

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY SESSION – COMMITTEE ROOM E249

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PROCEEDINGS OF MINI PLENARY SESSION – COMMITTEE ROOM E249

Members of the mini-plenary session met at Committee Room E249 at 16:24.

The Acting Chairperson, Mr M R Mdakane, as Chairperson, took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Debate on Vote 3 – Communications:

The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS: House Chair, Chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee on Communications, Chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee on Telecommunication and Postal Services, Deputy Minister of Communications, hon Pinky Kekana and Deputy Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, Acting Director-General of the Department of Communications, Acting Director of the Government

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Communication and Information System, chairpersons, board members and CEOs of state-owned entities, senior government officials, representatives of the sector, members of the media, hon Members of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen, and fellow South Africans, good afternoon. It is indeed an honour for us to stand before you this afternoon and deliver our speech as the Minister of Communications together with our Deputy Minister.

This Budget Vote represents the final leg in the 5-year mandate of the 5th administration of our democracy as given to the ANC by 62% of the South African electorate in 2014. We also marked 24 years of democracy last month and are moving towards the end of the Medium-Term Strategic Framework in 2019. We are on a path towards realising the genesis of a new epoch as we undertake the next 12 years by which we must achieve our national developmental objectives as set out in the National Development Plan, NDP and Vision 2030.

Hon Chairperson, allow us to pay tribute to all those stalwarts of the South African struggle against apartheid whom we lost in the last few months, in particular uMama Zanyiwe Nomzamo Madikizela-Mandela and comrade Dr Zola Skweyiya. Undoubtedly, their contribution to the struggle for freedom in our country was immeasurable. Theirs was a harder struggle of selflessness,

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dedication and sheer commitment to ensure that you and I enjoy the liberties we have today.

This year South Africa will also be celebrating the lives of two other heroes, namely, the father of our liberation and the global epitome of human sacrifice, comrade Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu. Two days ago government released the details on how we will celebrate these icons with our citizens and the world because they were indeed the citizens of the world.

Hon members, this sector which has been at the forefront of our development and transformation during the transitional period has significantly stagnated for reasons well known by many in the sector. It is therefore our responsibility together with the industry to ensure that we urgently revive it and reposition it back to its glory. This is a task we embrace with great humility because we cannot do it alone. We require the support of this august House, the industry players, the media and most importantly, members of the public for this sector exists to serve the public interests.

We need to digitise our country's communications, broadcast, information dissemination and state-owned entities, in order to connect a critical link of empowerment and information between South

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Africa and progressive parts of the world that are leading major industries of the 4th Industrial Revolution. When we consider the future of the global economy and try to position our country South Africa as a strong competitor, we have to use a picture that has not been formulated yet. The World Economic Forum estimates that 65% of children entering primary school today will ultimately end up working in completely new job types that don't yet exist. Indeed, as South Africa - a country - we are at our own moment of opportunity.

Hon members and colleagues, ours is only a transitional task given that in no less than a year the mandate of our current administration shall expire, and the electorate shall go to the polls to elect a new administration. Our priorities and the commitments we make in this Budget Vote are modest, realistic and seek to build a strong foundation on which the next administration can deliver and take the industry forward to meet the urgent demands of the 4th industrial revolution and the completion of the mandate as bestowed upon this administration for the last five years.

The communications sector is however critical for the realisation of much of our national interests and priorities. To achieve Vision 2030, it is through adequate and efficient communications infrastructure that we'll be able to succeed in delivering to the

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needs of our people. His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa has also emphasised our renewed focus on eradicating poverty and reducing unemployment as well as inequality. Thus, our sector has a role to ensure that there is ease of doing business in South Africa and that there is inclusive growth within the sector for the benefit of new industries and economic rejuvenation.

Our total budget for this financial year of 2018-19 is R1,5 billion. This represents a R36 million cut from the previous financial year. An amount of 61% of the budget comprises transfers to the different entities, with the Government Communication and Information System, GCIS, receiving the biggest allocation to drive communication work, government accountability, awareness and promotion of government services and programmes. Our priorities in the following will be on the four focus areas, namely, creating a new vision for the broadcast sector; accelerating the migration from analogue to digital; stabilising our entities and the SABC; and improving organisational capacity.

In delivering on these priorities, we do believe and know that we cannot do it alone. We require partnerships and collaboration with all stakeholders including our communities in both urban and rural areas, young and old, women and men, the industry, nongovernmental

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organisations, the academia as well as institutions of higher learning. In particular, our continued relationship with the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services is work in progress to ensure that we jointly drive the information and communication technology sector in a converged manner and avoid duplication in overlapping areas such as the regulatory oversight, spectrum, SMMEs development, international communications and lastly, the envisaged digital revolution commission as announced by the President of the Republic earlier in February 2018 during his inaugural Sona.

During the Sona of 2018 the President said: "There are 57 million of us with different histories, languages, cultures, experiences, views and interests." Broadcasting plays a critical and meaningful role in providing a window and platform through which these histories, languages, culture, experiences, views and interests can be expressed and shared. This underscores the importance of broadcasting as the sector that is at the heart of who we are, the sense of our identities! It is thus important to revive it for this purpose, reposition it and unlock its immense potential to attract investment. It must also create jobs for our youth and bolster SMMEs in our country.

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Our work on the development of the new broadcasting policy will be accelerated. This policy will be comprehensive, covering various aspects of the disrupted value chains and the impact of new technologies on this sector, including the tier broadcasting system, the role of the public broadcaster, the funding of community broadcasting services and institutional arrangements as well as the repositioning of SOEs.

Fellow South Africans and hon members, the whole world is moving to the modern digital era in all aspects. International advances in technology have brought new innovative and efficient means of improving communication systems for the benefit of consumers. In a similar way in which we saw the introduction of digital cellular phones replacing the old home-based dial-up analogue telephones, television is similarly progressing into the more efficient and user-friendly digital system. That is what digital migration is all about. We all understand and appreciate the ease in which digital cellphones have improved communications for all, something that was not there 20 years ago.

Similarly, the migration from analogue to digital television will in the immediate to long term bring similar benefits to all. Currently, our digital migration project has experienced serious and immense

challenges, hence more than 10 years since Cabinet approved the policy, we are yet to have our broadcasting system migrated to digital. This has become costly for the government and the industry and hence, it is only through partnership with the public and the private sector that we can turn things around.

IsiZulu:

Zizojika izinto.

English:

Engagements with all the relevant stakeholders are ongoing and we do want to commit to share our plans in due course. Such plans will include the process of setting up an advisory team to bring in the technical know-how and insight in this area of expertise. We'll also look into potential public-private partnerships that could support our expedited migration to digital through cost-effective and efficient means, and accompanied by a clear definition of roles and responsibilities for all. It must be an inclusive and empowering approach which also helps us to invest in new skills for the future. Such plans, as we have said, include a process of resource mobilisation and the identification of alternative means which will support our intentions to expedite the migration to digital. In this instance, let me take this opportunity to appreciate the advice and

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counsel that one has received from one of our colleagues, Minister Ayanda Dlodlo, on how best to turn the situation around.

Afrikaans:

Dankie!

IsiZulu:

Siyabonga!

English:

As acknowledged by the President during the Sona, there are lot of challenges in the SOEs environment. Our portfolio is no different, particularly acknowledging the events at the SABC and the Media Development and Diversity Agency, MDDA. Whilst the SABC is on a gradual recovery following the appointment of the new board, a lot of work still needs to be done. We will work with the boards of these two entities to expedite the appointment of key personnel so as to provide for leadership certainty, improve accountability and internal controls. Part of our focus is to also promote investment in the development and production of content in order to provide space for young, smart minds and stars to thrive within the sector. Ours is to ensure that we drive transformation within the sector to

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foster the emergence of a microcosm of our society in age, race and gender in the sector.

In respect of the SABC in particular, we are determined to restore the SABC ... [Interjections.]

Mr M TSHWAKU: Chair, I want to find out if the Minister will take a question.

HON MEMBERS: No!

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon members, let us allow the Minister to answer for herself. Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS: Once I am done with what I am here for.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Okay, thank you.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS: In respect of the SABC in particular, we are determined to restore the SABC to financial stability working together with the board as well as the Department of Finance, editorial credibility and to being a public broadcaster

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of integrity that supports our objectives of social cohesion and nation-building. We also seek to really engage in intense conversation with South Africans on building the SABC to reflect the above objectives. Whilst we understand that part of this will be dealt with in the broader policy review process, the amount of issues require a focused discussion on the SABC as a public broadcaster in respect of its public mandate, scope and size, governance and accountability and how it actually seek to get additional resources outside of being dependant on the fiscus.

Lessons from other countries have shown that this is an organisation that is at the heart of who we are as a nation, and its issues should not be clouded with others. This is important in view of the inevitable changing broadcasting landscape of ubiquitous channels and over-the-top platforms used by the youth and the negative sentiments around TV licence fees. However, we must continue to encourage our people to pay their TV licences in order to guarantee the sustainability of the services provided by the public broadcaster.

Television remains the medium of choice for most South Africans. The public broadcaster's three terrestrial television channels attract an average of 27,1 million South Africans in a typical month.

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Seventeen of the top 20 terrestrial television programmes in South Africa are carried on the SABC channels. It therefore becomes important that this must become a resource and an asset which must be nurtured and protected. A significant number of South Africans still depend solely on radio as a source of information. The SABC provides services to South Africans in their preferred languages by way of its 18 radio stations. It is at the centre of our broadcasting industry and its challenges do not augur well for our nation-building project.

Internally, as a department we commit to beef up our monitoring and oversight unit to ensure that there is adequate capacity of men and women who know what their business is on a day-to-day basis.

Functionality of the different forums such as the chief executive officers and directors-general forum, policy, strategic planning, and chief financial officer's forum, will be resuscitated to ensure strategic alignment. The signing of the governance instrument will be carried out early enough to ensure not only clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the accounting authority and the executive authority, but also to create an instrument that must regulate the relationship.

