutions.

Chairperson, legislations alone cannot secure our nation. Military courts alone cannot protect our borders. Discipline must be supported by proper training, modern equipment, adequate funding and investment in the welfare of our soldiers.

The recent operational challenges experienced by our Defence Force demonstrate that judicial reform must be accompanied by a serious commitment to rebuild South Africa's defence capabilities.

Xitsonga:

Khanimambo!

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 48

Mr M L SHELEMBE: Chairperson, I stand here today to debate the Military Discipline Amendment Bill, which aims to strengthen the independence of credibility of the military justice system. The Bill seeks to amend the Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Act to ensure compliance with the Constitutional Court's judgement in the O'Brien viz the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans matter. It provides for the independent establishment of the Military Judicial Advisory Committee and introduces a more independent process for the assignment and removal of the military judges and senior military judges.

The central objective is to enhance the independence of the military judicial services while ensuring compliance with the Constitution. The alternative executive control military courts are far more costly in the long run. The Constitutional Court gave a clear instruction, yet the Minister's original Bill needed major surgery by the DA just to approach their constitutional master.

The central question remains as to why the executive sought so much control over the military judges in a constitutional democracy like South Africa. The judicial independence is a cornerstone of constitutional democracy, including within the military environment. The Constitutional Court made it clear

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 49

that military judges must be protected from undue influence in the matters relating to their employment, tenure and removal.

While the military operates within a unique command and control structure, military courts still perform judicial functions and must therefore enjoy sufficient independence and impartiality. Disciplinary military force requires a professional and impartial discipline system. Discipline is fundamental to any military organisation.

Without discipline, operational effectiveness command authority and military professionalism is undermined. At the same time, military discipline must be administered through a system that is credible, impartial and trusted by those who serve within them. The Bill contributes to strengthening that balance by enhancing independence and credibility of the military judicial processes.

It supports constitutional requirements contained in section 200(1) of the Constitution, which states that, I quote: "The Defence Force must be structured and managed as a disciplined military force." This is what the DA set out to achieve. This Defence Amendment Bill removes military judges from the board of inquiry. That is common sense. You cannot investigate a

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 50

judge in the same command chain that the judge oversees.

Interestingly, even the Minister has eventually agreed.

Our committee played an important role in refining the Bill in ensuring compliance with the Constitutional Court mandate.

Section 59 of the Constitution states that the National Assembly must facilitate public involvement in legislative and other processes in the Assembly and its committees. The Bill was advertised on 9 December 2025 on the Parliament website and was further advertised on all parliamentary social media platforms on 12 January 2026 and in the national newspaper on 23 January 2026, inviting interested individuals, organisations, academics and relevant stakeholders to submit written comments.

All public submissions were considered and deliberated on the content of the Bill, clause by clause, and requested various technical amendments. Certain clauses were returned for redrafting and further deliberations to ensure greater clarity and legal sensitivity before the committee adopted the Bill.

The process reflects the Parliament's commitment to ensuring that the legislation fully addresses the concerns raised by the Constitutional Court. It is the view of the DA that the long-

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 51

term goal must be stronger, more capable and a very professional SA National Defence Force, SANDF.

As Parliament, we should view this Bill as one component of wider efforts to strengthen military discipline and improve the effectiveness of the military discipline. The ultimate objective is not merely legal compliance but the maintenance of a professional defence force that operates in accordance with the Constitution, commands a public confidence and is capable of fulfilling the mandate effectively. By strengthening the integrity of the military justice, we strengthen the foundation of the military discipline itself.

In conclusion, the DA supports a strong and disciplined defence force and this requires impartial military judges. This is why we fought for this amendment and not against the SANDF but for its integrity. The DA supports the Bill. I thank you.

Mr T B MUNYAI: Hon House Chairperson, hon members, our Minister and the two Deputy Ministers respectively, as we commemorate the 30 years of constitutional democracy, during this month on 15 June, we will commemorate the 41st anniversary of the Botswana cross-border raid where Comrade Thami Mnyele who designed the current logo of the ANC, who was brutally murdered

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 52

by the apartheid regime. Thami was a symbol of the raid and one of the finest uMkhonto weSizwe's ex combatants whose exhumation and reburial one was personally at the centre and involved.

We raise this point, Chairperson, precisely because we're trying to demonstrate that the freedom we talk about was not free. At the heart of the constitutional democracy lies a profound guarantee, an enduring commitment of the aspiration of the people of South Africa as a whole. Section 200 of the Constitution entrusts the SA National Defence Force with the responsibility of defending and protecting the Republic and its people. The men and women of the SA Army, Air Force, Navy and the Military Health Service are not merely the custodian of the borders, but they are guardians of our constitutional democracy, protectors of our national sovereignty, defenders of our freedom, won through generation of struggle and sacrifice.

Their service ensures that democratic gains of the past three decades are preserved for future generations. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the House to ensure that every military service is adequately funded, properly maintained and equipped with capabilities required to meet the complex and evolving challenges of the 21st century.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 53

In doing so, we need to strengthen not only our Defence Force, but also our sovereignty, resilience and democratic future of the Republic. We are confident that through the strategic vision to rebuild and modernise our military, the so-called Journey to Greatness, eventually, funding will be found to support our military.

The men and women in the SA Army, Air Force, SA Navy and Military Health Service continue to work hard to ensure that the democratic gains of the past three decades are preserved for the future generations. Hon members, we speak of the coherent, well-co-ordinated and unified indispensable services of the SA Army, SA Air Force, SA Navy and SA Military Health Service. Together, they are the unbreakable solid backbone of our national defence capability, playing a significant role in safeguarding South Africa's sovereignty, territorial integrity and the constitutional order.

As the ANC, we firmly believe that every mission that is undertaken by the SA National Defence Force, SANDAF is clearly defined, strategically directed and effectively executed. We remain unwavering in our commitment to ensure that SANDF is operational combat ready at all material times, both within our

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 54

borders and across the theatres of their deployment in accordance with the Constitution and international law.

Our soldiers possess the capability, the discipline, the courage and resilience that inspire confidence to our nation's ability to protect our sovereignty, upon peace and stability. They execute their mandate with the highest degree of military precision, safeguarding our sovereignty and protecting our people. Whether confronted with external aggression, SANDAF stands prepared to neutralise, deter and respond decisively to any threat that endangers the Republic of South Africa.

While we celebrate the Constitution, section 26 and section 27 of the Constitution protects the rights and affirms the access of our people to housing and health care. For the past 30 years of the Constitution, our people have been receiving millions of houses. Going forward under the ANC Ministry leadership, our people continue to receive the quality of houses. For the past three decades, our people have been receiving health care, our government building more clinics and hospitals. Going forward, they will be able to receive the quality of health care through the National Health Insurance so that every South African, regardless of their socioeconomic status, can be able to access the quality health care.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 55

The SA Military Health Service continues to play a meaningful role to ensure that the health care, the well-being and operational readiness of our service men and women, both at home and the theatres of deployment are always healthy and ready to execute their mission.

So therefore, what is critical is that it's undeniable that our people were not merely denied an opportunity to have these benefits that the human potential, if received, continue to live in quality and service. We must say or make a clarion call before the Ministry, that our military veterans must be able to continue to get their benefits. I know this further debate around this Vote will be engaged upon. So, the credible database has to be concluded with speed.

We must say that the Freedom Charter is the one that preceded all this Constitution to make sure that our country can remain protected. One clarion call we are making as the portfolio committee and the ANC is that our people, our military and our police service must make sure that in the continuation of the stealing of weapons, those criminals must be found because we can't agree that those weapons continue to endanger our people.

IsiXhosa:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 56

USEKELA MPHATHISWA WEZOKHUSELO NAMAGQALA OMKHOSI: (Mnu B H Holomisa): Heyi bawo, hayi phatheka maan.

English:

House Chairperson and hon members, I have listened carefully to the views expressed. There appears to be broad recognition that the military justice system must remain both effective and constitutionally compliant. Some members have rightly raised concerns regarding the broader challenges facing the Defence Force, including resource constraints, Defence Force preparedness, declining infrastructure and personnel matters. These are important issues that the Ministry and the department continue to engage with.

On the question of United States, US Marines in Cape Town, I would suggest that Ministers of state, Department of International Relations and Co-operation, Dirco and Home Affairs should have coffee with the premier of this province, as well as the Mayor of Cape Town just to compare notes, at this stage ...

IsiXhosa:

... ayikafuni thina Mqwathi.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 57

English:

Those who were not happy with the integration in 1993, I would also suggest that they should petition Parliament, because the Department of Defence will only increase the number of those who are catered for, only if this Parliament says so. I thank you.

Debate concluded.

Bill read a second time.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT ON PETITION FROM WESTERN CAPE SENIOR CITIZENS ON A
PETITION FOR PARLIAMENT TO CONSIDER THEIR GRIEVANCES TOWARDS
SASSA TO ASSIST THEM WITH PAYMENT OF THEIR SASSA GRANTS AND
RELATED MATTERS**

Ms B S MASANGO: Hon Chairperson, the report I am introducing today gives effect to the principle that this Parliament is truly the People's Parliament. The initiative taken by the representatives of older persons in the Western Cape to bring their grievances before Parliament is both commendable on the part of the representatives and a matter of serious concern for the Department of Social Development and its agency, the SA

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 58

Social Security Agency, Sassa. The main grievances captured in the petition as reflected in the report dated 3 December 2025 are as follows: poor treatment of older persons, disrespectful behaviour, mistreatment at Sassa offices, security personnel acting with hostility rather than providing support, the absence of effective mechanisms to report or address staff misconduct, delays in the payment of social grants, and unexplained withholding of grants resulting in socioeconomic hardships, including hunger, debt, and emotional distress, calls for an increase in the older persons grant to R5 000 in light of the rising cost of living in South Africa. These are serious concerns affecting some of the most vulnerable members of our society. Sassa assured the petitioners, and other older persons, that concerns relating to client experience would be addressed without delay. It also emphasised that grant amounts are determined in accordance with prevailing legislative and policy frameworks in consultation with the National Treasury.

