

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 in Committee Room E249 at 16:16.

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

APPROPRIATION BILL

Debate on Vote No 27 – Environmental Affairs:

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Hon Chairperson of the session, hon Deputy Minister, hon Barbara Thomson, hon Ministers and Deputy Ministers present here, chairperson of the portfolio committee, members of the portfolio committee, hon Members of Parliament, distinguished guests, chief executives of public entities, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon to you.

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Today we present the 2018-19 budget of the Department of Environmental Affairs. It is an affirmation of our commitment to meeting our country's developmental needs, transforming and growing our economy, creating jobs, and conserving our environment.

Before I begin with the programmes of our department, I wish to acknowledge a number of milestones in the political life of our nation. This year marks the centenaries of two titans of the liberation movement: President Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu. Tata Mandela's love for nature was well-known and it is in his honour that we commit ourselves to advance policies to conserve our environment. We also remember with sadness the passing of Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela earlier this year and our stalwart Dr Zola Skweyiya. These stalwarts will forever be remembered for their contribution to our liberation and beyond.

As you will know, ladies and gentlemen, government, led by President Cyril Ramaphosa, has prioritised attracting investment into our economy. Ours is a collective vision of a South Africa in which decent employment is created through inclusive growth, poverty is reduced, and the lives of our citizens are transformed.

From an environmental perspective, it is our mandate to facilitate an economic growth path that is equitable, inclusive, sustainable

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and environmentally sound. This is in line with our Constitution that promotes sustainable development and the right of all South Africans to enjoy an environment that is not harmful to their health and wellbeing.

The environmental sector continues to be a source and facilitator of investment, job creation, entrepreneurship and skills development in line with the key objectives of the National Development Plan, NDP. We have adopted a three-pronged strategic approach to facilitate the government's long-term radical economic transformation goals. These are our Phakisa Strategic Approach, our Environmental Justice Strategic Approach, and our Economy-wide Service Delivery Strategic Approach.

These work in concert and in pursuit of low-carbon, inclusive and climate resilient growth. This is in line with the Climate Change Response Policy which we adopted a few years ago.

In dealing with issues around a low carbon and climate-resilient economy, our approach centres on seizing opportunities presented by the transition to a low carbon economy.

South Africa is a board member of three significant funding bodies, namely, the Green Climate Fund, GCF, the World Bank's Climate

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Investment Fund and the Global Environment Facility, GEF. These memberships enable us to shape the policies, programming and governance of these respective institutions. We are also a member of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, PAGE, and will be hosting the 3rd Ministerial Conference in South Africa in September.

During the last financial year, we have been instrumental in mobilising US\$ 119,72 million of which US\$21,2 million has been grant funding.

Two of our well-capacitated institutions, the SA National Biodiversity Institute, Sanbi, and the Development Bank of Southern Africa, DBSA, are accredited as South African Direct Access Entities of the Green Climate Fund and are currently calling for Expressions of Interest to access GCF resources.

Our four institutions, namely, Sanbi, iSmagaliso Wetland Park, the South African Weather Service, SAWS, and SANParks continue to do us proud in contributing towards the work of environmental conservation.

All of our actions have become all the more imperative within the context of an ever-changing climate. The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events around South Africa – from flash

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flooding in some parts of the country to devastating drought in other parts - tells us that climate change has long become a measurable reality.

Our signing of the Paris Agreement to Combat Climate Change is an acknowledgement that this is a problem requiring a global effort. South Africa continues to play an active role on the international stage through participation in a number of key multilateral environmental agreements and their associated negotiations. In addition to finalising our National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, we have developed a draft Climate Change Bill to provide an effective national response for both mitigation and adaptation action.

May I say that this Bill has gone through the stages of Cabinet ... the first stages ... and it will be coming to Parliament soon. Thanks to members of Parliament for insisting that this actually happens.

We are also currently implementing Phase One of our Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction system, with carbon budgets already allocated to most of the significant emitters. We are working hard towards Phase Two, and are confident that, once implemented, it will support our transition to a low carbon inclusive economy.

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As part of our effort to bolster our efforts to deal with climate change, the SA Weather Service recently adopted the approach of building a weathersmart nation. This aims to enhance our early warning system and ensure that climate and weather data products and applications are available to all South Africans in the form of an app.

