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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 15:00.

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

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

CLUSTER 3 - GOVERNANCE

Question 187:

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon Speaker, proclamation 176 of 2024 has already been passed and as you rightfully said it was to transfer the administration and powers function of legislation pertaining to state-owned enterprises, SOEs, which were under the Ministry of Public Enterprises, to line departments that are now responsible.

The process is as follows. The transfer of those SOEs has now been done as from the day that the proclamation was actually

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passed. How are we going to move forward as it relates to ensuring that the new National State Enterprises Bill is passed? We have already brought the Bill back to Parliament to be resuscitated. It will obviously go through the processes of Parliament and we will then be able to ensure that whatever needs to be done is done at that particular time. Thank you.

Ms A N KUMBACA: Hon Minister, recognising that different countries have different shareholder models, what benchmarking was done by the Presidential State-Owned Enterprises Council which resulted in the proposed shareholder model in the National State Enterprises Bill?

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: The benchmarking process had started a few years back and China was one of the countries that the council went to, as well as Malaysia and Singapore. However, at the end of the day it was decided that maybe the best model would be the one of Singapore, also looking at the conditions of South Africa and making sure that we domesticate the kinds of challenges that we have, and the developmental and commercial agenda that our SOEs have.

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Mr N S MATIASE: Madam Speaker, we welcome the decision to move SOEs from the former Public Enterprises to different respective Ministries. That will enhance accountability and transparency.

However, we want to know what measures are in place that will ensure that accountability and transparency which was avoided through Pravin Gordhan's era of mismanagement ... such accountability is forced even beyond his tenure as a Minister while he lies on his sick bed ... that he is not left unescaped ...

The SPEAKER: No, hon member.

Mr N S MATIASE: ... and that he must answer to all administrative ... and decisions that he made that has caused the country so much, including the sale of the SA Airways, SAA ... [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Your time has expired, hon member.

Mr N S MATIASE: What measures are in place, hon Speaker?

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The SPEAKER: We take the question. Hon members, I will appeal to you for sensitivity to families and individuals. We might have a difference of opinion with members but I think it's important for us ... No, no, no, hon member, there was a statement made and I'm just cautioning all of us because it may be that on the other side of the House such sensitivities are not respected. Hon Minister, if you can please answer the question on accountability.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon Speaker, obviously the SOEs do come and account to Parliament from time to time through the respective Ministries. However, what we are going to do ourselves through the holding company is to establish a framework where oversight will be played respectively, ensuring that at least the shareholder model that we will be using will allow Cabinet and other relevant institutions to receive reports with regard to budgeting on the shareholder model as I already said, the board of directors as well as all the other operational issues that may be necessary for us to really be able to ensure that the oversight role that is needed is played effectively.

Mr T L MONTANA: Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that the Department of Public Enterprises did not inspire any

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confidence, failing in its key responsibilities on shareholder responsibility and major restructuring initiatives. We are concerned about the protection of the information side of that process. So we want to get the assurance that pertinent and key documents, contracts and performance information of the former department, not the future agency, but the current disbanded department, will be protected and not misplaced so that we as Members of Parliament can get access to that information and ask the right questions, and even check the transactions, particularly the SAA transaction. We are quite interested in that, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: As much as the department is closed the Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation still has executive oversight over it. It is still the executive authority. As a result we will make sure that we do protect the assets of the state, including the information that is needed so that it can be accessible because Parliament has the right to look for whatever information that they need because as we ensure that you play your oversight role you should play it with information that is relevant.

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The SPEAKER: Hon N L S Kwankwa? Hon Kwankwa or the representative? Hon Hadebe?

Mr N M HADEBE: Speaker, the IFP will take this question.

The SPEAKER: Is that by arrangement?

Mr N M HADEBE: By arrangement of course. Hon Minister, we can all agree that SOEs have been a huge drag on South Africa's economic growth rate and public finances. Considering this, as the Minister new to this department what oversight methods will your department employ over the implementation of the National State Enterprises Bill to ensure that previous mistakes are not repeated?

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon Speaker, as I've already said the model that we are going to use is going to allow Cabinet to also have a direct oversight role to receive information so that whatever it is that happens we must ensure that it is in line with the commercial and developmental role that our SOEs should have. The oversight that we are going to be playing with the new model that we are going to put in place will allow Cabinet to receive reports in making sure that we do at least receive reports on how we are going to deal with issues that are a

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challenge, for example the issue of how we appoint boards of directors. It should be uniform so that when we play our oversight role we know exactly how to measure performance and ensure that whatever it is that was agreed upon as a plan is actually implemented.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Hon members, in the question that has just been asked by the IFP, I'm sure you might have noted that I spoke to the secretary of the House to just check what happened in terms of this matter. Ideally as you know, within the same party there would be a representative who would take up that question. However, it does seem that there was a report to the Table that the UDM would not take that question any longer so that slot was then taken by the IFP. I just thought it's important for me to clarify. He was not standing in for the other party. The other party said they were not taking their question.

However, where such things happen we will have to look at whether it can just be a matter of parties ... amongst themselves or should we have a framework within the rules that allow that. I just thought I needed to explain that to hon members. Hon Ntlangwini?

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Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: House Chair, this House is governed by a set of rules and what just happened now and what seems to be a tendency where people just jump the rules must never be allowed. If they had a gentleman's agreement amongst themselves as government of national unity, GNU, partners that's ... them but they must bring it to us and inform us because we have done our bit as a political party and sent to the Table Staff ... which other members can't take the question so that members of the House can take the questions. This must never be allowed, Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: I've moved from being House Chair to Speaker. Thank you very much, hon Ntlangwini. However, as indicated that's why I thought it's important for me to appreciate that indeed there was an anomaly to what is done. I do think that the Rules Committee will need to deal with that matter so that in future we have very clear frameworks on how we operate when there is such ... I agree it shouldn't happen again. Thank you very much, members for your understanding.

We now move to Question 173 which has been asked by hon Labuschagne to the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. The question is about the determination

of the total number of municipalities in South Africa that are currently financially viable. Hon Minister?

Question 173:

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Speaker, responding to these questions, there is currently one system used by the Treasury to classify municipalities that are financially viable or financially distressed. In terms of that report, 157 municipalities are classified as financially distressed which means that, only 100 municipalities are financially viable. But the Department of Co-Operative Governance and Traditional Affairs has its own mechanism of classifying municipalities. Sixty-one municipalities are classified as financially viable and not distressed, 161 are at risk and only 35 municipalities are classified as financially distressed.

Speaker, If I can add for the benefit of members, there are many factors that contribute to municipalities to be financially unviable. For instance, firstly, a poor or no revenue base is a major factor. Secondly, R21 billion is owed to municipalities by the departments. That is another contributing factor. Let alone the money owed by business and households. But the government departments should play a major

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role in assisting municipalities to be taken out of the dysfunctional or financial status. This will set a good tone to ordinary citizens that government is paying and the businesspeople are also paying. This will play a major role in assisting all municipalities to pay out of financial distress. Thank you, Speaker.

Ms C LABUSCHAGNE: Hon Speaker, let me thank the Minister for his honest answer. Given the situation that you spelt out for us, Minister, there is an argument that the funding model of municipalities needs to be revisited and it became a regular feature of debates on various platforms. This is especially because citizens of dysfunctional and distressed municipalities do not get service delivery as money is not spent where it should be, further escalating the already unbearable high cost of living.

Now, the Centre for Development and Enterprise, CDE, proposed at a high-level expert panel that a task team should relook the structure and financing of local government. Minister, would you undertake to establish such a team in collaboration with the Treasury, to compile a new financial model for municipalities, considering these various factors, which you

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also mentioned, and if so, please give us some detail about it. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Speaker, the Ministry has indeed adopted the adopted a theme, Every Municipality Must Work. Two weeks ago, the Cabinet established the Inter-Ministerial team, which is composed of various Ministries, including Treasury. On 30 August, we had a meeting with the Minister of Finance where we identified items that must be dealt with to turn around the financial situation in our municipalities. One of them is a new funding model. We are determined to set up a team out of the engagement in the Inter-Ministerial team which will look at the funding model, especially the municipalities that cannot be financially sustainable on their own and the way they are funded should be different from what has been designed further. In that team, we will be working with the SA Local Government Association, Salga and the Demarcation Board. One other thing that must be done, is a revisit to other municipalities whether it is viable to keep them or re-demarcate them to where they will be financially viable so that services reach the people of our country.

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Mr W W WESSELS: Hon Speaker, hon Minister, in 2014, the back-to-basics programme was implemented by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. At that stage, according to the department, there were less than 85 municipalities that were not doing well. According to your answer today, there are 196 municipalities that are not doing well. That clearly shows that the back-to-basics programme has not succeeded in addressing the challenges on municipal level. There is a Financial and Fiscal Commission report that states that, one of the reasons for the state of our local government is the amalgamation of municipalities and the very big municipal units that it created. Would you consider Minister, to have a revisit and really look at the model of local government and to go and look that municipalities should rather be smaller which are efficient than these large unmanageable units?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Speaker, the number of distressed municipalities is 157 and not 197, hon member. As I said, the team includes Salga and the Demarcation Board. We will have to revisit the modelling of our municipalities. It is not always correct to say a bigger municipality will not be able to function, and a smaller municipality will be efficient and vice versa. The

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functionality of a municipality at most depends on the political leadership and the administrative leadership.

We have metropolitan municipalities and only one metropolitan municipality got the clean audit. They have every money. So, now the size of the municipality is not an issue. The issue is the political leadership and administrative leadership in the municipality that is able to turn things around. This leadership style must produce solutions in terms of how to collect revenue from the citizens and how to spend it and to report the money available. We will revisit the re-demarcation of some of the municipalities, especially those which do not have a revenue base to collect.

Mr W M THRING: Hon Speaker, Minister, academics from the North-West University and University Pretoria showed several studies which show that 1% in infrastructure growth is associated with 1% growth in GDP. With only 34 of 257 municipalities, or 13%, obtained a clean audit, six municipalities had adverse findings, 14 had disclaimers with findings and three obtained outstanding audits. The alarm bells should be ringing loudly about the impending collapse of infrastructure and service delivery in the affected municipalities.

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Now Minister, what Financial Recovery Plan, FRPs and or Municipal Support and Intervention, MSIP to support dysfunctional municipalities. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Speaker, as I said, the Inter-Ministerial team is going to produce a turnaround plan. We have categorised municipalities. The 35 dysfunctional municipalities will be our first focus point because that is where you have 10 worst performing municipalities in South Africa. Also, that is where you have 12 municipalities who got disclaimers. I do want to emphasize this one, hon speaker, of the audit outcome, as presented by the Auditor-General, on clean audit. There was a draw but in terms of unqualified and qualified audit outcomes, there was improvement. In terms of disclaimer, the previous report shows 22 municipalities with disclaimer but the latest report shows only 12 municipalities with disclaimer.

We have looked at this audit outcome report and have identified the municipalities where we will zoom in as a priority. The commitment we made in the Cabinet was that, after 21 days from 2 weeks ago, we will present a turnaround plan with three categories in terms of period. Firstly, four months target, secondly, six months target and lastly, 12

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months target. In these periods, we have short-term goals, medium-term goals and long-term goals and we are convinced through collaborative efforts with all the Ministries in the team. We will turn things around and with the co-operation of the municipalities, things will not be the same. Thank you very much, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Salie, from Aljahm-ah. There is no one representing the party, so we will now move. No, no, hon Gama, no exchange of time. We are now moving to the next question.

