

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 1

THURSDAY, 9 MARCH 2017

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 14:05.

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

The SPEAKER: The only item on the Order Paper is questions addressed to the Deputy President. Hon members may press the top button on their desks if they wish to ask a supplementary question.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Yes, hon member

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 2

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: I don't want to disturb the Deputy President, but I would like to raise a question of privilege with you, if I may?

The SPEAKER: What is the question of privilege?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Speaker, the Deputy President when he was in the House last answer question session reminded this House around the constitutional provisions for the deployment of the South African National Defence Force, SANDF, by the President of the Republic of South Africa. Section 55(2) (b) of the Constitution places this House responsible for exercising oversight of the exercise of the executive authority vested in the President.

In terms of section 201(2) of the Constitution, when the President deploys the defence force, he is required to inform this House of the reasons why there is a set down prescription on why and how it should be done.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 3

The SPEAKER: Hon Steenhuisen, please I really want to urge you to abandon these points and you know how you need to take the matter up.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Speaker, it is a point of privilege and needs to be raised in the House in terms of the Rules. Rule 31, said I must raise it with you as soon as possible, if you would allow me to finish. I am nearly done.

During the course of the 2016 deployment of the SANDF no such letter from the President was tabled in this House and therefore the Constitution and the Defence Act have been bridged and all I am asking you Madam Speaker, is to please investigate this matter, and the circumstances why that procedure that the Deputy President outlined was not followed and to report back to the House on that matter. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, the first question has been asked by the hon Johnson to the hon the Deputy President.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 4

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Hon Steenhuisen, can you please take your seat and let the House proceed?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Speaker, I raised a point of privilege and you need to respond either yes that you will or no that you won't.

The SPEAKER: Hon Steenhuisen, of course I will.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Question 7:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, Science and Technology as well as innovation hold the key to equitable growth in our country. That is why the National Development Plan, NDP, has set what one would call ambitious targets to increase the number of students who are eligible towards Maths and Science degrees by 2030.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 5

It calls for the percentage of PhD qualified staff in the higher education sector to be increased from the current 34% to over 75% by 2030. In a rapidly changing global economy where many traditional occupations are continuously being displaced by technology as we would have had about the Fourth Industrial Revolution intentions, it is critical that South Africa develops its scientific research capabilities and produces suitably qualified people who will play a key role in the evolving economy. That is why government is directing greater effort and more resources towards skills development in Science, Technology as well as innovation.

Since the advent of our democracy, we have made what I would call important progress in this regard. The number of graduate who have done Science, Engineering and Technology has increased from around 20 000 a year in 1994 to around 58 000 a year in 2015. This is phenomenal progress, but significant challenge still remain particularly in the area of Maths and Science, which are still poor across our education system, although

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 6

enrolment in Science, Engineering and Technology in universities has been increasing.

There are still only a few graduates who finally complete their studies. Less than 25% of students who enrol for a Bachelor of Science or Engineering degree actually finally graduate. This is a cause for concern. Many of the challenges that they face have their roots in our basic education system which is still arrested by the apartheid legacy that our country has been through.

To address these challenges, government introduced a number of initiatives and some of those are increasing grants to the provinces to promote teaching and learning of Mathematics, Science and Technology and in a number of provinces we see this bearing fruits already.

The Department of Basic Education also plans to award 38 000 Funza Lushaka Bursaries over medium-term at a cost of 3,3 billion to train teachers, particularly in Maths, Science

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 7

and Technology. Now, this is putting great resources to an area where we need to see great improvement.

To strengthen these efforts, the Human Resource Development Council, HRDC, council has established Mathematics and Science standing committee consisting of seasoned academics, as well as professionals, who are led by Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng to advise the HRDC on improving Maths and Science in our education.

So, as we can see a number of initiatives are underway and in this regard we are also working with private sector to ensure that we do reach the highest levels of success in this regard. Over 13 000 postgraduate students and 796 postgraduate fellows were awarded bursaries through the National Research Foundation, NRF, which is managed by the Department of Science and Technology. More than 4 300 researchers were awarded research grants through the NRF, to ensure that our skills development programme meet the needs of an innovative and dynamic economy.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 8

Our Sector Education and Training Authority, SETAs, are also doing a great deal of work in this regard. Working together with the private sector, a lot of money is being deployed to ensure that we do have a great deal of success. The private sector is doing some practical work for Engineering students and ensuring that they do get the necessary skills.

On an overall basis, I think we have embarked on a number of initiatives to ensure that we do delve a number of young people in our country into science, technology and innovation and we will start seeing the benefits of all these in the next few years as more and more of these young people become renowned scientist, academics and professors with PhDs as we move ahead with greater success. Thank you very much.

Mr M JOHNSON: Deputy President I thank you for that comprehensive response to a very pertinent question that talks to development in this country. My follow-up question relates more to an experience in India through government initiatives

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 9

and directives. A million of IT specialists are trained and that skill is exported outside India.

Whether is our government able to direct universities in saying a particular number of engineers or economists are required in a particular year, given the fact that government is subsidising a great deal of these colleges and universities? Whether as government given the shortages of skills that we talk about from time to time and artisans, are we able to say we require this particular number of skills or engineers or any such in any particular given point in time?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It remains a personal dream and wish that one day we should be able to make a clear target of the number of engineers we would like to see coming out of our universities, number of scientists and technology specialists and all that and I think that day is soon coming when we will put a clear target and say we want to see 10 000 engineers coming out of our universities within a period say of four or five years.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 10

What India has been able to achieve stands out as a great example or lesson for all of us. As you correctly say, they are now able to export well trained technologists either in IT and Engineering and Science. China is another great example and indeed a number of other countries and this has happened because they have invested a lot of resources, time and effort in ensuring that they produce these types of graduates.

We are doing exactly the same. We are investing a lot of time and effort. Today, we have almost a million young people in our universities and we have got 715 000 young people in our Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET, colleges. Now, if you look at what we had in the past, this is unprecedented.

Our universities, as I said, are now producing well trained graduates. Yes, the numbers may not be as high as we want them to be, but they are creeping up and they are going up on an ongoing basis and I am sure that we will be able to reach that stage when we will be able to set targets and meet those

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 11

targets. We have it within us. We have the capability to be able to do so. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Mbabama. This is a DA Member of Parliament.

Ms T M MBABAMA: Excuse me, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: No.

Ms T M MBABAMA: I think there is a fault with my system. It was flicking when we got here. We are just trying to get the attention of somebody to come and look at it.

The SPEAKER: Okay, no, that is fine.

The SPEAKER: Hon Msibi.

Mr N M KHUBISA: Hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Hon Msibi.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 12

Mr N M KHUBISA: Yes.

The SPEAKER: It is okay, NFP, yes.

Mr N M KHUBISA: Yes, Speaker. Hon Deputy President, we have to escalate even further, because we are in a quest for skills development and in 2014, the President of the Republic said in his state of the nation address that, we will expand the number of internship positions in the public sector with every government department and public entity being required to take interns for experiential learning.

He further spoke of employment tax incentive scheme that the private sector had responded to positively. Now, I want to ask a question that, what is it that has been done to ensure that more youth get into this internship, over and above getting degrees, because this is what we need as well. I am basing my question on the understanding that just recently about 58 000 students applied for National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, but

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 13

their applications were rejected. I think that their spirits were really dampened.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, I can testify to the fact that many of our government entities do take on interns and put young people on learnerships. We have close to 750 state-owned enterprises and many of those do offer internships and learnerships to young people.

But, in our collaborations with the private sector, we have been able to get the private sector to agree and we are finalising the agreements to employ up to a million young people in internships into formal programmes of internships and learnerships over a three-year period.

My own wish is to have them do one and a half million, but we are still talking about that, but that is going to offer young people a great opportunity to get into the world of work and learn about work and thereafter the one year, they will be in much better position to be able to get employment and in most

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 14

case we find that, those young people who get into learnerships do often get absorbed by those companies that gives them those opportunities, because those who are top flyers are able to demonstrate to employers that, yes, they should be employed. So, we are hoping and wishing that many of those 1 million young people will be brought in.

Now, if you look across the landscape of the South African economy you will find that even private companies of their own volition are taking on young people. So, you have private sector, public sector and you even have government ministries that take on young people on learnerships. So, you have Ministries, state owned enterprises and lots of private sector companies.

So, already there is a huge cohort of young people that are being brought into learnerships and those who have not had the opportunity will now have the opportunity. Up to 350 000 of them in a year right across the length and the breadth of the country will have that opportunity which we are creating.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 15

We want much more than that and in fact, whenever we meet the private sector, we challenge them to go just beyond a certain small percentage and inform them that it is to our countries great benefit if they are going to absorb all these young people into learnerships. Learnerships have proven to have great efficacy in giving young people the skills that they need. Thank you very much.