As we pursue the path of sustainable development, it is essential that we have a regulatory system that is both streamlined and effective, in order to make it easier to do business in South Africa, as well as to attract much-needed investment. This year marks 20 years since the adoption of the Environmental Impact Assessment, EIA – which most of us do not quite like. It is actually a tool to advance sustainable development. We have over time both simplified and rationalised these processes to allow for greater regulatory efficiency as well as faster turnaround time.

In the past financial year, a total of 1 238 EIA applications were finalised by all competent authorities – that's from province, national and all those who are responsible for this. Of these, a total of 1 190 were finalised within the regulated time frames, with only 48 finalised outside the regulated timeframes. This translates to 96% efficiency.

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In order to advance and fast-track environmental authorisations for key infrastructure projects, we continue to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessments, SEAs, upfront, before any development is applied for.

South Africa is one of the top investment destinations globally for renewable energy, and over the past financial year SEAs were conducted for renewable energy, shale gas and electricity grid infrastructure.

Work is also underway on the Gas Pipeline SEA. In the past financial year, we authorised in excess of 53 828 Megawatts of renewable energy applications drawn from solar, wind, hydro, concentrated solar and cogeneration.

I will now turn to our other focus areas which is the trio of strategic approaches I mentioned earlier. In 2014, Operation Phakisa was launched as a new approach to enable government to implement its policies and programmes better, faster and more effectively; a model that allows us to integrate our work for more effective outcomes. We have registered notable progress with regard to Operation Phakisa Oceans Economy, Chemicals and Waste Phakisa, and Operation Phakisa Biodiversity Economies.

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In continuing to advance the Presidents pronouncement in this year's state of the nation address, we are unlocking the economic potential of South Africa's oceans, growing our GDP and creating more sustainable jobs, all the while ensuring that our oceans and coastal ecosystems are sustainably managed.

Some of the highlights include the development of a National Guideline Towards the Establishment of Coastal Management Lines. This is intended to minimise risks posed by short- and long-term coastal processes such as storm surges, erosion and sea level rise. A National Coastal Access Strategy is also under development to provide guidance around access for the public to closed-off beaches. In addition, a review of the strategic plan on dealing with estuaries and a national status quo assessment are being conducted.

Governance systems have been put in place led by the Departments of Environmental Affairs, and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation as well as other lead departments. The Marine Spatial Planning Bill was approved by the National Assembly on 24 April 2018. My thanks to hon members of the portfolio committee. The Bill will now undergo procedures of the National Council of Provinces. We also continued to ensure enhancement of legislation for the Integrated Coastal and Oceans Management Act.

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We have finalised an associated Marine Spatial Planning Framework, and are working on the development of subregional Marine Spatial Management Plans.

In the last financial year our researchers participated in the Second international Indian Ocean Expedition, called IIOE-2. This UN-led expedition, currently in its second year, is aimed at improving our scientific knowledge of the Indian Ocean with a view to advancing Oceans Economy for South Africa and other member countries to the Indian Oceans Rim Association, or IORA.

We continue to research, monitor and study the oceans through our vessel, the Miriam Makeba II, as well as our presence in Antarctica and our ownership of the Marion and Prince Edward Islands. This we do jointly with the South Africa Weather Service's enhanced observation networks for climate, weather and oceans.

Marine pollution is one of the biggest challenges we face today. It threatens fragile ecosystems. South Africa has a number of measures in place to tackle this problem. The National Pollution Laboratory, NPL, operated by the Walter Sisulu University, WSU, has been established and laboratory work will soon be commencing. This will allow for in-depth analysis of the samples that could not be done in the field in mobile laboratories.

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In addition, South Africa is amongst the countries to have endorsed the UN Environmental Programmes Clean Seas Campaign. The campaign is aimed at stepping up international, regional and national efforts to combat marine litter. We have signed for this when I was in one of the UN meetings earlier this year. In implementing this campaign, I would like to announce the piloting of the department's Source to Sea initiative. It is an ambitious new strategy to investigate and combat pollution, in particular plastic pollution, which threatens both freshwater and marine ecosystems.

The second area is the biodiversity economy. South Africa has a multifaceted approach to the management of its rich natural heritage, one that focuses on an inclusive, value-chain approach to the development of the biodiversity economy. Our communities are the primary custodians of our country's biodiversity. Strategic investments will ultimately enhance our domestic industrialisation processes as we produce final high-value products for the global market.

Thanks to Minister Davis - I saw him here earlier on - for the intellectual that he has begun leading us to, because we do need intellectual property.