The grant payment statistics contained in Sassa's annual performance plans, APPs, indicate that payment rates have consistently exceeded 90%. However, in a country facing high levels of poverty, unemployment, and rising food prices, even a small percentage of beneficiaries who do not receive their grants on time is a percentage too many. For many older

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 59

persons, a social grant is not only a means of supporting themselves, but also often used to support unemployed adult children and grandchildren within multigenerational households. The consequences of delayed or withheld payments, therefore, extend far beyond the individual beneficiary. Sassa should continue striving to fulfil its commitment of paying the right social grant to the right person at the right time and place, ...

IsiZulu:

... njalo.

English:

The "njalo" [all the time] part of the promise by Sassa is at the centre of the petition we are deliberating on today.

"Njalo" means all the time, and the petition speaks of delays, withholding, etc. The "njalo" many South Africans and I know seems to have lost its meaning to Sassa. To the extent that this is true, progress is needed ...

IsiZulu:

... manje.

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 60

The experience reflected in this petition stands in stark contrast to that commitment. We have recently received updates regarding the implementation of the National Treasury-endorsed verification processes. While these measures are welcome insofar as they seek to eliminate fraudulent grant payments and hold accountable those implicated in the abuse of public funds, they have also highlighted an emerging concern. The committee is concerned that verification processes may result in legitimate and deserving beneficiaries being deprived of their grants for extended periods. This is precisely the concern raised by the petitioners, who referred to the unexplained withholding of grants and the resulting socioeconomic hardship, hunger, debt, and emotional distress experienced by affected families. We, therefore, commend the older persons of Western Cape for bringing this matter to the attention of Parliament. We further call upon the department and Sassa to ensure that ... [Inaudible.] ... I, therefore, implore this House to adopt this report. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Declaration(s) of vote:

IsiZulu:

Nk N A MTSHWENI: Sihlalo, namalungu ale Ndlu ahloniphekile, uma kufikwa odabeni lwabantu abadala, i-MK Party izwa ubuhlungu obukhulu kakhulu. Sifikelwa usizi nezinyembezi. Into ebanga

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 61

lokho, Sihlalo, isimo abantu abadala abaphila ngaphansi kwaso. Abantu abadala baphila ngaphansi kwesimo esinzima kakhulu. Njengoba silokhu sikhala, sikhalela ukuthi isibonelelo sabantu abadala sikhushulwe sifike okungenani ezinkulungwaneni ezinhlanu, kungenxa yokuthi lesi sibonelelo asibhekani nje nabantabadala kuphela kodwa sibhekana nabantu abasha abaningi abaneminyaka eseyedlule kumashumi amathathu nanhlanu abangaqasheki abangasebenzi.

Sihlalo, abantu abadala baseNingizimu Afrika abayifikelanga kule nhlopheko lena kodwa bafikiswa umbuso wabamhlophe wangaphambili owabacindezela kakhulu wabashiya neyibazi. Wabaphuca konke okwakungokwabo wabashiya behlwempu bengenalutho. Sihlalo, abantu abadala baseNingizimu Afrika, njengoba ngikhuluma nawe nje, uHulumeni wavala izikhungo zokukholelwa okubenza bahambe amabanga amade kakhulu uma beyocosha labo openi abawacoshayo. Uma uHulumeni evala izikhungo wathi ingoba ubalekela izigebengu. Ngiyesaba kakhulu, Sihlalo, ukuthi abantu abadala baphepile yini, thina zakamuzi siphepile yini eNingizimu Afrika uma siphethwe uHulumeni obalekayo abalekele izigebengu, kungabi yizona izigebengu ezibalekela uHulumeni. Safika kanjani entweni la uHulumeni uhamba ucasha emahlathini ecashela izigebengu, kungezona izigebengu ezicashela uHulumeni.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 62

Enye inkinga, Sihlalo, ukuthi uma abantu abadala kufika isikhathi sokuthi babacoshe labo peni abasuke seabephelile. Ngenxa yalokho, baphila komashonisa. Omazisi babo namakhadi abo okuhola ahlala komashonisa. Okunye ukuthi le ngcindezi yokuthi abantu abadala basuke ezindaweni zasemakhaya ezikude bayohola emadolobheni, yenza ukuthi bakhokhe imali eningi noma sebe batholile labo penyana baphinde futhi bakhokhele lokhu abakuthengile. Ngoba ezimotweni zasemakhaya uyalikhokhela isaka lempuphu futhi uyalikhokhela isaka lamazambane. Sihlalo, sisengcinezini enkulu kakhulu. Uma namhlanje sibuka laba abantu abadala baseNtshonalanga Koloni asebeze bafika ePhalamende bezoyikhalela kwiKomidi leZenhlahalakahle, siyabona ukuthi uHulumeni we-Government of National Unity, GNU, akanazo izindlebe zokubezwa abantu ukuthi bathini. Asazi ukuthi kuzofika nini la uHulumeni eba nendlebe yokubalalela abantu ukuthi bathini. Asibalaleleni abantu sizizwe izkhalo zabo. Sihlalo, siyacela abantu baseNingizimu Afrika ngomhla wesine kuLwezi bayivotele i-MK Party, ukuze siyenze imizamo yokuzwelana nabantu abadala. Ingcindezi nenhlupheko ilama banga ahanjwayo ngoba nakhona lapho okwathiwa bayohola khona bayabanjwa izigebengu. Oxhaxha lwezitolo ayabanjwa, imishini iyaqhunyiswa. Azikaze izigebengu zikuyeka lokho ngenxa yokuvalwa kwemali yabantu abadala eyikhungweni. Sihlalo ngiyacela, Sihlalo, ngiyacela, asibazwele abantu abadala

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 63

baseNingizimu Afrika. Asibazwele abantu okuyibona baneyibazi zobandlululo. Banezibazi banezilonda, bayakhumbula, bacinidezelwa, futhi bahlushwa umbuso wabamhlophe. Ngiyabonga. [Ihlombe.]

Ms P MARAIS: Chairperson, I would like to greet my cic, our officials, ground forces and the EFF members at large and the community. I rise to support the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development on the petition submitted by senior citizens from the Western Cape regarding social grant payments and related service delivery challenges. A society is judged by how it treats its elderly. When pensioners are forced to queue for hours, travel great distances and fight bureaucracy for what is rightfully theirs. It is not only a service delivery failure, but it's also a failure of our collective humanity.

South Africa's population of older persons continues to grow. Many older persons rely heavily on the older persons grant, not only for their own survival, but also to support unemployed children, grandchildren and extended family members. In many households, the grant remains the only stable source of income. These are not abstract complaints. They concern the payment of social grants, the suspension or review of grants, poor

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 64

communication, long queues, inaccessible services and the dignity of many older persons who continue to experience this when engaging with the social security system. The old age grant is not charity; it is a constitutional obligation flowing from the right to social security and the duty of the state to protect the dignity and wellbeing of all people, particularly the older and vulnerable. The community received concerns from older persons regarding the treatment they receive at Sassa offices and pay points. Delays in grant payments, difficulties associated with grant reviews and appeals, and the general quality of service delivery experienced by beneficiaries. Disrespectful treatment, long waiting periods, poor communications, unexplained grant suspensions, and delays in resolutions of appeals.

These challenges, caused by the state and left unattended, are challenges that undermine the dignity of older persons and impose unnecessary suffering on people who depend on social assistance to survive, exposing the persistent failure of the government to protect those who have contributed most to building this country. Our older citizens are subjected to long queues, slow administrative process, and negative staff attitudes, which continue to affect beneficiaries' ability to access services efficiently. These concerns require urgent

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 65

attention by both the Department of Social Development and the SA Social Security Agency. Our most vulnerable citizens are subjected to conditions that are unacceptable in a constitutional democracy that reflects a state that continues to fail the most vulnerable citizens. House Chair, the committee recognised that grant increases have not always kept pace. Thank you, Chair. We support the report, Chairperson.

[Time expired.]

Ms B E MACHI: Hon Chairperson, the IFP recognises the concerns raised by senior citizens regarding their experiences with the SA Social Security Agency, Sassa, and the challenges they face in accessing social assistance.

We remain concerned about the reports of long queues, delays in grant-related processes, poor communication and instances in which beneficiaries are not treated with the dignity and the respect they deserve. Elderly people who depend on social grants should not be subjected to unnecessary hardship when accessing these essential services.

The rising cost of living continues to place pressure on pensioners, many of whom support unemployed family members with

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 66

multigenerational households. For many families, an older person's grant remains the only reliable source of income and support.

The IFP supports efforts to strengthen accountability, improve communication with beneficiaries, and ensure that appeals and complaints are resolved efficiently and fairly.

The true measure of an effective social assistance system is not only whether grants are paid, but whether beneficiaries receive the support they are entitled to in a dignified and efficient manner.

The IFP therefore supports the report and its objective of improving service delivery and safeguarding the dignity of South Africa's senior citizens. I thank you.