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In March 2017, government published a Discussion Document on Regulatory Framework for Community Broadcasting Services. In the coming financial year, Independent Communications Authority of SA, Icasa will develop regulations on community broadcasting services that will strengthen the community broadcasting regulatory framework. Icasa will in this financial year also announce its decision on the licensing process of Commercial Free-to-Air Television Broadcasting Service and Multiplex 3 Spectrum licences. The introduction of more players in the industry is aimed at increasing competition as well as contributing towards transformation of this sector.

A Discussion Document on Digital Sound Broadcasting was also published in March 2018 into expanding the regulatory scope for digital sound broadcasting technologies for the purpose of accommodating additional sound broadcasters in conventional and frequency bands. As we prepare the sector and the environment for new platforms and increased spectrum, we are also cognisant of the need to protect our children from exposure to harmful content and to provide content advice to consumers. The Film and Publications Bill that is currently before the NCOP will go a long way in ensuring that our regulatory framework for online content is sufficient but also effective.

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Our sector is critical to the entire election process in terms of providing information for the voter, raising awareness and more importantly, providing platforms of democratic engagement by the parties contesting elections. The Government Communications and Information System, GCIS will assist government and the Independent Electoral Commission, IEC in driving campaigns around voter education and registration working together with Home Affairs in ensuring that citizens have correct documents and information, particularly our first-time voter.

As always, Icasa will review and ensure compliance with broadcasting regulations necessary including election broadcast and advertisements, and equitable treatment of political parties by the broadcasters during the election period taking on board the issues of proportionality. Community broadcasting will equally play a crucial role and it is important that we all ensure that we are ready to inform and educate our communities. Given the high turnover of personnel in this sector, we are in partnership with the MDDA and Icasa, and other partners will conduct training for the sector on the rules of engagement. This is to familiarise them with the legislative and regulatory environment.

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We are also pleased that the agreement was reached to reconnect 15 community radio stations that were suspended by Sentech for nonpayment of signal distribution fees. The agreement was reached after government met with Sentech, the National Community Radio Forum, MDDA and the Independent Communications Authority of SA. We have jointly identified gaps in the regulation and support to community media by government and the relevant entities, and will together work to ensure that the sector identifies and implements long-term solutions to these areas of joint concern. We will also collaborate with the three spheres of government, particularly local government to ensure that there is investment that is redirected towards community broadcasting.

Hon members, this now brings us to issues related to the GCIS where we have identified key pillars to the communication processes of government, namely, community engagements and government outreach programmes, media engagement through post-Cabinet and other briefings including the use of social media interface, stakeholder engagement and partnerships and initiatives which are done by civil society. We are pleased to say that the Government Communication Policy has also been finalised and it seeks to establish norms and standards to professionalise and strengthen the government communication system.

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We are also happy to announce that Brand SA will continue providing critical support to government in promoting our country as an investment destination. This will be done together with the team that has been appointed by His Excellency the President to further bolster the commendable work that has already been initiated in this regard and that of the Special Envoys in presenting South Africa as a lucrative investment destination. We are, as such, looking forward to the upcoming Brics Summit and through the SABC, Brand SA and the GCIS we will be undertaking a comprehensive communications approach to positively market our country both locally and internationally, and to be the primary source of coverage and news from the summit for our people and international audience.

In conclusion, our response to some of the challenges referred to above builds on policies we have consistently pursued as government over the past decades: Building a communication sector that is vibrant and sustainable to drive economic development, create jobs and empower our people; and turning the SABC to become a jewel of our country that would also be in apposition to adapt to the realities of the public broadcasting throughout the world. We are geared to reassert the Department of Communications as the responsible arm of government for policy development and implementation, regulation and oversight within the sector. Whilst

we appreciate and promote the independence of the sector and associated freedoms, we are also cognisant of the need to ensure accountability and transparency by all, as well as promoting partnerships.

Sesotho:

Sedikwa ke ntjapedi ha se thata.

IsiZulu:

Izandla ziyagezana.

English:

It is precisely through that, that we do believe that turning the communications sector requires the participation and positive relationship between the industry, institutions and government but most importantly, a positive mind coming from government with the intention of making sure that we are all inclusive; we learn from the best; and we claim the glory after everybody has made government to look good.

We are guided by the National Development Plan which articulates that by 2030, South Africa's rural communities should have greater opportunities to participate fully in the economic and political

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life of the country. Furthermore, the NDP stipulates that South Africa needs to build a much more equitable society where opportunity is not defined by race, gender, class or religion.

In conclusion, I want to take this opportunity and thank members of the portfolio committee, the Deputy Minister and the entire sector for embracing some of us who have come here to take South Africa forward through communication.

Afrikaans:

Dankie!

IsiZulu:

Ngiyabonga!

English:

Mr T RAWULA: Thank you, Chair.

IsiZulu:

USIHLALO WESIKHASHANA (Mnu M R Mdakane): uNgqongqoshe useqedile.

Ungqongqoshe useqedile.

English:

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Mr T RAWULA: An undertaking. Just to conclude it.

IsiZulu:

USIHLALO WESIHASHANA (Mnu M R Mdakane): Cha! Cha! Yima kancane. Inkinga yakho ... Yima ngikusize. Inkinga yakho wena uvele usukume ungazange ukhonjwe. Ubophakamisa isandla kuqala. uNgqongqoshe useqedile. Akathathanga umbuzo wakho. Asiqhubeke siye phambili mhlonishwa. Uzokhuluma nami mawuthole ithuba.

English:

Mr N S MATIASE: Chair, on a point of order: In Afrikaans there is a saying that ...

Afrikaans:

... 'n belofte maak a skuld.

English:

She made a promise and she must fulfil it. Allow our member to put his question across.

English:

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Take your seat.

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Mr C H M MAXENGWANA: House Chairperson, good afternoon Members of Parliament, comrades and our visitors in the gallery, the Budget Review and Recommendations Reports, BRRR, debate on 2017 was delivered amidst a negative outlook of South Africa's economic growth. However, that did not deter us from achieving the country's goals of eliminating poverty and reducing inequality and that we must continue to strive for to ensure that service delivery is not compromised.

More importantly we must uphold processes put in place by the governing party to create a vibrant communications sector and continue to uphold and promote an engaged and informed citizenry in order to ensure participation in the democratic processes.

There is a direct correlation between ANC policy as a governing party and a mandate of the department and its entities because the key policy positions of the ANC's 54th conference resolutions as well as the manifesto speak directly to the key deliverables of the department and its entities, including upholding and expanding public broadcasting, using community media as a catalyst to promote public participation as well as to ensuring that the communications sector is underpinned by innovation and technological invention.

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Chairperson, now in its fourth year, it is no more a debate as to the rationale for the existence of this department since the proclamation outlining its establishment. The department and its entities are tasked with communicating to South Africans and the rest of the world. This will not only ensure that we have an engaged and informed citizenry but also yield great results and economic spin off for the country, which will translate to the realisation of the goals of the NDP.

While there are anomalies in the manner in which the Budget Vote is structured, the consistent clean audit outcomes illustrate the department's commitment to key pillars of sustainability towards clean audits. Firstly, these include the appointment of adequately skilled administrators at levels of head of department and chief financial officer, whose tasks is to produce credible reports, which are validated on a monthly basis; and lastly, pillar is the appointment of adequately experienced internal auditors and audit committees, whose tasks is to review the credibility of information and objectively report to the leadership.

Total expenditure for the Vote is expected to grow on average by 5,8% over the 2018 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF. The department estimated a growth in expenditure of 6,4% in 2018-19.

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Without labouring too much on the matter, the Department of Communications has consistently performed well despite underfunding. It has in the last two financial years received unqualified opinion and improved programme performance. Needless to say that if it is to achieve radical socioeconomic agenda over the next 20 years as articulated in our 2014 manifesto, the rollout of massive economic and social infrastructure programme will be derailed.

There needs to be an open and frank discussion about the current anomaly and often underfunded Department of Communications. It will become more difficult for the department to deliver on its flagship programme of digital migration. It was previously reported by the department that it needs another R6,6 billion to successfully complete the implementation of the broadcasting digital migration, BDM, before the worldwide June 2019 deadline.

Chairperson, there is a serious need to capacitate the department's entity oversight unit in order to ensure that there is proactive monitoring of problematic entities. Transforming the sector, particularly the print media sector remains at the top of the department's priorities.

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Hon Chairperson, it is now public knowledge, that the manner and robustness of debates and resolutions of the Portfolio Committee on Communications is testament to the commitment and intent of the ruling party on promoting social cohesion and other principles as enshrined in the Constitution. The inquiry into the fitness of the board of the SA Broadcasting Corporation was a process initiated by the Portfolio Committee on Communication and we have since been consistent in our oversight into the public broadcaster so that it continues to play an important part.

Another important entity is the Media Development and Diversity Agency, MDDA, which in recent times has experienced a multitude of challenges. The Portfolio Committee on Communications, just like with the other troubled entity, has begun to focus into bringing stability at the MDDA by firstly restoring stable leadership at the board, but most importantly by addressing the maladministration engulfing the entity. We cannot overlook the fact that the financial constraints of the department and its entities contributes largely to the challenges of the department and I will illustrate briefly: The print media sector remains largely untransformed with undue concentration of media ownership in the hands of a few industry players. Transformation however needs to be tackled from various fronts whilst policy planned at addressing transformation is a good

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start; it is not enough. How transformation is financed should also be a priority of the department to ensure that transformation becomes a sustainable programme. As it stands, the MDDA is tasked with the support of Community Print and Small Commercial Print projects, again financial constraints will compromise the sustainability of projects and transformation.

The SA Broadcasting Corporation has the onerous mandate to educate all South Africans in all official languages despite a decrease in public funding and a challenging commercial environment.

Hon Chair, it should be noted with concern, Minister, that numerous calls by the committee to fill the funded vacant posts is very critical for the department to further perform because it is performing. This is despite the fact that the proclamation of 2014 to establish the department is now four years old. The ANC supports the Vote. [Applause.]