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In line with the President's investment drive, we will be launching the Biodiversity Economy Investment Catalogue that profiles investment-ready biodiversity economy projects.

Over the past year, we have also identified 2 million hectares of land suitable for biodiversity economy activities, and updated our National Biodiversity Economy Strategy ... [Interjections.]

You won't win. You know that very well.

The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act has also been amended to specifically address the bio-prospecting and bio trade sectors. In the past year, 292 permanent jobs have been created in the bio trade and bio-prospecting sector, and 989 in wildlife economy pilot projects such as Balepye, Double Drift and Mfolozi Big Five.

Our plans for the 2018-19 financial year include increasing the supply of indigenous species by adding at least 500 hectares of land to be cultivated with high-value species. This will be complemented by the ongoing implementation of a game donation and custodianship policy framework.

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The South African National Parks, SANParks, remains the jewel in our conservation crown, continuing to attract record numbers of visitors. A total of 77 340 people visited the various parks for free during the SANParks week in the last financial year. The number of participants in our Environmental Education Programmes last financial year was 208 495. Looking to the year ahead, SANParks has initiated a 5-year New Revenue Generation Framework. It identifies projects to be initiated, ranging from new infrastructure plans and new public-private partnership, PPP, arrangements to improving tourism products.

The Richtersveld Park Management Plan has been completed, while the Kruger Park Management Plan is undergoing a final review process. In support of the transformation of the wildlife sector, five buffalos were donated to the Matsila Community Trust. You know how important the buffalo is. It's a very big animal that's pricy. They were donated to the Matsila Community Trust in May 2017 and 65 different types of plain game were donated to the Komani San Community Property Association last year. A technical site inspection has also been done for a game donation to the Motlhabatse CPA.

Over and above what we are aiming to deal with in the 2 million hectares that we have identified ...

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Regarding chemicals and waste, which I now turn to, which is one of the most important emerging contributors to the generation of jobs in the green economy ... Waste economy has the potential to address inequality, poverty alleviation and create jobs. Dignifying the plight of waste pickers is furthermore a moral responsibility that we have to address.

Our approach to circular economy is to decouple material and resource efficiency from economic growth while dealing with wasteful patterns of production and consumption. The Recycling Enterprise Support Programme, RESP, has already made a material impact on the lives of 12 black-owned and managed enterprises.

The primary objective of this programme is to provide developmental funding for projects in the form of start-up grants. These projects are either start-up or pre-existing enterprises establishing buy-back centres, material recovery facilities, construction and demolishing solutions, and plastic palletisation plants in line with the Operation Phakisa initiatives. This has been allocated a budget R194 million over a three-year period.

We show that we are serious. We are beginning even with the allocation of funds.

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We are currently reviewing for the third time, the National Waste Management Strategy, NWMS. It will take into consideration our commitments to waste minimisation, the further development of the circular economy and consider the capacity or resource implications for the implementation of waste management functions.

With regard to chemicals, Cabinet has recommended to Parliament that South Africa ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on the Protection of the Ozone Layer. The Kigali Amendment will have co-benefits for mitigating climate change and also ozone depletion. It is worth noting that we met our targets to reduce our consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons, HCFCs, by 20% in the 2017-18 financial year. Thanks to the industry for this.

I would like to turn briefly to the issue of plastic pollution. As we celebrate World Environment Day themed "Beating Plastic Pollution", we are committed to minimise plastic pollution and implement the recommendations of the plastic material flow study.

In line with resolutions taken at the UN General Assembly and UN Environmental Assembly respectively, this year we have conducted a Plastic Material Study in collaboration with industry, the South African Bureau of Standards, SABS, the National Regulator for

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Compulsory Specifications, National Treasury and the Department of Health. We are consulting with the cosmetics industry to phase out the use of microbeads in cosmetics.

The Department, together with the DTI and its agencies SABS, NRCS and National Treasury, will also be reviewing the impact of the implementation of the plastic bag policies. We will continue to work with the packaging sector – that is, paper, glass, plastic and metal – to increase over and above 58% the amount of waste diverted from landfill.

In response to the Presidential Thuma-Mina initiative, the department will be launching the Keep South Africa Clean campaign, to mobilize every citizen to become environmentally conscious. We want to see a South Africa free of litter and illegal dumping. The main purpose of this campaign is to change attitudes and behaviour towards waste, and enable people to take responsibility for keeping their communities clean. At the same time, we also want to make money because it is possible to do so and give dignity to those of our people who are, for now, still called waste pickers. They must get dignity.