IsiXhosa:

Mnu N L S KWANKWA: Ucofe ngempazamo, Somlomo, utsho.

English:

The SPEAKER: This was the hon Holomisa of the UDM. Okay.

Ms S NKOMO: Good afternoon, Deputy President. Can we do beneficiary or benefication in this country if we don't have the skills of production, for an example, the Medupi power station, we had to bring in skilled welders from other countries because South Africans welders lacked the required skills? Would you agree that South Africa seems to be more obsessed with tertiary

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 16

qualifications rather than artisan skill development and this obsession is costing us heavily?

Tshivenda:

Mufarisa Muphuresidennde: Ndi masiari. Ndi livhuwa na mbudziso yavho.

English:

The Deputy President: I would like to say that we are seeing a great deal of improvement in the take up of artisan training by young people, particularly those who go to our TVET colleges and some even get that type of training in community colleges. I wouldn't say that we should be dismissive of the type of training that young people are getting in this regard.

The TVET colleges are actually beginning to record great success in that. They are beginning to do a balance between theoretical learning and practical learning and that gives young people the opportunity to delve into the practical world of work and to also learn real skills and some of them are actually taking up

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 17

artisanship and learning crafts that they become certificated for after sometime.

Admittedly, we should say that we don't have too many of these great opportunities to give young people the artisan training skills but they are increasing. The Minister of Higher Education is under a great deal of pressure, because he has found that he needs to be building TVET colleges maybe one every week and the budgetary constraints are holding him back, because it is at the TVET colleges that young people are able to pick these skills up and we are hoping that there will be more and more of these.

Now, the lesson that we learned with Medupi, for instance, did in many ways give us a wake up call that we didn't have those highly specialised welders. We are training welders now in our country and not only ordinary welders, but your high-tech welders are now being trained here.

So, in effect, we are learning from the experience of other countries and bringing in people from various other countries is

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 18

also a great boon for us, because we utilise the skills that they have to transfer them to us, for instance, we have a number of motor mechanics from Cuba, who are in this country and they are transferring real skills, because in Cuba they still use the 1950s models and if you can repair a 1950s car you can repair anything. So, those skills are being transferred to us.

Now, if you have ever tried to be a mechanic like I have, you will know that it is of great benefit to use an older car to learn your craft, so that you can utilise it on newer cars. So, the Cubans are teaching us a lot of skills and we are learning a lot of other skills from many other nations. Thank you very much.

Mr S C MOTAU: Deputy President, with regard to reference to working with the private sector, the characterisation of the private sector as some kind of evil monster, the so-called white monopoly capital frequently expressed by some in the ANC and yesterday we saw and heard hon Pule Mabe do exactly that and South African Communist Party, SACP, and Congress of South

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 19

African Trade Unions, COSATU, can't be helpful to the government efforts to facilitate skills development partnerships with the private sector. We had Minister Pravin Gordhan yesterday warn against this. What impact does this fashionable vilification of the private sector have on the government effort to achieve the NDP's goal of facilitating economic growth through skills development, staunch unemployment and promote job creation?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, our co-operation with the private sector in trying to get their support to help with the skills revolution in our country goes beyond utilisation of the type of terms that you are referring to and they are much more matured, much more visionary than what you have tried to describe them as. They know the challenge that is at hand and they are fully aware that they need to work with government and co-operate with us and in fact COSATU, and a number of other organisation in the labour side, Federation of Unions of South Africa, FEDUSA, National Council of Trade Unions, NACTU, are deeply involved in discussions with the private sector when it comes to training young people.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 20

They sit in forums with government, private sector, among themselves and community based organisations to address precisely this issue. People are not hamstrung and held back by terms such as radical economic transformation and in fact, they find that it describes the challenge and the problems so accurately that they want to be part of the process of radically bringing about changes in our country.

So, much as you may think that this scares them off and terrifies them, I think they are much more matured than that and I think you should credit them with a little bit of more intelligence than you do. Thank you very much.

Question 8:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, there are several factors that contribute to civil unrests and disturbances in our country. We have witnessed some of these ugly things at various times over the past few years. The problems of violence that is driven by xenophobia, violent protest as well as gangsterism, usually manifest in an environment of widespread poverty, high

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 21

unemployment and stark inequality in our country. They are exacerbated by geographical dislocation, poor social services and competition for scarce resources.

Government response to these challenges is therefore multifaceted and multi-problem as many of us will have seen. The response involves not only the organs of state, but has also gained the active co-operation of a number of other role-players in our country at civil society level, various forums, structures, faith-based organisations, community groupings as well as some individuals in our society.

This approach is well demonstrated in government's national strategy against gangsterism, which was approved by Cabinet just recently. In developing the strategy, government undertook a diagnostic process, which confirmed that gangsterism is rooted in socioeconomic conditions and is therefore not merely just a law enforcement issue.

The strategy places communities at the centre of all the efforts that we are seeking to take as government. It aims to empower communities by addressing human development issues, social cohesion issues and also to address unemployment and issues such as poverty and inequality. It prioritises social partnerships, which we should engender in our communities, particularly with civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders. It aims to prevent these challenges that we face through improved spatial design and creating safe living spaces for our people.

These strategies will be implemented alongside effective law enforcement strategies, upholding the rule of law and maintaining the integrity of the efficacy of our criminal justice system.

As you may know, a comprehensive intersectoral implementation plan for the strategy has been finalised, engagement with social partners is underway and a similar approach is also been taken to respond to the xenophobic violence that we have been seeing.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 23

This requires interventions at a policy level through community engagement and through crime combating and prevention methods and guided by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Migration, which is chaired by my colleague, Minister Jeff Radebe. A multipronged strategy is currently underway. South Africa's immigration and refugee policy is also being reviewed. The better management of refugees through amongst other things, the establishment of asylum processing centres that will be closer to the northern border of our country is being explored.

Another area is the development of an integration policy for foreign nationals living legally in South Africa and ongoing sustained dialogue with representatives of the leaders of communities that come from outside the country.

We have also utilised other fairly effective interventions such as Operation Fiela, which has done very well to reduce the levels of criminality in various challenged areas, and as we do all these, we as South Africans must stand united against all form of criminal behaviour, racism, sexism and xenophobia. We

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 24

must ensure that all the people regardless of where they come from are treated with dignity and respect. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Rev K R J MESHOE: Speaker, Deputy President, recent reports of xenophobia, farm murders, gang and drug related violence seems to indicate that government has failed in its attempt to restore social cohesion in the country.

The intensity of hatred and brutality of some of the attacks on foreign nationals, farmers and their workers, such as the stories we hear of victims being tortured with cigarettes, blow torches and hot irons are truly disturbing and frightening. Even helpless 95-year-old grandmothers are not spared. They are raped and strangled with telephone cords and killed in their own homes as has happened this past week in Port Elizabeth.

Would the Deputy President then agree that government's effort to encourage, particularly social cohesion are failing because government has departed from prioritising reconciliation and

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 25

nation building that has been initiated and spearheaded by the late President Nelson Mandela? If the Deputy President does not agree, could he expand on other possible reasons for this apparent failure as evidence by increasing contact crimes? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I sought in my earlier answer to give a fairly detailed explanation of the efforts that are being made by government to address precisely these challenges. I cannot agree that government has failed in its effort and task to promote and foster social cohesion in our country.

We continue to deal with this matter as a priority and indeed, the various programmes and interventions that we are embarking on, on an ongoing basis are aimed at precisely promoting social cohesion.

So, I will disagree with you, hon Meshoe, my good Rev on this issue. I think if you look very closely and carefully, you will find that, indeed, the South African government has often gone

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 26

out of its way to promote social cohesion. Admittedly, we face enormous challenges. I would say, no more challenges than many other countries do, but in our case, especially so, because when it comes to issues that impact on xenophobia, we have become an oasis that many people from various other countries face and when you interpose that on the challenges that we face as a nation in relation to poverty, inequality and unemployment, there is always a conflict that will arise and the government is always there to mediate that and to address it.

Where these challenges flair up in forms of violence, the government acting obviously together with other role-players is always on hand to lead the charge, and of course we are eternally grateful to faith-based organisations, the type of organisation at the church level that you lead also plays a key role. So, for that I am able to stand here in Parliament and thank you for the role that you played as a Rev of the church, man of the cloth. We thank you for assisting in this regard. We would call upon you to continue doing so because this is a

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 27

collective task. It's not the government's task alone. Thank you very much, Rev. [Applause.]

Mr C T MSIMANG: I am glad hon Deputy President that the government recognises so many social measures that could be used or are being used to correct anti-social behaviour in our communities. I am saying this because I do have the fear that in South Africa, we turn to be overlegislated. We seem to think that any deviant behaviour must be corrected by legislation.