Ms P T VAN DAMME: Chairperson, this year marks the fifth and final year of this fifth Parliament. As I look back on the work of the Communications Portfolio Committee, I see great improvement – improvement that has been as a result of a commitment to the discharging of our duties as public representatives of this august

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House. I can proudly say that, as South Africans from across political parties, we have done our best to conduct oversight over the Department of Communications.

This is not to say we have not disagreed along the way. We have, and have done so often. However, what has always remained was our commitment to fixing the problems in this portfolio.

I unfortunately cannot say the same for members of the executive who have been in charge. The last three years have been an exercise in utter frustration.

Today before us we have the fourth Minister of Communications in two years, the second in the space of six months, and the tenth since 2009. [Interjections.] The constant reshuffling of Ministers – here's our problem – means that there is perpetual policy uncertainty and a lack of continuity. It is quite clear that this department is not one of high priority for ANC Presidents.

Even less of a priority is South Africa's Broadcasting Digital Migration programme. Only R77 million has been allocated for its roll-out this year, whereas R6,6 billion is actually what is needed. Government needs to stop lying to the public in saying digital

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migration is coming. [Interjections.] It is not coming! It is quite clear ... [Interjections.]

Yes. Lying!

... that another year will roll on by, and South Africa will not migrate to digital television.

In the meantime, technological advancements ...

Ms H H MALGAS: Chairperson, point of order.

Ms P T VAN DAMME: Can I be protected, Chair? [Interjections.]

Ms H H MALGAS: Chairperson, I rise on a point of order. She's misleading the House because she's says "lying".

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): No. Hon members ...

Ms P T VAN DAMME: Government must stop fibbing to the public about digital migration ... [Interjections.]

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The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon members, please, let us allow the hon Van Damme to be heard. Firstly, let us read our Rules correctly. We are out of order if you are talking about a specific member, not broadly about government. Hon Van Damme?

Ms P T VAN DAMME: It is clear that another year will roll on by, and South Africa will not migrate to digital television. In the meantime, technological advancements have sped by while South Africa dilly-dally's.

It is clear that an in-depth review of government's Broadcasting Digital Migration programme is needed, and needed urgently. I would suggest that the R77 million allocated to the process be put towards assembling a panel of experts in the field to start the process afresh, taking into consideration the technological developments in the sector.

I see the Minister has said that this has already, and I look forward to seeing the outcomes of that panel of experts.

It has also been a worry for some time that the department has held numerous public awareness campaigns to promote digital migration, a process that has known for some time will not happen. I was amazed

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to discover via reply to a parliamentary question that R30,3 million has been spent on these public awareness campaigns, which, according to some attendees, were sometimes nothing more than campaigns to promote the ANC. [Interjections.] At each one of those public awareness campaigns, a whopping R2 million was spent on food alone. [Interjections.] Interestingly, the amount spent by the department on travel and subsistence doubled in the lead up and during the 2016 election, when numerous of these public awareness campaigns took place. [Interjections.]

Ms S P KOPANE: Chair, point of order.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon Van Damme, there's a member on your left who is on her feet. Please take your seat.

Ms S P KOPANE: Chair, can you please protect our member because we can't hear her. I think, in politics, if you can't take the heat, you are not supposed to be here.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon members, please, let us not waste time. Let us allow the member to be heard. Continue, hon Van Damme.

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Ms P T VAN DAMME: Until there is some clear direction around digital migration, these awareness campaigns must be stopped, and the money budgeted for them, diverted towards the department's core mandate, which is to develop national communications policy.

The lack of innovation and forward thinking in this department is embarrassing. To date, we have had no response from government regarding the protection of personal information online, and the phenomenon of fake news which threatens our democracy. The EU, for example, has created a commission to propose measures to tackle fake news, including an EU-wide Code of Conduct on Disinformation.

This Code is anticipated to include a series of aims to help tackle the spread of fake news, including ensuring transparency when displaying sponsored content, enabling third-party verification, clarifying how algorithms work, and introducing additional measures to identify and close fake accounts.

The Department of Communications must look at international best practice in order to be at the frontline of response to communications, technological developments, and threats. Regulation must never lag behind technological developments.

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Now, regarding the entities reporting to this department, it is astounding that Rubben Mohlaloga continues to this day to chair the Independent Communications Authority of SA, Icasa, despite have being found guilty of defrauding the Land Bank of approximately R6 million. [Interjections.]

The Deputy Minister of Communications, Pinky Kekana, is on record as stating, on 27 March 2018, that Mr Mohlaloga would be suspended. Here we are, 6 weeks later, and a convicted fraudster continues to draw a salary and chair a Chapter 9 institution. [Interjections.]

Pending the conclusion of parliamentary processes, Mr Mohlaloga must be suspended immediately. [Interjections.] It is unconscionable that he continues to chair a Chapter 9 institution. [Interjections.]

We are pleased that Icasa is forging ahead ... [Interjections.]

Are you going to protect me?

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon Van Damme ... hon members on both sides, you are not assisting us. You are drowning your own speaker out. You are not assisting us. Let us allow her to be heard. [Interjections.]

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Ms P T VAN DAMME: Is ... [Inaudible.] ... from your party?

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane) Hon members, we will correct surnames later. Please continue, hon Van Damme.

Ms P T VAN DAMME: We are also pleased that Icasa is forging ahead with plans to open up the pay-TV market to create competition and provide more choice for consumers. It cannot be correct that MultiChoice dominates the market, closing out competitors, especially regarding sports rights.

As I discovered in a reply to a parliamentary question, over the last three years, the SABC has paid MultiChoice over half a billion for sports rights. This means that South African football fans, for example, have had to watch delayed matches on SABC.

It cannot be correct that the public broadcaster has to pay a private company for the benefit of broadcasting sport matches, especially those of our national teams. The public should be able to watch Bafana Bafana, the Springboks and the Proteas on the public broadcaster without the SABC having to pay billions to DSTv for the benefit.

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I am also pleased that the SABC is pursuing the issue of Icasa's must-carry regulations, the latter mean that its channels - SABC 1, 2 and 3 - are given for free to DSTV. This means, that DSTV is able to gain advertising revenue from the SABC's channels, and it is dololo [nothing] for the public broadcaster.

DSTV must pay the SABC for its channels, and the SABC should use this money purchase and commission better content, attract more viewers and in turn, advertisers and revenue.

Regarding the Films and Publications Board, FPB, we have expressed our unhappiness with the Films and Publications Board Amendment Bill with which material issues of constitutionality and enforceability remain. We hope the NCOP will be able to iron out these issues, otherwise, if passed, the Bill is likely to be subject to litigation.

Chairperson, we have also expressed our unhappiness with the manner in which the dismissal of the former CEO of the FPB, Themba Wakashe was handled by the board. The FPB spent R350 000 on initial legal advice from Bowman Gilfillan which told them that they do not have a case against Mr Wakashe. Then they spent a further R500 000 on a legal opinion from Sekela Xabisa which also told them that they do not

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have a case. The CEO was eventually awarded a settlement amount of R2,1 million because the board clearly wanted him out, allegedly for reasons, which may have included homophobia.

The waste of public money in this manner cannot be tolerated. The board members of the FPB, especially those who agreed with the manner in which Mr Wakashe was treated, must be personally, individually, severally be held liable for this fruitless and wasteful expenditure. They must pay that money back out of their own pockets.

These are but a few of the issues that exist not only with the department, but the entities reporting it. I do not get a sense of urgency or an appetite for innovation from the ANC, or its Minister to bring about real change to this portfolio. In fact, the Minister seems very, very distracted and focussed on the issue perhaps on the issues of her former portfolio and not on those of this committee. In fact, she hasn't even been to that many committee meetings.

It is quite clear that the only time that this portfolio will deliver to South Africa is when we have total change in 2019.

[Interjections.] A DA government will ensure that all entities are well run, that those that need to be sold off, are sold, that crooks

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are not allowed to lead boards, and that the innovation necessary in the digital era is front and centre of its policy-making.

We wish Minister Mokonyane well for as long as she is with us. With the ANC, you never know when a reshuffle is coming. [Applause.]

Mr L G MOKOENA: Chair, hon Minister ... hon Minister ... you may want to ... [Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon Semanya, no. No, no, no, no. Hon Hlengwa, no, no, no. You are really wasting our time. Allow the member to speak. You may engage with him after he has spoken.

Mr L G MOKOENA: Thank you, Chair. Hon Minister, you might want to look at your Companies and Intellectual Property Commission, CIPC, documents. There are people on the list of board directors who may compromise your governance issues there.

The reality of the Department of Communications is that nothing has changed since the removal of Minister Muthambi. It is continuing with the same tendencies that all of us, including members of the ANC, criticised during Zuma's presidency. The policies, programmes

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and legislation that it has championed under the new and old Minister will not allow the department and its entities to provide an environment conducive to research, development, and the free flow of ideas and information. This is sad. It is sadly not the case for the new Minister, Ms Mokonyane, who left the Department of Water and Sanitation bankrupt and compromised – and who is not that different from Minister Muthambi.

It is why findings of the parliamentary inquiry that revealed MultiChoice made payments to the Gupta-owned propaganda machine, ANN7 – now rebranded Afro Worldview – have been squashed. It is why the migration from digital to analogue broadcasting is taking so long and has been so heavily compromised by MultiChoice's dominance and monopoly through bribes and illicit payments to Ministers and their proxies. It would be counterproductive and regressive to the idea of a transformed media if digital migration were to see MultiChoice maintain its monopoly and not allow smaller, particularly black-owned and community broadcasters, to be competitive in the market.

The SABC, the public broadcaster, which enters the homes of millions of South Africans every day, remains unstable and is clearly heading in the wrong direction. It is making changes that will turn it into

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an eNCA Lite. These include the replacement of Sakina Kamwendo, a competent, tried and tested journalist and presenter, with Stephen Grootes. It shows the lack of commitment to gender transformation and the ideals and discourse of economic freedom and black liberation.