Turning to environmental justice, in the air quality area, we will be conducting source apportionment studies in both the Vaal Triangle

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Airshed and Highveld Priority Areas. The health impact study has subsequently been completed. These studies will be utilised in the review of our air quality management plans. In partnership with industry in resolving the evident air pollution problems in these areas, we have agreed on requirements to implement offset projects.

Working with and through SAWS we have also upgraded our South African Air Quality Information System, SAAQIS. South Africans can now view the state of air live from the government monitoring network on their smart phones and other gadgets.

I would like to turn now to the rhino poaching situation. We have been fighting. We remain cautiously optimistic that we are turning the tide on the scourge of rhino poaching. The number of rhinos poached last year was down to 1 028 from 1 054 the previous year.

We have money, yes. The fight continues. We have established a downward trend. We are continuing to fight; we are not complacent.

We are implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, CITES, decisions as we go on. We do believe that we are on the track.

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We will share the programmes that we are rolling out. I am unable to complete within the time allocated.

In conclusion, conserving the environment is not the responsibility of government alone; we all need to play our part. Whether it is taking part in community clean-up campaigns, donating to a SANparks programme – even if it's R5 – or choosing to recycle your waste, change begins with individual action, no matter how small. Similarly, we call upon industry to also do its part.

President Ramaphosa has, through the Thuma Mina initiative, affirmed the need for us to take charge of our own destinies as citizens. I encourage all sectors of society to join hands with us to Keep South Africa Clean. Thuma Mina for South Africa's sustainability! I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M P MAPULANE: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, hon Deputy Minister Thomson, hon Members of Parliament, invited guests and fellow South Africans. Three months from today on 18 July 2018, our country will celebrate the centenary of the founding father of our nation, an outstanding revolutionary patriot, an icon of our liberation struggle, Seaparankwe/Isithwalandwe; former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

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I therefore would like to take this opportunity and dedicate my input and my speech today to this towering giant of our revolution who dedicated his life to the cause of our freedom. Opening a conference on National Environmental Policy on the 17 August 1995, in Johannesburg, President Mandela reminded us that; and I quote:

We must have development but it would be tragic if we pursued it in a way that exhausts our resources and denies our children and their children the prospect of a dignified existence. If our soil is lost, it is lost forever. If it is inappropriately used, the consequences are permanent.

Chairperson, we emerge from the past Apartheid South Africa characterised by poor environmental management. A past where environmental regulations were meant to protect white minority interests. A past where black people were deliberately settled next to industrial areas so as to serve as a reservoir for cheap labour and consequently were exposed to heavy industrial pollution. Limited access to electricity in the crowded informal settlements resulted in the burning of fossil fuels like coal further compromising air quality. True to the injunctions of Mandela's wise counsel, we need to address this legacy of the past. We must guarantee our children and their children a dignified existence. We must do by paying

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particular attention to some of the urgent and critical tasks in air quality management particularly in the priority areas.

We need to ensure that there is full compliance with the promulgated Minimum Emissions Standards in line with the Air Quality Act by among others; developing clear compliance roadmaps, ensuring strict monitoring of the process of technological acquisition, upgrade industries which have been granted postponements and setting clear cut off deadlines for any further consideration of postponement applications because these postponements were never meant to be in perpetuity. Chairperson, on the transformation of wildlife economy, South Africa is endowed with a remarkable richness of biodiversity and life forms. We are considered to be the third mega diverse country in the world after the rainforest-rich Brazil and Indonesia. The variety and complexity of our biodiversity resources offers the most potential for economic growth, job creation and transformation in the wildlife sector. The wildlife sector employs approximately 100 000 people across the value chain. The combined domestic and international hunting markets are estimated to be worth about R7,8 billion. However, the majority of our people are still excluded from the opportunities to own a significant stake in the wildlife economy.

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Our people continue to carry the historic scars from being disposed and displaced from their land to make way for national parks and other protected areas and therefore transformation of the wildlife economy to facilitate their participation and ownership is as much a process to restore their dignity as it is about putting food on the table. Transformation of the wildlife economy requires more than just tampering with the ownership patterns, management and control of the wildlife resources. It requires a complete overhaul of the meat consumption patterns, for instance; why is there such a glaring absence of game meat in many of our retail supermarkets, shops and in restaurants? Is it because there is no reliable supply of game meat or is it about the demand for game meat is absent? How about we utilise game meat to feed our guests when we are hosting such events and gatherings like weddings and funerals instead of utilising beef, lamb or even pork?