My own view is that these social measures are more effective. Therefore, the government should invest more on these measures, then on legislation. I wonder if the Deputy President agrees with me. Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, I am delighted to hear that the hon member is pleased to see that the government has embarked and continues to embark on these social measures and interventions to address these challenges.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 28

I would agree with him that indeed these social measures and interventions often have a far greater impact than utilising the strong arm of the law. We have proven that to be the case. That's why even our strategy on fighting the scourge of gangsterism is pivoted around building partnerships, going into communities and through this you will see members of the SA Police Service acting together with other arms of government going into communities, having detailed or in-depth discussions with members of the communities where gangsterism has become a huge problem.

Indeed, it is not only around gangsterism, also on xenophobia, we are moving inch by inch, house to house, street by street, to various communities because it has been proven over and over that it is through social engagement that we are able to address key social challenges. I am glad that you so recognised this. We would invite you and your party to participate in all these so that we work together. Even if you smile away, I would say, let's hold hands together so that we address these challenges. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 29

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Deputy President, the question centers around the xenophobic violence that you have seen over the past few weeks over in the country, and in particular, if one reads the African Peer Review Mechanism Report, 2007, it highlights an important issue. It talks about the unfair competition between undocumented and illegal migrants in the country and South Africans in the labour market. Why have you not addressed that problem as government is the first question?

The second question which is also related to that and is part of the main question is that: Has government not dropped the ball in terms of conflict resolution and management in Africa because that is another way of dealing proactively with the influx of people that come into the country? Just closing the porous borders for instance, is not going to solve the problem alone; it means it needs to be managed proactively at the strategic level. Thank you so much.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker and hon Kwankwa, we continue to be involved in this whole issue of migration. The structure

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 30

that is headed by Minister Jeff Radebe is addressing precisely this and is a multidisciplinary structure in which various Ministries or departments are represented. They are looking precisely at this issue of undocumented foreign nationals who come to our country. We are becoming very proactive and compassionate in dealing with them. That is why we have been looking very closely at setting up these reception centres closer to our northern border so that at the point of reception, we are able to process them to be able to distinguish those who have documents and those who don't and also processing them to find out precisely what has brought them to the shores of our country.

So, that we are doing and with regard to conflict resolution processes, we continue to be engaged. We are the one country that is relied upon by our peers on the African continent to be the country that you go to for help, assistance and support. We are giving a lot of support to our neighbours, but beyond our neighbours to other countries on the African continent.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 31

You mentioned that word South African people, it often conjures up in people's minds, support, assistance, a friend, a brother and a sister. That is what it brings up in many people's minds. We will continue with this process because it is through building peace on the African continent that we will be able to show that more and more of our countries on the continent do become successful to a point where many of their own citizens do not see the need to traverse borders of various countries to come to one single country. Thank you very much.

Ms Z N MBHELE: Deputy President, in your first response you mentioned law enforcement and the rule of law. So, I think you will agree that in order to have social cohesion and less unrests, we need good relations between the police and communities and a more effective police service. Where these relations breakdown, vigilantism can erupt, which weakens that cohesion. Where the police service is understaffed and underresourced, which is pretty much everywhere, it cannot work to contain the violence that accompanies some protests and all

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 32

xenophobic attacks. This violence escalates and spread and that in turn undermines cohesion.

So, Deputy President, what will you do, specifically to enforce the accountability of police Minister Nhleko, for ensuring the effectiveness of the police through better training and resourcing at station level to fix crime intelligence and detective services and to better capacitate Public Order Policing?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, Minister Nhleko, works within the broad parameters of the governing party's policy. The policy approach is to have a SA Police Service that works in terms of law enforcement that works together with the community. That is why we rely so heavily on Community Policing Forums.

In a number of places in our country, this work very well. In some cases, there are challenges, challenges that we are well aware of, challenges that we are seeking to address. It is only through the police working together with communities, with

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 33

community leaders and various structures in our communities that policing and adherence to law and order is heightened and becomes a lot better.

Admittedly, yes, the police in our country are overstretched. The task they have at hand is huge. They, themselves know that they can never do it alone. They can only do it effectively if they work together with the communities and various structures in communities. What the police need is more support, more understanding and more help. That's precisely what we ought to be giving the members of our police service.

So, Minister Nhleko is very strong on this. He knows that the success of his task, the success of policing in our country can best be executed when we work together or when the police work together with various other role players in communities. It is at community level that we will be able to win this challenge even more.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 34

In places where, for instance, gangsterism has become rife, we find that success is reached when the community hold hands with the police and they together root out gangsters in a way where they close spaces for them to operate. In the end, gangsters in some cases realised that they have no way else to run. It also happens with drug peddlers and dealers. So, it is through community action and police vigilance that we will be able to gain a lot of success. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, before we proceed to the next question, I wish to deal with a matter that has arisen, which has been brought to my attention by the hon M G Buthelezi. In the sitting of the state of the nation address evening, in reference to the hon Buthelezi, I use the words, and I quote: "nant'ikhehla".

The hon member has indicated to me that he found these words disparaging and offensive. Hon Buthelezi, please accept my apology. As I indicated before, it was never my intention to

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 35

offend or show disrespect to you. I thank you for your attention, hon members.

We have been writing to each other - myself and hon Buthelezi. That's why I know what he said he ... I wrote a letter of apology and explained that these words were not meant disrespectfully. He responded to me and gave me a fatherly advice, which I have taken. I thank you all. [Applause.]

Mr M M DLAMINI: Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr M M DLAMINI: Let me allow a ... [Interjections.]

Prince M G BUTHELEZI: Hon Speaker, hon Minister and Deputy Ministers and hon Members of the House, I would like to thank the hon Speaker for wiping that off from the record because amakhehla were actually people that the King of the Zulus from time to time would give them rings bakhehle so that they will be called amakhehla when they were supposed to get married because

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 36

they were not allowed to marry before the king said so.

[Laughter.]

Over time the word has been used by some people derogatorily. I realise, hon Speaker that I am old, which is a blessing from the Almighty God and I don't resent that, it is a blessing. The worse zulu curse that any one can utter is to say, so and so's son will never carry the white shield.

IsiZulu:

Umfana kabani uziphatha kanje, angeke asiphathe isihlangu esimhlophe.

English:

Meaning that you will never have the grey hair, which is always a blessing for those people who have exceeded the 70 years that are actually given to us by God.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 37

So, that is why I am out of fashion because I am very proud. I don't have to peel off my hair to hide my white hair or my old head as it is fashionable now. [Laughter.]

So, I have highest respect for you, Madam Speaker, and highest respect for every Member of the House, hon Ministers or ordinary members like myself. I am just grateful. I can just tell you a small amidiot. You know Dr Zami Conco, he chaired Kliptown Congress in Kliptown. He was the Deputy Leader of the ANC in the province of Natal as it was.

He told me that when they were young, Madam Speaker, there was an old man, when they are heading cattle, they will say ...

IsiZulu:

... nant' ikhehla, nant' ikhehla.

English:

He says then the old man will say ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 38

IsiZulu:

... ngangikhehleza ngonyoko yini? [Uhleko.]

English:

So, quiet often when people to use this word, I always say they must tell me at what sport ...

IsiZulu:

... lapho ngangikhehleza khona ngunina. [Uhleko.]

English:

Thanks very much, Madam. [Applause.]

Mr M M DLAMINI: On a point of order, Speaker.

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

Mr M M DLAMINI: We were number three on that list, Speaker. You just decided not to communicate with us.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 39

The SPEAKER: No, hon member, you were not number three.

[Interjections.]

Mr M M DLAMINI: Hon Matiase.

The SPEAKER: No, hon, no, you were not on the list or definitely not number three.

Mr M M DLAMINI: But you can confirm ... [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: No, you were not. I work with the Table here.

Mr M M DLAMINI: That means this gentleman is misleading us because he confirmed.

The SPEAKER: No, hon member, please just take your seat now.

Question 9:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Speaker, the development indicators on social cohesion point to some progress in spite of us being such

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 40

a deeply divided society as pronounced by the National Planning Commission when it prepared the National Development Plan, NDP. These indicators, includes the role of civil society, the participation of citizens in elections, views on race relations and also pride in being the South African.

The promotion of our common identity, as well as accepting our differences is key to nation-building and social cohesion. For an example, the percentage of people in our country, who see themselves as South Africans or Africans, first before any other identity has increased from 71% in 2004 to 87% in 2014. Many areas of the government's work contribute to nation-building and bonding our country together.

This includes improving the material conditions of all South Africans so that they share in a common sense of ownership and belonging. Since 1994, we have seen tremendous progress in our country. I was also overjoyed to read the report of the SA Institute of Race Relations, SAIRR, which is called, Life in South Africa - Reasons for Hope.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 41

It is indicated in that report that it is about the things that have gone right in South Africa and the report features a selection of the socioeconomic successes we have achieved as a country and as a nation. It also states that, in many ways, life in South Africa has become better, to a point of contributing to nation-building.