We decry, in particular, the continued flouting of the Broadcasting Act regarding the responsibilities of the Minister versus those of the board and the executive. The EFF also stands in solidarity with SABC workers in the television licence department who were suspended without due procedure being followed, and calls for their immediate reinstatement and the necessary procedures to be followed. The Media Development and Diversity Agency, MDDA, is so dysfunctional that it has reached a point where we believe it should be placed under administration in order to revive it.

I must also mention that there were 36 recommendations made by the SABC inquiry. Not even half of them have been meted and we feel that shows an injustice to the growth of the organisation.

Everything we have said paints a true picture of the reality of the department and its entities, in their entirety, and this is why we

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can never be expected to support this Budget Vote. Thank you very much.

Adv A de W ALBERTS: Chairperson, Minister, given the unfortunate state-capture years we have experienced, this debate must be framed within the rhetoric of Mr Dondo Mogajane, the Director-General of Treasury, who stated as follows, yesterday:

We have to ensure that we take a stand. We are not a failed state, but we are on the verge of becoming a failed state and we were party to that.

This is a spectacular admission of guilt and this department has seen its fair share of state capture. The SABC, for instance, had gone through many troubling times over the years. However, the Hlaudi Motsoeneng regime was unprecedented in its theft of public resources and its pro-ANC propaganda, mismanagement, and witch-hunting of its own employees and journalists. We are, indeed, glad to see the new management trying to turn the ship around, but we have yet to see accountability from all of those who were part of the destruction of an important public institution.

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While we do hear noises being made regarding financial accountability, it is disconcerting not to hear anything about the criminal prosecution of the individuals involved in the persecution of SABC journalists, especially the SABC Eight. We are certain that a case can be made that journalist, Suna Venter, passed away due to the stress of being hunted by SABC henchmen, and that the institution therefore has a responsibility to ensure that those perpetrators are caught and tried in court for murder.

Afrikaans:

Nog 'n belangrike kwessie wat aandag verg is die poging van die Wysigingswetsontwerp op Films en Publikasies om die internet te reguleer onder die oënskynlike oogmerk om vrouens en kinders te beskerm. Die wysigingswetsontwerp sal uiteindelik nie implementeerbaar wees nie, juis omdat die internet - 'n globale dier van aard - nie deur 'n plaaslike wet alleen gereguleer kan word nie. Die ANC sal moet leer dat die skep van wetgewing alleen nie op sigself sosiale probleme kan regmaak nie. Dit vererger in baie gevalle die probleem en skep valse verwagtinge rakende die oplossing.

Natuurlik is hierdie wysigingswetsontwerp boonop daarop gerig om meer regulasies te skep ter wille van sentrale beheer, in lyn met

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die soviet-etos van die ANC. Aangesien hierdie wysigingswetsontwerp nie in lyn is met die werklikheid nie, sal dit uiteindelik ook faal.

English:

Given the importance of communication for the economy and the country, state capture will have to be eradicated and all obligations of the department must be complied with in a constitutional and fair manner. If not, the department will remain the farce it has become under state capture.

A lot has been said about the Fourth Industrial Revolution. It is indeed, an important aspect to take note of. However, the Fourth Industrial Revolution will pass us by and this country will only know it as a buzzword if we are not able to leverage it for our growth, going forward. That means that state departments must be free of any state capture. I thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS: Hon House Chairperson, hon Minister of Communications, Mme Nomvula Mokonyane, hon chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications, Hamfrey Maxegwane and the entire members of the committee, board and executive members of the entities of the Department of Communications, DoC, Acting Director-General of the Department of Communications Dr Mashilo

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Boloka, Acting Director-General of the Government Communications and Information System, GCIS, Ms Pumla Williams, distinguished guests, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, the month of May has significant importance in the history of the African continent and her people as we celebrate Africa Month. It is thus both a privilege and honour for me to deliver my maiden Budget Vote during Africa Month, which is being celebrated under the theme: A year of Nelson Mandela -Building a Better Africa and a Better World. [Applause.] This year's celebrations coincide with the centenary of the birth of our beloved first democratically elected President, Tata Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu, the icons of our liberation struggle. As we celebrate the lives and legacies of Madiba and Ma Sisulu, a call is also made to all who live on our continent to promote African unity, ensure deeper regional integration and to recommit to nation building and social cohesion.

Hon Chairperson, allow me to acknowledge my special guests Ms Moster Eunice Montshiwa and Mr Maponyane Maisha, who are both high school learners, and they are seated there in the gallery. They carry with them the hopes of a brighter tomorrow of our nation. However, given such high levels of violence against women and children in our country, the hope they carry for our country is threatened. It is

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our clarion call to all South Africans that gender-based violence in all its forms has no place in our society and must be defeated.

Our work in the Department of Communications is about laying a firm foundation for the communications sector to act as a unifying force of our people. We do this by ensuring that all citizens irrespective of their socioeconomic status in the society have access to information. Thus, part of the mandate is to assist the process of building a united, more equitable and socially cohesive nation. The National Development Plan, NDP, instructs us to be a nation that has more things in common in things than that which divides us.

The Minister, has entrusted me with the responsibility to oversee the work of the Film and Publication Board, FPB, and the Media Development and Diversity Agency, MDDA.

These institutions play a vital role in giving true meaning to our mission of ensuring that ours is participatory democracy in, which the people truly govern. This means that we are vested with the responsibility to ensure that our people have access to as diverse information and knowledge as it exists in the global community. The mandate of the FPB is derived from the Constitution of the Republic. Balancing the rights of children, as listed in section 28 of the

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Constitution against other fundamental rights often conflicts with its own mandate and legislation.

Despite the well-intended role of regulating for the preservation of progressive values and norms, the FPB has encountered challenges, largely due to policy constraints. In this regard, the Films and Publications Amendment Bill that is currently before the NCOP, will help to ensure that we have a workable policy framework in place for the effective regulation of online content.

For the financial year 2018-19, the FPB will focus on building capacity in technology and related skills development. This will enable it to deal with the shift by industry towards digital content distribution.

To improve the ease of doing business as instructed by the NDP, the FPB successfully launched a first of its kind, online content regulation, OCR, system in Africa. This system allows distributors to submit content online for classification from anywhere around the globe which will improve turnaround time and service delivery.

for classification from anywhere around the globe, which will improve turn-around times and service delivery.

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In an attempt to respond to the changes in the industry, the FPB has licensed five online content distributors that will be self-regulating their content in line with the FPB's classification guidelines. The guidelines are under review. In the 2018-19 we plan to conduct provincial public consultations on the draft revised classification guidelines. We urge members of the public to participate and make inputs in this process. The recent case of the film *Inxeba* [The Wound], which has attracted huge public interest, exposed certain shortcomings in the current legislation. The conflict between culture, social norms and values on the one hand, and the rights to freedom of expression, artistic and commercial rights on the other, have been cast in the limelight, with the battle ending up in court. We await the outcome of the court process.

As part of its contribution towards fighting crime and corruption, creating jobs and improving education, the FPB has been very active. In the last four years the FPB in partnership with law enforcement agencies conducted 68 564 raids and compliance inspections. A total of 344 663 illegal DVDs and CDs with a street value of R3 446 630, and market value R34 466 300 were confiscated and destructed.

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The FPB has also assisted the National Prosecuting Authority and the law enforcement agencies to successfully convict child pornography perpetrators.

In 2018-19 the FPB will champion a programme to conscientise the youth about the dangers lurking in the online space. The FPB will develop a Mobile App through a national Hackathon Competition. The mobile app will be developed by the youth for the youth and extend the FPB's reach to one that is accessible on smart devices. The FPB will also continue to conduct public education and awareness campaigns targeting children, parents and the general public.

Since 1994 the footprint of community media has grown significantly and has begun to emerge as an alternative voice to the mainstream media. We must therefore ensure community media remains true to the objective of providing information to the many South Africans who ordinarily do not have access to the media.

Over the years, the community radio and print media sectors play an important role of being the training ground for the next generation of media practitioners and cultural workers. However, as we have come to learn in the numerous interactions we have had with this sector, numerous challenges remain which poses a serious threat to

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the continued existence of these sectors. These, among others, relate to ownership and uncompetitive behaviour by various mainstream media companies, red tape in government which impact on revenue generation and therefore the sustainability of community media platforms. Therefore, the imperative for the MDDA to intensify its support for the community media sector can never be overstated.

A Study into the impact of the MDDA was commissioned and completed in December 2017. It concluded that the MDDA has been able to carry out different aspects of its mandate to a greater or lesser degree and that political parties, government and stakeholder groups saw the need to build a thriving community and small commercial sector.

Through its grant funding, the MDDA has channelled resources to the community and small commercial media sector and in this way, contributed towards the expansion of ownership and control as well as access of media to historically disadvantaged communities. This is evidenced in the burgeoning of both community and small commercial media, which is being published or broadcast in all indigenous languages.

Community radio audiences reach an impressive 25% of South African audiences and community print media is read by about 25 million

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monthly readers. Of the 275 community broadcasting stations, the MDDA has funded just over half of that, which is 156 radio stations out of a total of 275. With regard to the print sector, the MDDA has supported some 85 titles with either start-up capital or finances to strengthen pre-existing publications.

The MDDA has also supported four TV stations, however this media is expensive and the community TV sector is still in its infancy. I am also extremely pleased that community radio and print now appears in a range of indigenous languages across all provinces and at local level. [Time expired.]

As I conclude, there can be no greater way of celebrating our icons, Nelson Mandela and Mma Albertina Sisulu's centenary in the spirit of business unusual. The ANC supports this budget.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Chairperson, hon members, while the challenges facing the dysfunctional MDDA seem to be receiving attention the challenges that continue to face the workers at SABC seems not to be receiving enough attention from the leadership.

Workers at SABC still feel that the management's reign of terror at SABC continues long after the departure of its chief architect, Mr

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Hlaudi Motsoeneng, and despite our efforts in the SABC Ad hoc Committee last year to ensure that the SABC leadership built a relationship with its employees that is based on trust and mutual respect.