If we really are serious about growing and transforming the wildlife economy, we should explore more innovative ways. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the department in supporting the Matsila Wildlife Economic Project – which the Minister have spoken about – in Matsila village in Limpopo and the Mayibuye Game Reserve in Kwazulu-Natal. These are just two of the projects which are true models of transformation of the wildlife economy which is rooted in community ownership. Hon Chairperson, very soon the House

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will be considering a report from our committee on the donation of high value species of animals worth over R100 million which was made by the North West government to few private individuals, in particular, three white males and one African male. This donation was done under the guise of transforming the wildlife industry through game donation but the reality is that this was nothing but an elaborate scheme to defraud the people of this country in order to benefit few individuals. The committee is resolute that those animals must be returned back to the provincial parks and those responsible must be held to account.

Hon Chairperson, the committee would like - working with the department - to facilitate a national dialogue on the question of breeding of lions in captivity for hunting and lion bone and skeleton trade. Recent national and international developments around this particular subject have created the necessity to place this matter firmly on our national agenda. I have returned recently from the 65 General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, known as the CIC, in Madrid, Spain. Two of our country's national associations; the Confederation of Hunting Associations of South Africa, CHASA, and Professional Hunters Association of South Africa, PHASA, were expelled from the CIC during that General Assembly for supporting captive bred lion hunting. [Interjections.] ... Not the CIC of the EFF.

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Two years ago in September, the World Congress of the International Union of Conservation in Nature held in Honolulu, Hawaii – which I also happen to attend – was the first the first international body to take a resolution to call on the SA government to terminate the practice of breeding lions in captivity for the purpose of canned hunting. Other major international organisations like the Safari Club, the Dallas Club, Namibian Professional Hunting Association and other associations have all distanced themselves from this practice.

Therefore, hon Minister, South Africa is finding itself increasingly being isolated at important international platforms as a result of this policy stance, even among those who like us are proponents of the principle of sustainable use of natural resources. Major concerns are not only around the ethical and fair chase hunting considerations but more questions are being raised around the absence of scientific evidence showing the conservation value of canned hunting as well as the application of the principle precautionary approach.

Hon Chair, turning to rhino poaching, rhino poaching continues to be a matter of great concern to the committee. We have asked SANParks to review its low target on rhino poaching because we would like SANParks to double its efforts in turning the tight against what continues to be a national crisis. We would like once more to call

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for the strengthening of legislation by incorporating minimum sentences for rhino related offences to serve as a strong deterrent for potential criminals from killing this iconic species. Contrary to views held by some in our country, a groundbreaking research by academics at Birmingham University revealed that tougher prison sentences do reduce crime. Another study indicated that there is stronger evidence that increasing the certainty of punishment serves as a deterrent to crime.

On a circular economy - and I am happy that you mentioned it, hon Minister - the drive for extended producer responsibility which started in 2012 with the publication of the Integrated Industry Waste Tyre Management Plan was intended to give impetus to the recycling economy in as far as the waste tyres are concerned. However, 6 years down the line the percentage of waste tyres diverted from landfill sites remain unacceptably low while the storage capacity of many waste tyre depots are exceeded. The collapse of the Recycling and Economic Development Initiative of South Africa, Redisa, programme has brought to the fore fundamental lessons the department has learnt and will have to avoid going into the future. Therefore, in this context we welcome the announcement made by the Minister last Friday that you intend to consider four Industry Waste Tyre Management Plans.

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As you know, hon Minister, the situation is not rosy either for other categories of waste, for example; the last official waste statistics show that the country has only been able to divert 10 percent of the total waste generated away from landfill sites towards recycling. Plastic waste remains a challenge. Everywhere you go; whether you are taking a walk on the beach, doing shopping in town or driving around our townships, there is plastic everywhere polluting lands, rivers, coasts, beaches and oceans with devastating consequences to our environment. The introduction of the plastic levy in 2003 did little to alleviate the situation because our appetite for plastic has not dissipated we continue to quite literally throw money away. Hon Minister, maybe we need to follow the courageous and brave example set in Benin, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Chad and Eritrea and ban the use of plastic bags in South Africa.