They also say that some people would think that the report is rather a strange one, but amidst the turmoil that many people would often talk about, when the analysts look at our country, they see a story of a young democracy that has made a vast amount of progress in fields ranging from the economy, employment, living standards, the reduction of poverty, education, education, health care and crime.

The report says that this is not captured in the screening news paper headlines, but the substantive progress we have made as a country since the end of apartheid is a story of hope amid the change we have been making as the country. When I read this report on the SAIRR, which is a very thorough organisation when

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 42

it comes to doing proper analysis on our condition, I was rather pleased to see that there are people who look at us as the country and people, and they can see that indeed, we have made a progress.

The progress that we have made, has clearly contributed to increasing and enhancing nation-building and also engendering social cohesion. We have built millions of houses, we have made electricity accessible to many more people and many more of our children are at schools and universities. In fact, one of the greatest successes is that we now have more than universal access when it comes to basic education. Now, that is the greatest successes that we have achieved ...

IsiXhosa:

... ewe, siyaqhuba, siqhubeleka phambili ...

English:

... and that is the great benefit. The significant progress has also been made in lifting our people out of poverty and through

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 43

creating jobs in a growing economy. When the ruling party got into office, we only had 7,4 million people in South Africa who worked, today we have 16 million people who work. The unemployment remains a challenge, but we have been creating jobs on an ongoing basis.

The great challenge is that we had many more job seekers who have been coming into the market. As we ended the year last year, Stats SA tells us that we have created 235 000 jobs. That in itself is a great success. We have also created a number of structures that are meant to enhance nation-building, engendered social cohesion and we passed quite a number of laws.

So, there is a lot that we can be grateful for, that we have done in a very practical way to enhance nation-building and also engendering social cohesion. The moral regeneration movement that we set up has held various campaigns to popularise what is called a charter of positive values about our country. The Department of Basic Education has embarked on a number of other initiatives on a process to evaluate things like to encourage

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 44

young people to learn about racism, sexism and also, to be more tolerant.

Nation-building is by its nature an ongoing process. While the government has a leading role to play in it, it is ultimately the responsibility of every social movement, every social institution, company, organisation and indeed, every family to build a society in which all the people of our country can share a common sense of nationhood.

In this regard, South Africa is emerging as a nation and all of us have got a role to play in making us a true South African nation. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Ms H H MALGAS: Speaker, let me first thank the Deputy President for a positive response. But a number of things come to mind. As the individuals, we are socialised, we acquire knowledge, language, social skills and values to conform to the norms and roles required for integration into community.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 45

It is evident that, because you were speaking to certain things in the way we think as the individuals; the way we perceive things; the way we relate to others; being empathetic; understanding and sympathetic to another perspective. Even parenthood, like you said, and the institutions like education and churches, influence individuals in different ways.

You also spoke about South Africa as being divided. Therefore, Mr Deputy President, do you think that it is important to start with the individuals? I would like you to speak to the individuals on the ground, the way you are doing. But take that further where everything begins, to enhance nation-building and social cohesion. I thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Speaker, I agree that it is important to talk about the individuals. But in the end, it is the individuals who make up families, communities and a nation. Obviously, the starting point has to be the individuals. But also, it is important in this regard to start with our children who at a fairly young age need to be imbued with the principles

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 46

of nation-building and the great values that needs to be imparted to them.

It is also important for them to be exposed to the preamble of our Constitution and also to the values that are enshrined in our Constitution. That includes the concepts such as tolerance, equality, and respect for one another. It is only when the South Africans have respect for one another, that our level of consciousness will rise to the point where we know that South Africa is a home to all of us and that South Africa is about nonracial, being equal, nonsexist and also about being a nation with diverse people who are from different cultures, language groups and people who are united by their South Africaness.

The common thread that unites all of us as South Africans is that we are human and that we are South Africans. The rest of other things follow thereafter. So, it is important that this level of consciousness should be heightened and that it should cascade from the family into the community. It is at family level that the values of integrity, respect, tolerance,

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 47

nonracism, nonsexism should be taught in our own homes and be lived, so that they then flow outside into the community and in the society where we all live. That is how we build nations and that is how in the end we will be successful and a winning nations. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Prof N M KHUBISA: Madam Speaker and Deputy President, it is clear that we still have a myriad of these historical and structural inequalities. They manifest themselves in a number of ways, in power relations and also in education. Our people don't have access to land, property, etc. So, these are the matters that must be taken into cognizance when we deal with the issues of social cohesion and nation-building.

Now, I can narrate a story, Deputy President that, in the early eighties, for instance, a female teacher who had M+3 with a Diploma was getting far lesser than a male teacher who had an Honours Degree. I want to ask you, weather in a way of nation-building, how far has the government progressed by way of ensuring that we have more women in the private and also in the

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 48

public sectors, who occupy leadership and management positions?

Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Speaker, the issue of equality between men and women, is a very important one to the government, more particularly, the empowerment of women because of their gender. They have always carried the burden of being oppressed; being black and being women. So, they need to be empowered in an exponential manner and they need to be focused on.

That is precisely what the government has committed itself to doing. If you have listened to the President's state of the nation speeches, he's often come out very strongly on that. That is why we even have a Ministry in the government that just focuses on the empowerment of women as well as girl children. In the private sector, yes, there has been a progress, but it hasn't been great. These can be gleaned from the various reports that are also given by the Ministry of women. A great deal of progress still needs to be made in the private sector.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 49

In the government, a lot of progress has been recorded. If you look at us as the Parliament, we are one of those Parliaments that can be proud that we do have a fair number of women representations, but more particularly, on the side of the governing party, we have recorded much more progress than the others.

The progress still needs to be made. In the government positions, we still need to make more progress. We are also continuing to focus on the issue of empowerment of women. This is the project that must succeed; it is a project that must be moved forward because, as a nation, we need to be benefiting from the talent, the capability and from the work that can be done by women. In most cases, they are even a lot better than men. So, I think that we need to focus on the empowerment of women. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr M M DLAMINI: Madam Chair, Deputy President, all of us agree in South Africa, both black and white, that nation-building is the most important project that we should embark on as a nation.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 50

But we also agree that nation destruction in this country was orchestrated by the white apartheid government. At the centre of that, was the forceful removal of black people from their own land. Now, your President, Mr Zuma, has several times said that all of us, the black parties must accelerate the Amendment of Section 25 of the Constitution so that, we can speed up the issue of the land.

The Chief Whip of your party, Mr Jackson Mthembu, has said on twitter that your caucus has made a mistake by trying to hide behind the Constitution, and that they should have agreed with us. The Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration under your party, Ms Ayanda Dlodlo, did not even come to Parliament, because she believes that we should have amended Section 25 of the Constitution. Your President has said, regardless of whether it's an ANC policy or not that we must accelerate the Amendment of Section 25 of the Constitution.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 51

Do you then support the call that we must amend Section 25 of the Constitution and expropriate land without compensation as part of showing that we are serious about nation-building?

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time for a supplementary question has long expired.

Mr M M DLAMINI: I have asked, but I can repeat the question. Hon member, do you support that call?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Speaker, the same question was asked last week and it seems like, hon Shivambu is indicating with his finger that it is going to be asked on an ongoing basis forever, and so forth. I think that the issue of land is very important, and we have said so. We are on the record as saying that the issue of land is very important and should be seen as being important to all the South Africans.

There was a great injustice done against the black majority in our country. That goes without question. If you were to ask,

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 52

every Member of Parliament sitting here who is black, they would be able to tell personal stories of how, in their own families, through their own forebears, they were forcibly moved from the land they were born in. I experienced it twice in my family, in my mother's family side and where I grew up. It happened when we were moved in 1962. That goes without saying. So, all of us have experienced it.

What we are called to do as a Parliament is to approach this matter, which has been raised not only by the EFF, by the way. It has been raised by all in sundry. When you hear the President speaking on this matter, he's speaking from a deep seated pain that is felt by all black people in our country. As we feel this pain, we must then find solutions on how we are going to deal with this historical injustice.

In dealing with it, it is not going to be sufficient in just pronouncing slogans. We've got to find practical ways of dealing with this issue. Yes! Admittedly, amending the Constitution is one of the strategies, but it is by no means the only one.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 53

Implementing what we've got in our Constitution is also another strategy, and doing a whole number of things are strategies that we should utilise. [Applause.]

So, you must never sit there and say that you have the monopoly of the truth and everything that is correct. We all feel the pain! You don't feel the pain of land deprivation more than anyone else sitting on this side. We feel it the same way!