Despite these attempts, we hear stories about the management at ASBC taking decisions that affect the workers without consulting them and us or the important stakeholder, the public. There are stories, Minister, for instance for cases where some of the journalists are told or ordered to include certain parties and leave out others in the same news bulletins. For proof of the lack of consultation, one has to look no further than the recent unilateral changes made by the SABC management to the current affairs programmes at SAFM. I want to put this matter into perspective; for instance, when the SABC management took this decision to reduce the current affairs hours on SAFM from 30 hours during the week to 10 hours and from 5 hours on weekends to 2 hours but with the same staff complement.

The implications of this ill-considered decision are that you now have at the SAFM current affairs decision, where up to 12 people working on a one-hour show per day, have to spend the rest of the day without work but are paid full salaries. This means again SAFM

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right now you have approximately 30 people working on 32 hour's worth of current affairs content per week.

Shockingly, this inefficiency and wasteful expenditure occur at the same time the cash trapped SABC regularly goes to the National Treasury with a begging bowl to ask bailouts.

Furthermore, we have been reliably informed of a number of cases where, after having lost CCMA cases the SABC management ignores CCMA awards. This disturbing trend seem to be taking root in government, as even some of the entities that fall under the Department of Arts and Culture are guilty of the same thing. This needs to be nipped in the bud!

We agree with the committee's recommendation that ICASA prioritises the issuing of regulations to parties for airtime for the 2019 elections. As failure to give this matter the urgency it deserves could lead to parties feeling that they could be marginalised.

We should indeed, ensure better co-ordination between MDDA and ICASA in support of local community media and marginalised communities to ensure our people's participation in our democracy as a strategy of building and enhancing social cohesion. Thank you.

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Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Chairperson, just last week, the world observed World Press Freedom Day. Of late, far too many South African journalists have come under fire, for standing up for their rights to speak the truth, and do their jobs without fear or favour.

We commend South Africa's vibrant Fourth Estate. Especially, those from the public broadcaster, who continue to do exceptional work in protecting our democracy, and holding to account all those who fail us.

Chairperson, today Minister Mokonyane charted the way forward for this department. Before her, Minister Kubayi Ngomane led the charge. Before her Minister Dlodlo did so. And before her, it was the now notorious Minister Faith Muthambi.

It goes without saying that such instability does not bode well for this department and its entities. We ask the new Minister to work swiftly to address the most urgent challenges; to fill critical vacancies; to tackle the governance crisis at the MDDA, and to ensure the employment of more people with disabilities.

House Chairperson, ICASA remains a toothless regulator. It is truly unforgivable that five years after Icasa stated its investigation

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into the cost to communication; South Africa remains a country with some of the highest cost to communicate in Africa and the world. ICASA continues to act in the interest of the big cellphone companies at the expense of the most vulnerable citizens.

If our excessive high cost to communicate doesn't fall then surely the leadership of ICASA must fall. But may be nothing is happening at ICASA because Rubben Mohlaloga, an ANC cadre, and a convicted fraud star continues to lead ICASA and may be that is one of the reasons nothing is happening.

We are also concerned with ICASA's state of readiness for the upcoming 2019 elections. There are always attempts by some politicians, especially those from the ruling party to manipulate the public broadcaster for excessive free airtime. This is likely to happen again in the lead up to the 2019 elections. Regulations on airtime for political parties must therefore be urgently finalised.

House Chairperson, before the bravery of the SABC 8, and the parliamentary inquiry into the SABC, the IFP called on South Africans not to pay their TV licenses. We did so because of the whole mismanagement and political manipulation of the public

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broadcaster at the behest of the ruling party. While the SABC is now moving in the right direction, it is far from health yet.

Changes at the SAFM were poorly handled. Autocratic managers still lurk in the corridors at Auckland Park. The SABC remains in financial ICU. Staff moral remains low, more focus is needed on staff welfare at the SABC alongside the financial health of the broadcaster. The new broom, the new SABC board although they have done exceptional work so far, it is yet to seep completely clean.

Minister Mokonyane, as the ANC's main spin doctor-in-chief, putting you in charge of the SABC ahead of a make-or-break election for the ANC, where you might find yourself on this side of the House, was indeed a good move on behalf of your political superiors. However, we hope in this era of the so-called new dawn, and as we move to the next elections you won't develop an appetite to turn the SABC into another state broadcaster once more.

Finally Minister Mokonyane, it would be remiss of me if I didn't mention your track record at the Department of Water and Sanitation. [Interjections.] Under your leadership, that department was reduced to bankruptcy and it's in complete chaos now. We sincerely hope that

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you will achieve the opposite at the Department of Communications.
Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr W M MADISHA: Chairperson, hon members here present ...

[Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): I just want to make an appeal that let's us talk - if we have to - in very low tones and avoid drowning the speakers, it's a plea; especially at the back there. There seems to be something happening.

Mr D W MACPHERSON: Chairperson, sorry, just to say, you know, it's very difficult having so many members of the ANC on the opposition side of the House here. [Interjections.] So, I don't know if you want to make a ruling that the ANC should be go to the governing side of the House benches.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): Yes, hon member, we take note of what you are saying, let's proceed.

Mr W M MADISHA: Chair, I was saying permit me to welcome the new Minister and the Deputy Minister into this department. I hope they will put the people first and we shall be able to move forward

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properly. Further, let me put it to the House that the portfolio committee has been working in unison in a number of ways and in many occasions we have been able to agree. Thank you, chairperson.

[Applause.] Now, where do I start, where do I start? [Laughter.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): Order! Please allow hon Madisha to proceed with his speech ... [Interjections.]

Mr W M MADISHA: Chair, permit me again to indicate that there are momentous challenges that the people of our country face. Firstly, the national budget presented earlier this year, which inform this budget vote brought home the stark and tragic consequences of a decade of betrayal.

And now, government must begin the process of undoing the damage done to the state, the fiscus and the economy by amongst other means implementing broad austerity measures, fiscal consolidation and cutbacks on expenditure.

This must be done in the face of rising demands upon government as a consequence of poor governance; failing service delivery; and rising unemployment, poverty and inequality. Instead of sunshine we face a perfect storm with the ruling party at its centre.

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Chairperson, the Department of Communications is a case in point. We witnessed how the SABC was captured, its news rooms and journalists intimidated, and how its resources were plundered to fund Mr Zuma and the Gupta's propaganda - in the form of ANN7 and the New Age.

We witnessed how Zuma and the Guptas using looted state funds propagated fake news to inflame racial tensions for political ends. We have seen how the Films and publications board were intimidated to effectively ban the locally made film, *Inxeba*.

We have observed the failing governance of the MDDA and its dysfunction. We still await the roll-out of the digital terrestrial television, DTT, which appears to be the subject of contestation between the elites. And South Africans are still suffering from high data costs in the age of the fourth industrial revolution - despite ICASA.

Now, please tell me. Are we getting bang for our bucks? Is our spent on communications creating an environment for the provision of inclusive communication services to all South Africans? Is our spending promoting socioeconomic development and investment in the communications industry?

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Chairperson, Cope notes that due to bad governance, reckless fiscal management and rampant corruption, the budget of the department now faces significant reductions over the medium term. That is why you actually are face with momentous challenges. The amounts have been reduced and you therefore cannot move properly.

To you, my Chairperson and the committee, I am saying that we need to go to the board of SABC because there are problems there. Not only there but then in other areas so that we then can be able to remove the problems which are there. There are very serious problems and the people of our country, particularly the working-class is weighing on they are not satisfied. Let us look into that. [Time expired.]

Ms M O MATSHOBA: Hon Chair, hon Minister, hon Deputy ...

[Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): Please speak a bit louder and speak into the microphone.

IsiZulu:

Sondela kumbhobho yebo.

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Ms M O MATSHOBA: ... Minister, the director-generals to all the departments, our people in the gallery, my area of focus will be on two entities, the Media Diversity and Development Agency, MDDA, and the Film and Publications Board, FPB. I want to say before ...

IsiXhosa:

... xa ndiza kwenza intetho yam ndifuna ukuhlonipha abantu baseGugulethu ababhiyozela ama-60 eminyaka kulo nyaka wama-2018. Aba bantu basuswa ngenkani kumhlaba waseKensington naseDistrict Six, bedudulelwa eGugulethu. Ndibabona bebhiiyozela into engekhooyo kuba isicelo sabo sincinci kakhulu kuba bafuna isikhululo sikanomathotholo nje kuphela Mphathiswa. Bathi bafuna, njengoko begqiba ama-60 eminyaka, ukwazi ukukhomba nabo bathi ikhona into abayifumeneyo kulo rhulumente.

Siyayazi ukuba yeminye yemisebenzi yengcinezelo ukududulwa kwabantu kwiindawo ababehlala kuzo. [Kwaqhwatywa.]

English:

I want to tell how these entities are doing well. These two entities are doing well. The Film and Publication Board, FPB, is mandated to provide regulatory advice to enable citizens to make informed choices with regards viewing, reading and gaming, both for

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themselves and for children in their care; as well as to protect children from exposure to disturbing and harmful materials and from premature exposure to adult experiences. The Media Diversity and Development Agency, MDDA, is tasked to develop a robust and sustainable community media sector. The MDDA is expected to promote media diversity in a rapidly changing telecommunications environment. Its core activities will continue to be financial and nonfinancial support of community broadcast and community and small commercial print projects.

The FPB has for number of years been receiving clean audits and we take this opportunity to congratulate the FPB in its efforts to create functional and clean state agencies. In the spirit of taking services to the people, the FPB has concluded a pilot project to decentralise the administration function of the classification of content in the Durban regional office. The pilot project was initiated to respond to the distributors needs which included access to FPB offices for submission of content for classification, and also to submit applications for registrations and renewals. The project has assisted small to medium distributors of the niche content, Nollywood and Bollywood, in the Kwazulu-Natal, KZN region. This is a demonstration of agency's attempt to bring services closer to the communities they serve. The ANC applauds the FPB in its clamp

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down on piracy which left unchecked will destroy our film and music industry. This, combined with the protection of local content, which the National Development Plan, NDP, identifies as critical to grow the economy and create jobs, is a demonstration of excellent work from the Department of Communications and FPB. The FPB must be applauded for protecting and promoting the local economy through promotion of local film industry. The FPB is helping with transformation in the ICT sector and helping local content creators to thrive. The South African film and Television industry has been identified in the NDP - Mzansi Golden Economy - as a driver for social cohesion, nation-building and poverty alleviation which is the Outcome 14, led by Department of Arts and Culture to which the Department of Communication and its entities make contributions.