I would like to conclude by expressing my thanks and appreciation to all the members of the portfolio committee, the Minister and the Deputy Minister for your co-operation. We have not always agreed but we have at all times respected our constitutional responsibilities. The ANC supports this budget vote. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr T Z HADEBE: Hon Chairperson, amid the growing concerns over air pollution and the dangers it presents to public health and to the

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protection of endangered species, the effects of climate change must be tackled head-on. A reasonable increase in funding for environmental protection was certainly warranted.

However, if we look at the current budget for various environmental protection measures, one sees the dawn of the era of disappointment and environmental neglect despite the fact that "The Buffalo" himself is at helm. This budget is a clear indication that the ANC is failing to urgently implement sustainable, co-ordinated and efficient strategies and to provide the necessary funding to give effect to the constitutional provision that South African citizens are entitled to an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being.

In 2015, the South African National Biodiversity Institute, SANBI, together with Stats SA and other departments, published a document outlining the health of the country's rivers and wetlands systems.

The document paints a very scary picture. The data showed river health declined across the country between 1999 and 2011.

Such crucial information ought to have triggered some action from government.

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The DA is acutely aware that a healthy natural environment plays a fundamental role to South Africans' well-being. Guided by the vision of "one nation with one future" built on freedom, fairness and opportunity for all, the DA response would be to immediately institute a reasonable increase in the allocation for environment protection and climate change.

I am mindful of the country's priorities that determine government spending. But environment protection is equally important. When we compare our environmental spending with other 35 countries belonging to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD, it amounts to 1,3%. Netherlands spends 3,2% and Japan 2,9%. Australia's government spent 2,4% of its total budget on environmental protection, while the United Kingdom devoted 1,8%. South African deserves a better environment too.

Honourable Chairperson, I would like mention just a few critical interventions the DA would institute: Firstly, we would strive to meet the National Climate Change Response Policy target of reducing emissions by 34% by 2020 and 42% by 2025. To do this, we would strengthen the capacity of local government to respond to climate change, with an emphasis on human resources and institutional frameworks. On this note, I would like to commend the City of Johannesburg and IBM Research in their project which uses machine

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learning and analytics to measure several air quality factors, forecast potential poor air quality events and can be even be used to pinpoint culprits.

Secondly, we would acquire and maintain radar capability to enable a weather observation network that meets today's needs.

Thirdly, we would establish early warning and response systems to improve preparedness and adaptive capacity of local communities drawing on scientific and local knowledge.

The classical example is the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre. It is a single environment where all disaster management activities can be planned for and co-ordinated in an integrated manner.

To the question of hon Mapulane in regard to strengthening legislation, we would amend Part Three of Schedule 2 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 105 of 1997, by adding the following offence to the list. Any offence referred to National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004, NEMBA, if it is proved that-(a) the listed threatened or protected species involved is a rhinoceros or elephant; or (b) the value of the listed threatened or protected species or product or derivative in question involves amounts of

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more than R100 000; or (c) the value of the listed threatened or protected species or product or derivative in question involves amounts of more than R10 000.

These are but a few examples of the changes South Africa needs. In conclusion, and to quote the former Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon: "Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all". I thank you.

Mr Z R XALISA: Honourable Chairperson, one of the most tragic consequences of our fixation with consumer driven development has been our inability to imagine and implement a developmental programme that prioritises the protection of the integrity of our ecosystem.

We face challenges of global warming and climate variability, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, desertification, land degradation, waste and littering, population growth, urbanization, pollution, poverty and health hazards.

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While South Africa is seen to be doing more than its counterparts in endangering an environmental awareness ethic. We can do better, and ought to do better, only if we can eliminate corruption and narrow short-termism in the manner the department does its operations.

You have entities such as the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency, which is managed as a personal property of their CEO, Vuyani Dayimani, who is looting that institution to bankruptcy.

Entities such as this one prevent us from focusing on the bigger picture. These problems present a challenge to our government to think outside the box, and try and mainstream environmental protection into the functioning of each and every department.

This must be done with the firm appreciation of the fact that the wellbeing of our ecosystems is a developmental issue, and not a peripheral issue left only to white scientists who are doing all in their power to prevent new black scientists from emerging.

To do this, we must ensure that at the national level, the different agencies and players, both within and outside government need to strengthen co-ordination and implementation of key interventions in different sectors in both rural and urban areas.

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There was once a programme between your Protected Area Directorate, the Spatial Planning Directorate, at the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, and the Policy Directorate at SANBI, looking at co-ordinating work done on land reform sites that are also critical biodiversity areas. You unfortunately discontinued this programme. It is programmes like those that are needed, across the board, to streamline ecological awareness across departments, and elevate thinking about the environment to be thinking about development.