[Applause.] Let me promise you one thing, the commitment that is on this side of the House, is so deep and so thorough. We are going to solve this problem! Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: I am standing on a point of order, hon Speaker! Point of order, hon Speaker!

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order, hon Shivambu?

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: The Rules of this House demands that when you ask questions they must be responded to. But the Deputy President has just waffled now and said that, it's either this

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 54

or that. We are asking if he supports expropriation of land without compensation or not? He must respond to that. It's a simple question!

The SPEAKER: No, hon Shivambu, that's not a point of order!

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: When we get the response, we'll know where he is standing!

The SPEAKER: Hon Shivambu, take your seat!

Ms H BUCWA: Deputy President I just want to take you back and I agree that indeed, the Constitution has a direct bearing in social cohesion. Through its preamble, we acknowledge the injustices of the past. It also gives us assurance that South Africa belongs to all those who live in it. Now, the President is tasked with a role to unify and reconcile all South Africans. However, the recent utterances of the President have been rather divisive, and one can never argue that they have been racist.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 55

Now, how then do we move forward with leaders such as him?

[Applause.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I don't know in what respect has the President's utterances in this have been divisive. What the President was saying was that, this problem needs to be resolved, and those political formations that are sitting in this Parliament that are progressive, that have radical intent, are the ones that he was talking about. He was not seeking to divide.

If the dividing line is going to be conservative or be progressive, that's what then will divide you from what is the truth. I think that we should admit that on this side sits the progressive of this House, and I would say, maybe around there. I think that we must admit what the DA stands for, it is conservatism. That's what you stand for! So, that is the dividing line between the two. So, the President was not being racist, he was just really talking. That's real politics! If you ever wanted to know, what politics is all about?

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 56

Question 10:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, I could say that I am rather fortunate in terms of - I could have pleaded for right not to answer this question because a member of the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Steenhuisen, answered this question for me very adequately last week. He quoted from the Constitution and said:

In terms of the Constitution members of the Cabinet are accountable collectively and individually to Parliament for the exercise of their powers and the performance of their functions.

That is enshrined in section 92(2) of the Constitution.

However, the Constitution goes further to say, "members of the Cabinet must provide Parliament with full and regular reports concerning matters under their control." On a practical level, this matter of ensuring that Members of Parliament do all that is set out in the Constitution, is really a matter that is executed despite what the Joint Rules say about the Leader of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 57

Ggovernment Bbusiness. I should say that the National Assembly and Parliament have much more overriding powers than the Leader of Government Business would ever have because here we are talking about what the Constitution sets out.

The Constitution gives us, as the Parliament, the power to make members of the executive accountable to us as a collective. The office that is here in Parliament, which accounts to the Speaker, is an office that should make all those arrangements to which the hon Leader of the Opposition was talking about.

What I can say is that the executive remains committed to ensuring that, as a collective, it remains committed to account regularly and effectively to Parliament. Cabinet receives a regular report on these matters on an ongoing basis and where problems are identified, steps are taken to address these problems. Now, here as Parliament, we are entitled, Leader of the Opposition, hon Maimane, to use the collective power that we have to make the members of the executive sitting here to account.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 58

If they don't come and if they don't account, the Parliament has the power to make them account by, using the Constitution. It is the Constitution that should be utilised and you have that power that is clearly set out in the Constitution. You are the people who always refer to the Constitution. Use your Constitution; read it every night; love your Constitution; and, utilise it effectively because it is your shield and your weapon. Thank you very much.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Deputy President, 17 million South Africans are sitting at home today wondering whether or not at the end of this month they will be able to receive their social grants. The respective Minister that we are talking about came to this particular House, and even in her appearance at Scopa, she refused to answer questions. In her appearance in a press conference, she refused to answer questions. She is now, the very same Minister, going to the Constitutional Court to request that they extend the contract that the Constitutional Court found was, in fact, illegal a number of years ago. There is a

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 59

point, as South Africans Deputy President, that we must stand on the side of the South Africans who are poor.

I am here to pledge and urge you to say stand with the South Africans who are waiting at home waiting for social grants. Would you support the call to say that Minister Bathabile Dlamini should, in fact, resign over this crisis over social grant because it is your South Africa? [Applause.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Maimane, this matter is being dealt with. [Interjections.] The Constitutional Court - if you will not listen to me, listen to what the Constitutional Court is seeking to do - is dealing with this matter as they did. They are dealing with this matter effectively. The Minister or the Ministry has approached the court with a particular prayer. It is up to the Constitutional Court, this very High Court, in fact, the highest court in our land; a court that is so well endowed with wise brains and wise minds is going to deliberate on this matter as they did in the past and they are going to make a ruling.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 60

Now, given the time frame that we have to the end of the month, I am absolutely certain that the court is going to pull out all stops and deal with this matter with the level of urgency that it requires. Let us allow the institution that has been put in place to deal with this matter to deal with it. At the same time, let us allow the department and the Ministry to deal with this matter. It is a matter of enormous proportions. Many of our people are concerned. However, but the matter has been dealt with, and I am absolutely certain that a solution is going to be found. Thank you very much.

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

The SPEAKER: Yes, hon Steenhuisen, what is the point on which you are rising?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Speaker, the point is that that is not the question of the hon Maimane asked. He asked the Deputy President whether he supported the call for the

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 61

Minister, Bathabile Dlamini, to resign. That was the question.

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Steenhuisen, please take your seat.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: You have a duty to protect the minority parties in this House. That is why we cannot hold anybody accountable in this House because she does not know the Constitution. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Steenhuisen, please take your seat. Hon Shaik-Emam, is he here? He is not around.

IsiZulu:

Mnu M HLENGWA: Ngiyathokoza ukucosha ithuba mhlonishwa Somlomo.

English:

Hon Deputy President, as a member of Scopa I want to assure you that on Tuesday we left none the wiser after the Minister had addressed us. There was no sense of a direction, leadership and

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 62

accountability. Hon Deputy, notwithstanding that here is the question which I think is at the foremost of our minds. Why is the Department of Social Development and government by extension pursuingpersuading a Siamese Twins relationship with Cash Payment Services, CPS, which is a corrupt company, a bunch of looters, crooks and criminals of the highest order who have facilitated illegal deductions of these social grants and all sorts of manner many of those things?

The President speaks about radical economic transformation., CPS is owned, American owned, Australian owned., Wwhere does it fit in when the Minister to putsget R3,2 billion plus into the agenda of radical economic transformation, taking money here and going abroad?. It seems as if government is speaking from both sides of its mouth and I would plead with you today to provide clarity to us ...

IsiZulu:

... nathandana kangaka no-CPS.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 63

English:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, I am sorry that when Scopa met with the Minister, what you saidy ensued. , tThe matter, as I said, hasis beingbeen dealt with. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

IsiZulu:

USEKELA MONGAMELI: Loku kuthandana kwe-CPS nabantu laba obabalulayo ngempela angikwazi. Angikwazi ngempela ...

English:

... but is a matter that is being addressed. I think what should be foremost in our minds, right now, is that a solution should be found to address the challenge that we have at hand. As I said, the Constitutional Court has now entered the scene on this matter and itthe matter is now being dealt with at the highest level of the Constitutional Court and of government as well. That matter should be given time to be resolved as it will be resolved; as it must be resolved because there is just no

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 64

other way other than to resolve it this matter. Thank you very much.

Dr B H HOLOMISA: Hon Madam Speaker, Deputy President, as the leader of the Government Business, the performance of Minister Dlamini has gone beyond undermining the National Assembly to include the Constitutional Court, thus that's bringing the executive and the country into disrepute. Would you advise the Presidency to consider evaluating the fitness to hold office and any other executive position?

IsiXhosa:

Ikwa ngulo mama owathi xa sasibuza ukuba kutheni kutsalwa imali zamaxhegwazana ngelithi ahlawulela i-airtime, wathi uyayiphanda loo nto.

English:

Yet, it is part of the agreement with CPS.

IsiXhosa:

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 65

Sicela usicende mhlekazi ngalu hlolo, niza kuluqhuba nini olu hlolo?

English:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, members of the executive are evaluated by the President who appoints them. The President evaluates the Deputy President and members of the executive on an ongoing basis because in his hand rests the power to appoint and to do otherwise. Therefore, the President, what you are saying really belongs to the realm of the Presidential prerogative and it is the President only who can do so. Thank you very much ...

IsiXhosa:

... mhlekazi. Ndiyathemba ukuba uyayiva le nto.