Question 188:

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: Hon Speaker, significant strides have been made in this regard by the department, which includes the following: We have issued Directive on Human Resources Management and Development for Public Service Professionalisation, Volume 1 of 16 February this year, officially taking effect from 01 April 2024. This directive is, fundamental in the submission of the meritocratic recruitment and selection process that vigorously evaluates candidates based on their competencies, skills and knowledge.

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It also stipulates that all national and provincial departments should undertake thorough integrity and competence assessment, acquiring pre-entry certificates for entry to senior management and complete and mandatory technical assessment as an integral selection process. We have also conducted izimbizo sessions with this targeting senior managers with the provincial sphere of government.

Hon Speaker, these sessions are crucial in aligning leadership at all levels with professionalisation framework principles in addressing specific challenges in provincial context. Also, as the department we have committed to support the continuous implementation of the framework across national and provincial governments, through workshops designed to educate and train departmental staff on the new standards and process.

We have also issued several circulars through the director-general, DG that articulate the government strategic intentions and provide detailed guidance on operationalising the professionalisation framework. Hon Speaker, the department also aims through this initiative to foster a culture of excellence and integrity that meets the needs of South African public, efficiently and effectively.

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On the second part of the question which relates to retention of specific skills, the department is currently in the process of finalising development of the remuneration policy for public service. This policy is aligned to the need for the state efficiency, effectiveness and realisation of government's goals and objectives through appropriate remuneration regime in its various dynamics across the public service, including the organs of state.

Hon Speaker, the remuneration policy, will also promote direct and encourage justifiable and effective, efficient and sustainable remuneration practices that will simultaneously ensure the attraction, recruitment and retention of talent and professional individuals to enhance our productivity as the state. Thank you.

Ms W TIKANA-GXOTHIWE: Minister, the organisational culture of public service of Batho Pele principles is prevalent in many aspects. But we also have public servants who do not practice the Batho Pele principles. What measures are in place to build a public service that is driven by Batho Pele principles and innovation to solve problems and provide service as part of transforming our society? Thank you.

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The MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: Hon Speaker, and thank you hon member for the follow-up question. First and foremost, I think we should appreciate the fact that as the department we view public servants, as the heart of the engine advancing the development agenda of the of the state.

In terms of the Batho Pele principles, as we are here now, this is a public service month where we've got a number of interventions. We're visiting different service points where we assess the service delivery by different departments. So as the department we're making sure that there are number of things that we need to take into account including the wellness of all employees to make sure that they live up to the Batho Pele principles.

We are also saying that it shouldn't be just about the Batho Pele principles, we must embody these principles and these values as government officials and government employees. But so much has happened within government that needs our attention because the staff morale is low because of a number of reasons.

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So, addressing all this myriad of challenges that employees are facing, we will be able to inculcate the culture of ethics and a deep sense of duty from all our employees. Thank you.

Mrs H DENNER: Hon Minister, through you Speaker, we've experienced mass skills exodus in South Africa, especially in our public service. Let me just say, I welcome the fact that merit-based appointments will be prioritised by the department.

Minister, back to the skills exodus, I'd like to know, does your department have any plans to bring back ex public servants who were lost to the public service due to things like political pressure and discriminating legislation among others, who have the required skills, expertise and experience to assist with better service delivery and with the professionalisation of the public service?

If there aren't any such plans, is there something that your department would consider assisting to bring better service delivery with these required skills, expertise and experience to the people of South Africa. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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The MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: Speaker, I think when it comes to the issue of skills within the public service, firstly one should not lose sight of the fact that we do have public servants with the relevant skills and who are able to deliver on their mandate. I think in the main we've got a number of programmes that seeks to educate, reskill and also develop the already employed people in the system.

Therefore, if there are some people have been lost in the system due to other issues, we will encourage them that when there are such opportunities, there are adverts or posts that are there, they should apply and come through that process as opposed to targeting them just like that. But we must emphasise that we do have skills within the public sector.

It's all a matter of motivating them and reskilling them to be able to adapt to the modern challenges they are facing. Thank you.

Mr M A MAIMANE: Hon Minister, I think it is notable the fact that remuneration is a critical component in attraction of skills to public service. The second component of that, I would argue is the sense of performance. Therefore, in the light of that particular aspect Minister, we all know of the

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R21 million paid to the two Transnet executives we have just exited.

The question fundamentally is that what do we do? Do we curb the practice where at public service regardless of the state with which the institution has been left under, compensation is done as what is called "exit for executives" who leave institutions in dire spaces.?

Is there any way that we can curb that practice so that we can ensure that when people leave institutions that are remunerated, that performance is also linked to the same or is it just guarantee? Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: Speaker, one of our intentions at the department is to make sure that performance and compensation are aligned. So, it would be very important that when we address issues of payments to officials also the issue of performance is also taken into account.

Because what you see in the main, in the public space, we just compensate employees for the sake of compensating them without taking into account the issue of performance, to an extent that you get people getting performance bonuses, yet their departments are underperforming in their work.

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So, that is one thing that we are going to address to make sure that you get a performance bonus as it says because you have performed. And also, every remuneration that you get as an employee is on the basis of how you have performed in that particular field.

Mr F ADAMS: We are covered Speaker. Thank you.

Question 157:

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Hon Speaker, hon members, to respond to part one of the question: On an annual basis our department monitors the indicators contained in the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and produce a report for Cabinet approval and that report is shared with the Department of Basic Education.

This information is collected from the Department of Basic Education to track progress and show compliance and promote accountability. Part of the report focuses on the training of teachers in education institutions.

Part two of the question: A research report on access to educational support and services for children and young people

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with disabilities has been finalized and will be submitted to Cabinet for approval and it will also be shared with the Department of Basic Education to guide them in their review of Education White Paper too.

Additionally, the Department of Basic Education and all other sector departments submit annual implementation plans on mandatory policy framework including reasonable accommodation, universal design and access plans and disability rights awareness plans.

These departments also participate in the National Disability Rights Machinery to shape the disability agenda in the education sector. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

Adv S SALIE: Hon Speaker, I'm covered. Thank you, hon Minister.

The SPEAKER: Hon Adams!

Mr F ADAMS: I'm covered. Thank you, Speaker.

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The SPEAKER: Adams, it's another Adams that ... Order, hon members. There's another Ms R C Adams, who is the one who's doing a follow up question.

Ms R C ADAMS: He's not my cousin ...

The SPEAKER: I think your brother didn't know that you were here. [Laughter.] Okay, you can take the question.

Ms R C ADAMS: Hon Speaker, statistical data is critical in the production of data which informs reset and decisions of policy and implementation.

What measures is the department taking to ensure diverse disaggregation of data is focusing on person with disabilities with Statistics SA, StatsSA, and other research institutions? I thank you.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Hon Adams, the department is working closely with StatsSA on the disaggregation of data, focusing on disabilities.

I must indicate that, that data is sitting with various organisations and departments in line with their mandates. But

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dues to us being under resourcing, the centralisation of that data is not happening as we would wish to because of us being under resourced.

However, we are working together with StatsSA on various projects that include the ... we are conducting disability-specific survey that is going to provide reliable data disability prevalence in the country.

But also, for purposes of inclusive monitoring, the department advocates with all departments that ... all data that is captured in terms of programmes has to cover issues such as beneficiaries [Time expired.] ... [Inaudible.] ... disabilities. Thank you very much.

Mrs L L VAN DER MERWE: Hon Minister, I think when it's all said and done, the fact of the matter is despite the frameworks, the good intentions, that we are failing people with disabilities, in particular children. In fact, in rural areas families will often tell us that if they cannot take their children to school themselves, those children will not have access to education.

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And so, when families can't look after children with disabilities and when schools can't look after them, it's often in non-governmental organizations, NGOs, that stand in the gap. Yet many NGOs are closing their doors because the Department of Social Development have cut their funding.

So, I would like to ask: As the person in charge or the custodian of people with disabilities, their rights, what will you be doing to speak to your counterpart, the Minister of Social Development, to ensure that at least we do not cut the funding of NGOs that look after persons with disabilities? I thank you.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:
Hon Speaker, I think, firstly, it is for us to interact with the Department of Basic Education because, indeed, they are the ones that are supposed to offer education to our children.

With regard to the Education White Paper number six, there were gaps there in terms of resources, in terms of infrastructure, in terms of everything. We're looking at that and we are contributing to the policy that they are reviewing; the very policy that they are reviewing right now.

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We're also contributing to the legislation that they are drafting so that the plight of young disabled children is not just put there for anyone, but they also become part of South Africa and they're taken care of, first by government and, of course, anybody else.

We will continue to engage with other government departments, including social development on such issues. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Minister, I think there was the last part of the question relating to funding of NGOs that work on the disability space,

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Hon Speaker, indeed, the funding of NGOs is the responsibility of the Department of Social Development. Like we are saying, we will engage them, particularly when it comes to issues related to the education of our young persons with disabilities, but including government itself to say, they too should acquire and get education that is fit for purpose in taking into account their disabilities. Thank you.

Ms C WILSKUT: Minister, can you provide specific details on the current funding and resources allocated towards ensuring

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that the individuals with disability receive adequate education and complete their studies and have equal opportunities in their workforces.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Hon Speaker, I'm struggling to hear her, she's talking to the mic. If she can repeat the question, with due respect.

The SPEAKER: Okay, thank you. Can you repeat the question, hon Wilskut!

Ms C WILSKUT: Apologies for that. Can you hear me better now, Minister?

The SPEAKER: Just come closer to the mic!

Ms C WILSKUT: Minister, can you provide specific details from the current funding and resources allocated towards ensuring that the individuals with disabilities receive adequate education and complete their studies and have equal opportunities in the workforces.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Hon Speaker, first of all, the Department of Basic Education

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adopted a policy that actually advocated for the young people with disabilities joining the mainstream education; that was done. The expectation was that those children and those schools will be resourced in terms of finances, in terms of teachers who are properly trained and the equipment that is required.

However, the issue about the policy is that it was in phases. When the children ... it was for immediate, I mean a long-term and so on. But at the same time the children were already there and could not, therefore, wait for the plans that are long-term when they are there and that undermined everything.

And that is why we are, therefore, working together with the Department of Basic Education to say, whether it is in the mainstream education or not, they too should be resourced. If children are provided with scholar transport, they too should be provided with that, but also their training should talk to their needs as individual young people with different disabilities.

Indeed, they too should be funded as any other school is being funded, if they are in the mainstream education. If, of course, because you still have others that have special

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schools, those special schools need also to be attended to in terms of infrastructure, in terms of equipment and in terms of funding. There are some that we also visited, and, of course, we're not happy with their status and that is why we speak to government to say we have got to attend to those special schools if they're still there, but even the mainstream schools should be able to accommodate or else we need to review the policy.

We are assisting because we are conducting research in that regard to say why is that policy failed and what is it that needs to be done so that our young people with disabilities do get the education that they deserve. Thank you, hon Speaker.

Question 189:

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF, we have an allocation of R54 billion to Municipal Infrastructure Grant, MIG, but for the current financial year, it's R17 billion. The department has changed the structure, and it is going to compel all municipalities to spend 10% of MIG funding towards repairs and maintenance. The Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent, MISA, which is an agency on behalf of Co-operative Governance and

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Traditional Affairs, COGTA, is responsible of monitoring that this allocation is catered in the first place in the budget and is also used for maintenance and repairs.

There is no way of dodging this time around because MISA has sufficient expertise in terms of engineers when a report on the MIG project comes, we also need to get a report as to how 10% of these projects is being spent, and over and above that, hon Speaker, the municipalities who are struggling, especially on water and sanitation, we are introducing schedule mix 6b, where we intervened on behalf of the municipality to execute projects. One example, auto-Thukela and the other one which is a known case, Emfuleni. We are intervening in as far as sanitation is concerned and we want to ensure that the infrastructure is fully functional and there is enough allocation to maintain it. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Dr Z L MKHIZE: Thank you, hon Speaker ...