At the African regional and international levels, there is a need for progressive pan-Africanism and progressive internationalism to address geopolitical forces and issues that contribute to the under-development of the African region.

We need not to be pussyfooting on the issue of climate change and global warming. In the African continent we need to champion the need for environmental responsible developments, and that this awareness must drive our approach to issues of international trade, poverty alleviation, and economic policies.

So, our dissatisfaction with the performance of this department to date is that, it has been too narrow in its focus, concerned only

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with sector specific challenges, and not realising that these challenges are of an intersectoral nature.

Therefore, the department must rethink its place in the developmental evolution of this country. At this moment, you have failed dismally to do so. We reject this budget. Thank you.

Mr N SINGH: Hon Chairperson, I was waiting for your command. I wish I could cut myself into different parts and serve on this Environmental Affairs committee. However, unfortunately, with so many other commitments I'm not able to, because I see in the Chairperson, hon Mapulane, from his delivery here, a wildlife activist. I can see that wildlife issues are discussed in your committee. Having said that hon Mapulane, you spoke about the economic value of wildlife; it starts with the protection and conservation of wildlife. Therefore, I'm going to dedicate my speech to the birds and the bees and not air pollution and waste management because those matters the entities are handling extremely well by the department and all its managers.

On Saturday 10 March, the IFP received a memorandum of intent presented by the organisation called Beauty without Cruelty together with 86 other nongovernment organisations, NGOs, and animal welfare organisations in a call for the incorporation of the animal

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sentience into our applicable domestic laws and regulations. The petition was handed over under the signature of my leader, hon Buthelezi, but unfortunately, Minister, your department and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries have not acknowledged receipt of that correspondence. I would like you to look at it and please try and do something about it. I can make a copy available if you don't have it.

Hon Mapulane also spoke about rhino poaching. The issue about rhino poaching – Minister you are consciously optimistic about solutions. The issue is that the biggest challenges we face in South Africa in respect of the rhino poaching crisis is not from the poachers themselves, but rather from corruption that keeps poachers in a position from which they are able to ply their horrendous illicit trade. I think that we are all aware of the matter that is taking place in the court in the northern KwaZulu-Natal. It starts tomorrow where one perpetrator, Mr Gwala, was charged in 2014, but that matter is only coming to court now. There are allegations of corruption within the judiciary system itself. Therefore, this person is known to be the kingpin of rhino horn poaching in South Africa.

Now, hon Minister, justice is not your portfolio, but if there is inaction in justice it impacts on our conservation agenda. You need

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to talk to your colleague and I'm going to have to leave after speaking because I'm going to speak on Justice Portfolio downstairs. So, I'm going to raise it and say the same thing.

As far as the line conservation that you spoke about, hon Mapulane, the IFP deplores the continued position and of our support in allowing captive lion breeding and lion bone trade in South Africa. Despite no credible basis in science or socioeconomic benefits to the South African people, we persist in what can be justifiably argued as the decimation of our wild lion populations through allowing the continued commodification of this iconic African apex predator. The practice is nothing more we believe than a commodification of an apex African predator for the pecuniary benefit of a handful of people, at great and distressing expense to brand South Africa.

We would also like to see the department taking steps towards minimising the risk of poisoning to migratory birds as we are aware that South Africa is now a signatory to the Convention for Migratory Species, where it was decided that it was vital to bring an end to the use of lead ammunition.

Finally, good governance depends on the rule of law and the rule of law depends upon effective compliance. None are sufficient alone,

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but together they form an indivisible force that is essential for survival and for sustainable development. Therefore, it is for that reason hon Chairperson, hon Minister and Deputy Minister that we will support the budget of this department. Thank you. [Applause.]

Prof N M KHUBISA: Hon Chairperson, hon Ministers, Deputy Ministers, hon members and guests, thank you for this opportunity. The mandate of this department is to ensure the protection of the environmental and natural resources, balanced with sustainable development and equitable distribution of benefits derived from natural resources for current and future generations. In light of this mandate, cognizance is also taken to the right of the nation to an environment that is not harmful to their health and wellbeing as provided in section 24(b) of our Constitution.

The NFP supports this budget. We are concerned however about the sizeable reductions in three subprograms: There is protected areas systems management, iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority and the SA National Parks which have experienced reductions of R14 million, R3,4 million and R8,5 million respectively. This is concerning because these programmes play a critical role in protecting the country's biodiversity.