On empowering small, macro and medium enterprises, SMMEs, to ensure they participate in the economy, the FPB has on average awarded 70% of business to companies with the BBBEE contribution level of three and lower. The FPB is also contributing to the fight against crime and corruption, in the last four years the FPB in conjunction with the law enforcement agencies conducted 68 564 raids and compliance inspections. A total of 344 663 illegal DVDs and CDs were confiscated and destructed with a street value of R3 446 630 and a

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market value of R34 466 300. The 54th ANC National Elective ...

[Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): What are you rising on?

Mr T RAWULA: Chair, I have a point of order. The issue is that you are not good with numbers so when we say "come again?" we are honest. Come again?

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): Please do not do that.

Ms M O MATSHOBA: ... Conference called on government ...

[Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): Sorry hon Matshoba, just a second. Please do not do that. It is just a wrong culture. It introduces all sorts of negativities in the way we run our matters and debate issues. Please do not do that. Please proceed.

Ms M O MATSHOBA: Chair, I think there is a huge confusion on my left hand side. ... and business to ensure that South Africa is ready for the fourth industrial revolution. The finalisation of the tariff structure once classification guidelines are in place will be

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important. The costs should be such that it allows SMMEs to keep up with ITC advancement. The local industries and especially SMMEs must be protected and be favoured in comparison to the multinational businesses.

The creation of employment is critical and priority of the ANC. President Ramaphosa has have assured South Africans that the ANC government will do all it can to create employment for the youth. The MDDA is aimed at improving community media, creating jobs and providing a platform for graduates, both local and provincial government to support local media by using it for advertising.

The objective of the MDDA is to ensure that all citizens can access information in a language of their choice and to transform media access, ownership and control patterns in South Africa. This is done in order to redress exclusion and marginalisation of disadvantaged communities and persons from access to the media and the media industry to promote media development and diversity by providing support primarily to community and small commercial media projects.

The ANC believes that media has a critical role to play in aiding good governance, transparency and accountability hence a pluralistic and free media sector ... [Interjections.] I did!

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AN HON MEMBER: She is better than you shame.

Ms M O MATSHOBA: I did!

AN HON MEMBER: Just carry on.

Ms M O MATSHOBA: ... , is needed to ensure that all voices in society are heard. The 54th Elective Conference of the of the ANC concluded that the potential of the creative industries as a socially transformative sector that provides jobs, drives economic growth, innovation and allows many young people to make a living from their talent. The Media ... [Time expired.] The ANC supports the Budget Vote. [Applause.]

Mr S N SWART: Thank you Chairperson. The ACDP, like speakers before me is particularly interested in stability at the SABC. Given the very important role the public broadcaster plays in providing information, entertainment, news for viewers and listeners across the whole of South Africa.

It is for this reason that we participate in the ad hoc committee on the SABC. Those of us who remember we found conclusive evidence that the SABC's primary mandate as a national public broadcaster had been

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severely compromised by a lapse of governance and management, which ultimately contributed to the Board's inability to discharge its fiduciary responsibility. We remember after a lot of pressure eventually the whole Board resigned.

We welcomed the appointment of the interim and permanent Boards and have followed with interest the progress that the new Board has made in implementing the ad hoc committee's recommendations.

From our side, we strongly suggest that the SIU should investigate those ongoing contracts and so we are pleased that recently an updated report was given by the SIU into its investigation amongst others the Lornavision R62 million contracts and the Multichoice R460 million contracts.

However, we are concerned that the SIU is not investigating the Gupta related ANN7 contract. The reason given is that the Public Protector had indicated that she would be investigating this issue as part two of its state capture investigation.

It appears however, that part two has not yet commenced, and may be severely constraints and compromised due to capacity constraints at the Public Protector's office.

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We do however trust that the Zondo Commission will also investigate the ANN7 contracts. This is very important because as the evidence before the adhoc committee was that the SABC came very close to being completely taken over or captured by the New Age Media Group.

We are also concerned that the NPA apparently is reluctant to take the SIU's referral cases for criminal prosecutions. We share the view that the committee members expressed that individuals who looted public institutions should not be allowed to resign or be dismissed without further action being taken.

In addition, the ACDP recommends that those Board members who recklessly breached their fiduciary duties be declared delinquent directors in terms of section 162 of the Companies Act. This will act as a deterrent and prevent such former directors from moving from one SOE to the next and causing further damage.

But it is also important that the committee ensures as part of its oversight, that all recommendations of the ad hoc committee are fully implemented. One aspect relates to the urgent refunding of the SABC – the funding model; particularly given the financial constraints facing the SABC, which are aggravated, we understand by

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a possible R1, 2 billion fines by the Competition Commission Tribunal. This obviously needs urgent attention.

Whilst we welcome the steps that have been taken to stabilise the SABC, we are concerned that they appear to be what was then raised as an environment that has fear and intimidation. We understand that this is ongoing and today I even heard that there are enforcers. You remember Mr Hlaudi Motsoeneng's enforcers that are still around. We are concerned about that and that needs urgent attention.

We would urge any staff members to report that to the police, to Board members and if that doesn't help come to us as Parliament.

Let us not forget that a heavy price was paid in eradicating the rot at the SABC. One of the SABC 8 senior journalists, Suna Venter, died in June last year as a direct result of the stress induced by continued intimidation, victimisation and death threats. We cannot fail her and other journalists who have taken a stand to ensure an independent and professional public broadcaster. I thank you my time is up. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr N V XABA: Hon Chair,

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Sesotho:

Mong N V XABA: Motlatsa Letona, batho ba rona ba Afrika Borwa ba teng kwano, ditho tse hlomphehang, le amohetswe kwano. Puo yaka e etshetlehile ho Icasa le Brand South Africa.

English:

Post-apartheid South Africa has witnessed tremendous growth in the telecommunications sector with an outstanding infrastructure particularly in the mobile phone industry.

South Africa boasts a 100% mobile penetration rate with a network that 99% digital and includes the latest in fixed line, wireless and satellite communications, making it the most developed telecommunications network in Africa.

ANC-led government removed policies that hindered the development of cross-sector applications, services and businesses and to enable the sector to reflect the integration of telecommunications with Information Technology, IT, broadcasting and signal distribution.

The ANC-led government has ensured access to information and knowledge for South Africa. The 54th ANC National Elective Conference resolved that there is a need to strengthen organs of the

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state including Icasa to cope with the unprecedented changes due to the 4th Industrial revolution.

The ANC further resolved that the local content industry development strategy should be introduced without delay alongside the review of the broadcasting policy and in line with the digital broadcasting plan.

The ANC-led government is supporting emerging market players by the adoption of relatively progressive policies. The Media Diversity and Development Amendment Bill in line with the ANC resolutions would improve the sustainability of the community and small commercial media sector in South Africa.

The department has successfully submitted the White Paper on Audio-Visual and Digital Content Policy for South Africa to Cabinet for approval towards the development of the draft Audio-Visual and Digital Content Bill over the medium term. The policy will provide enabling mechanisms to facilitate ownership of new audio-visual digital content value chain in previously disadvantaged communities and SMMEs.

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Following the approval of the Audio-Visual and Digital Content Act, the department will commence with the Icasa Amendment Bill during 2020-21. The Icasa Amendment Bill seeks to align the role of Icasa to respond to the digital environment ensuring, for example, online services are adequately regulated.

Hon Van der Merwe was saying there is no need for Icasa to exist. We wish to confirm that the Icasa existence is relevant and it is in line with section 192 of the Constitution of South Africa.

Icasa also aims to increase competition in the telecommunications sector by reviewing the number of portability regulations available over the medium term, which allows cell phone number porting for all telecommunication service users.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): What are you rising on?

Point of Order:

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Chairperson I want to respect the member's maiden speech but he must not mislead the House by saying I said Icasa should not exist. I said...[Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): Why are you standing up?

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Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: The question is work in terms of the...[Interjections.] I didn't say it must not exist. That's misleading the House.

AN HON MEMBER: It is not allowed.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): Maybe at this point we should just clarify that members in terms of Rule 66 are not supposed to interrupt and disturb other members whilst they are speaking, unless one rises on a point of order or on approval and discretion of the Presiding Officer on a specific matter. So please don't stand up to disrupt a speaker. Please, please members lets keep to the rules. Thanks.

Mr N V XABA: This is funded under the policy research and analysis programme, which has an allocation of R53, 5 million over the medium term. Icasa also aims to increase the range of mobile network coverage by 15 percent and to extend network measurements to include data, and not just voice calls. This will contribute to improving the quality of communications in South Africa and facilitate effective competition in the ICT sector by the end of 2019-20.

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This increased competition should assist in bringing prices down, making it more affordable for the consumers as well as new entrants to the service-provision. The ANC-led government cares and is listening, partnering, fixing and doing things better. The ANC adhered that the data is expensive and is doing something about that. [Applause.]

Icasa also plans to license additional radio broadcaster in the Northern Cape in 2017-18 and establish offices in North West and Northern Cape to expand its national footprint and increase competition in the commercial broadcasting sector, at a cost of R801, 2 million over the medium term.

These will reduce the costs for consumers and open job opportunities for the youth and will end unemployment and reduce crime as prioritised by President Ramaphosa during the SONA. This we propose Minister that we do it working with our local communities in North West and the Northern Cape; we consult them, we inform, give report, and feedbacks on process so that we take the processes in line with our communities.

Added to this Chair, is the Icasa readying itself for 2019 elections? But as the Minister has said, now we are doing it hopeful

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in an advanced better standard performance than other elections we may have had. Icasa will be performing in that way. Improved co-ordination between the MDDA and Icasa in support of community media and radio; It is important, and also ensuring that people can listen better through the waves.