IsiZulu:

... Bulawayo, Mhlonishwa ...

English:

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Thank you very much for your response and your reference to repairs and refurbishment. I think you will agree with me that maintenance is a capability that all the infrastructure intensive municipalities need to have, particularly when they manage large capital asset bases, and therefore, to ensure that they reduce the cost of maintenance, as well as to create sustainable jobs.

Now, I just want to get a sense of how will your department ensure that there are measures in place to ensure that all local municipalities do have their own capability, particularly, yellow fleets and mechanical workshops, so that they can manage problems in their locality and go out to render services without the need to have prolonged processes, but just because they've got internal capacity? Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Speaker, the department is in favour of the principle of self-help and self-reliance to our municipalities, but it depends on affordability. I know a number of municipalities that have started to procure their own yellow plant, but it all depends on affordability that if it breaks down, are you going to be able to service it? When

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we do the revisit of the funding model, that is where we will put more emphasis that municipalities must allocate more money on the yellow plant and mechanical workshop so that they become self-sufficient in terms of ensuring that when they have to do maintenance, they do not rely to service providers who in most cases are far expensive, other than when municipalities own their own property in terms of yellow plant and mechanical workshop. We will work on that one hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon S Frenchman. We now move to hon Trollip.

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Speaker, this is the 64,000-dollar question, but I must commend the hon member who asked it. The municipal infrastructure and the maintenance, or lack thereof, has proven to be the Achilles heel of service delivery in South Africa. This is most evident in water and wastewater treatment infrastructure, where up to 49% of nonrevenue loss of water or simply wasted, compromising people's access to water. When it comes to waste water treatment, the state of infrastructure is parlous, where most municipalities, district municipalities and metros discharge raw sewage into our water courses which compromise our health and our environment.

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Hon Minister, you mentioned the MTEF budgeted figures and the MIG interventions. Will they cover the need? If not, what is the shortfall and how will the shortfall be addressed?

Minister, be very cautious of our acquisition of yellow fleet, some of our biggest state capture interventions or ...

[Interjections.] ... expedition has been around a yellow fleet. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL

AFFAIRS: Hon Speaker, thank you very much for the question.

Yes, indeed, one takes the caution given by the hon member on the question of yellow plant, but as I said, the principle of self-help and self-reliance is the best to go, as long as you do it right and you have sufficient abilities to acquire the equipment. In terms of the shortfall, indeed, there is no of enough allocation when you look at the backlog in the majority municipalities in our country.

That is why the question of a funding model should be unanimously supported by all political parties in the Seventh administration, to ensure that we address critical issues in our municipalities. An example of Emfuleni, a lot of water they owe to the water service authority, is the water that is lost due to leakages not being consumed by anybody. So now, to

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relieve the municipalities from the money they owe in relation to water, is to ensure that the infrastructure is maintained to the best maximum. Thank you, hon Speaker.

Mr W M THRING: Minister, one of the glaring and obvious failures in the different spheres of government is the failure to invest in infrastructure development and maintenance. The value of municipal infrastructure assets should be maintained and safeguarded to total some R518 billion, according to the Auditor-General. National Treasury dictates that municipalities should spend at least 8%. You've indicated now 10%, which is positive that 8%. Now, 10% of the value of infrastructure assets on repair and maintenance should actually be spent in the previous financial year.

The total spent by municipalities on repairs and maintenance amounts to only 3% of the value of infrastructure assets. Now Minister, what is the state of infrastructure spend on repairs and maintenance in our municipalities, and what consequence management plans, if any, do you have for political heads who fail to comply with the National Treasury directive, understanding that a failure to repair and develop our ... [Interjections.] ... is tantamount to a commitment to endangering the lives of South Africans? Thank you.

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The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Speaker, the audit report we are referring to is 2021-22. So, there is a great change on 2023-24. As we have said, a new approach or model is to enforce 10% in terms of maintenance and repairs, and this is going to be followed through MISA, and definitely, one thing that will be different during the Seventh administration, it will, firstly, be giving support.

Once you are given support, you must co-operate. The support cannot be continuous, and if you don't co-operate, there would be consequence management. The municipality must demonstrate on how they spend 10% on repairs and maintenance, and if there is no way to prove that, they would only put it on paper, but there will be consequence management from now going onward. Thank you, honourable Speaker.

Question 178:

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong): Hon Speaker, since the fiscal year in 2015-16, budgetary constraints have begun to enter government finances. Throughout the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework process, Statistics SA and the Minister have frequently discussed funding limitations with National Treasury. In February 2020,

the SA Statistics Council publicly expressed concerns regarding Statistics SA funding. Better co-operation and engagement with National Treasury are in place with multi bilateral meetings aimed at refining and improving budget management efficiencies.

Despite being conducted in a financially constrained environment, census were successfully completed at a significantly lower per capita cost. However, it is recognised that financial resources are limited and for future planning the organisation is exploring new globally benchmark methods and approaches that will enable the delivery of small area statistics on a more frequent basis. I thank you.

Ms K A CRISTIE: Madam Speaker, is Statistics SA planning to mitigate the challenges specified during census 2022 so that the issues are not repeated, and adequate budget is allocated for the census plan for 2031? The Statistics SA team reached only 69% of our population during census 2022. The accepted international standard for census is a count of at least 95% of our population.

We understand that census 2022 population counts were skewed, particularly at local municipality levels, and this might

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affect allocations of resources such as vaccines to local clinics. A 10-year national census is the biggest and most complex peacetime operation that any government will run, and it is vital so that we can plan. Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong):
Speaker, we agree that census 2022 was marked by challenges of its own. You would know that this was supposed to be a month-long census conducted between February and March of 2022, however, it stretched to May 2022 because there was a point when the collection rate was so low that it could not provide meaningful statistics. We have learned a number of lessons from census 2022, and we are working on modalities to make sure that the next census, which would be conducted probably in 2031, and that the challenges that ensued do not recur. I thank you.

Mr S I GAMA: Through you, hon Speaker, the Statistician General issued a statement last Friday during our deliberations indicating that there's been pervasive challenges, especially coming out of the natural disasters such as Covid-19, flooding in KwaZulu-Natal, and also in addition to that, there's been funding cuts.

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Given that we don't know whether in 2031 the budget will be adequate, one wants to understand what efficiency measures are being put in place should the budget cuts continue so that the capacity of the Statistician General to collect credible and reliable information is not incapacitated, especially in previously disadvantaged communities such as informal settlements and rural areas. Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong): Hon Speaker, we have maintained in the last administration that budget cuts have huge implications for the work of Statistics SA. Statistics SA produces 250 reports annually. These are economic, social and population statistics. And we said that budget cuts have implications in the efficiency of the reports that are produced by Statistics SA. That is why there are extreme discussions on a monthly basis between Treasury and Statistics SA to mitigate the occurrences that occurred in 2022. We hope that these discussions will culminate in improved budget management and efficiencies. I thank you.

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: Speaker, there have been gradual and consistent budget cuts for institutions that enhance accountability, research, and aid the developing targets and work in South Africa. Minister, have you met with National

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Treasury to ensure that there is an aggressive plan to address the budget cuts within Statistics SA so that the government can do the work and plan properly for the communities and South Africa at large and not just work like we throw a dice basis in the way that you are planning as government? Has there been aggressive planning in terms of ensuring that the money that Statistics SA is getting are aversively putting over in terms of the planning of the country? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong): Hon Speaker, I don't know if the discussions that have ensued on a monthly basis between National Treasury and Statistics SA are aggressive enough. But I hope that they are efficient enough to provide the longest solution ...

The SPEAKER: Order! Order hon members. Let me assist you. Hon Deputy Minister, if you can come closer to your mic so that you can be heard by members.

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong): I am sorry hon Speaker. I was saying that I don't know whether the discussions that are ensuing between National Treasury and Statistics SA are aggressive enough. But I know for a fact

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that these are the discussion that are actually ... Statistics SA is critical in terms of its reporting and its work, especially for planning and decision making. That is why these discussions are ensuing seeing between National Treasury and Statistics SA. I can guarantee that these discussions are also ensuing between two Ministers in the Ministry of Treasury and the Ministry in the Presidency. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Deputy Minister, if you can try and be closer to your mic. You have been cutting a bit, so members have not been able to hear you very well. Hon Mkhaliphi, what's the point of order?

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: The point of order Speaker is that we didn't hear anything to our question. We can't have a crisis whereby the Minister is not here. Even the Deputy Minister is also bringing problems. Please, we must be taken serious here.

The SPEAKER: You are taken serious hon Mkhaliphi. That is why I'm also assisting by asking the Deputy Minister to come closer to the mic so that he can hear you and secondly, he can be able to answer.

Xitsonga:

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Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu, ndza khensa.

English:

Deputy Minister, do you believe, having just been appointed, that Statistics SA has got enough money to continue with their work number and also attract and retain the best skills within the entity? Thanks very much.

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

English:

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr K Morolong): In the first instance, we agree that Statistics SA has suffered a ... [Inaudible.] ... with respect to its best statisticians. We have also agreed that ...

Mr D BERGMAN: Chair, point of order.

The SPEAKER: What's the point of order hon member?

Mr D BERGMAN: Chair, we have another Minister from the office of the Presidency that's sitting right here that can probably

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be audible. Can she not speak on behalf of the other Minister, please?

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong):

Speaker, am I not audible enough?

The SPEAKER: Hon Deputy Minister, you are not audible. Order!

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong): Am I audible enough now?

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon Deputy Minister. Order, hon members. Hon members, given the difficulties on this question, I will request that this question be placed again on the Order Paper in the next question time. I think that's the best we can do, and if we can now be in order. What's the point of order, hon member?

Ms O M C MAOTWE: No, I'm just saying, Speaker, all of us are frustrated by that hon member. And it goes back to the point that we've been making as the EFF that we need all members to be in the same House. Where is the ... [Inaudible.] ... This is a typical example of ...

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The SPEAKER: Hon ... [Interjections.] ...

Ms O M C MAOTWE: No Speaker, let me finish please. Right now, this Parliament - all of us here - the rating is at 29% of South Africans have got confidence in this Parliament - 29. So, while 100 people are walking by, only 29 people believe in this Parliament. It is such issues that we raise with you all the time that we need to be taken ... No one takes us serious, Speaker. This this should be worrisome for all of us as Members of Parliament that we are here to represent our people who don't have confidence in us. Now, the Deputy Minister knew very well that the Minister will not be in the country. Why is he not here? He is sitting there like that he is even in the toilet. That's why there's so much echo.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon members. I do not want to entertain the debate on this matter. Hon member, can you please put your hand down? I thought the point of order would have been different because already I've made the ruling that this question will come back. So that closes the debate on the matter. I've noted the issues you have raised. Those will be communicated with the Leader of Government Business. And it's not like nobody is taking you seriously, but I've just ruled as the Speaker to protect all of us, but to ensure that the

question is attended to. It will come back on the Order Paper, and it will be prioritised because it was supposed to have been answered today.

Can we move to Question 192 which has been asked by hon S G Mwali to the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. The question is about specific intervention measures that the department will take to prevent the potential termination of the jobs of 51 000 community work programme workers.

Question 192:

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Speaker, firstly, the figure is not 51 000. It is 35 092. No, it's not the same. Secondly, the people involved are at their age and are receiving a pension. Still, we have decided to stop the process of offloading them so that we engage them because the eventuality cannot be avoided. We all know once you reach 60 or 65, you must go on a pension. The approach to what we are going to do, is working on a new policy that will be concluded by 1 April 2025.