Ms S M PETERS: Hon House Chair, the PA supports the report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development regarding the petition submitted by senior citizens from the Western Cape on the challenges they experience in accessing social assistance services.

This petition highlights the harsh reality faced by many elderly South Africans. Far too many pensioners continue to

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 67

experience long queues, delayed grant payments, poor communication and disrespectful treatment when seeking assistance from Sassa. These failures undermine the dignity of older persons who depend on social grants to survive.

The PA is deeply concerned that the older persons grant is not keeping pace with inflation and the rising cost of living. Pensioners are increasingly forced to choose between food, health care, transport and other basic necessities. Those who have spent their lives contributing to our country deserve better support in their retirement years.

We therefore support the recommendation that the Minister of Social Development engage with the Minister of Finance to review the value of the older persons grant and ensure that it provides meaningful relief to beneficiaries.

We also support ongoing efforts towards strengthening income security for vulnerable households.

Furthermore, we support calls for improved customer service, accurate and updated information on all Sassa platforms and appropriate training for frontline staff to ensure that

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 68

beneficiaries are treated with dignity, respect and professionalism at all times.

Our senior citizens should not have to fight for services that are rightfully theirs. The PA stands firmly with pensioners and supports all measures aimed at improving service delivery, strengthening social protection and restoring dignity to the ... persons across South Africa. I thank you.

Ms D E JAMES: Hon House Chairperson, a measly 2 400 is the amount at which the old age grant is currently set. This petition submitted by the senior citizens, amongst the most vulnerable members of society, highlights not only the financial pressures facing pensioners, but also a serious failure on the part of Parliament.

This report was tabled in December 2025 already, yet this House is only considering it some seven months later. We must do better to ensure that the voices of our people are heard and that petitions of this nature are dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 69

Citizens who engage with Parliament deserve timely responses, particularly when their concerns relate to the ability to afford basic necessities and their dignity.

Action SA believes that the old age grant should be automatically linked to inflation-based increases, because ...

Afrikaans:

... alles gaan op behalwe die grant [toelaag.]

English:

This would be an important first step towards ensuring that the vital social protection it provides is not steadily eroded by the rising cost of living.

It is just impossible for citizens of the Western Cape to get by, considering that they have to support their entire families, children's children and so forth.

At the same time, we must not ignore the broader reality. The millions of South Africans who depend on social grants are, in many respects, the consequences of an economy that has failed to create sufficient opportunities for work.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 70

Today, some 12 million South Africans are unemployed. If we are serious about restoring dignity and security to our people, we must build an economy that creates jobs. Social grants provide an essential safety net, but they can never substitute for a job-creating economy. They can never substitute for dignity. I thank you.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Chairperson, hon esteemed members and beloved South Africans, I greet you in the wonderful greeting of peace.

[An unofficial language spoken.]

English:

Today, we consider a matter that directly affects some of the most vulnerable members of our society, our senior citizens, the elderly.

The petition before us highlights the frustrations and hardships experienced by elderly beneficiaries regarding the payment of their grants through Sassa.

For many senior citizens, these grants are not merely a source of income. They are a lifeline that provides food, medication,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 71

transport, and basic dignity and necessity. When pensioners are forced to endure long queues, administrative delays, payment uncertainties or difficulties accessing their grants, it is not merely an inconvenience. It is a violation of their dignity and a failure of the social protection system that is intended to support them.

Our Constitution places an obligation on the state to progressively realise socioeconomic rights and to protect those who are unable to provide for themselves.

We therefore commend the senior citizens of the Western Cape for bringing their concerns before Parliament and exercising their democratic right to petition this institution.

The recommendations of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development provide an important opportunity to strengthen accountability, improve service delivery and ensure that Sassa responds effectively to the legitimate concerns raised by beneficiaries. As Parliament, we must continue exercising ...

[Time expired.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, your time has expired.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 72

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Thank you. Malibongwe!

Dr L W MAHLATSI: House Chairperson ...

Sesotho:

... kgotso Maafrica.

English:

The UAT supports this report and commends the senior citizens of Ravensmead, Elsie's River, Khayelitsha, Hanover Park, Langa, and other communities who exercise their constitutional right to petition Parliament. The grievances raised in this petition are deeply concerning. No elderly person should be subjected to disrespect, humiliation, endless queues, delayed payments, or unexpected grant suspension.

Social grants are not a favour from the government. They are a constitutional instrument to restore dignity and protect vulnerable citizens from poverty and hunger. The UAT welcomes the call for improved service delivery, compassion from frontline staff, and the establishment of an independent complaint mechanism. We further support greater transparency in grant review and appeals, including an accessible SMS notification and checking system.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 73

However, we remain concerned that the social grant is not keeping pace with the rising cost of living. Elderly persons are confronted daily by increasing expenses, including food, electricity, transport, and health care needs.

A grant that cannot provide basic food security cannot fully protect human dignity. The struggle against poverty, inequality, and hunger remains the unfinished business of the liberation. Our senior citizens should not spend their retirement years choosing between food, medication, and electricity. The UAT therefore supports these reports and calls upon the government, the Sassa, municipalities, and all stakeholders to place the dignity, welfare, and protection of all persons at the centre of the public policy ... [Time expired.]

Xitsonga:

Khanimambo!

Ms N K SHARIF: Hopefully, the plight of the Sassa grant beneficiaries is not unfamiliar to members of this House. Too often, it feels as though the Department of Social Development and the Sassa, the very institutions responsible for supporting more than 26 million South Africans, are disconnected from the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 74

daily realities of the people they are mandated to serve. Of these beneficiaries, approximately 4,2 million are older persons who are dependent on the Older Persons grant to survive.

On 26 August 2025, Older Persons grant beneficiaries marched to Parliament to make their frustrations heard and present a petition detailing their grievances. My colleague, Alexander Abrahams, received the petition and engaged directly with the protesters. What they described was not an isolated experience. Their stories reflect the struggles faced by millions of grant beneficiaries across South Africa every day. These older persons spoke of disrespect, hostility, and humiliation when seeking assistance from the Sassa. They described spending hours, sometimes entire nights, standing in queues, often in unsafe areas and harsh weather conditions. Many arrive before dawn only to be turned away without assistance. Far too often, what should be the exception has become the norm. Beneficiaries are told the systems are offline, that the relevant official is unavailable, that there is a technical failure, a power outage, or simply that they cannot be helped that day. They are then expected to spend the little money they have on another trip to try again.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 75

It is particularly concerning in the context of biometric verification requirements. Beneficiaries who have been flagged for verification risk losing access to their grant if they are unable to comply within the required timeframe. Imagine, hon members, the fear and the anxiety of knowing that your only source of income may be suspended, not because you refuse to comply, but because the very institution responsible for assisting you failed to do so.

The petition also highlighted delayed payments, unexplained grant suspensions, and lengthy reinstatement processes that leave vulnerable people in limbo for months. The committee heard that beneficiaries often receive little to no information about why their grants have been suspended or how long they can expect to wait for a resolution. Many Older Persons' grants support entire households, as many hon members have said today, not just the pensioner who receives them. In a country where food security remains a daily reality and where children continue to suffer from malnutrition, every delayed or suspended grant has consequences far beyond a single beneficiary. The Sassa has already lapsed 67 868 grants and suspended 48 949 grants. If every one of those cases involved fraud or abuse of the system, then that would be welcomed. The DA supports robust verification processes and strong measures

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 76

to ensure that social assistance reaches the correct beneficiaries. But how many of those lapses and suspensions involve vulnerable people who genuinely attempt to comply, only to be failed by the system? How much money should they spend on transport to and from the Sassa offices? How many should stand in queues for hours overnight only to be turned away because the systems were down and no assistance was available? The committee also identified ongoing communications within the Sassa. Beneficiaries do not understand what is required of them when they are flagged for verification, creating confusion and uncertainty.

The committee recommended that the Sassa improve its website and information platforms with accurate information, but implementation of these recommendations have not been fully implemented. Concerns persist regarding the treatment of beneficiaries at service points despite training staff. This is why the committee's recommendation for monthly reports on queue management, communication, and service delivery is critical. Accountability and dignity for beneficiaries must remain a priority. Accountability cannot be optional. I thank you.

[Applause.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 77

Ms M P MAKGATO: Chairperson, our Ministers and Deputy Ministers, I am here to consider the report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development on a petition from Western Cape senior citizens regarding Sassa grants and related matters. You are a generation that endured the hardship of apartheid, witnessed the transition to democracy, and continues to serve as a moral compass of our nation.

I rise on behalf of the ANC to support the report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development arising from the petition submitted by senior citizens across the Western Cape. This report reflects the concerns of older persons regarding the adequacy of social grants, service delivery, challenges at the Sassa offices, appeals on the system, and the broader socioeconomic pressures facing the pensioners. The ANC understands the gravity of the concern rate regarding the Older Persons grant. We know that grants often support entire households, including unemployed adult children and grandchildren, while also covering necessities such as food, electricity, transport, and education costs. In many homes, pensioners remain the last line of defense against poverty and hunger. The community has correctly noted that rising food parcels and the cost of living continue to place immense pressure on older persons. However, social grant allocations

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 78

are determined through a broader government fiscal process involving the National Treasury and not solely within the mandate of the Department of Social Development. While we regret calls for a substantial grant increase and morality justified, currently, fiscal constraints limit the immediate realization of such demand. Nevertheless, the ANC remains committed to strengthening social protection, reducing poverty, and improving the living conditions of all older persons.