Our commitment is that the regulation of broadcasting inside and outside the country is a serious matter and government is attending to it. In fulfilling Brand South Africa's mandate of positively positioning South Africa as a competitive business destination for inward investment;

Brand South Africa in partnership with the Department of Mineral Resources planned and hosted a number of engagements at the 2017 Mining Indaba. These included a media briefing, an investment seminar, and a business to business networking session with the view of linking South African companies seeking investment with potential investors.

The forum - Brand South Africa also worked with key government departments, locally and abroad to position the country as a competitive destination for inward investment and to promote the National Development Plan and active citizenship.

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Important partnerships included Brand South Africa's collaboration with the Department of Home Affairs to position South Africa to naturalised citizens, the DTI and Proudly South African in hosting the fourth instalment of the South African Premier Business Awards.

Chair, I must also mention that during the debate on 08 May 2018, the President referred to the importance of us having to brand South Africa. He even cited an example with regard to the cap that we wore at the Cosatu rally. It is important of us to brand our country abroad. Chair, with that the ANC supports the vote. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Hon House Chair, the NFP supports the report tabled here today. [Interjections.] I don't know why you are saying what you are saying, because it is in your party where the Minister must intervene. I am saying this because you've got gagging orders against your leader that he can't say anything anymore.

He can't utter the word black; he's got a problem in saying that. He has to mention the word white only. Secondly, they've also gag all the councillors in the City of Cape Town not to say a single word. They've tried to gag Patricia de Lille, therefore, they are getting their own medicine by landing in court.

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Hon Chairperson, one of the key functions of the department is to provide information, dissemination and publicity to promote an informed citizenry.

Ms P T VAN DAMME: Hon Chairperson, I just would like to ask the hon Shaik Eman, how long this job application is going to be? He have been begging for a job in the ANC for so long ... [Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): I can't even hear!

Ms P T VAN DAMME: He have been begging and begging, it's very sore man, they must give him a job!

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): Hon members, can I appeal for order. I couldn't even hear what was being said. Why are you rising ma'am? Before I explained, but why are you rising?

Ms P T VAN DAMME: I would like to ask the member a question, why he keep applying for a job in the ANC and for the ANC to take pity on him and hire him, it is so sad to see him on sitting after sitting begging for a job. It is sad!

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The DEPUTY HIEF WIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon Chairperson, I'm standing on a point of order!

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): Members, let us please not rise to raise a point of debate, let's stick to the processes and the procedures. I will now allow hon Shaik Emam to proceed with his speech.

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Hon Chair ... [Interjections.] It's only a matter of time when she will be gagged as well. Lindiwe Mazibuko was gagged; Mmusi Maimane has been gagged and City of Cape Town has been gagged. It's only a matter of time that she will be gagged too.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): Order! Hon Shaik Emam, can you please give me a minute? Can I please make an appeal? We are not very far from finishing off this session, but can I make an appeal to all members, to maintain the level of debate firstly, the way it should be, to avoid interjections and to do nothing that undermines the quality of the debate. Can I please make an appeal? Please sit down! May you please sit? It's a plea!

Mr C MACKENZIE: I have a point of order!

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The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo: Okay, let's first hear the point of order!

Mr C MACKENZIE: The hon member, Shaik Emam, I understand he's very emotional, but when he refers to the hon member of this ...

[Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo: What is the point of order?

Mr C MACKENZIE: When he refers to the hon member ...

[Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo: What is the point of order?

Mr C MACKENZIE: I'm coming to it, Chairperson, if I can be given an opportunity under Rule 65. But Chairperson, when hon Shaik Emam refers to hon Van Damme as she, can he please refer to her by her name or as that hon member!

Prof N M KHUBISA: I am rising on a point of order, Chairperson!

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo: Yes Prof, what are you rising on?

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Prof N M KHUBISA: Firstly, Chairperson, he is not Shaik, he is hon Shaik Emam. Secondly, I have observed from the very onset that the speaker was drown even before he started his debate.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): Yes!

Prof N M KHUBISA: It is unheard of, Chairperson, really! The Rules of this House provide that the speaker not be drowned. He must be allowed an opportunity to speak. Thank you, Chairperson!

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo: I'm sure members have heard all of that! Can we now please proceed!

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Chairperson, I'm rising on a point of order in terms of Rule 85.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo: Just a minute! Hon Shaik Emam. Is that a point of order?

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Yes, Chairperson!

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo: Let's hear the point of order!

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Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Our Rules talks about relevance and I want to find out how is that speech delivering relevance to the Communications debate? If you want to work within the rules, you must rule him out of order!

The DEPUTY HIEF WIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon Chairperson, I'm rising on a point of order!

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): Let's hear the point of order!

The DEPUTY HIEF WIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon Chairperson, the hon members are disturbing that hon member on the podium. They have been given an opportunity to debate. So, that is a point of debate. Let's allow the hon member to debate, please! Don't jump like popcorns in a pot!

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo: Can I please at this point ask the Whips of political parties and all the relevant people who are supposed to assist to try and ensure that there is order in the House! I am making an appeal! Let's start with Thandi first!

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Mrs T V TOBIAS: Hon Chair, Rule 69 does not allow a disorderly conduct by members. Members of the DA are contravening Rule 69. Can you please not do that, especially, Ms Van Damme. Let us not allow the DA to contravene the Rules, especially Rule 69. So, I suggest that the point of orders that are being taken by the DA, should not be taken into consideration to allow the member to continue, I thank you.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): Let's just make an observation that this thing is happening across political parties, and that we are now at a point where we really do need order so that we can proceed. I'm appealing to all of us to please cooperate, and let's ensure that the member has been given an opportunity to address the House. Hon Shaik Emam, please proceed!

Mr M HLENGWA: Chair, I'm standing on a point of order!

[Interjections.] Chair, you have noted me!

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): No! I said that I'm going to start with a ... [Interjections.]

Mr M HLENGWA: I am standing on a point of order!

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The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): What's a point of order?

Mr M HLENGWA: Chairperson, I'm rising on a point of order that, a point of order has been raised; you must make your ruling on it. Now, hon Van der Merwe has rise on a point of order and you did not make a ruling on it, because Chairperson, if you are setting to motion that precedent, we might as well not raise point of orders to ignore us. As you are appealing to us to observe the Rules, rule yourself and conduct yourself within the parameters of the Rules. Make a ruling on a point of order raised!

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): No, hon Hlengwa!

Mr M HLENGWA: She raised a question of relevance, you must make a ruling!

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr N A Masondo): No, hon Hlengwa! You are not assisting us at all! The situation that we have heard in the past few minutes, is really that of members raising to raise points of debate, and they are the issues that attempts to contradict what the member is saying. May I please appeal to all of you to please allow hon Shaik Emam to continue with his speech? Let's proceed!

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Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Through you hon House Chair, Minister, I was addressing the issue of the responsibilities of the department. One of them is in terms of dissemination information to the public. One thing that the department is not doing, is getting the message account to the masses in South Africa, in terms of what South Africa is and what the government is doing for the people in this country.

What we hear from the media is in collusion with some of my colleagues on the left. What they do is that, they only report negatively in the media; you never hear them talking about the positive things that we are achieving in South Africa. I'm hoping, Minister, that this is one of the issues that we are going to address.

The other issue, Minister, is that which we have discussed before, which is the issue of parliamentary channel. Most South Africans cannot afford to be on the digital satellite TV, DSTV, and we need an assurance that we are going to take it away from where it is and put it on to SA Broadcasting Corporation, SABC, channel in order to make it accessible to all our people, especially the poorest of the poor. [Applause.] My colleague, Jack, can afford DSTV, so it's fine for them, but let's take it to the SABC.

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Now, the other challenge we have, hon Chairperson and Minister, is the issue of Facebook that has very serious consequences of what we have identified in our country and welcomed, and I think that this matter cannot be left unattended. We need to deal with this matter and deal with it appropriately.

This is exactly where my colleagues come in, because what generally happens is that they intervene and they intercept; that is why they are getting all the information they are able to get. They don't know what I'm talking about because they are corrupt anyway. Hon Chairperson, and Minister, what we need is for the SABC to be run like a business.

With the revenue that you generate, you must be able to be self-sustainable instead of us having government to bail out SABC and the department. Let's run it like a business, not on a principle. We must sell all these entities; we don't need to privatise them. If privately you can make money, so be it, you can do that.

It's not an intention to can make money, but just to be sustainable, if we can actually use them. So, that is the other thing that's certain. We welcome the recommendations tabled by the department. But what we are saying is that unless we implement and deal with

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them, there will be a problem. The NFP supports the report tabled here today. [Time expired.]

Ms V VAN DYK: Hon Chair and members of this House, the ANC should take full responsibility for events in North West, Mooi River and every other violent protest in South Africa. We are seen as a nation ravaged by a staggering crime rate, corruption and lawlessness, daily stories of domestic violence and abuse, hideous violent farm murders, unemployment and failing education and health systems. Our rainbow nation's image has never been in such serious trouble.

While the country is burning our President travelled abroad to raise more money to put in the coffers of a government that thrives on corruption, bribery and looting. An estimated two hundred billion was allegedly siphoned from our country during Jacob Zuma's wasted decade. The Department of Communication ... [Interjections.] ... and especially the SA Broadcasting Corporation, SABC, has formed a part of this looting.

South Africa is slowly being written off as a failed state. The ANC government is responsible for our country's brand dying. As a country we are in trouble – the kind of trouble that an antipoor VAT

increase and continued petrol hikes will not fix, nor amending our Constitution to allow for land expropriation without compensation.

BrandSA has its hands full trying to fix this country's tarnished brand and is also failing – its chief executive officer, CEO, suspended. BrandSA chooses to spend a massive amount of taxpayers' money on offices abroad – offices in the same countries as our SA Tourism offices. I challenge the ANC to accept the DA's proposal that office space be shared with the SA Tourism hubs ...

[Interjections.] ... to help cut the costs.