We are going to engage these people who have reached the age of pension and see how they can be capacitated so they can

start their businesses to cover the gap of the money they are no longer going to receive through the Community Work Programme, CWP, together with the pension. It is a work in progress, and by the time we reach the end of April next year, we will have a better solution to allay the fears of those to be affected negatively when this stipend comes to an end if they are offloaded. Thank you, hon Speaker

IsiZulu:

Nk N A MTSHWENI: Angibonge, Somlomo, ...

English:

... considering the already dire state of unemployment in the Republic, where millions of South Africans struggle to make ends meet, what specific intervention measures will his department take to, (a) prevent the potential termination of jobs, 51 000 or 35 000, Community Work Programme workers that will have devastating consequences? And (b) ensure the affected workers will not be left destitute and without any source of income.

IsiZulu:

Ngiyabonga, Somlomo.

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English:

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Speaker, the correct figure is 35 000 because it's on record. Secondly, we agree it will affect the citizens who have reached the pension stage, but this is an eventuality that cannot be avoided. That is why we have decided to stop the offloading from now until April. We will be doing more to capacitate them on small business initiatives they can start when the system takes them out, and it will be absorbing young people, the millions that are unemployed. They can speak a different language if we say they cannot be enrolled in this process because ... [Interjections.] ...

The SPEAKER: Hon member Mwali, you asked a question. Can I ask you to listen to your answer?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, I have concluded my response. Hon member, we sympathise with our senior citizens. That is why we have halted the process, but the eventuality is we need to enrol young people who are unemployed as we speak, while we create means for our senior citizens to survive once they exit the programme. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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Mr P NDAMASE: Hon Speaker, I would first like to join hon Taaibosch in his profuse word of gratitude to the Ministry of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs for their intervention on the subject at hand as late as three hours ago in the portfolio committee meeting. We would, therefore, like to ask the hon Minister to enunciate their transitional cushioning of the CWP participants to be ready for future economic participation activities other than the ones that have already been mentioned. Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Speaker, the new policy will be ready by April next year, and will come with a new approach, a new framework to ensure, especially our young people, once they are enrolled in the CWP programme, we must ensure they get skills, and they exit and go and survive on their own.

We will be working with different public and private partners to ensure that we identify skills that will make them self-sufficient even to start businesses on their own and channel them to areas where they can get the financial support to start their businesses or get employed with the skills they acquire through the programme, not to stay forever until they reach the age of pension.

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The new policy will come with a definite answer in how we ensure the participants in a short period get skills, exit and get employment opportunities to support their lives better.

Thank you, Hon Speaker

Ms C LABUSCHAGNE: Speaker, Minister, in light of the department's expenditure of approximately R3 billion in the previous five years on implementing agents of third parties and the country's financial shortfalls, does the department have a plan or could you include that in the new policy that you mentioned to centrally administer the Community Work Programme without implementing agents to save costs and jobs and mitigate irregular and wasteful expenditure contributing to possible job losses? And if so, could you please give us some details about it? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Speaker, the new policy will determine the approach of doing away with service providers and the process to be managed in-house. It will save more money, and it will make more money and contribute to taking more of our unemployed people.

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I would appeal if our members can be patient with a policy that will take a new direction in how we spend this money prudently and save it for better use in increasing the number of enrolled participants. Thank you, hon Speaker.

Ms M S DLAMINI: Speaker, Minister, as the EFF ...

IsiZulu:

... sithanda ukusho nje ukuthi ...

English:

... we don't agree with people losing their jobs as a base first. So, no matter the technicalities of the number, whether it is 35 000 or 51 000, ...

IsiZulu:

... akunamsebenzi ...

English:

... as long as people are losing jobs, that's where the crux of the matter is. But considering that some of the functions done by CWP workers are also linked to NPOs, how much is the department paying the nonprofit organisations who do similar work? Why have you not considered doing away with having NPOs

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as the middleman and employing workers and insourcing them? Because jobs also come with the quality of the jobs you are providing. Why not insource? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Speaker, I agree with the EFF, it is not good ... Oh! [Interjections.] ...

IsiZulu:

... besengizoze ngenze umsebenzi kaSomlomo ngithi ngicela angilalele uDlamini.

English:

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon Minister, if you can proceed.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: I was saying ... for anyone to lose a job is not something good, but there is a truth that we must face.

When people reach the stage of being pensioners, we must face that reality to create the space to absorb younger people.

That is why we are saying we want to make a plan for people who are already receiving pensions so that they exit with

something that is going to supplement them because it will affect them negatively. But the eventuality is a pension age is a pension age.

Then lastly, ... [Interjections.] ... no, my age, I'm 59 years old. I have responded, hon member, to what other mechanisms are you doing to do away with service providers. The new policy the whole system is going to be managed in-house, and it will save a lot of money for the government. My age is not hidden.

Question 190:

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:
Hon House Chairperson and hon members the President drew our attention to the fact that youth unemployment has now reached the level of national crises that demands urgent, innovative and co-ordinated solutions.

In response we are placing women, youth and persons with disabilities at the centre of a reindustrialisation that is accompanied by a reimagined industrial strategy with fundamental changes in the structure, systems and institutions as well as patterns in ownership, management of the world producing resources.

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In this regard, we believe that the developmental state must take up the role of an investor of first resort. We are bringing back this approach through a SA National Defence Force-led National Youth Service through the SA National Service Institute, Sansi.

Other initiatives for implementation include a reimagined National Youth Development Agency, NYDA, that is fit for purpose representative of all youth.

We are also considering immersing Industrialist Accelerator Programmes for women, youth and persons with disabilities intended to upskill, reskill and place unemployed graduates. And the Integrated Farming Co-operatives and land acquisition for women, youth and persons with disabilities.

We will further explore opportunities and sectors such as agriculture, oceans economy, mining, tourism as well as others. Thank you very much, House Chairperson.

Ms T M CHAUKE: Hon House Chairperson, I think for me to the hon Minister, we must understand that in order for us to have a control of the economy we must be able to create economic

opportunities for the unemployed focussing on women, youth and persons with disabilities being previously disadvantaged.

We also look at the financial sector that must create access to economic opportunities through financing and providing business opportunities to persons with disabilities.

Now hon Minister, in the Seventh Administration what are your plans in ensuring that the financial industry or the financial sector look to transform itself to create employment and economic opportunities for women, youth and persons with disabilities for us to see them thrive and contribute towards the economy? Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Hon Chauke, to ensure the transformation of the financial sector in a manner that supports marginalised groups, our department is collaborating with the Co-operative Banks Development Agency, CBDA. It is also co-ordinating efforts to establish a Corporative Financial Institute, CFI, working together with CBDA. The aim is to promote entrepreneurship through women-led co-operatives and enhance financial inclusion within the bank's sector. The CFI is currently in the process of being registered with the Prudential Authority.

Additionally, the NYDA is working with the National Treasury and the Financial Sector Transformation Council to deepen financial inclusion for young people by improving savings through a low value savings scheme and encouraging the appropriate use of credits as well as promote access to credit for youth-owned Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises, SMMEs.

Also the Department of Small Business Development is finalising an important policy on SMMEs and co-operatives funding policy that aims to ensure access to funding by SMMEs as well as co-operatives. This policy will benefit the sectors we are represent that is women, youth and persons with disabilities. Thank you.

Ms E R J SPIES: Hon House Chairperson and hon Minister, how does your department facilitate collaboration and co-ordination among social partners including government agencies, businesses and civil society organisations to create work opportunities in the rural areas for women, youth and persons with disabilities where limited resources and capacity often hinder collective efforts?

What strategies will your department implement to foster rural urban linkages enabling rural communities to benefit from

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economic growth and opportunities in urban areas and address the brain drain of skilled youth leaving rural areas? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:
Hon House Chairperson, thank you very much for the question. As the department we have a mandate to advocate, streamline, monitor as well as to evaluate. We will use our mandate to ensure that women, young people and persons with disabilities in rural areas they too are empowered. We will use legislation such as for instance the Public Procurement Act passed and signed by the President that includes the preferential procurement for the vulnerable sectors. This will also apply in rural as well as in urban areas.

Like we said, as we identify the sectors, they also are going to benefit young people. We will work together with other department, for instance the Department that is responsible for rural development agriculture for instance and oceans economy to ensure that young people as well as persons with disabilities in the rural areas also benefit. So, yes, our policy will apply to everybody including in rural areas and of course ensuring that whatever policy that is there that

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benefits them is implemented through our monitoring and streamlining. Thank you.

Ms J S PETERSEN: Hon House Chairperson and hon Minister thank you for the answer on strategies of programmes to assist. Could the Minister explain how the department will ensure the effectiveness of these strategies that you mentioned would be monitored and adjusted overtime; additionally what measures are being taken to ensure that these opportunities are accessible and equitable. Thank you, hon House Chairperson.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Hon House Chairperson, our approach will be based on research in whatever that we do. Whether the policies that are being implemented are effective or not effective we will from time-to-time conduct research and we will share information with whoever that is available. That is the first one.

However, it is indeed our mandate to streamline and therefore influence decisions taken whether there are policies or straight plans or anything we will do that effectively, but also to advocate. Our advocate will either be through what we say but also in action on other matters.

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Also to monitor it is our mandate. To monitor the implementation of some of the policies and some of the legislations that are there to empower our people in particular our young people and to evaluate and give reports. Where necessary we will name and shame if people are not responding and not doing what they are supposed to be doing. However of course we will be doing our work. Thank you.

Ms N L WEBSTER: Hon House Chairperson and hon Minister, I want to speak specifically to the issue of the youth and to zone in on youth. We recently had the jobs figures come out from Statistics SA for Q2 which showed that we are not moving the needle on youth unemployment. In fact, now three in five young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are not employed. We know the socio impact of youth unemployment. We know what is like to walk the streets in any township and rural area and see young people who are not working. We know what it is doing to these young people in terms of their hope for the future in this country. But also, what is worse is what is actually we compromise the future in this country when these young people are not gaining the skills and experience.

My question is: How are you working with other departments in making sure that the programmes that are there have a target?

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What is the target for the number of young people that we want to see employed at the end of this term through these programmes and what is your department going to do to make sure that there is accountability for those numbers and will start ... [Time expired.]

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:
Hon House Chairperson, firstly, ourselves as the department like I have said we are establishing Sansi. We are saying it is National Youth Service will be led by the SA National Defence Force and we are planning just out of that to employ at least 125 000 I am just talking about ourselves. We believe that this can be done because in other parts of the world the National Youth Service in any event led by the Defence here in South Africa some of the best pilots were trained by the Defence. So, that is where we are going to start. However, of course we are looking at all infrastructure projects. We are looking at all economic sectors that they must implement what is in their annual performance plans, APPs, to say if we must look at preferential procurement for instance, we are going to monitor that happening for all infrastructure projects mega and small. Those must favour young people particularly the 3,6 million out of universities but also who have completed matric and nowhere employed.

We will ensure that we target those first and others of course in ensuring that they go to work, those that can go to work because it is not everybody that can be an entrepreneur and those that can be entrepreneur, we are going to assist them. That is why we are saying we are reimagining even a new NYDA. A NYDA that has resources that can do better work, that can do research and be able to plan and see what is going to happen in the sector.

So, yes, it is a lot of things, the challenge is huge, but we think we can do something about it. The numbers of course we must get that from different departments to say this is what they can do ours is to monitor that it is done. Thank you very much.

Question 163:

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: House Chairperson, the department has indeed made some progress in relation to recommendation of Special Investigating Unit, SIU. We have developed a central register for public service. And in April this year, the task team was formed to develop solutions to publish or record names of all persons who were removed or resigned due to corruption.