English:

Mr M D NTOMBELA: Chairperson, taking into consideration what the hon Steenhuisen said, . tToday, a member of the same party wants the Deputy President to act as a policeman with a baton or a

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 66

speed kop of some sort to the Cabinet Ministers, contrary to what they were mulling about only yesterday. This is flagrant double standard and an obvious abuse of the Constitution. My question is, Deputy President: Given the provisions of the Constitution, would it therefore not eventually happen that Ministers may be assigned some functions elsewhere by the President when circumstances demand, since they must account collectively and individually to Parliament? This question to me smacks of Political bankruptcy and a blatant opportunism by the DA. Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, the Constitution is quite clear;, members of the executive are appointed by the President. The President appoints the Deputy President and Ministers. and hHaving done so, the President then assigns them duties and tasks. He allocates to us what tasks we should execute. There may be times when he allocates you a tasks and he may take it away and allocate it someone else. Therefore, what we are really dealing with here is the constitutional right of the President

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 67

and his prerogative to assign tasks to appoint Ministers and to evaluate them.

Colleagues, yes, the President can appoint and fire; it is his prerogative. Let us read our Constitution very carefully and as I said, may be Madam Speaker, we should make it available for bedtime reading to members of this Assembly so that we can all thus understand what the Constitution says. It is the prerogative of the President; it is not the prerogative of the Deputy President, the Leader of Government Business or whoever else; that only resides in the President's terrain and power. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Question 11:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, the transformation agenda of every administration since the advent of democracy has been directed towards the achievement of a better life for all. That slogan still rings true to what the governing party has been committed to ever since 1994. Our programmes in achieving this better life for all are guided by the vision that was set out in

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 68

the Freedom Charter and by the constitutional injunction to improve the quality of life of all citizens of this country and to do this with the view of freeing the potential of each person who lives in this country.

In furtherance of this, government has directed enormous resources towards meeting the needs of the poor, implementing policies to deracialise the economy of our country, building a skills base of the black majority and creating jobs through sustainable growth. There have been notable achievements and on the growth side, real per capita GDP has increased by a third since 1994. The number of South Africans that are in employment have increased. However, because the size of the labour force has also grown over this period - as I was saying earlier, the rate of unemployment has grown. To the people who have benefited from the various programmes, the improvement of their living conditions has been truly transformative. Several legal instruments have been put in place to deracialise the economy of our country and this has included the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 69

Act, the Employment Equity Act and many other laws that have been put in place.

The impact of this together with our investment in education is evident in the significant growth of the middle class in our country. The total enrolment at universities has more than doubled in the first 20 years of our democracy. The percentage of those who enrolled, who were African increased from under 50% to over 70% in 2014 because there is such a strong link between educational performance and inclusive growth. Government continues to use redistributive financing to increase the number of students from poor backgrounds who can access tertiary education.

As indicated by Minister Pravin Gordhan in the 2017 Budget, government is directing significant resources towards areas that promote inclusive growth. This includes the support for small, medium and micro enterprises, SMMEs, co-operatives, and industrial infrastructure, particularly in special economic zones, industrial parks and broadband roll out. We are further

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 70

promoting economic transformation by strengthening black economic empowerment, BEE, provisions and procurement policy, intensifying also land redistribution.

We have made significant progress in our transition from a racially divided unequal and undeveloped state towards one which is more equal, moving more towards prosperity and in which all of us have to achieve our potential. While there is still a long way to go, we are making important strides. Working together, we believe that we can reach our destination. That is the journey that we have embarked upon and it is a journey that has been worthwhile because indeed, life in South Africa has improved, as said by the South African Institute of Race Relations. Thank you very much.

IsiZulu:

Nk N GINA: Somlomo, Sekela Mongameli, impendulo yakho ibonise indlela ende esihanjiwe kuleminyaka engamashumi amabili nantathu sikuhulumeni wentando yeningi. Impendulo yakho futhi ibonisa nemigomo phecelezi ama-policies nezinhlelo eziningi ezikhona

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 71

ekutheni ezomnotho zingasatshalaliswa kanjani ukuthi izimpilo zabantu zithuthuke yonke impilo yomuntu ibengcono. Engifisa ukulandelisa lapho kuwe yilombuzo wokuthi, kulemigomo emihle engaka ekhona singenza kanjani siwuhulumeni ukuthi sisondele kakhulu kulokhu esikubiza ngokuthi yizindlela ezisheshayo eziwubukhephukhephu ezinamandla ...

English:

... the radical ways ...

IsiZulu:

... la esizobonisa khona ukuthi ...

English:

... the policies that are in place ...

IsiZulu:

... sifisa ngempela ukuthi ngokushesha ...

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 72

... in a very radical manner ...

IsiZulu:

... ikwazi ukufinyelela kwabantu ngendlela esheshayo nephuthumayo. Sikuncoma kakhulu ukuthi ngeminyakana nje engamashumi amabili nantathu [23] kodwa kuningi kangaka uhulumeni wentando yeningi ase kubekile. Ngiyabonga Somlomo.

English:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, let me say there is this wonderful wave that is spreading around the world which has to do with inclusive growth where ordinary people are clambering for inclusivity, that they need to be included in whatever growth process in the economy or generally in society that there is. This happens to be so much the case ...

IsiZulu:

... nala ekhaya eNingizimu Afrika ngoba abantu bakithi bathanda kakhulu ukuthi kuyo yonke eyenziwayo yenziwe egameni labo futhi nabo babone ukuthi bafakiwe [involved] kuzo zonke iznto

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 73

ezenziwayo. Kungaba yizinto zomnotho; kungaba izinto zokuphepha [safety]; kungaba yinoma yini. Abantu bakithi lapha eNingizimu Afrika ...

English:

... and you could actually say maybe this is a South African coined process where our people, in prosecuting their struggle to rid themselves of apartheid misrule were so deeply immersed and involved and felt that this freedom must be a freedom they own and they must get involved and beyond that they have sought to be involved in various other endeavours of South African life including economic growth. So ...

IsiZulu:

... uma sikhuluma ngenguquko enkulu yezomnotho [radical economic transformation] yiyona into abantu bakithi abafuna ukuthi nabo bafakwe kuyo babe nendlela abangakwazi ukuthi bafake isandla ingabashiya ngasemuva.

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 74

It is important for us that as we transform our economy, we should transform it based on inclusivity. It must be inclusive growth that our people can feel, touch and see and it is that which I believe can be a great engine, a great driver of our economic growth. If we can underpin everything that we do with that type of approach, we would then be able to add a great deal of impetus to our economic growth because economy grows best when the people who are meant to benefit from the economic growth are involved themselves and are active participants.

For a long time in the past, the majority of our people were excluded from participating meaningfully in the economy. The time has now come for them to be so deeply involved in economic growth and through that we will then be able to generate radical economic transformation and economic growth on an inclusive base so that they can all benefit. Localisation, for instance, becomes even much more of a key driver of our economic endeavours where we begin to localise and take those types of economic interventions at a local level so that people themselves can feel that they are participating and they are

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 75

involved. A whole range of others, for instance, the township economy becomes one such key driver where we want to be able to have a township economy that will involve people who were previously excluded from economic participation in a meaningful way, who were just seen as people coming from the dormitories of a capitalist economy. Now, through township economies, they will become participants and they will be able to play a key role in the economy.

IsiZulu:

Ngalokho lungu elihlonipekile [hon member] ngithi sizokwazi uma senza ukuthi abantu bakithi babenendima abazoyidlala kulomnotho wethu nabo bazizwe ukuthi balibambile iqhaza ngempela khona umnotho wethu uzokwazi ukuthi ukhule. Ngiyabonga.

IsiZulu:

Mnu R A LEES: Somlomo, Sekela Mongameli [Deputy President], uyazi ukuthi inhliziyo ibuhlungu ngilalele kodwa angiyizwa impendulo kumbuzo wethu kodwa kukhona okunye ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 76

English:

... unlike my colleagues, I found our suggestion about Cuban mechanics incredibly insightful and foresight because I look forward to the ability of the mechanics to be able to repair my wife's 1967 Wolseley 1660. Deputy President, it is universally agreed, even by countries such as China that the only surefire way of eliminating poverty is to promote economic growth. It is also universally recognised that the slow pace of private investment, the so-called investment strike that is talked about is a direct consequence of government's poor management of the economy and in particular, the lack of policy certainty.

Mr Deputy President, what are your reservations that you may have about Parliament establishing an ad hoc multiparty committee to provide scrutiny and oversight of the implementation of the structural reforms necessary to boost economic growth and create jobs?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, hon ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 77

IsiZulu:

... Mazambane. Ngiyajabula impela ukuthi ngikwazi ukuphendula umbuzo wakho. Ngiyajabula ukuzwa ukuthi lesi sibonelo [example] engisibekile somakhenikha abaphuma e-Cuba ungathanda ukuthi basize unkosikazi wakho balungise i-Wolseley kodwa umbuzo engingakubuza wona ukuthi kungani wenza ukuthi unkosikazi wakho ashayele [drive] imoto endala kangaka i-Wolseley impela? Hawu, ngoba leyo moto ngiqinisekile ihamba ifa [stuck] endleleni. Awumthengele imoto engcono ukuthi akwazi ukuhamba nemoto engcono. [Uhleko.]