Senior citizens also raised concerns about the long queues, slow service delivery, inadequate waiting facilities, and poor treatment of the Sassa offices. These challenges undermine the constitutional right to dignity and social security. The ANC welcomes Sassa's ongoing programme, which seeks to bring services closer to beneficiaries and reduce the burden of traveling to service points. However, digital beneficiaries from fraud and other forms of exploitation ... This entails strengthening partnerships with the telecommunications sector to enhance connectivity and ensure the digital services are accessible to all communities. We also condemn the ill-treatment of senior citizens and call for the consistent investment of Batho Pele principles across all the Sassa offices.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 79

The ANC welcomed the committee's recommendation that the Department of Social Development should expedite work towards implementing a Basic Income grant. This intervention is important in addressing poverty and income insecurity. The Constitution guarantees access to social security for those unable to support themselves. The ANC believes that progress towards the sustainable Basic Income grant will ease the burden on senior citizens who support entire households and contribute to greater financial stability.

Finally, concerns regarding appeal reviews and poor communication from the Sassa must be addressed urgently. Beneficiaries should not be left uncertain about the status of the appeals or the reasons for granting a suspension. We will continue to exercise robust oversight to ensure that the system is strengthened and that the target of resolving 90% appeals within 90 days is achieved. Improving strategy in responsiveness and accountability is essential in this structure. In conclusion, I want to say the ANC supports the adoption of this report ... [Time expired.] [Interjections.]

Mr G J SKOSANA: I move that the report be adopted.

Agreed to.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 80

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON BASIC
EDUCATION AND PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND
INFRASTRUCTURE ON A PETITION FROM THE SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY OF
LERUNTSE LESEDI HIGH SCHOOL, NORTH-WEST PROVINCE, CALLING ON
THE ASSEMBLY TO INVESTIGATE THE DILAPIDATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT
THEIR SCHOOL (MR N P PHARAMELA)

Mr M DLELANGA: House Chairperson, hon Ministers, Deputy Ministers, hon members, allow me on behalf of these two portfolio committees to introduce this report. This report is a petition from a school governing body of the Lurentse Lesedi High School from North-West Province.

This SGB is calling for the National Assembly to investigate the dilapidated infrastructure at the school and was referred to the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education and the Public Works by the Speaker of the National Assembly for consideration and report dated 22 April 2025.

It is important, to critically treat the matter of the Lurentse Lesedi High School with great sensitivity, as it is the only secondary school at Tswaing Local Municipality, North-West Province. And the majority of parents in that rural areas are unemployed and are relying on social grants. And the SGB is

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 81

playing a critical role on assisting those families, especially the child-headed families, as a result of a lack of parental care.

The school has 75 students enrolled and all of them were being taught on outdated rundown classrooms with roof leaks, 25 teachers sharing two restrooms. And when it rains, school grounds become muddy and needed to be paved. There is no lab at the school. There is no school hall, there is no food kitchen, as well as the toilets do not adhere to health standards.

Therefore, this issue, which was brought by stakeholders, suggested that there are interventions made by the department of North-West, and those interventions have started in the financial year 2025-2026, which includes infrastructure renovations. And they have committed that they will begin another urgent repairs on all those areas identified in the late 2026-2027 financial year.

And what is important is that the Department of Education in North-West must ensure that all outstanding matters pertaining to the petition be addressed and finalised within the provided time frames. And all matters pertaining to the school must be prioritised by the department.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 82

All what we want to see as these two committees is a school with a good infrastructure, which will focus on its core mandate, which is learning and teaching. And we envisage whereby all the pit latrines will be eliminated, all the mud constructions will be dealt with, and the school will be fenced and will have power and dependable water. I therefore introduce this report. Thank you so much, House Chair.

Declarations of vote:

Mr N I NXUMALO: Hon House Chairperson, fellow members of Parliament, I stand here today not with polite request, but with a burning anger because of what I've seen in the report from the North-West and Gauteng, it's not a failure of administration, but it's a deliberate crime against our children.

Let me speak plainly. At Lurentse Lesedi High School in the North-West, 750 learners are crammed into old, cracked, leaking classrooms. Some have no lights. The toilets are pit latrines and the same pit latrines that were banned years ago.

Learners who want to study maths and science must travel more than 20 kilometres to find a school with a laboratory. I mean, 20 kilometres. And the Basic Department of Basic Education

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 83

knows they have known since 2018 and they've done almost nothing. Two permanent classrooms, 11 mobile units - that is their answer after seven years of petition. This is not a neglect, this is abandonment.

Then we go to Gauteng at Pulamadibogo Primary School, raw sewage floods the playgrounds. Electrical wiring was stolen in 2022. And three years later, classrooms are still in darkness. Children drink from contaminated taps.

At Bathabile Primary Farm School, pit latrines are still in use. There is no electricity, no library, no science equipments. This is not a rural disadvantage. This is a calculated disinvestment in black and working-class children.

And then, we visit Pretoria High School, a beautiful, well-resourced school with laboratories, Wi-Fi, and an R8,2 million surplus sitting in the bank. While children just a few kilometres away sit three to a broken desk, this school rejects black learners using hidden language test and cultural fit criteria. That is not excellence, that is apartheid error exclusion dressed up as policy.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 84

Where is the money? The department underspent R1,2 billion on infrastructure last year, but they spent R6,8 million on stakeholder retreats, R4,6 million was wasted on smart boards, that never worked, R2,3 million men for disabled learners vanished into tender scandal. Officials earn over R1,2 million a year, sitting in air-conditioned offices while early child development, ECD, practitioners earn R12 an hour below minimum wage. This is theft, this is corruption, and it must be treated as a crime. [Applause.]

So, I say directly to the majority party and to the department, we demand an immediate freeze on all education tenders, pending a full forensic audit. We demand criminal charges for every official who has overseen these failures, from Member of Executive Council, MEC, down to the district director. We demand that surplus budgets of elite schools be redirected to fit life-threatening conditions in townships and in rural schools. We demand that the President invoke section 100 of the Constitution to place Gauteng and North-West education under national administration because the provincial departments have failed.

Children of Lurentse Lesedi are not statistics, they are not waiting for another report, they are human beings whose futures

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 85

are being stolen, and this Parliament refuses to act. Thank you. [Applause.] [Time expired.]

Ms M S LETLAPE: Chairperson, it is an indictment on the government when a School Governing Body, SGB, resorts to writing a petition to Parliament to have their very legitimate cries for help attended to. The SGB of Luruntse Lesedi Secondary School in the North West sent deputation after deputation to every official in the Department of Education and the Department of Public Works, complaining about the dilapidated infrastructure at their school. They listed some of the defects as follows.

Classrooms that have cracked walls and leaking roofs; there are 25 teachers in the school who have to share just two toilets together with the learners; classrooms have no lights; there are no labs and libraries; school grounds pose a danger to learners as they are muddy when it rains; there are no halls, nor there is a kitchen. When it rains, there is no proper schooling that takes place because the roofs leak profusely. This should not be something parents have to contend with, 35 years post-political freedom in this country.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 86

The fact that this still happens is a marker for gross neglect and incompetence by those responsible for building school infrastructure. This petition is a painful reminder that 30 years into democracy, the quality of education a child receives is still largely determined by where they are born and the colour of their skin. The SGB did everything that responsible citizens are expected to do. They raised concerns with the department; they approached the office; they engaged officials, and yet nothing meaningful ever happened.

Government officials, reports and promises came and went, but the leaking roofs, cracked walls and unsafe classrooms remained, while the humiliation persisted. What is most disturbing is that the community was made to feel as though the burden of fixing the school rested heavily on their shoulders. A poor rural community where many families survive on social grants and struggle with unemployment, was effectively told to do what government itself has failed to do.

What this petition has revealed is that the greatest obstacle facing many learners is not a lack of intelligence, ability, or ambition; the greatest obstacle is a state that continues to fail them. We, therefore, welcome the intervention that have finally been made, but we refuse to celebrate government for

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 87

doing what it should have done years ago; we refuse to applaud officials for responding only after Parliament was forced to intervene, and we also refuse to accept the situation where communities must petition the highest institutions on the land before basic responsibilities are fulfilled. I thank you.

Ms B E MACHI: Hon House Chairperson, the IFP reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding the conditional rights to a safe and conducive basic education for all children, regardless of where they live. In viewing the joint report on Lesedi High School, we must declare that rural isolation can never justify structural neglect or administrative failure. Developmental progress depends on effective co-ordination between School Governing Bodies, SGBs, parties, provisional, department and parliamentary committees.

It is regrettable that this chain of accountability was broken, thereby leaving stakeholders to operate in silos while critical compliance reports were buried rather than escalated. This breakdown also mirrors a troubling gap in financial oversight, where only a fraction of the allocated maintenance budget was used for actual repairs, thus allowing the routine upkeep of the school to collapse into a full infrastructure crisis.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 88

Administrative data cannot replace the value of direct parliamentary oversight, while officials debate abstract rating of learners and the harsh conditions they face daily. It is therefore a matter of profound regret that a comprehensive dual oversight visit by... denied on accountability, requires a complete oversight. The IFP accept this report, but we insist that genuine accountability requires complete oversight. If dignified, it is to be restored to our rural schools. I thank you, Chairperson.

Afrikaans:

Mr E HENDRICKS: Agb Voorsitter, ...