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This team, comprised of the Department of Public Service Administration, Treasury, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, CoGTA, and the then Department of Public Enterprise through a State Capture Committee Program Management in the Presidency. This system, House Chair, allows for identity number to be merged with the record of a dismissed or resigned person.

The departments rather, now should verify whether an applicant is listed on the same register as a result of them resigning or being dismissed because of corrupt activities.

Hon House Chair, it's also important to note that the same register now is going to be used to develop one that also includes local municipalities. All shortlisted candidates, when they apply, they will be checked against this register, even those that decides to resign and apply to another department. When we pick this up, they will have to go back and finalize those what you call the disciplinary hearings, if they decided to run away.

So, the proper records should be kept by departments and all disciplinary cases must be recorded accordingly and compliance will be monitored, timeously. Thank you.

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Ms B K DIALE: Thank you very much, House Chair. Minister, the nub of the matter is that corruption is thriving on the basis that the same people, continue to be recycled in different spheres of departments of government, even when they are removal and or resignation from previous government job is as a result of corruption. What mechanisms have you put in place to ensure that those who leave their jobs as a result of allegations of corruption are unable to be recycled back into government unless their names have been cleared? Thank you, hon House Chair.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: House Chair, I think the register itself that we have established speaks to the same issue that the hon member was saying, that these people be listed there and when they apply before they are appointed, they must be checked against that register, if they are found to be on the list, then no ways that will be appointed. Even if, as I said, that if there are some pending cases against them, they will have to go back and finalize those cases, so there's no room for corrupt people now going forward. Thank you.

Mr M J MATUTU: Hon Minister, it is generally accepted that our legal system allows for decisions and even judgement for laws

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courts, to sometimes being revealed and returned appeals to high courts. Furthermore, it is now almost common case that our courts can or have in some instances been weaponized for politically expediencies ... [Interjection.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon members ... sorry, hon Matutu. Please, hon members, no. Can we allow a member to ask a question, so that we can get a response from the Minister? How are we supposed to hear the question, and the Minister will then not be able to respond to the question if he doesn't hear clearly what the hon member is saying, can we allow that chance please? Continue, hon member.

Mr M J MATUTU: Thank you, House Chair, furthermore, it is now almost common cases that our courts can or have, in some instances, being weaponize for political expe ...
[Interjection.] [Time expired.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Matutu, unfortunately I had ... no, no. We stopped the time. So, your time has expired, and I gave you even extra 8 seconds but, unfortunately, your time has expired. I will give an opportunity to the Minister if he has heard maybe some of what

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the question is all about, then maybe he can respond to the question that has been posed, the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: House Chair, I think to respond to what the member is saying. I'm not aware of any case where our law enforcement agencies have been weaponized against politicians. But also, what I know is the fact that some politicians who are corrupt have tried to use the very same system to run away from accountability and like that. So, if there is anything of that nature, that is aware of, he can make us aware. But from where we stand, there is no such. Thank you.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: House Chair, to the Minister. Sadly, extortion is endemic in our country, in our society, in all sectors, and at all levels. An extortion is an art form that is a subset and a variant of corruption. Now my question, Minister, is that we have a lot of people that are extorting funds from public service to prolonged suspensions or indefinite suspensions. What are the Minister's plans to curb this debilitating cancer in our government? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: House Chairperson, I think the question from the hon member has

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nothing to do with the question that was posed. But however yes ... I will try to respond to him in relation to what is within my jurisdiction.

In relation to those people who have been suspended and they continue to draw salaries from the state. There are a number of interventions we've done as a department. First and foremost, we are trying to encourage managers not to actually put people on suspension, where they transfer them to other departments so that they can continuously use their skills to help the state, as opposed to sitting at home and draw salaries. Because the issue of people who being suspended and they stay at home continuously, is a challenge that we are trying to deal with as a department. That is one among many that I can favour you outside this platform, because your question was not in fact what you asked. Thank you.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: I accept the invitation.

Mr S N SWART: House Chair, the ACDP believes that such a register is a very positive development, and we commend the department in this regard. However, Minister, during your response you indicated that departments would have to consult that register or before they employ any employee in their

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specific departments. Now, what steps would the department take to ensure that those departments actually do consult the register before they employ employees, because otherwise they registered itself will not be effective? And will there be sanctions against those departments that do not abide by the register? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: House Chairperson, the register will be held within the Department of Public Service and Administration. So, we are going to make sure that as I said that proper records must be kept. And we are going to continuously monitor that. That is one way that we're trying to assist the whole process. But also, if there are those who will, regardless of the register being there and all the red flags that may be flagged against those individuals, they continue to employ them, of course then accountability should kick in. And we're closing every room for people who are colluding in as far as corruption is concerned.

But also, House Chair, I think we must begin to move away now from chasing criminals. Our system should not actually attract corrupt people and unethical people within the system, because public service, if you choose to serve in the public space,

that's a noble course that we must respect and no to be unethical. So, we must try to put some mechanisms to repair such people whom we don't need in our system. Thank you.

Question 184:

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Thank you very much, hon House Chair. Gender-based violence and femicide is a national crisis affecting all sectors of the South African society, worsened by teenage pregnancy, gender inequality and HIV and Aids. Further, structural poverty, hunger and unemployment disproportionately impact women. The department monitors the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on gender-based violence noting some successes but recognising the need for more actions. Current efforts focus on treating gender-based violence as a pandemic with a bold integrated response to strengthening institutional arrangements.

The gender-based violence and femicide evidence-based and antipoverty strategies, through preferential procurement and key priorities include the establishment of the National Council On Gender-Based Violence And Femicide, implementing a 365 days communication plan to reach every household, analysing gaps in the National Strategic Plan, NSP, on gender-

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based violence to enhance accountability, sterling up evidence-based intervention and improving NSP localisation by appointing technical monitors and data collectors in all provinces to enhance co-ordination, reporting and department's provincial presences. I thank you, House Chair.

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Thank you very much, House Chairperson. Hon Minister, I thank you very much for your response, and in particular for the honesty to say that there are gaps and things that need to be addressed. However, the Public Protector recently released a report, and she looked at government's response to gender-based violence. She found in particular that the Police, Social Development and Justice are failing victims of gender-based violence. For example, she found that police were reluctant to open cases, and we don't have enough shelters for victims of gender-based violence and there is a whole report that she released. You have just recently mentioned how you work with other departments, you also talked about naming and shaming departments which do not play their parts in empowering and protecting women, children and persons with disabilities. Can you give this House the undertaking that you and your department will ensure that you engage these departments to ensure that they implement the remedial findings of the Public Protector 's report? It goes

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without saying that we cannot talk about the whole government approach and a whole society approach against gender-based violence while some government departments are not playing their parts. Thank you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Hon House Chairperson, thank you very much. Thank you for the question, hon Van der Merwe. First of all, we have agreed that we are going to collaborate with the Public Protector as we do our work. It is a matter of fact about the report that you are talking about. We have met with the Public Protector. We have shared information, and she has shared this information with us before we get the report. On the basis of the report, we are therefore looking at the departments that were mentioned to engaged with them. First, as you have said, to say when the people go to police stations, particularly those who are victims of gender-based violence, the statements cannot be taken at community centres, but they have to at all times provide private privacy for those people. Also, those cases must be followed up.

The problem that was also identified by the Public Protector is that even if the police are doing their work those victims withdraw cases with the pressures that they receive from their

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families, particularly those that are children. That is why we are going to ensure that we advocate for those. We are going to look at issues where, for instance, in a case of rape of a child where and parents can withdraw such cases to say it is not possible. In fact, we will ensure that the legislation is implemented and such cases must become state cases, and no one can withdraw them. We are taking into account the number of young children that are giving birth to children at the age of 10 and at the age of 14 as being minors. We are attending to all those issues because they are in the report. We have ensured that these gaps are attended to at the level of the Ministry - the Deputy Minister and I - to ensure that these things do not go unnoticed. So, yes, we will be monitoring, we will be following up on departments and we will be engaging them. Of course we need budget for that. Thank you.

Ms N M GASA: Thank you, Chairperson. More studies confirm that the majority of gender-based violence, GBV, cases in rural areas are not reported because of poor GBV awarenesses in rural areas. The recently widely reported grievous GBV incident is where two women were murdered and their remains fed to pigs in Limpopo. Is this in a point about the gravity of his problem in rural and farming communities? Minister, I

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want to check, what is the Ministry's approach to GBV in rural and farming communities? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Our approach, first, is to prevent it from happening because we don't want somebody to be raped, and then we then come. We don't want a person to be killed and thrown into pig sty and then we come. We want to prevent it. Also, where it has happened we want to identify it as quickly as possible so that we can intervene. Also, we want to ensure that where it has happened the matter goes to court. For instance, the issue you are talking about I think it is important that we really commend the police, the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, and the judiciary as such because this case was opened immediately. The perpetrators of those who murdered the two women in Limpopo were arrested and they are in custody as we speak. They are charged with two counts of murder, one count of attempted murder, illegal possession of firearms, illegal possession of ammunition and defeating the ends of justice. The National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, has categorised that case as schedule 6 and it is removing it from the magistrates' court to the regional court. We welcome that. We welcome that. We would have wished that those women were not killed. We would have wished that we prevented it.

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Yes, the issue of people and women in the farm areas, in particular, is of concern to us because they are far from all resources and amenities and sometimes their cases are not attended to. As they rush to report the case, the farmer also rush to report the case and report them as being stealing in their farms. It is a matter that is receiving our attention in terms of poverty that is actually making some of them to do things. [Time expired.]

Ms T A KHANYILE: Thank you, Chairperson. Hon Minister, thank you very much for your answer. In the recent budgetary review and recommendations reports, BRRR, report presented by your department reflected that only R5 million was presented to this department to fight gender-based violence. The total of R3,7 million is allocated to pay salaries. Noting that the majority of the budget is allocated for the payment of salaries, in one of your responses today you have indicated that you will need more budget to be able to fight gender-based violence. Now the question is, what is your plan to acquire more budget to ensure that kidnapped or missing women are found before they are killed, and more women are empowered to leave abusive relationships before they die? Thank you.

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The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Thank you very much. It is a known fact because the budget for the department is passed by this House. It is a known fact that the department of Women, Youth and Person with Disabilities is under resourced. It also a known fact that it is for us to deal with this. We only have R5 million, and the R3,3 goes to salaries because you need people to fight it. Therefore, you remain with R1,7 million, and that can never be enough and adequate for us to do our work in terms of research, in terms of prevention, in terms of advocating and in terms of mainstreaming. We don't have and we use other resources in order to do ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majenzi): Hon members, can we please keep it down because the Minister is responding, and other hon members cannot even hear. I myself seated here can't even here what the Minister is saying because the way you are speaking is too loud. Please let's keep it down.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: We are therefore using other resources. We have, for instance, in the Presidency a section that looks into gender-based violence. We work together with them. We also collaborate with the Commission for Gender Equality, CGE, on the work that they

are doing. Also, it is the civil society out there on the work that we are doing.

It is true that for us to be effective and do our work to ensure that we are able to prevent and to be where these things are happening, we do require more budget, and for now we don't have. Thank you very much.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu. Holobye ...

English:

... yesterday, the Minister of Police said that 1 400 cases of rape have been dropped in the last financial year due to insufficient evidence. As a Minister of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities what are you going to do about this?

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Thank you, House Chairperson. It is to ask about what the cause could be. It is important to know why those cases are being dropped. Is it because there is no evidence, is it

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because those that report cases withdraw them, is it because the DNA results do not come back on time or that they stay in police stations until they become rotten therefore, they cannot give us results? For us we will engage the Minister to actually find out why these cases are being withdrawn.