Focus on South Africans locally – those who cannot afford or ... have the resources and rather help build cohesion locally. Fixing the country's image abroad? Let's fix South Africa first. The rest will follow.

Afrikaans:

Die Film- en Publikasieraad en BrandSA is die enigste media entiteite waar raadslede deur die Minister aangestel word. Die DA stel voor dat dié funksie terug na die Parlement verwys word ten einde moontlike korrupsie teen te werk. Ook dat 'n tydraam aan die Film- en Publikasie Raadsvoorsitter se termyn gekoppel word.

Die Media Development and Diversity Agency, MDDA, [Media-diversiteits-en-ontwikkelingsagentskap] wat reeds in 2003 onder ANC-bewind geskep is, het 15 jaar later steeds geen werkbare befondsingsmodel nie. Slegs twee posisies is sedert 2014 gevul toe ek gefokus het op die negatiewe impak van vakante posisies op, veral die senior vlak van media entiteite. Nege senior posvlak posisies is steeds vakant. Die resultaat hiervan is dat die MDDA slegs 33% van sy uitkomste vir die 2016-17 finansiële jaar bereik het. Vrugtelose en onreëlmatige uitgawes het gegroei tot amper sewe miljoen, en tog is daar steeds bonusse betaal.

English:

The former chairperson of the MDDA board was caught out by the DA also acting as CEO and paying herself an astronomical amount for attending 72 meetings while only eight board meetings are scheduled per year. Furthermore, she knowingly allowed tender corruption under her watch.

Cadre deployment is in the ANC's power. One thing the ANC is really good at is empty promises. The difference here is that the DA delivers. [Interjections.] It is time to stop acting and take charge of our media entities. Stop the empty promises. Let us fix this

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country. [Inaudible.] ... our government. Let us vote DA. Thank you.
[Applause.]

Mr M U KALAKO: Hon Chairperson, hon Ministers and Deputy Ministers,
hon members, members of the public and stakeholders;

This year marks the centenary of two of our icons of the National
Democratic Revolution, giants of African Revolution, Comrades Tata
Rholihlahla Mandela and uMama Albertina Sisulu.

We owe our political freedom to their courage, bravery and
commitment; their sacrifice and selflessness without expecting
rewards after the attainment of political freedom. We salute them
and we will always endeavour to follow their example.

Chairperson, in its 2014 Manifesto, the ANC said:

We will invest in a comprehensive plan to expand broadband
access throughout the country and substantially reduce the cost
of communication.

We aim to connect all schools, public health and other
government facilities through broadband by 2020, and at least

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90% of our communities should have substantial and superfast broadband capacity by 2020. The government will support and develop free Wi-Fi areas in cities, towns and rural areas.

To realise the above, Universal Access through government infrastructure roll-out for DTT was achieved with government spending through Sentech to a tune of more than R2,5 billion, excluding the cost for illumination, which currently is operational. Government should consider exploiting unsubsidized market through a commercial model of unlocking opportunities.

The Department of Communications must quickly deal with challenges that are obstacle for digital migration, among them is policy uncertainty. We recognise the changing landscape of ICT sector as a result of fast developments in technology.

In addition, in this regard commend the Department of Communications for its intervention through developing and consulting on the audio-visual and Digital Content Strategy. This is necessary because of the emergence of many players in the sector, which is encouraged as it brings competition.

The worrying factor is unfair competition that is enjoyed by global players because of the absence of policy and legislation. ICT Role players have failed to implement key empowerment targets to address inequality and the imbalances of the past. The sector is monopolistic and has experienced limited growth and development. Due to its monopolistic structure and high pricing model is exposing consumers to poor quality of service.

It is in this regard that the ANC supports the public call that the reduction of data costs through regulatory interventions to ensure that public in general and government benefits.

The Department of Communications and related departments must monitor implementation of the National Broadband Strategy, which promotes SMME Sector participation, and take into account the minimum 30% set aside policy on procurement.

As per the regulation issued by the National Treasury to support the growth and development of SMME's, localisation, creation of jobs as part of inclusive growth and preparing the country towards the 4 Industrial Revolutions.

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We as ANC encourage establishment of the 4 Industrial Revolution Commission in order to develop strategic response to the technological advancements, which may have negative consequences on workers in general. Its role should be preparing the country in terms of skilling, reskilling, innovation, research development and digitization, including SMME readiness. It should also look into investment readiness leveraging on new opportunities provided by new way of doing things.

As ANC, we commend the DoC for obtaining unqualified Audit outcome without findings over three years, [Applause.] and, its guidance to its entities, in particular GCIS and Brand South Africa. We note that Icasa, MDDA and FPB have not improved over this period and we urge the department to pay its attention to these entities especially MDDA and FPB who are bedevilled by governance and management challenges over some time now.

The Department of Communications must pay special attention to SABC, must tackle challenges of governance and management in this entity. In the same period of over three years SABC have performed badly where it have been getting adverse audit outcomes without findings. We have seen improvements after the Board was dissolved.

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The appointment of the interim Board began the process of dealing with the leadership problems of the SABC at the level of executives. We can say with confidence that despite some persistence problems, the recently appointed Board, which took over from interim board, have begun addressing many shortcomings in the SABC.

The Oversight Unit of the Department of Communications should pay special attention to its entities in order to make sure that they address areas that have been raised and highlighted by the Auditor-General. These areas are usefulness of annual performance information and reliability of performance of information.

Chair, I just want to correct two misrepresentations. On the issue of migration, the Minister in this Parliament have told us in the committee, that it is not possible to reach the deadline in 2019 due to various factors. We were all in that committee and these are all the factors we all know. We discussed with this department.

Chair, on the issue of Rubben Mohlaloga, the same committee started the process, took the decision for Mohlaloga to be removed, only to be stopped by the letter from the Speaker, which was from the lawyers of Mohlaloga. So this is not - even the Minister is binded by that same letter when it comes to suspension.

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In fact, the Minister did agree with us including Phumzile was in that meeting of the suspension of Mohlaloga. Hon Phumzile, so that is the letter, which all of us are addressing here. [Interjections.]

Mr C MACKENZIE: Thank you House Chair. Once again, if the hon member could refer to the other member in a respected way. [Interjections.]

Mr M U KALAKO: Sorry, sorry hon Phumzile. Chair, we know this issue is still sitting with the lawyers. Of course like any South African citizen Rubben Mohlaloga also have rights in this country. That is actually has stopped us and that is why the issue was removed from the Order Paper in Parliament. You were there, you kept quiet. You are grand standing.

Hon Chair, on the SABC workers, the SABC workers issue was addressed just last Friday by this committee. [Applause.] We called all the unions including Media Workers Association of South Africa, MWASA, we have a process with them and the Chair of the committee have even taken the issue to the Chair of the Board. The issue is getting attention from this Parliament. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS: Chair, let me acknowledge Rev Ramela of the Lutheran Church from Potgietersrus who is here with us, o

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amogetšwe moruti. [you are welcome, pastor], as well as the representatives of Deaf SA, who have also forged partnership with us in dealing with child protection as well as cyberbullying. Let me welcome the comments and the recommendations and the report that have been presented through you, including some of the positive contributions made by hon members of the House. Amongst others, it's about the issues of dealing with the untransformed print media. Only yesterday we had an engagement with the independent newspapers and we all agreed that we would be integrating and moving forward because it is only through partnership that we can really move forward.

Secondly, around the issues of the oversight capacity of the department, that is exactly one of the things that we have reflected on even in our own budget statement as well as in collaboration with Minister Gcwele in ensuring that we support one another.

I am still going to respond on other issues, but I welcome what hon Kwankwa from the UDM has raised. We must start immediately and we have already discussed with the *Independent Communications Authority of SA*, Icasa, and Minister Gcwele on dealing with the regulations for the coming elections. We will be interacting with the IEC as well as other role-players in dealing with voter education and voter

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registration but also going to the multi-party committee of the IEC. This is work that we have put together. The issues that have been raised by the IFP on critical posts and the situation of the *Media Development and Diversity Agency*, MDDA, the Deputy Minister has already spoken about that. We are actually concerned about the piano capacity of the board of the MDDA. There must be synergy in terms of the term of office within the MDDA. We have also put a road map towards filling the vacancy of the CEO of the MDDA.

I also appreciate that the IFP has come out to say that they are the ones who incited South Africans to boycott the licences.

[Interjections.] You must take responsibility to therefore go out again and tell South Africans that in this era of democracy, boycotting services that they are receiving is irresponsible. So, they must pay for that. [Interjections.]

Hon Madisha, I have heard what you were saying and we will continue to interact with you. Thank you for some of the contributions that you have raised. The SABC board and issues of management, we will all assist them. Thank you also to the portfolio committee that this past Friday had a good engagement together with trade unions that were at the SABC. Hon Nkwankwa, what you have raised around matters related to unilateral decisions – these were decisions that were

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taken prior but we have since agreed with the management of the SABC to look at the listenership as well as protecting the issues of transformation with the replacements that must be pursued going forward.

There is something that I want to raise that I think we need to deal with. You see, we can't be dealing with individuals and organisations, including persons who have renounced the use of reason and always wish that we must administer medicine to them when they are actually dead. There are no solutions coming from the DA. There is no commitment coming from the DA.

We all have been talking about investing in community radio, Radio Eden and all radio stations here in the Western Cape have never been supported by your party. To date, the Deputy Minister is working together with them. But of importance again is that if there is a disease that is infesting you, it is a disease of protecting white supremacy ... [Interjections.] ... and it is a disease that wanted to undermine the role of the state and therefore we shall not agree with you on issues you are raising. As for me, bring it on!

Revolutionaries never die, but revolutionaries' spirit always prevails even against difficult conditions.

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Hon Mokoena, that is why we must change the SABC content. The old SABC content is not empowering our people just as your contributions are. You are part of those who give information that is not adding any value. This is not a comedy and finally we are not perfect but we know where we want to take South Africa. The remaining 12 years towards the realisation of Vision 2030 shall be executed with partnership with our people, the SABC and all our entities. Thank you.

Debate concluded.

The Mini-Plenary Session adjourned at 18:43.