English:

... fellow members, I rise on behalf of the PA to speak about the petition submitted by the School Governing Body, SGB, of Leruntse Lesedi Secondary School in the North West province. The petition refers to the Portfolio Committee of Basic Education, Public Works and Infrastructure, exposes a crisis that can no longer be ignored. The conditions at Leruntse Lesedi Secondary School are unacceptable. Learners are studying in classrooms with structural cracks and partially collapsing walls; leaking roofs interrupts lessons and learning material.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 89

There are also broken windows, doors that do not lock, damaged perimeter fences and exposed electrical wiring place children and staff at serious risk every day. Sanitation facilities are inadequate or nonfunctional. There are no minor maintenance issues; they are a threat to safety, dignity and a right to learn. Worse still, these concerns have been repeatedly raised by the SGB, teachers and parents, yet there is no action that has been taken. This is not an isolated case. Across our country, public schools' buildings are failing because there are years of undermaintanance, delays, repairs and there is no proper co-ordination between Basic Education, Public Works and Infrastructure.

Infrastructure is not optional; it is a backbone of service delivery and of a capable and caring state. We call on the Departments of Basic Education and Public Works to present, immediately, a cost deadline-driven rehabilitation plan for Leruntse Lesedi Secondary School with clear milestones and public accountability. The school must be brought into full compliance with the National Occupational Health and Safety, OHS, accountability. The school must be brought to full compliance with the national infrastructure and occupational health and safety standards.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 90

No child in South Africa, and I repeat, no child in South Africa should learn under leaking roofs or in a collapsing classroom. The future of the Leruntse Lesedi Secondary School learners cannot wait; we urge decisive action. Salute!

Afrikaans:

Ons baiza [huiwer] nie.

Ms M P KOBE: House Chair, I stand in consideration of the petition that was written on the School Governing Body, SGB, of Leruntse Lesedi Secondary School in the North West province, calling on this National Assembly to investigate dilapidated infrastructure of the school. This petition and the failures that preceded it, as the School Governing Body, SGB, provincial and the national level, are a clear indication that the system of infrastructure maintenance and development in our schools, is fundamentally broken.

While the outcomes of this petition was positive, and the necessary repairs to classroom and sanitation facilities were ultimately undertaken, we must ask, should every school be required to petition the National Assembly, simply to secure the most basic maintenance needs? It cannot be so. As it stands, there is a total of 130 schools in the North West

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 91

province alone that needs maintenance and renovations; 118 are storm damaged, 54 have severe structural damage, and 53 are asbestos structures.

Now, imagine if they were all to write to this august House just to get reprieve. This case speaks to a failure of prioritisation within the Departments of Basic Education and Provincial Education Departments, PEDs, all too often, an action is only taken once a matter receive significant public attention, and even then, the response is frequently delayed. Action SA believes that in order to fix this woeful state of affairs, routine, properly planned and adequately funded infrastructure maintenance programmes must be implemented.

Otherwise, the consequences of these failures are felt all the way throughout our education system by our children. To fix this, we must get the basics right to ensure that our children receive world class education. I thank you very much, House Chair.

Afrikaans:

Ons baiza [huiwer] nie.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 92

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Chairperson, *As-salaamu-alai-kum*. [Peace be with you.]

IsiZulu:

Malibongwe! [Praise!]

English:

Let me wake you up from your sleep, parliamentarians. It is a constitutional right and the foundation upon which the future of our nation is built. Today, I want to take the opportunity to educate our learners, and I want to say, we need to know what the meaning of Al Jama-Ah is, which means righteousness. So, I want to also educate our learners and educationists that, the best thing you can do in this country, presently, is vote for the most trustable party, the Al Jama-Ah.

Today, we consider a petition from the School Governing Body, SGB, of Leruntse Lesedi Secondary School in the North West province, calling upon Parliament to investigate the dilapidated state of infrastructure at their school. This petition is a reminder that behind every broken classroom, leaking roof, unsafe structure and neglected facility, are learners whose dreams and opportunities are being compromised. As Members of Parliament, we have a duty to ensure that every

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 93

child, regardless of where they live, has access to a safe, dignified and conducive learning environment.

Learners should be focused on their studies and aspirations, not disturbed by crumbling infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms or safety concerns. We, therefore, welcome the work undertaken by the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education and Public Works and Infrastructure in investigating these concerns and engaging the relevant authorities. The report highlights the urgent need for accountability, proper maintenance, effective planning and the accelerated delivery of infrastructure projects in our school. I thank you. [Time expired.]

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Chairperson ...

Sesotho:

... kgotso, Maafrica.

English:

Hon Chairperson, 30 years into democracy, we are confronted with a difficult truth. Many African children are still being treated as second-class citizens in their own country. The situation at Leruntse-Lesedi, a high school in North West, and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 94

at Dulcie September School in Gauteng, reflects a deeper national failure. Learners are exposed to leaking roofs, broken sanitation, unsafe classrooms and, in some cases, schools that have been closed for months. Educators have reportedly been falling ill due to risky conditions, while learners lose valuable teaching time. What makes this even more unjust is that the same learners are later expected to compete on equal footing with children from well-resourced model schools when they meet at the universities.

We are creating a system where inequality is produced at every level, unequal schools producing unequal outcomes, yet demanding equal performance in higher education and the labour market. This is not equality. This is structural disadvantage. As we approach June 16, we must ask, what are we truly commemorating if learners today face conditions that undermine the very future the youth of 1976 fought for? Ubuntu teaches us that the child's dignity is a responsibility of the society as a whole. When children learn in unsafe conditions, when schools collapse, when months of education are lost without consequences, then our democracy is failing in the most basic morals.

Xitsonga:

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 95

Khanimambo!

Mr E M BATH: House Chairperson, today I want to begin with the learners of Leruntse-Lesedi High School in the North West province. To those learners, their parents and their teachers: you deserved better. No child should have to go and learn in a school that becomes the subject of a petition to Parliament before the provincial government takes notice. While this report concerns one school in the North West province, as my fellow member from ActionSA rightly pointed out, and all of us members in this House know that the Leruntse-Lesedi High School is not alone.

There are schools across South Africa facing similar challenges. Schools with leaking asbestos roofs, schools with broken windows, schools waiting years for repair, mud schools waiting to be replaced, schools where communities have complained, written letters, attended meetings, and raised concerns only to be ignored by the very provincial governments they seek to be served by. That is why this report matters. Because this report tells us something important. The North West department of education knew. The North West department of public works knew. Officials visited the school. Inspections

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 96

were conducted. Reports were compiled. Recommendations were made, yet the problems remained.

So, the obvious question is this. If everyone knew, why did parents have to petition Parliament before any action was taken? The answer is simple. The ANC-run provincial departments in the North West province responsible for education and public works failed those learners. That is the uncomfortable truth of this report. The failure was not a lack of information. The failure was a lack of accountability. The failure was a lack of urgency. The failure was a lack of delivery and care. South Africans are constantly told that these failures are inevitable. We are told there is not enough money. We are told that infrastructure backlogs are unavoidable. We are told that the government is trying its best.

But elsewhere in South Africa, the evidence tells a very different story. In the Western Cape, under DA Education MEC David Maynier, the provincial department of education is expanding opportunity to access. This year alone, the Western Cape department of education is providing 701 additional teaching posts, building 10 new schools, adding 280 classrooms and new and existing schools, and creating space for thousands of additional learners. Through its Rapid School Build

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 97

programme, the province is building new, more accessible and resilient learning spaces in as little as 71 days. That is what a DA-led provincial department does. It plans, it delivers and it opens opportunity. And then, in KwaZulu-Natal, under the DA MEC, Martin Meyer, the provincial department of public works is focused on unblocking stalled infrastructure projects and getting infrastructure delivery back on track. Projects worth hundreds of millions of rands have been unlocked. Menzi High School in Umlazi, delayed for years and disrupted by the construction mafia activity, has finally been delivered. That is what happens when a DA-led department focuses on outcomes rather than excuses. The contrast could not be clearer.

In an ANC-run provincial department, a community petitions Parliament because nobody in that provincial government cares to listen. In a DA-led provincial department, problems are identified and addressed before parents and learners, such as those at the Leruntse-Lesedi High School, become desperate. In an ANC-run provincial department, learners wait. But in a DA-led provincial department, learners learn. That is simply the difference. It's not about geography. It's not about demographics, but 100% about governance.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 98

President Cyril Ramaphosa encouraged ANC public representatives to learn from DA governments that are delivering results. And we agree with the president. Where the DA governs, we simply just govern better. The evidence is there for all to see. The DA departments focus on delivery. The DA departments focus on accountability. The DA departments focus on results. My challenge today is directed to every ANC MEC responsible for education and public works across South Africa. Learn from the best. Learn from what works. Learn from departments that deliver schools instead of reports. Learn from departments that solve problems instead of explaining them. Now is the time for the ANC-run provincial departments across South Africa to listen and to learn from the best.

IsiZulu:

Mnu S MAHLANGU: Sihlalo ohloniphekileyo, namalungu wonke ePhalamende.

English:

The ANC, as the leader of the Government of National Unity, supports the joint report of the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education and the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure. This follows the petition dated 22 April 2025 submitted by Mr N P Pharamela on behalf of the school governing

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 99

body, SGB, of Leruntse-Lesedi High School in North West province, calling for an urgent intervention in schools' dilapidated infrastructure.

We must confront the systematic failures that allow the facility to deteriorate. The circuit, the district, and provincial officials must be held directly accountable for neglecting their oversight obligation. Furthermore, we need to ensure that we empower our schools so that they are capable of handling preventative and minor maintenance before it leads to total dilapidation.