Surely, it is concerning because somebody was raped. If there is one thing that should not happen to any woman, is somebody enforcing himself into her body. And if that happens, that person must face the full might of the law. If those cases get withdrawn, then of course it concerns us as a matter of fact. But for us to comment, as you are saying it was only yesterday, we need to know exactly what the reasons for the withdrawal of those cases are. Thank you very much.

Question 191:

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, House Chair. The Ministry is going to ensure that all municipalities institutionalise the efficient credit control and debt collection procedures. The municipalities that are financially viable are municipalities that are able to collect from people who owe them. Secondly, we will ensure that every municipality produces its own indigent register so that they know who is exempted in terms

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of paying what he receives from the municipality as services and those who are due for payment.

Thirdly, the Cabinet Committee yesterday approved that the Minister of Cogta must write letters to all departments. They owe R21 billion to municipalities. I will write letters to all of them. We will give them a period of not more than four months to pay. If they don't pay, I will visit the Minister of Finance to institute a way to tap in the money of those departments who owe municipalities but not paying those municipalities.

Fourthly, the government, once it has set a tone that says, 'pay for what you owe', then the second category will be the businesspeople. We will engage businesspeople. Yes, you need to engage first. We will engage first to make them see a need as we are doing to departments. The letter will be an engagement, and if nothing happens, then there will be enforcement.

We will have to engage the businesspeople that if they want to see their businesses growing and thriving, they must do what is honourable and pay what is due from them. Thereafter, we

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will engage the ordinary households to pay what is due to municipalities. Thank you, hon Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you very much, hon Minister. Before I call on the first supplementary question, I have asked, hon members, please, we can converse in the House but let us keep it down because now we can hear the responses. It will be us again who will be complaining that Ministers are not giving quality responses whereas it is us also who are making a lot of noise and not hearing the responses that are given. The first supplementary question will be asked by hon Direko.

Ms D R DIREKO: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Minister, for your responses. The recent Auditor-General report on the local government for the financial year of 2022-23 has reflected challenges of weaknesses in financial control, which resulted to the weakness in effective revenue management and asset management. So, as the department, what measures do you have in place to ensure that there is consequence management on noncompliance to strengthen the financial systems in the spheres of government? Thank you.

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The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, hon House Chair. As I said in the beginning. The seventh administration is the time that is not going to tolerate people who are not doing their work. Consequence management is going to be the order of the day. Regarding those municipalities which were singled out by the Auditor-General, we will want them to account on how have they rectified the areas that were indicated by the Auditor-General?

Where criminal cases should have been open, they must bring evidence that indeed here a criminal case was opened. Where disciplinary actions must be taken against the employees, they must demonstrate that here is an action taken as a consequence management. In the seventh administration, the approach is to give support. People must co-operate and they must produce results. If you don't produce results, there will be no time to allow things to go as they have been in the past. Thank you.

Ms A M VAN ZYL: Thank you, House Chair. Thank you, Minister. Minister, local governments across eight of the nine South African provinces are broken, largely due to dire financial crunch. Revenue generation is hampered by the fear of possibly

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upsetting voters to enforce debt collection, rampant illegal connections, persistent water and electricity losses and corruption. Just yesterday, Salga revealed that a mere 9,5% of the equitable share gets allocated to local government. In the municipality where I live, which is the Walter Sisulu Local Municipality, ratepayers are heated with shocking increases up to 500% more due to recent property valuations.

Minister, would you agree that loading more financial strain on taxpayers is not the solution to revenue? Minister will also commit to initiating legislation that ringfences a portion of incomes for service rendered to repay debt first, like to Eskom and the water boards, to ensure that local government can work and deliver services to its residents? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Indeed, hon House Chair, the turnaround plan will address these critical issues to assist the municipalities who are unable or failing to deliver services to our people. As I said, it is a broad committee, including a number of Ministries. [Interjections.]

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Davids, please mute your mic.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: We, are open, hon House Chair, to suggestions on how to turn things around and make services efficient in our municipalities. The turnaround plan, when it is tabled, it will address all these critical issues. Thank you.

Mr G TAAIBOSCH: Thank you, hon Chair. Hon Minister, it is recorded that 48% of all water supplied to municipalities are lost due to leaks caused by poorly maintained and inadequate infrastructure. As the hon Minister, in an effort to increase revenue for municipalities, considered the lessons from the War On Leaks project by the Department of Water and Sanitation, in conjunction with Rand Water, instead of the silo approach. If not, why not; and if so, can you please share the details and insights? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, hon House Chair. The Inter-Ministerial Committee include Water and Sanitation. Once the strategy is completed and presented, it will give details on how to deal with leakages. As I said in the in the beginning, a lot of

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money that is owed by municipality to water boards is water that is lost, not consumed by anybody.

As Cogta, that is why we are intervening through Misa. I made a practical example, which is known by all of us or most of us - Emfuleni Local Municipality. A bigger portion of money that is owed by Emfuleni Municipality to water board is through leakages - water not consumed by anybody. That is what we want to address and fix. Thank you, hon Chair.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Thank you very much, House Chair. Minister, I am very shocked that you are prepared to engage big business instead of demanding money. That is very shocking! However, what is your intervention with regards to eThekweni residents who were just furnished with high bill costs after they have complied with the law and paid for their bills. Nothing was explained to them, but all of a sudden, they are just being shocked to get those bills. The explanation was that the billing system of eThekweni is also characterised by incompetency.

Secondly, the AG pointed out to them that they have been not collecting enough, while each resident were paying. So, now my question is: What intervention are you going to do? I think it

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is a wrong decision to punish people while they have been paying. Where the AG said to municipalities that they have been doing wrong things, why punish the residents under these difficult conditions?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, hon Mkhaliipi with regards to eThekweni. We are engaged with eThekweni in relation to the matter you are raising. Through eThekweni Presidential Intervention Team and section 154 by KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government, we are in constant discussions in dealing specifically with the incorrect billing.

When this is concluded, people will be built accordingly, and I commit on that one. You know, hon Mkhaliipi, I made a commitment on one matter in eThekweni, and you are my witness that we resolved it. Even on this one, I make a similar commitment. Thank you. [Interjections.] No, they can only stop paying once it has been concluded that it was wrongly done and then the correction will have to be effected. We are going to be working with a great speed because it is unfair if it can be proven that billing was wrongly done. Thank you, hon Chair.

Question 200:

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The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Hon House Chair, hon members, as the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with disabilities, we do not monitor the Commission for Gender Equality, CGE. We collaborate and learn from each other's experiences. We recognise the CGE as an independent statutory body established under Chapter 9 of the Constitution with a crucial mandate to strengthen and deepen our constitutional democracy by promoting, protecting, developing and attaining gender equality and in fact the commission is accountable to the National Assembly.

Of course, we visited their offices, and we were truly inspired by the number and quality of their research studies and the work of knowledge that the commission continues to produce. These guides our policies as well as our practices towards a society that is free from gender, inequality and all intersectional forms of oppression. Their work provides a number of recommendations, which we as a department will be converting into collaborative interventions on the ground. I thank you very much.

Ms N L WEBSTER: Minister, it's good to hear that you have engaged with the Commission for Gender Equality and to also hear that you have looked into the research and the

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recommendations that they have made. Among the recommendations they have made I want to zoom in on economic policy and if you looked at their reports and research you find that we are far from where we need to be as pertain to economic equality in terms of gender.

So, based on what you have reviewed and seen what are some of the recommendations that you have taken for economic transformation for gender equality that you will be spearheading and that you should be championing as the department?

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: I need you to be aware of the research. I think it is titled SINK SWIM and it actually tells us that the usage of the notion of economic empowerment, especially women's economic empowerment, it would appear that its application and practice is not only complicated but remains an elusive policy goal. And that's we have taken from them and that's why in my earlier question, I actually articulated what we are going to do as the department in terms of projects, in terms of strategy, in terms of legislation, but of course, in terms of our mandate there is a lot of research that are found about that there, and all of it has got recommendations. So, yes,

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indeed, we would be working through that, and we will be converting those into our work where we can but also those recommendations influencing our policies going forward, including issues related to economy. Thank you.

Ms F L SHABANGU: Hon Minister, gender mainstreaming requires all social partners to take measures of institutionalised policies in their organisation and in practice to ensure equitable access for women redress for women and implement empowerment policy intervention such as gender quotas and set aside. How is the Minister ensuring a government why gender mainstreaming by existing organisations in the Republic where the private sector, political parties, civil societies, businesses and other social institutions? I thank you.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:
Thank you very much hon Shabangu for the question. We agreed together with yourself that gender mainstreaming does require all social partners as you have mentioned them, and these are supposed to act collectively. Also, they are supposed to act cohesively so that they make sure that institutionalisation and the approach of mainstreaming is actually happening. This will actually assist us to empower women as well as ensure gender equality that has to be seen going into policies or

included in our policy programmes, practices and in our organisations.

Towards this, we are taking several measures to ensure that there is gender mainstreaming. We are fast-tracking the finalisation of draft legislation with legally and regulatory measures to enforce gender mainstreaming across state entities.

But also, we have a policy of 2000 which is known as National Policy Framework for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality. We are reviewing these. First, we said we have got to evaluate its impact and then with the aim of reviewing it. But we are also looking at scratch plans and medium-term development plans for different departments, and of course, the sectors outside, and we are ensuring that these they are gender mainstreamed and we look at those and where they are not, we communicate.

We work together with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. But of course, we are working together with the cluster of Director-Generals in ensuring that the mainstreaming happens. And therefore, yes, we agreed with you,

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hon member, that we need to mainstream also to work with other sectors, including the civil society. Thank you.

Ms E R J SPIES: Minister, can you please enlighten us how your department will ensure that the commission recommendations on gender equality are integrated into national policies programmes, particularly in areas such as education, healthcare and economic empowerment. What mechanisms will your department establish to monitor the implementation of the national gender policy at the provincial and local levels? And once again, Minister, in particular rural areas where resources and capacity may be limited as one size does not fit all? I thank you.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: We do monitor through receiving report but also monitoring those reports. In fact, going through those reports and evaluating them whether they include gender equality. But also, we do that by going to these sectors and ensure that things are happening. We do it through research as well that we conduct. We do it through entities like we have said we have got other bodies such as Chapter 9 Institutions. The Public Protector, for instance, the question was asked, the CGE also, the question was asked and the research that they conduct. That

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assist us to get report and to know exactly as to what is happening anywhere, and on the basis of this, we look at policies if they have to be strengthened or amended, including the legislation that is there.

But of course, our responsibility and mandate are that of advocating, is that of mainstreaming and of monitoring and evaluation. We use those strategies. We use that in order to get all the information. These goes for rural areas as well. I am happy that you actually have passion for rural areas. I also do. We go to rural areas to see for ourselves because sometimes the information that we get is not as reliable because resources are not abratable available in rural areas.

But of course, like I say, for us to go to Pongolo and see those children that are not registered, that do not have documents because of some social ills that are happening there, we need resources. In their absence we have got a problem.

We want to go to the Eastern Cape and see for ourselves what is happening there with women sleeping on mountains and ensure that they are able to sleep in their houses and involve every day. But for us to do that we do require some resources.

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That's why we said this repeatedly. However, we thank you again for the question. Thank you.

Ms M P KOBE: Hon Minister, about three weeks ago, the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure was invited to the Women in Construction Awards. Well, we go to see a great deal of commendable work that is done by women in construction. However, with my engagement with them they lamented that the department has quite a few cumbersome processes in terms of procurement where it does not allow for broader based for women to participate fully with these economic opportunities. Now as a consequence this industry remains largely untransformed, and this goes against the very key priorities outlined in the National Gender Framework. Now as a department what are you doing to address this exact concerns in ensuring improve gender representation, especially in industries like this?