English:

Hon Speaker, just in answering the question, it is possible that maybe when we next go to the World Economic Forum I go with you, in relation to your reference of China which you have said that you can only really get rid of unemployment through economic growth? It is true that they said so but I wish I had taken you along to go and listen to President Xi Jinping who basically said that it was when they really embraced globalisation, which transformed their economy that they were able to see tremendous

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 78

growth. This is statement which is no different from what the Minister of Finance was saying here that it is through transformation that we would be able to have inclusive growth. So, the two can be done in tandem - hand in hand. It is not one excluding the other. The two are not mutually exclusive, you can actually do both. Growth can be generated through transformation and this is precisely what we are saying in this Parliament as well.

With regard to setting up a special ad hoc committee, I would say that Members of Parliament have all the opportunities, through the various portfolio committees to participate in discussions that have an impact on our economy. In fact, I can count a number of portfolio committees where Members of Parliament should be able to make suggestions and inputs. And indeed, also in inputs that are made here in plenary, Members of Parliament, including members from the opposition, should be able to come up with great suggestions and proposals. I have always called for that and I have always said that I look forward to the day when here in Parliament we will be able to

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 79

hear really outstanding proposals, out of this world type of proposals on how we can address some of the challenges that we face. Now, quite often, Members of Parliament stand here and don't come forth with those types of proposals. [Interjections.] And I sit here and say that I long for that day.

IsiZulu:

Ngicabanga ukuthi mhlawumbe njengoba sengishilo, ngelinye ilanga, wena mnumzane, uwena ozoza naleyo mibono.

[proposals] Imibono emihle ozoyibeka la ukuthi sikwazi ukuthi lomnotho welizwe lakithi ukuthi singawusa kanjani phambili. Ngithembe ukuthi uzokwenza njalo. Ngiyabonga.

English:

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Hon Speaker, through you to the Deputy Speaker, it is common cause that government policies have dismally failed to achieve inclusive economic growth in South Africa. Here are the indicators: Eight percent of the land was transferred since 1994; outside of the institutional investors, black people have less than 5% of bank ownership - they have less than 1% of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 80

insurance industry ownership; out of the R8,9 trillion that is managed by asset management companies, less than 5% is managed by black asset managers and more than 70% of government's procurement spend benefits white-owned companies and the few of you who have benefited from black economic empowerment are just indebted staff riders in white corporations.

So, this vividly illustrates that black people have not benefited out of government interventions in the economy. Wouldn't you think that it would be much more progressive to legislate a minimum of 50% ownership of black people of the South Africa's economy because everything else that you have done in the past 23 years has failed and added to that, don't you think that this is the right time for black political parties to unite and change the Constitution to expropriate land without compensation. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, thank you very much hon Shivambu for putting those statistics. I mean some of those statistics are debatable and we can possibly sit down and debate

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 81

them but the truth is on the economic side, we have not made as much progress as we had anticipated. That is the reality, the economy of our country is still white owned and white controlled. That should pose a real challenge to all of us because we should not, having attained the vote for all South Africans just think that all what they ever wanted was the vote and the rest, like the economic power was not important. Of course, economic power is important and we should make sure that everything that we do is to go and vest economic power in the hands of the majority of our people. Various measures have been put in place - the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act was put in place, Employment Equity Act and a whole number of other measures.

Admittedly, many of such are not and have not borne the fruit that we expected, hence the governing party has come forward with the intervention of radical economic transformation whose elements were clearly outlined by the President and the Minister of Finance. As the year ensues, you are going to hear various Ministers, as they come up for their votes they will also be

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 82

speaking to the radical economic transformation concepts to make sure that we move the issue of radical economic transformation forward. All that I can say is that it's true that we have not made as much progress as we had anticipated but we will be making progress because that has now become the key focus of this governing party. We are going to be coming up with programmes interventions and initiatives that are going to move the needle in a way where black are going to have a sense and feel that they are going to benefit from the economy. If you just look at procurement, we have said 70% of white-owned companies' benefit, now that it is going to be turned on its head. We want the majority of black people's companies to benefit from that. We are going to be doing a whole lot of other interventions. Watch this space; you are going to see great progress and changes beginning to ensue as we go forward. Thank you very much.

IsiZulu:

Mnu M HLENGWA: Mhlonishwa Somlomo,

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 83

English:

Hon Deputy President, at the heart of the transformation you spoke about is the issue of education and I know that in the first question you went to great lengths at explaining about changes which are being effected in technical and vocational education and training, Tvet - in education. At the heart of the FeesMustFall movement, there was also the issue of transforming the content for a colloquial term of university education. I would like to find out what is your view with regard to ensuring that South African universities prioritise African literature, African knowledge, skills and expertise and that we give life to Agenda 2063 about building an African intelligentsia. We are quoting things from 1664 which are being published in the US and so on. When do we begin ensuring that the transformation and inclusive growth which we speak about encompasses an education system in its entirety which speaks to Africa.

Finally, Hon Deputy President, if I may indulge you, I know it is one question - I asked about the construction procurement system, CPS, and radical economic transformation and I did not

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 84

get a response. So, I am hoping that since you have spoken about radical economic transformation now, I thought I will catch you by giving me a response to that one as well. Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, the issue that I guess you are addressing is this issue that has been raised by students who have sought to ensure that their education is decolonise and that we should decolonise our education system. You asked a direct question and my answer is yes. I am in full support of decolonisation of our education curriculum and the education system. It has for too long being Eurocentric. We need to respond very positively to promote African literature and African knowledge systems and everything that is there in Africa so that we grow an intelligentsia but in my book it is also to promote reading and as we do this - as we promote African intelligentsia, we should be promoting reading. Our reading levels are very low in this country. We need to be generating more and more reading in our country so that young people and indeed older people should be able to read and at great length and at great depth.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 85

Am in great support of that and I would like to see our curriculum beginning to reflect precisely the heroes and the heroines of our country, our struggle and some of the knowledge systems that reside in Africa and that are promoted by great African intellectuals. We were pleasantly pleased the other day when Ngugi wa Thiong'o was here and he was able to regal everyone who was able to meet him with his depth of knowledge on African language, African literature and he was really talking about decolonising our minds because we still remain colonised in our thinking, in our way, in our approach. And you could say that possibly even in our political orientation. Our political orientation, particularly those who have a political orientation that veers more towards being conservative are so deeply imbued in this political ideology which is completely devoid of what we are all about, as Africans, which is ubuntu, that is what Professor Thiong'o was teaching us about.

I think I have spoken about the CPS issue, I mean what we need to be doing as part of the Broad-Black Economic Empowerment process is that we should be procuring services and goods for

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 86

companies that are empowered. If a company is well empowered, it has good black economic empowerment credentials, that is the company that we should be doing business with so that we can achieve what hon Shivambu was talking about to ensure that black people get into the ownership and control levels of our economy. The CPS one, I don't have line of sight and knowledge of what true shareholder base is, but I will expect that we were procuring from them, it should be a company that is well empowered. Thank you very much

Question 12:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Madam Speaker, I'm informed by the relevant department that there is no need for the South African government to intervene on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase 2.

I'm advised that the delays in the implementation have been addressed and the project will be delivered in line with the revised projections with the delivery of water scheduled for 2025.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 87

Both governments have committed to the implementation of the project and are in constant communication through the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission, which is the governing structure which is entrusted with the role of the strategic oversight on implementation.

In the meantime delivery of water to South Africa through phase one which as we all know has been completed - that continues. So there is no further need for any special intervention in this regard. We have come to a point where it is run of the mill and communication continues.

Things are getting done and water will be delivered in 2025 in terms of phase two. However, right now, water continues to flow from the mountains of Lesotho through the channels that have been constructed. Thank you very much.

Mr L M NTSHAYISA: Thank you very much hon Speaker. I 'm very much delighted that I 'm going to put a question to my counter part because I am a deputy president of AIC. [Laughter.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 88

The SPEAKER: Congratulations, hon Ntshayisa.

Mr L M NTSHAYISA: Yes, be quite please. My last question, in Afrikaans they say: "Agteros kom ook in die kraal."

Isixhosa:

Isina-mva liyabukwa.

English:

My Deputy President, I just want to check now, to what extent you have a relief that this project will go, in terms of benefiting the people; that is, in terms of numbers and on the part of the Department of Water and Sanitation in our country. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Deputy President, [Laughter.] From one Deputy President to another Deputy President, but there are a few Deputy Presidents as well you must recognise that. So you and I are not the only ones.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 89

There are a few of us. Hon Shivambu is one of the Deputy Presidents. [Laughter.]