We must encourage our communities to take responsibility to preserving and safeguarding public infrastructure from vandalism and damage. Consequently, we call upon the Minister of Basic Education, together with the Department of Basic Education to resolve all outstanding infrastructure challenges at the school within the strict timelines. Furthermore, this intervention should not be limited to Leruntse-Lesedi High School alone, but it must be extended to all schools across the province facing similar infrastructure challenges.

Additionally, the North West department of education must provide immediate financial management and governance training

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 100

to the SGB while ensuring that any future school restructuring strictly adheres to legal protocols. Our democratic government cannot tolerate classrooms with expired fire extinguishers, leaking roofs, broken floors, missing doors or non-compliant electric systems. While we acknowledge that Leruntse-Lesedi High School has safely transitioned away from traditional pit latrines to operational VIP, precast waterpoints, toilets, our work is far from finished.

In line with our manifesto, we remain resolutely committed to eradicating sanitation backlogs, bridging the urban-rural divide, rolling out nationwide school broadband to give every South African learner universal access to digital economy. The right to dignity and quality education is non-negotiable. We cannot allow administrative delays or oversight failures to compromise the future of our children.

As the ANC, leading the Government of National Unity, we are drawing a line in the sand, demanding rigorous accountability, swift execution and a renewed culture of service delivery across the provinces. Let this joint intervention at Leruntse-Lesedi High School stand as a clear template for what must be achieved nationwide. The people expect action and we must deliver.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 101

To my colleague from the MK, I want to remind him that we are discussing North West here, we are not discussing Gauteng. I can see that you are misinformed. To the DA one, I want to remind him that I want to remind him that the Minister for Basic Education belongs to the DA and he must not come here and grandstand with non-achievement. I thank you, Chair.

[Interjections.]

The ACTING CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY (Mr G J Skosana): Thank you very much, hon House Chair. I move that the report be adopted.

Question put.

Agreed to.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT ON
REQUEST BY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
REGARDING CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT TO TRANSPORT ECONOMIC
COUNCIL.

Mr S D SELAMOLELA: Chair, perhaps as a starting point, let me join the House and those who came before me today in saluting the generation of 1976 and all the martyrs of our revolution

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 102

who perished before 1994. I use this platform to call on the youth of South Africa to register to vote.

I am introducing the report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport on the selection of candidates for the Transport Economic Council, and this report is formally supported by the African National Congress. The strict compliance with legal requirements forms the basis for this support, and all procedural requirements under the Economic Regulation of Transport Act, 2024, have been fully observed in the report.

Public announcement, an extended nomination period, State Security Agency screening, verification, and Companies And Intellectual Property Commission, CIPC, directorship checks were all part of the procedures undertaken to ensure multi-house monitoring. The committee also complied with the duty to consult with the NCOP Select committee with the National Council of Provinces Select Committee.

We must remember that the Transport Economic Council is crucial to South Africa because it creates for the first time a separate and independent appeal process for economic regulation of countries whole transportation sector, which includes roads, rail and ports. This council acts as an independent

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 103

organisation tasked with conducting independent assessment, hearing appeals against decisions made by the Transport Economic Regulator and providing main adjudicative oversight.

This function is essential, because it brings accountability and legal rigour to an industry that has historically been beset by monopolistic practices and inefficiencies. For example, it guarantees that pricing decisions and third-party access to infrastructure are subject to unbiased scrutiny. They are subject to protecting users from unfair practices.

The Transport Economic Council aims to boost investor trust, encourages fair competition and eventually drive the efficiency required to reduce the high cost of logistics that is currently burdening South Africa's economy that we alluded to two days back when we were discussing Vote 1, by establishing a check of regulators' powers and providing a legal avenue for grievances.

Inclusivity, meritocracy and transparency was ensured through political balance. A panel of a multi-party panel, which included the African National Congress, the EFF, uMkhonto weSizwe and Rise Mzansi, conducted the interview and shortlisting process over the course of two days. Candidates' technical proficiency in engineering and economics in transport

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 104

and law was evaluated and there were proactive risk management and governance.

The committee's openness about possible conflicts of interest must be praised. The report displays ethical standards by identifying three candidates who have active directorship or jobs in the transportation sector and mandating such a declaration of accountability and is further strengthened by the Minister's proposal for a probity test.

I submit this report on behalf of the portfolio committee with the ANC's support. I salute the House. Thank you.

Declarations of vote:

Mr S I GAMA: Chairperson, the MK Party stands here to say it understands the process that has been legislated but you cannot be the referee and the striker at the same time. Section 47(2) and 47(3) of the Economic Regulation of Transport Act creates exactly that problem. They drag a parliamentary portfolio committee whose constitutional duties oversight over the executive into the executive's hiring process.

The committee interviews, shortlists and recommends candidates for the Transport Economic Council and then must turn around

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 105

and oversee those very same people. That is not accountability; that is institutional incest. Let us call it what it is.

A committee that helps choose the candidate cannot later pretend to be an impartial watchdog over that same candidate. How do you scrutinise the person you helped put in the chair? How do you summon them before Parliament with a straight face when your own committee had a hand in that appointment? This is the constitutional equivalent of marking your own homework.

The Constitution of the Republic is clear: Parliament oversees the executive, and the executive must appoint; the two must not merge. Oversight requires distance, and independence requires separation. However, this process blurs the line until Parliament becomes part of the machinery it is meant to monitor. If the Minister seeks advice, let her seek advice. If Parliament seeks oversight, let Parliament oversee. But when the portfolio committee participates in interviews and then claims to supervise the results, we have crossed from democracy into confusion. Today it is the Transport Economic Council.

Tomorrow, it will be every board, every council, every appointment process turned into a political arena where oversight is exchanged for influence. Let us be honest: when

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 106

the committee recommends more names than there are vacancies, the Minister is left to select from a parliamentary pre-screened list. This means Parliament has already narrowed the field, shaped the outcomes, and blurred accountability. That process is not lawful in spirit, and we submit it is not lawful in constitutional substance either.

Section 47(2) and section 47(3), to the extent that they force Parliament into the executive recruitment process, are constitutionally suspect and should be reconsidered. Parliament must never become a recruitment agency for the executive. The MK Party says: keep oversight clean, keep appointments separate, and keep Parliament away from the Minister's hiring desk. So, the MK has thought about this for you to amend it. Vote MKP. Thank you.

Mr M B BLOSE: Chairperson, the EFF approaches this report with a measure of a caution. While the committee has completed the procedure prescribed by legislation, the broader context in which these appointments have been made cannot be ignored. South Africa's transport sector remains characterised by inefficiencies and the continued dominance of private interests over the needs of ordinary citizens. The establishment of a capable and independent Transport Economic Council is therefore

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 107

not merely a procedural exercise, but a strategic intervention that will shape the future of transport regulation in our country.

Our concern is that regulatory institutions in South Africa have often become vulnerable to capture, conflict of interest, and undue influence from powerful economic sectors and Ministers. The committee itself notes that some of these recommended candidates have active business interests that may intersect with the transport industry. While this does not automatically disqualify them, it does raise legitimate concerns that independence, impartiality, and public confidence in the work of the council.

Furthermore, the EFF remains concerned about the transformation in key economic sectors that continues to move at an unacceptable slow pace. The transport industry remains largely concentrated and structured to benefit a minority, while workers, commuters, and rural communities continue to face exclusion and poor service delivery. The Transport Economic Council, TSC, must therefore not become another institution that merely manages the status quo, but it must actively contribute towards dismantling barriers to economic

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 108

participation and advancing a transport system that serves the people.

Having said that, the EFF acknowledges that the committee has conducted a thorough and transparent process. The committee considered 73 nominations, shortlisted those candidates on merits, conducted interviews, and subjected the candidates to security and qualification verification. The recommended candidates bring expertise in transport, economic engineering, legal practice, and adjudication, which are critical for the successful functioning of the council.

For these reasons, while we maintain our concerns regarding oversight, transformation, and conflict of interest, the EFF does support this report, and we do expect the Minister to ensure that the final appointments serve the people and not those with white interests. Thank you.

Mr A K NGOBESE: Hon Chair, hon members in the House, the IFP welcomes the election of 11 potential candidates to the Transport Economic Council. We trust that the candidates' diverse expertise across multiple sectors will provide benefits. Their strength across the legal, technical and economic domain will grant the council a renowned perspective.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 109

This is essential given the complexity of the transport-related issues. We note that the three candidates currently hold active employment that may be classified as falling within the transport industry.

The IFP emphasises the importance of the integrity and transparency in official appointments and will provide close oversight to ensure that any conflict of interest is appropriately declared. The IFP supports the report but urges the department to ensure that the final appointments are made within the good of South African citizens in mind.

The council must act as an impartial body that improves the efficiency of our nation's transport infrastructure, not one that undermines it. I thank you.

Mr E HENDRICKS: Hon Chairperson, fellow members, the PA supports the portfolio committee's report on recommending candidates to the Transport Economic Council, TEC. The TEC is not a ceremonial body. It is a strategic structure that shapes economic policies and safety and trade across South Africa. Therefore, appointments must reflect competence, integrity, and genuine transformation. We cannot continue to overlook the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 110

lived realities of the working class. Mfana Kah Gogo and Chief Amakhosi are using transport.

Working-class marginalised communities, especially the so-called coloured communities, suffer most from transport inequalities and remain excluded from strategic decision-making.

Afrikaans:

Die PA praat straight [reguit]. Vir jare sit ons mense vas in 'n transport [vervoerstelsel] wat nie vir hulle werk nie. As die TEC nie mense insluit wat hierdie realiteite verstaan nie, gaan niks op die grond verander nie.