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: In the earlier question that I responded to, I highlighted policies that we are busy with to empower women, including to ensure that the finance institutions are able to finance women. That's the first one. But also, to remove quiet a number of red tapes that are there.

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I am aware of the fact that most of it are in the malls. When women are subcontractors, they are left in the hands of the male contractors, and we are actually saying the department should not or even state-owned companies for that matter must not leave it in the hands of the main contractor to pay or not to pay a woman who might be a sub-contractor. I am talking about that. We have had that corrected that in some of the state-owned companies. But of course, in others there are still problems.

So, we already have models that we can copy from that are working. But one thing for sure that I know about the SA Women in Dialogue, Sawid, is that there is some improvement. There are able now to get some work. They are talking about the challenges that are at secondary levels as and when they do the work. Of course, we don't want to see them remaining at lower grades in terms of companies. But others have actually grown in terms of grades. That happens both in construction roads, human settlements and so on. There is a lot of improvement that is already happening. Working together I believe we can improve and remove the red tapes that we are talking about. I am happy that each time you meet them they will tell you about the problems that they are experiencing at

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a secondary level, but they are there already now, and that's something to celebrate. Thank you.

Question 182:

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong): Am I audible enough, Chairperson?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order hon members. Order! Order hon members. The hon Deputy Minister?

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong): Am I audible enough, Chairperson?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): I can hear you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong): The Media Development and Diversity Agency has not forecasted community radio station closures. Based on previous experiences more than 40 community radio stations have either shut down or ... [Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Deputy Minister?

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The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong):

Chairperson?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Let me just take a point of order here. Hon members, if you make a noise, I won't even hear what the hon member is going to say. Don't shout at me, please. I want to hear your Whip, please.

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Chair, earlier on, the speaker had to defer a question because we could not hear what the Deputy Minister was saying. So now we're experiencing the same thing ...

[Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order hon members. Order! Hon members, let's give the member on the floor an opportunity and I'll make a determination.

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Call the bouncer on this one. Chair, I'm making a point that earlier on the speaker had to defer a certain question because of the problem that we are experiencing with the Deputy Minister. So, he's coming back with the same tendency. We can't hear him. Please let us not proceed.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, I'm going to allow the hon Deputy Minister to respond, and if I hear that he's not audible then I will make a ruling in that regard. The hon Deputy Minister?

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong): Thank you very much for your protection, House Chairperson. Based on previous experiences, more than 40 community radio stations had either shut down or have faced the threat of closure. This was primarily due to regulatory and licensing issue such as failing to meet the requirements set by the Independent Community Communications Authority of South Africa, Icasa, financial struggles including crippling debt and lack of sustainable funding.

Many radio stations have had difficulties renewing their licenses, while others were unable to maintain operational costs or pay transmission fees to service providers like Sentech. There have also been isolated cases of stations closing or not broadcasting frequently as per their license conditions because of technical and infrastructure challenges with poor signal coverage and infrastructure being the drivers and the lack of technical expertise.

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Community media plays a vital role in providing local independent and diverse perspectives on issues that matter to a community and given the unique challenges faced by community radio stations and community media more broadly, interventions by the Media Diversity and Development Agency, MDDA to support sustainability have included addressing issues of limited funding, technological gaps and community engagement.

During the period of 2021-22 to 2023-24 a total number of 55 community and small commercial media projects have received digital support from the agency. This digital support includes both training, mentorship and assistance with creating an online presence.

The agency also continues to offer financial support which includes assistance with technical equipment such as broadcasting studios to enhance broadcasting quality of the community media. In the 2024-25 financial year, the entity will fund 22 community broadcast projects and six community and small commercial print and digital media projects. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon Deputy Minister. I've been informed that the hon TK Bodlani will take

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charge of the first question on behalf of the honourable SG Vilakazi, in accordance with Rule 137(10)(3). I now recognise the hon Bodlani.

Ms T K BODLANI: House Chairperson, as alluded to by the Deputy Minister, we have seen a lot of radio stations closing, mainly because of their failure to afford Icasa and Sentech costs. What we have seen in the past is that the department has focused on quantity over quality. The question to the Minister is, with the increasing digital development of the media, how does the MDDA plan to support community radio stations and print publications to meet the market changes? Thank you, Chair.

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong): House Chairperson, the first instance is that we are hard at work in ensuring that there is amendment of the Electronic Communication Act to empower our community media to be more reliant on revenue and sustainability.

We've also commissioned research on sustainability of community media. And we've identified gaps with respect to the ability of these community media to be able to sustain

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themselves chief amongst which is their inability to continue to generate their own revenue.

Two, we've also discovered that there's no local government support for community and small commercial media. Chairperson, we are in discussions with Sentech on the funding modalities and ensuring that these community media continue to be sustainable. I thank you.

Mr O M MATHAFA: House Chair, can I take the question for hon Puri please?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Please proceed.

Mr O M MATHAFA: Deputy Minister, thank you for your comprehensive responses. Noting your earlier input on closure of some local community stations, can you please share with the House from the support the agency is allocating to these stations? What is the target number of radio stations that you think you will be able to reach? What is the listenership that the agency seeks for these radio stations to reach in order to continue to be transmitters of information and development in local communities for the training of young creative artists? Thank you, House Chair.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong): House Chairperson, the MDDA intends to support about 22 community and small commercial media projects this financial year. We intend to do so because community media promotes indigenous languages. Community media are catalysts of social cohesion. And their listenership and the demographics thereof are community members in small communities, in rural communities and who continue to receive information that is impacted through community media. I thank you.

Mr N NDHLELA: Hon Minister, we want to state that we categorically lament and oppose the forecasted closure of community radio stations because these are the same radio stations that in effect service the poorest of the poorest of our people. And let's not forget that it also forms as the only source of information on what government programmes are being implemented including these specific projects.

We've also been informed by yourself as you just mentioned that there is a funding model that you're working on, this new funding model. We want to know, how is this new funding model going to assist these new radio stations and these stations effectively, and most importantly, can you please articulate the details thereof of this funding model? Thanks.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong): Well, in the first instance, you know that MDDA is an entity of Government Communication and Information Systems, GCIS. The Minister and I have instructed GCIS to work on a model and a policy of media buying, which has been absent GCIS so that we can support community media.

We have also said one of the things that we must do is to ensure that there is 30% set aside for adverts spent for community media to continue to support community media to generate their own revenue, I thank you.

Ms M S LETLAPE: Deputy Minister, we know that the closure of community radio stations constitutes a violation of rights to access to information and by now having a funding model, we now want to know what are the financial measure to ensure that the critical challenges that are still faced by community radio stations can be stopped before they can make sure that retention strategies that exist to ensure that radio stations do not end up closing down due to the fact that the advertising marketing strategies are not there to make sure that the radio stations are able to sustain themselves? What are the financial measures that you have put in place and

strategies of advertising and marketing to ensure that these radio stations are able to sustain themselves? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong): As I have said Chairperson, we are engaging Sentech on the transmission fees and we are making sure that this community media does not close, or community radio stations in particular do not close because they are unable to pay transmission fees from Sentech.

Equally we are engaging Icasa on their licensing regulations. As I've said that we are also working on the amendment of the Electronic Communication Act to empower these community media to be more reliable, more reliant so that they can generate their own income. I thank you.

Question 197:

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: House Chairperson, as the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, DPME, we are the overall co-ordinating platform for local government management implementation model. This is a web-based tool that we use to assess municipal practices based on the six municipal services that are being implemented in different municipalities.

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How do we ensure that we support municipalities to ensure that service delivery is implemented where it is necessary? We do that by making sure that we improve management practices of municipalities by coming up with improvement plans that we monitor timeously and periodically to ensure that those interventions that are needed are done effectively.

We are also co-ordinating sector departments to ensure that if there is any other intervention that may be needed we are able to assist municipalities working with relevant institutions to ensure that service delivery, as I have already said, is done accordingly. So, that is what we do as the department to ensure that we assist municipalities to stick to their fiduciary responsibilities in finance as well as making sure that service delivery is done.

Mr H D SELEPE: Hon House Chairperson, given that the department's Local Government Management Improvement Model in the context of its mandate is to facilitate the implementation of the National Development Plan, NDP, to what extent does the department support municipalities that are not responsive to service delivery needs of communities and lack financial and human capacity to an extent that money is sent back to the National Treasury?

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The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: House Chairperson, as I have already said, we do establish or develop improvement plans that we share with municipalities, and if there is a need we will share with provincial departments that are relevant to assist in those municipalities to meet those fiduciary responsibilities. We then monitor implementation of those plans and come up with reports that would have come from evaluation of the impact of whatever intervention that may have been put in place. So, that is how we ensure that we do our part in terms of this particular model.

Ms T MGWEBA: House Chair, thank you very much to the hon Minister. What role will the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation play in the second phase of Operation Vulindlela, focusing on reforming the local government system, improving the delivery of basic services, harnessing the digital public infrastructure as a driver of growth and inclusion, and supporting the District Development Model, DDM, champions to mainstream impactful interventions? Thank you very much, House Chair.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Chairperson, what we have been able to do is co-ordinate the

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implementation and the monitoring of the One Plans that are supposed to be assisting different municipalities and government as a whole to be able to do what needs to be done.

We have recently, through the National Planning Commission, NPC, done an advisory that is going to assist us to be able to come up with master plans that would allow us to measure if there is improvement in terms of service delivery that is needed, most especially because the One Plans that are in place are not necessarily able to deal with the issues that they were meant to.

Therefore, the co-ordination part of it and the measurement of whether they are being successful or not hasn't been done adequately, but the framework that we have developed to assist us with these master plans will allow us to measure and be able to ensure that all the things that are necessary and are supposed to go to communities are done effectively. If they are not done effectively, we will then now co-ordinate with relevant institutions, as I have already said, to make sure that intervention is made adequately.

Mr D BERGMAN: Minister, the administration in the Tshwane Metro has made great strides in recovering from

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maladministration and has recently won awards from the Auditor-General, yet the Premier and his team are trying to unseat it. How does the Minister propose to engage with Premiers and Mayors who are more concerned with positions and personal benefits than achieving the key performance indicators, KPIs, of the NDP? Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: It is not in our capacity to deal with allegations. Therefore, we will suggest that if there is any of those kind of complaints to please register them with relevant institutions so that they attend to them adequately. Thank you.

Ms M R MOHLALA: House Chair, to the Minister, the Financial Sector Conduct Authority has released numerous reports highlighting the noncompliance in local government municipalities with a statutory obligation to pay towards the pensions held and provident fund benefits of municipal employees. This means that municipalities are not only failing with external service delivery mandates but are also failing with internal financial control mechanism.

In your view, Minister, is the failure by municipalities to pay workers' pensions a challenge that relates to lack of

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financial or human capacity to deduct funds from workers' salaries and pay them to the municipal employees' pension funds where in your department must intervene, or is it a challenge of corruption? Thank you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon House Chairperson, the Accountant-General has recently done a survey and evaluation of the capacity of CFOs in municipalities to come up with effective measures to assist different municipalities to be able to do their responsibilities adequately in a legal way. We have now found out that there are municipalities where capacity is not necessarily a way it is supposed to be, and as a result intervention from the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs together with Treasury have been put in place to assist those municipalities to be able to what they need to do.

Overall, we have also found out that maybe we need to come up with assessments of different municipalities as it relates to their financial responsibilities so that we can be able to know that when there are challenges such as those ones, what is the framework that can be implemented all over without having to come up with different interventions for each municipality. Working together with different institutions and

departments, that framework is being developed and we will make sure that whatever it is that needs to be done will be monitored so that interventions that are put in place can be accounted for.