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: I think I'm the only one who is relevant here. [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No, I thought hon Shivambu you will say you are the only one who is radical. [Laughter.] Thank you hon Speaker, I think we should say that every project that we embark on as a South African government is aimed at benefiting a number of our people.

From a water point of view, yes, our people will benefit in their millions particularly in Gauteng and the Free State; and obviously in Lesotho the people of Lesotho are also going to benefit as they do already; as the people in Gauteng and the Free State also do.

So it is a multi beneficiary type of a process where we seek to benefit as many people as possible. If you want real numbers I

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 90

don't have them but it is a type of a process where numbers can be provided to you fairly easily. So many people will benefit. Thank you very much.

Mr L J BASSON: Thank you, hon Speaker. Deputy President, since the Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase 2 agreement was signed in 2011, the water delivery dates have been delayed by six years, from 2019 to 2025 as you have mentioned. The direct cause of these delays is a political interference by the ANC; noting that Minister Mokonyane stopped the prequalification tenders in 2015; to open the door for ANC cadres company LTE to submit their tender.

So often in South Africa the problem is not the plan Deputy President, but government's inability to implement projects that unfortunately ends up costing billions more. Deputy President, can you give South Africa a commitment today that there will be no further political interference and delays on this important project. And, could you inform Parliament how the political

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 91

crisis in Lesotho will influence the Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase 2. I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. It was Minister Mokonyane who appointed a task team to investigate the maladministration in the procurement process and also to address the processes of delays; and that task team was appointed by her. I do not believe that she could have played any role in causing any further delays.

I can now say that most of the challenges and problems have now been solved. There is constant communication. The delivery - yes has been delayed which is very unfortunate but it is going to happen in 2025. I do not anticipate that the political processes that are now unfolding in Lesotho are going to lead to any delay for this project.

The various governments that have come and gone in Lesotho have always been mindful of the importance of this project and have always sought to adhere to agreements that have been arrived at

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 92

and reached. So I expect that the government whichever one will emerge in the end now that there has been a vote of no confidence is going to be the type of government that will adhere to agreements and make sure that the execution of the agreements happens. I think we can safely say that, that should not be a problem or a major stumbling block. Thank you very much.

Mr S N SWART: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Arising from your respond, hon Deputy President, and as a brother to a brother not a Deputy President to a Deputy President; we in the ACDP are firstly grateful to our mighty God for answered prayers for the rains which have fallen over the country, resulting in the sudden rise of water levels at the Vaal and Bloemhof dams; and even water scientists says - referred to this past week: They call this a four day miracle. So we say "Malibongwe igama leNkosi." [Praise be to the Lord Mighty.]

Secondly, just as the implementation of this project is concerned, we appreciate it is a foreign affairs issue; but to what degree should we use the executive, and we as Parliament in

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 93

exercising an oversight role. We appreciate that it is a construction in a foreign company but to understand the issues of costs overruns, time overruns and any possible corrupt activities.

We obviously would like to ensure from Parliament perspective that is completed on time to provide the water that we need and so that whilst we appreciate, we do pray for rain. The Lord provides rain. We need to be good stewards of the capacity of water that is supplied. Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you hon Speaker and the brother to brother. I'm able to say that like you, and as a farmer as well we are also very pleased that the rains have come and particularly in the area where it matters most: in the farming areas of our country for food production but also in the area that feeds the industrial areas of our country like Gauteng where the Vaal dam's levels has gone up.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 94

So we are truly grateful for that. You depicted as a four day miracle and we are very happy for these types of miracles. May we, have more and more miracles. I'm sure you will have a very great hand in making sure that we do have miracles going forward.

When it comes to the issue of oversight, I think we have got as I said earlier a number of committees in Parliament that exercise oversight over a number of things that the executive does. We have got the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Scopa, which plays such an important role; if there is any whiff or suspicion that money or resources have not being properly used. It plays that role.

We have got a number of other agencies that play such a role. I would say that those are the agencies and the structures that we should utilise, both here in Parliament and outside Parliament that should help us to exercise our oversight role on various endeavors that we get involved in as South Africans.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 95

In this case, it is a cross border type of issue. I'm sure that the portfolio committee that deals with these types of matters will be able to play a key role. So I would say let us actively utilise those structures to achieve a good end for all South Africans. Thank you very much.

Mr M M DLAMINI: Yes Speaker. I'm here. I need to deal with two issues. The question is going to be asked by hon Matiase.

The SPEAKER: Aa aa! Hon Dlamini if you are not asking a follow up question just take your seat then let hon Matiase take the floor.

Mr M M DLAMINI: Yes, that's what is going to happen, right now Speaker; but thinking about the hon farmer ... [Interjection.] What about other people? Can we deal with that issue?

Mr M S MATIASE: Madam Speaker and the Deputy President, water is as scarce as the truth coming from the mouth of politicians lately; especially from the ruling party. In 2015, the

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 96

Department of Water and Sanitation reported that out of 5 000 registered dams in the country, there are only 320 state owned.

This is a serious indictment on the government and how it has allowed the private ownership of public goods and sometimes scooper your own limited transformation roles - to undermine them. The land question and water availability and the use are intermittently linked. If the state owns registered dams you would be able to fast-track land reform.

So the question is to you Deputy President, would you be able as government to transform the society as faster, and as equitably as possible if the state continues with the constitutional provisions, which protects private ownership of land and dams; and the majority of these dams...

Sesotho:

... di fumanwa mapolasing a maburu ntate. Re sitwa le ke ho etsa ditsela le ho kenya dipalo tsa motlakase moo; ho fa batho ba rona motlakase hobane mapolasi ana a tshwerwe ke maburu. Jwale,

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 97

a ko arabe potso ena: hore na - kgetlong lena re kopa o tle o tshepahale, le karabo ya hao e tle e itshetlehe potsong ena eo re o botsitseng yona.

English:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, thank you.

Sesotho:

Ntate, ke ntse ke araba dipotso mona. Ke tshetleha hantle. Jwale, le yona potso eo ya hao ke tla e arabela hobane kannete ntho eo o e buang ke ya hore ho na le matamo a mangata mona empa a mang a ona a dibakeng tse itseng moo mobu o leng matsohong a batho ba bang.

Jwale, lefapha lena la rona la Metsi le Tlheko ke lona le sebetsanang le tsona ntho tsena tsa metsi. Ke bona ba nehelanang ka dilaesense kapa tumello ya hore batho ba kgone ho ba le metsi. Ba a sebedise ka tsela e itseng.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 98

Ka tjhebo yaka ka nnete ke fumana hore mosebetsi oo ba o etsang, wa ho hlokomela metsi a rona, haholoholo le ho fana ka dilaesense ho batho ba batlang ho sebedisa metsi, ke mosebetsi oo ba o etsang ka tsela e napahetseng ho ya ka tjhebo yaka.

Haele hantle ke ile ka botsa dipotso, ka botsisisa hantle hore na dilaesense tsena tsa tumello ba di ntsha ha ho le jwang. Ke fumane hore ba dintsha ka tsela e nepahetseng. Jwale hoo ho mpontsha hore le yona nthoane ya hore ba hlokomele metsi a naha ena, e ntse e le ntho eo ba ntseng ba e sebetsa ka tsela e ntle.

English:

So I have had no doubt in my mind that the Department of Water and Sanitation in being the steward of our water resources in our country has been sleeping on the job and has not been doing their proper job. They issue water licenses in quite a rigorous and prudent way. In fact, what I do know is that they have even set up a structure that issues these licenses almost a semi-independent structure does so.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 99

So the stewardness of our water is well managed. The real challenge is that we are a water scarce country and even now as we are having these wonderful rains that are a miracle, we have not in terms of the architecture of looking after our water – have not done it as well as I have seen in other countries; where we have sought to trap the water so that not all of it runs to the sea or just goes underground or evaporates.

That is a process that we now need to get on so that as we have this water in great abundance from providence we should be able to trap it, to utilise it effectively and for economic means; for instance: for irrigation to empower our people as a whole.

So I'm hoping that we will be able to move in that direction but as for now I think our water resources are well managed. Of course we can always do better. "Ke a leboha, Ntate."

The SPEAKER: Hon members, that concludes questions to the Deputy President, and I thank the Deputy President. Now, hon members, before I adjourned the House, I wish to deal with the matter

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

PAGE: 100

raised earlier by hon Steenhuisen: the allege breach of privilege - indeed raised by the hon Chief Whip of the Opposition.

Rule 31(3) provides that if an allege breach of privilege does not directly affect a sitting of the House in the immediate future, the Speaker must refer the matter to the Powers and Privileges Committee and inform the House accordingly, either immediately or at the earliest opportunity.

Therefore, the matter raised by the hon member will accordingly be referred to the committee as indicated.

The House Adjourned at 16:19.