English:

We call for a representative, accountable TEC-driven council by transparent criteria. The final appointments must reflect the diversity and needs of the people who depend on the transport system every day. I thank you.

Ms M P KOBE: Hon House Chair, the establishment of a credible, capable Transport Economic Council is essential to ensuring fair, transparent and evidence-based economic regulation within South Africa's transport sector. The committee undertook a

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 111

thorough process in considering the nominations that are before us today. The candidates were publicly nominated, shortlisted, interviewed and subjected to security screening and qualification verification. The committee further consulted with the relevant NCOP select committee before finalising its recommendations.

It is important to note that the final list reflects a balance of expertise in transport, economics, engineering, law and adjudication. These are precisely the skills that are required to guide a regulator that will have a significant influence on the future of transport infrastructure investment and competition in South Africa.

At the same time, we note the committee's recommendation that the Minister must conduct an additional property assessment before final appointments are made. We note that certain candidates that have interest linked to businesses operating within or potentially operating within the transport sector must fully disclosed any conflicts of interest and managed in accordance with the law and the highest standards of governance.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 112

The success of the Transport Economic Council will ultimately be measured, not by composition alone, but by its independence, professionalism, and ability to make decisions that advance economic growth, improve efficiency and serve public interest.

I thank you.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Chairperson, *As-salaamu-alai-kum*. [Peace be with you.]

Isizulu:

Malibongwe!

English:

Hon Chair, transport is the livelihood of our economy. It connects people to opportunities, enables trade, facilitates tourism and supports economic growth. The effectiveness of our transport sector depends not only on infrastructure and investment, but also on sound governance and expert oversight.

As we consider the report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport regarding recommendations for candidates to be appointed to the Transport Economic Council, this is an important responsibility entrusted to Parliament to ensure that suitably qualified, experienced and ethical individuals are

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 113

appointed to guide economic regulation and policy within the transport sector.

The Transport Economic Council has a critical role to play in promoting fairness, efficiency, competitiveness and sustainability across various modes of transport. Its decisions and advice can have far-reaching implications for consumers, businesses, investors and the broader economy. We therefore commend the portfolio committee for conducting a transparent and rigorous process in assessing the suitability of candidates and ensuring that the recommendations made are in the best interests of our country.

As Parliament, our duty is to support institutions that strengthen accountability, improve service delivery, and advance economic development. We trust that those appointed will discharge their responsibilities with independence, professionalism, integrity and a commitment to the public good.

South Africa requires a transport sector that is efficient, affordable, accessible and capable of supporting inclusive economic growth. The quality of leadership within our institutions remains fundamental to achieve these objectives.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 114

Aljam-ah supports the adoption of this report and wishes the successful candidates ... [Time expired.]

IsiZulu:

Malibongwe!

Dr C H H HUNSINGER: Fellow South Africans, hon colleagues and members of the House, the Democratic Alliance welcomes this crucial milestone in South Africa's transport sector.

The establishment of the Transport Economic Council, TEC, under the Economic Regulation of Transport Act, Act 6 of 2024 represents a monumental shift. It is a change that can either help rescue our failing transport network sectors or trap them in a cycle of state-driven mediocracy.

The DA's position on the final recommended list of 11 candidates submitted to the Minister of Transport is clear. Appointments to state bodies must be built entirely on merit, transparency and a steadfast refusal to tolerate political favouritism. For too long, South Africa's critical state infrastructure, from collapsing rail networks to deteriorating roads, has suffered under the weight of political patronage.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 115

The DA has consistently fought to abolish cadre deployment in favour of merit-based appointments.

The TEC will act as a review body and a regulatory referee. It will oversee billions of rand in transport infrastructure and settle immense market disputes; definitely not a resting place for political buddies. We look at the recommended list before us, led preferentially by qualified experts like Dr Jackson Moyana and Mr Percy Manzini. We stress that our criteria must remain uncompromisingly rigid. Every candidate must possess impeccable professional credentials and absolute independence.

The DA has previously flagged structural flaws within the Economic Regulation of Transport Framework, particularly its potential for over-regulation and under-checked discretionary power. To counter this, the TEC requires an exact balance of technical skills. The law dictates that the council must include robust experience in law, economics, accounting and the transport sector itself.

During the shortlisting phase, our parliamentary team noted a worrying shortfall – an abundance of legal background but a severe deficit in accounting skills. While we acknowledge the inclusion of highly skilled economists like Dr Sean Muller and

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 116

Mrs Anchal Baniparsadh, the DA insists that future appointments must explicitly prioritise rigorous financial accounting expertise. Without deep financial scrutiny, this council will struggle to curb the waste of public funds.

Furthermore, the DA advocates for the highest standards of ethical vetting and public transparency. We must ensure that the five nominees previously flagged as ineligible, due to overlapping roles in the Transport Economic Regulator Board, remain strictly excluded. Zero tolerance should apply for the dual membership or private-corporate ties that stand to benefit the Council's rulings.

The DA will attentively monitor the final selection process, while we must guarantee that no appointee possesses a conflict of interest that could compromise the integrity of our transport sector. The DA believes that the TEC must not become a vehicle for heavy-handed state intervention. Instead, the newly appointed council members must adopt a pro-growth, pro-market approach. They must foster fair private-sector competition, protect independent operators and minimise regulatory bottlenecks.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 117

We do accept the 11 recommended candidates as a functional baseline, but we issue a firm warning to the Minister that the DA will act as a steadfast watchdog in Parliament, and we will ensure that those appointed do serve the interests of the South African public, not any political masters. Let us, therefore, build a capable, efficient and clean state that gets South Africa moving again. I thank you.

Mr C N MALEMATJA: Hon members, colleagues, Minister of Transport in absentia, we are gathered here today recommend a candidate to the TEC, which is a crucial advisory body that drives strategic growth and transformation in our transport sector. As the African National Congress leading the Government of National Unity, GNU, we declare our support to the committee as we believe that from the evidence provided, due process was followed and the best amongst the candidates were chosen.

The Economic Regulation of Transport Act, Act 6 of 2024 states that the TEC is an important organisation. Economic control of freight, rail and transportation is part of its duty in order to promote investment, efficiency and affordability in South Africa's logistics industry. The ANC is of the view that everything was fully constitutional.

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 118

IsiZulu:

Savumelana. [We agreed upon.]

English:

We are aware of the regrettable delay since the 2024 *Gazette* note. This report offers a final tenable shortlist that adheres to parliamentary deadlines.

The TEC plays a very important role in shaping transport policies, fostering collaboration and ensuring that our infrastructure supports economic development. For the Department of Transport, DoT, the TEC is a key partner in achieving its mandate to provide safe, sufficient and sustainable transport systems that connect people, goods and services. By providing expert advice on economic regulation, investment strategies and innovation, the TEC helps us to navigate complex challenges and seize opportunity.

For South Africa, the TEC work impacts on economic competitiveness, job creation and social inclusion. Our transport networks are the backbone of the economy, and the council's recommendation will help us ensure they support growth, reduce cost and improve accessibility. As we strive to

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 119

increase trade, boost tourism and create jobs, the TEC's input is invaluable.

The need for the TEC is clear. Our transport sector must adapt to rapid technological changes, infrastructure demands and environmental challenges. These councils bring expertise and stakeholder engagement to the table, ensuring our decisions are informed and impactful. Whether it is addressing congestion, improving public transport or integrating new technologies, the TEC will help us make strategic decisions that benefit the country. The DoT's mandate is to lead and regulate the sector in national interests. The TEC is a critical enabler in this mission.

We urge the Minister to consider this recommendation and work with the council to propel our transport sector forward, drive growth, transformation and service delivery. A well-functioning TEC is essential for our country's progress. We look forward to the Minister's consideration and the council's future work. The African National Congress affirms its complete support for the report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport.

On the request by the Minister of Transport to make recommendations regarding candidates for appointment to the

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 120

TEC, dated 26 May 2026, which emphasised the legal compliance to any vetting merit-based diversity transparency on conflict and strengthening of transport's economic regulation. The ANC urged the House to approve this report and asked the Minister of Transport to take into account the 11 candidates on the preference list as submitted, with the option to conduct additional probity testing if needed, in order to operationalise the TEC in the public interest. The appointment procedure must now be completed as soon as possible.

IsiZulu:

Ngempela savumelana. [We really agreed upon.]. [Ihlombe.]
[Applause.]

English:

The MK, "savumelana", Hon Gana, through the Chair, savumelana, EFF is not by accident, savumelana, it was transparent and fair ... [Interjections.]. IFP, savumelana, it was transparent and fair. PA, you were not there, it's by mistake to come and read. FF is unfortunately there. ActionSA, savumelana, no other words can take that. Al Jama-ah, savumelana ... [Interjections.].
UAT, it's not by mistake that for the first time you are not coming here, it's because savumelana. DA, the elevating of black people to positions of responsibility is not cadre

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 121

development, it is transformation, and cadreship is by choice and rights. This is transformation. We are dealing with the legacy of apartheid. Savumelana. Thank you so much.

[Interjections.]

There was no debate.

Question put: That the recommendation for appointment of Dr Hlengani Jackson Moyana, Mr Percy Manzini, Dr Sean Mfundza Muller, Adv Lavandran Nanda Gopaul, Ms Anchal Baniparsadh, Ms Snenhlanhla/Sinenhlanhla Thuleleni Mthembu, Ms Tsakane Zwane (Radebe), Dr Malindi Joy Sundie Neluheni, Dr Bongani Dominic Mqoco, Ms Penelope Anne Beck (Paxton), Adv Derrick Block to the Transport Economic Council be approved.