Question 169:

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: House Chairperson, the National Development Plan, NDP, is a lodestar of our country and our nation as it relates to policy.

However, I have realised that sometimes people do believe that the National Development Plan is a responsibility of government. Yes, it is a responsibility of government, but also of the businesses as well as society. Now, I do believe that there have been necessarily no improvements in many instances where different stakeholders have been able to do what they needed to do. As a result, it is for this reason that when we do our reviews as the National Planning Commission, NPC, like the 10-year review that we just did, we do them with recommendation to say that what needs to be done in terms of making sure that we come up with social compact that will allow the entire nation and all stakeholders to come together to make sure that the NDP is being implemented adequately. But just to say this, the NDP, as you may remember, was adopted in this House in 2012. In 2015, the

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Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, were also adopted later. If you look at the NDP, you will see that the SDGs have 11 of our targets, outcomes, and priorities of the NDP in their own system. So, it just shows that the NDP's targets and their priorities are of elevated level, and if implemented adequately by everyone, with partnerships with social compact, we will be able to see the South Africa that we want to live in by 2030.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon members, I have been informed that the hon S Thembekwayo will oversee the first question on behalf of the hon S Thambo, in accordance with Rule 137(10) (a).

Dr S S THEMBEKWAYO: Minister, part of the key priorities of the NDP is to rebuild state capacity. Over the past decade, there has been a deliberate collapse of state capacity and there has been an introduction of the concept of public-private partnership in critical areas such as aviation, defence, water provision, energy, and railway infrastructure, which have eroded and encroached on state capacity. Is there a genuine intention to improve state capacity by 2030, or has the agenda of defunding and privatising state functions replaced the NDP priorities? I thank you, Chair.

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The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: It is a global practise to have Triple-Ps, to ensure that whatever it is that we do as government, is done adequately. In some instances, there may be capital injection, and in some, there may be partnership as it relates to management of certain institutions to ensure that we enhance the capacity of the state and whatever it is that we need to do. In my view, Triple-Ps have assisted government to be able to reach some of the responsibilities that they needed to reach. They must be done in a landscape where there will be accountability, but the developmental agenda of the state is not eroded, as a result. Therefore, whatever it is that we put in place, whether in policy, whether in partnership, should take in cognizance the fact that the state remains the one that is responsible for the development agenda. That should assist us to be able to do our responsibility as it relates to all the other policies that we may have been able to put in place. So, I do not believe that there is failure in any way or replacement of state capacity, but it is the enhancement of state capacity. As I have already said, we must ensure that when we put targets and priorities in place, such as in the NDP, it is the responsibility of everyone, including private sector, in a controlled way and legal way to ensure that whatever it is that we need to do is done in the way that it

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will be able to reach the agenda that we have set out for ourselves. Thank you.

Mr S I SUBRATHIE: Hon Chair, hon Minister, the 30-year review highlights noteworthy progress that has been made by the democratic government in increasing access to basic services, creating equitable access to opportunities, and empowering the previously disadvantaged in political, social, and economic life. My question is: How will the medium-term development plan of the Government of National Unity, GNU, address the structural factors in the political economy, which are resulting in a crisis in poverty, unemployment, and inequality? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

Chairperson, if you can look at the three priorities that are outlined in the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP, they are based on economic development that would be inclusive in nature. As a result, the MTDP itself, if you look at it, it is giving a framework where departments should come up with annual performance plans, APPs, that would speak to inclusive growth, but also inclusive development, so that when we talk about issues that the hon Minister has spoken about, we are

able to come up with the injection that would be necessary to make a difference where it is needed. Thank you.

IsiZulu:

Mnu C V SHONGWE: Sihlalo ...

English:

It is common that the NDP has missed all the 2020 projected targets, including economic growth, employment, and poverty eradication, and many others. And it continues to be an absolute document, despite government rhetoric about the review of the NDP. The recent employment figures from Statistics SA and various economic indicators continue to paint a gloomy picture. Is it not time for the government to focus on a massive industrialization to create jobs instead of promoting flopped plans like the NDP? South Africans are tired of these meaningless plans.

IsiZulu:

Ngiyabonga Sihlalo

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

Chairperson, if the hon member can be able to understand that the NDP is a loadstar, as I have said, it is supposed to give

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guidance where all plans of government, as well as private sector, and everybody should draw their direction from. If there is an ability of all stakeholders to follow and plan their own policies and intervention based on the targets of the NDP, I really do believe that South Africa would be able to reach all those plans that have been put in because those are targets that are supposed to be a loadstar to direct us in understanding exactly what needs to be done based on the research that has been done and based on the implementation that should be able to assist us to measure if there is improvement or not. If we do not have a sounding board like the NDP and the NPC, we would not be able to know if we are moving forward or not. We would continue to operate in silos and then at the end of the day the impact that is needed to change the lives of our people would not happen. So, it is necessary to have a long-term plan and a long-term trajectory that would allow us to be able to plan within periods of five years for each administration, so that whenever we come to measure, if we have moved from one place to another, we have a platform where we can be able to check. If you look at countries like China, they also have long-term plans. They also can produce plans that would allow them to plan even for 50 years. So, it is necessary that we continue to make sure that when we put our policies or plans such as the NDP, it

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becomes something that everybody else is aligned to so that we can be able to see the difference that you are talking about like industrialization. It is important that the NDP guide us in that regard. Thank you.

Ms K A CHRISTIE: Speaker, the National Development Plan is an opportunity for the GNU to build South Africa and silence the breakers. The previous NDP was a closed process, with the commission now playing as consultative and inclusive as it could have been. With 2030 fast approaching, are there plans afoot for the next medium to long-term planning session, and if so, what are the plans?

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: The NPC is an independent sounding board or commission that advises Cabinet but also advises the President. Those people that are there are people that are drawn from different sectors of our country. They are not working for government. As a result, they work on work streams where they do make sure that they create, or they produce advisories that would allow us to be able to know what we are doing wrong and how should it be able to be effectively implemented. So, in the GNU, we are going to make sure that whenever advisories are established and are put in place, they become accessible for everyone, so that when we

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come up with social compact, we come up with social compacts that will be drawn from the research base of people that are in the National Planning Commission. Thank you.

Question 174:

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Hon Chairperson, the proclamation that was issued by the President has stated that as much as state-owned enterprises have moved to their line department, it is still necessary that the holding company should be established. That is precisely because the research that was done and the advisories that have been put in place by different institutions still maintain that there are reforms that are necessary for our state-owned enterprises to be able to perform adequately, but also stick to their developmental and commercial mandate.

As a result, it becomes necessary that the shareholder model that is necessary must still be pursued. If ever maybe there is any process that needs to be reviewed that can be done, but the need to reform our state-owned enterprises to perform adequately is still there. As a result, we need to put in place those reforms that would assist us to do the mandate that have been given by different researchers and councils that were put in for a number of years. Thank you.

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Mr D BERGMAN: Hon Minister, stronger oversight; more countability to the portfolios and more independence to the boards could support the need for more legislation and the new super board. However, more importantly, the time has come where we need to take an unemotional decision and look at those state-owned enterprises, SOEs, that are crippling us or themselves been debt burden or not being allowed to take on strategic partners and curtailing our fiscal capabilities.

It is clear that we need to plant proverbial red flags in the ground that once an SOE breaches those flags, whether it is due to profitability, outdated requirements or for any other reason we will approach the private sector or sell them off. Will the Minister be bold enough to advise such decisions to the President, and if not, why not? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: My responsibility remains that we need to create and establish a system that would allow our state-owned enterprises to perform better. That obviously has to allow us to have line of sight of making sure that in terms of what happens financially and in operations. In terms of any other model that may be able to assist us to better perform and also ensure that our state-

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owned enterprises perform at what they are supposed to do commercially, we would then be able to look at that.

However, we must always remember that whatever it is that we put in place must not forget the developmental role of the state-owned enterprises because they remain a catalyst of the other policies that are supposed to assist us to reach some inclusivity as it relates to economic development. Yes, anything that would assist our state-owned enterprises to perform better, I really do believe that it needs to be looked at even if it is in the form of partnership with the private sector. Thank you.

Ms A N KUMBACA: Hon Minister, the establishment of the state asset management state-owned company, SOC, limited is a welcomed development, however, critics are concerned of the majority shareholding by the state with the fear that the public service deficiencies may still prevail in the new environment. What measures are in place or will be implemented to ensure proper governance of the state asset management, SOC and its subsidiaries?

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Our SOCs, of course, are companies as a result when we make sure that we

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do put in place management that would allow us to be able to operate effectively, we do look at global standards. So, as a result, when we put those management that would allow us to be able to deal with the company that you are talking about, we will do so by ensuring that we recruit the best of the best.

However, most of all, we put in place a model that will assist us to be able to run this company in a viable way but most of all in a way that we can then be able to account for whatever it is that it would have been set out to do. Thank you.

Mr S NOMVALA: Hon Minister, on 29 August 2024, President Ramaphosa told this House that the concept of wanting to establish a SA sovereign fund model on the ... [Inaudible.] ... of Singapore, or Dubai United Arab Emirates, UAE, that sovereign fund will be funded out of the sale of state-owned enterprises.

As the DA-ANC coalition government in line with the recommendation 17 of the Presidential Review Commission Report, undertake an exercise that clearly identifies which of the state-owned enterprises provide public goods and are therefore deemed strategic or serve the national interest or national security interest and are delineated so that their

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operation should remain in state hands to advance the interest of a developmental stage, if not, what drives the urgency of establishing the single holding company?

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: The sovereignty of our state is sacrosanct, so, whatever it is that we will be doing we will never in any way under no circumstances compromise that. So, as a result, at least let us move from that. Second of all, there is no coalition but the Government of National Unity, GNU, that comprises of 10 political parties and we are ... [Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): ... order, hon members. Order!

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: So, let me continue ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members. Hon members, hon members, the Minister is now replying. Let us give her an opportunity. Please, proceed, hon Minister. Hon members! You are now disrupting the Minister in her reply. Please, reply, hon Minister.

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The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: I still reiterate what I said because it is a fact. Obviously, the sovereign wealth fund will have to assist us to be able to and - I will still say it again - that's the developmental agenda that our state actually need. It becomes important that we look at different types of models that could then be able to assist us to actually sustain that sovereign wealth fund.

If SOEs are performing adequately and optimally, they would then be able to give us the returns that would allow us to have a seat to be able to do what we need to do with the sovereign wealth fund. Thank you.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu. Holobye, ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members.

Mr S M GANA: The Deputy President is quoted as saying that this government should not be in the business of owning airlines. Do you agree with him, and if so, what will you do with the SAA and the SA Express?

Xitsonga:

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Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: My responsibility - as I have already said - is actually to ensure that the Bill that should be able to establish the holding company is passed by this Parliament. My responsibility remains that the department would be able to assist to put systems in place that will ensure that all our SOEs become successful and operate effectively.

If that means that we have to then partner - I will still say it again - with private sector, I really do believe that that would then be looked at. Nevertheless, it will be done as per merit not because it is the blanket approach. As a result, just allow us to establish this Bill and the model that would allow us to be able to do what we need to do.

I don't think that we will then just wake up tomorrow and say that we are selling 1,2 and 3. It will have to be informed by a certain process. Nevertheless, at the end of the day it becomes important that our sovereignty - as I have already said - and the developmental agenda of our country and of our state is still adhered to. Thank you.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, the time allocated for questions has expired. Outstanding replies received will be printed in Hansard. Order, hon members. Hon members, order! The decision of the Question on the motion in the name of the hon Mr J S Malema on the Order Paper today, will stand over in terms of Rule 99. I now request hon members to stand and wait for the Chair and the Mace to leave the Chamber. That concludes the debate and the business for today. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 18:04.