Question agreed to.

Recommendation of Dr Hlengani Jackson Moyana, Mr Percy Manzini, Dr Sean Mfundza Muller, Adv Lavandran Nanda Gopaul, Ms Anchal Baniparsadh, Ms Snenhlanhla/Sinenhlanhla Thuleleni Mthembu, Ms Tsakane Zwane (Radebe), Dr Malindi Joy Sundie Neluheni, Dr Bongani Dominic Mqoco, Ms Penelope Anne Beck (Paxton), Adv Derrick Block to the Transport Economic Council accordingly

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 122

approved in accordance with section 47(3) of the Economic Regulation of Transport Act, Act 6 of 2024.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE PRESIDENCY ON
BUDGET VOTE 1: THE PRESIDENCY

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF PARLIAMENT ON DRAFT 2026-27 ANNUAL
PERFORMANCE PLAN AND BUDGET OF PARLIAMENT OF RSA

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HIGHER
EDUCATION ON DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND
ENTITIES' 2026-27 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS AND MEDIUM-TERM
EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK PROJECTIONS

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE ON BUDGET FOR SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE - CRIME
INTELLIGENCE

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE ON BUDGET FOR DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 123

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE ON BUDGET VOTE 8: NATIONAL TREASURY - STATE
SECURITY

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE ON
BUDGET VOTE 8: NATIONAL TREASURY

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON TRADE,
INDUSTRY AND COMPETITION ON BUDGET VOTE 39: TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
COMPETITION

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SMALL
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ON 2026-27 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS AND
BUDGET VOTE 36: DEPARTMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FOR
2026-27 FINANCIAL YEAR

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS ON BUDGET VOTE 33 OF DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS AND ENTITIES FOR 2026-27 FINANCIAL YEAR

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON LAND REFORM
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ON VOTE 42: LAND REFORM AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 124

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND
MILITARY VETERANS ON BUDGET VOTE 26: DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
VETERANS

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND
MILITARY VETERANS ON BUDGET VOTE 23: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT ON BUDGET VOTE 19, ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS OF
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTITIES FOR 2026-27
FINANCIAL YEAR

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT
AND LABOUR ON BUDGET VOTE 31: EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR ON
STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030 AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN 2026-27

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND CO-OPERATION ON BUDGET VOTE 6: INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND CO-OPERATION

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION ON ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN 2026-27
AND BUDGET VOTE 12 OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 125

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION ON ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS 2026-27
AND BUDGET VOTE 11 OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND
ADMINISTRATION

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION ON ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN 2026-27
AND BUDGET VOTE 7 OF NATIONAL SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ON BUDGET VOTE 35: SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION 2026-27

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON MINERAL AND
PETROLEUM RESOURCES ON 2026-27 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN AND
BUDGET VOTE 34: DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
ON 2026-27 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS AND BUDGET VOTE 29:
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND ENTITIES

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY,
FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT ON STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-26 - 2029-

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 126

30, ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS 2026-27 AND BUDGET VOTE 32 OF
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON BASIC
EDUCATION ON BUDGET VOTE 16: BASIC EDUCATION

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON POLICE ON
BUDGET VOTE 28 AND 2026-27 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN OF
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON POLICE ON
2026-27 BUDGET VOTE 24 AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN OF
INDEPENDENT POLICE INVESTIGATIVE DIRECTORATE

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON POLICE ON
2026-27 BUDGET VOTE 21 AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN OF CIVILIAN
SECRETARIAT FOR POLICE SERVICE

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
VOTE 5: HOME AFFAIRS

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH
AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ON ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN AND

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 127

BUDGET VOTE 20 OF DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2026-27

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PLANNING,
MONITORING AND EVALUATION ON ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN AND BUDGET
2026-27 FOR BUDGET VOTE 4: BRAND SOUTH AFRICA

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SPORT, ARTS
AND CULTURE ON BUDGET VOTE 37: DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND
CULTURE

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND
CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON BUDGET VOTE 27: OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF JUSTICE AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR 2026-27 OF OFFICE
OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND
CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON VOTE 25: JUSTICE AND
CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR 2026-27

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON
BUDGET VOTE 18: HEALTH, ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN OF DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND ENTITIES

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026
Page: 128

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES ON BUDGET VOTE 30:

COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PLANNING,
MONITORING AND EVALUATION ON ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN AND BUDGET
2026-27 FOR BUDGET VOTE 14: STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PLANNING,
MONITORING AND EVALUATION ON ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN AND BUDGET
2026-27 FOR BUDGET VOTE 9: DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, MONITORING
AND EVALUATION

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON ELECTRICITY
AND ENERGY ON REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030, 2026-27 ANNUAL
PERFORMANCE PLAN AND BUDGET VOTE 10 OF DEPARTMENT OF
ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY AND ENTITIES

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM ON
BUDGET VOTE 38: TOURISM

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 129

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WATER AND
SANITATION ON BUDGET VOTE 41 OF DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND
SANITATION AND ENTITIES FOR 2026-27 FINANCIAL YEAR

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT ON
BUDGET VOTE 40: TRANSPORT AND STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL
PERFORMANCE PLAN 2026-27 OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES ON BUDGET VOTE 4:
GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND INFRASTRUCTURE ON BUDGET VOTE 13: PUBLIC WORKS AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONAL
SERVICES ON BUDGET VOTE 22 AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR
2026-27, INCLUDING ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN AND BUDGET OF
JUDICIAL INSPECTORATE FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE
GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS ON BUDGET VOTE, ANNUAL

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 130

**PERFORMANCE PLANS AND STRATEGIC PLANS OF DEPARTMENTS OF CO-
OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS AND ENTITIES**

There was no debate.

Mr G J SKOSANA: Hon Deputy Speaker, I move: That the Reports be adopted.

Report on Budget Vote 1: The Presidency accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Draft 2026-27 Annual Performance Plan and budget of Parliament of RSA accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Department of Higher Education and Training and entities' 2026-27 Annual Performance Plans and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework projections accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 131

Report on Budget for South African Police Service - Crime Intelligence accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget for Defence Intelligence accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 8: National Treasury - State Security accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 8: National Treasury accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 39: Trade, Industry and Competition accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on 2026-27 Annual Performance Plans and Budget Vote 36: Department of Small Business Development for 2026-27 financial year accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 132

Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation
dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 33: Department of Human Settlements and
entities for 2026-27 financial year accordingly adopted
(uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United
Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 42: Land Reform and Rural Development
accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom
Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 26: Department of Military Veterans
accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom
Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 23: Department of Defence accordingly
adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and
United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 19, Annual Performance Plans of
Department of Social Development and entities for 2026-27
financial year accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party,

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 133

Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 31: Employment and Labour on Strategic Plan 2025-2030 and Annual Performance Plan 2026-27 accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 6: International Relations and Co-Operation accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Annual Performance Plan 2026-27 and Budget Vote 12: Public Service Commission accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Annual Performance Plans 2026-27 and Budget Vote 11: Department of Public Service and Administration accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 134

Report on Annual Performance Plan 2026-27 and Budget Vote 7: National School of Government accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 35: Science, Technology and Innovation 2026-27 accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on 2026-27 Annual Performance Plan and Budget Vote 34: Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on 2026-27 Annual Performance Plans and Budget Vote 29: Department of Agriculture and entities accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Strategic Plan 2025-26 – 2029-30, Annual Performance Plans 2026-27 and Budget Vote 32: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment accordingly adopted (uMkhonto

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 135

weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 16: Basic Education accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 28 and 2026-27 Annual Performance Plan of Department of Police, South African Police Service, accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on 2026-27 Budget Vote 24 and Annual Performance Plan of Independent Police Investigative Directorate accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on 2026-27 Budget Vote 21 and Annual Performance Plan of Civilian Secretariat for Police Service accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 136

Report on Budget Vote 5: Home Affairs accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Annual Performance Plan Budget Vote 20: Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities for financial year 2026-27 accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Annual Performance Plan and budget 2026-27 for Budget Vote 4: Brand South Africa accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 37: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 27: Office of the Chief Justice and Annual Performance Plan for 2026-27 of Office of the Chief Justice accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 137

Report on Budget Vote 25: Justice and Constitutional Development for 2026-27 accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 18: Health, Annual Performance Plan of Department of Health and entities accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 30: Communications and Digital Technologies accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Annual Performance Plan and Budget 2026-27 for Budget Vote 14: Statistics South Africa accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Annual Performance Plan and Budget 2026-27 for Budget Vote 9: Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 138

Report on Revised Strategic Plan 2025-2030, 2026-27 Annual Performance Plan and Budget Vote 10: Department of Electricity and Energy and entities accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 38: Tourism accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 41: Department of Water and Sanitation and entities for 2026-27 financial year accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 40: Transport and Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan 2026-27 of Department of Transport accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 4: Government Communication and Information System accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

UNREVISED HANSARD
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

Page: 139

Report on Budget Vote 13: Public Works and Infrastructure accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote 22 and Annual Performance Plan for 2026-27, including Annual Performance Plan and Budget of Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report on Budget Vote, Annual Performance Plans and strategic plans of Departments of Co-Operative Governance and Traditional Affairs and entities accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

The House adjourned at 17:14.