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I understand that there are various challenges that are facing this department. I know that the challenges are regional and also international - challenges of rhino poaching whereby our rhinos are poached and the horns are taken abroad. Sometimes in that regard you find that there is collusion ... [Interjections.] ... I don't know who does it, but somebody says - and also the whole issue of the protection of indigenous species. Hon Minister, you have alluded to the fact that there is legislation in the pipeline with regard to climate change, global warming, etc, because it is only through legislation that some of the things could be done and, of course, ensuring that legislation is enforced as well.

There are also challenges with regard to encroachment in certain protected areas. These encroachments where we find that even the rangers are being killed and it has happened a number of times. The whole issue of waste management and also the mitigation of carbon dioxide emission and also working with our refineries to ensure that we deal with that, and ensuring that we deal with people who cause some harms in our oceans - and you have referred to that, Minister. We know that these challenges could be done, for instance, through the National Climate Report Bill which we feel that it must be hasten quickly. The constant drought and floods that occur pose a huge challenge, hence the dissemination of information is a very crucial, hon Minister, and it is a matter that must be done to our

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townships, rural areas and to those people who are along banks because sometimes they die because they don't have knowledge.

IsiZulu:

Okokugcina ke Sihlalo ngifisa ukusho okuthi enye inselelo esibhekene nayo ukuba ezindaweni zamapaki nasezindaweni ezigcina nezonga imvelo, ezindaweni zabaholi bomdabu kufika abantu benze ingcebo bahambe nomnotho kodwa abaholi bomdabu nezizwe zabo bengazuzi lutho, kungabibikho namathuba emisebenzi abawatshalayo ekubeni kunentsha yethu nabesifazane abadinga amathuba emisebenzi. Nokuthi kuthuthukiswe umnotho kulezo zindawo lapho besuke befike khona.

English:

We also want to see the department create those jobs that are promised, 39 991 fulltime jobs and support of the small and medium enterprises, SMEs, and deal with issue of poverty alleviation. We support the budget. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

IsiZulu:

USEKELA NGQONGQOSHE WEZEMVELO: Sihlalo ...

English:

... our Minister, Mama Edna Molewa, MECs that are present here today, our chairperson Baba Mapulane, members of the portfolio

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committee, Members of Parliament, our guests, our chief executives of public entities that are here with us ... [Interjections.] Is there something wrong? Oh! Okay! Ladies and gentlemen ... [Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon Mkhalihi!

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: ... today is the first time the international community is marking the International Day of Living Together in Peace. It is a day in which all nations and people of the world should strive to find ways and means of respecting one another, living in harmony and without conflict. In four days, we will also mark Africa Day, a day which provides us with the opportunity to reconnect and recommit ourselves to building a better Africa, and a better world, for all our people. In working towards achieving peace globally, and to improving the lives of our people, conservation of the environment should play an important role. Without the sustainable use of our rich and abundant natural resources, we will decimate our environment, an act that will be to the detriment of humankind.

IsiZulu:

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Ngamanye amazwi uma singayigadi imvelo, sithi nje kafushane, imvelo iyogcina ishabalele. Kufuneka sikwazi ukuthi ukushabalala kwemvelo kuyoba wukushabalala kwethu uqobo.

English:

To address the negative impacts of climate change, particularly the increase extreme weather conditions in our country, we have introduced a number of measures to ensure that all our people, children, women, the elderly and poor communities are able to deal with the impacts of drought, flooding and other extreme weather events on crops and food supplies, infrastructure and livelihoods as well. During the state of the nation address in February, our President Ramaphosa highlighted a number of actions and commitments to create jobs and address the plight of our youth. The department has and will continue to create work opportunities through a number of environmental programmes being rolled out. Amongst the highlights achieved in the past financial year include the creation of 71 948 work opportunities and 28 243 Full-Time Equivalents, FTEs, created with more than 60% of these participants being the young and women. 140 wetlands have been rehabilitated as part of the Working for Water, WFW, effort to achieve the goal of land degradation neutrality in South Africa., placing 56 660 hectares of land under rehabilitation and or restoration, providing initial treatment to

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171 198 hectares of land invaded by invasive alien plants and undertaking follow-up treatment on 601 944 hectares of land.

The department works with all provinces, municipalities, community-based organisations, traditional authorities ...

IsiZulu:

... baba we-EFF, siyasebenzisana kakhulu namakhosi ...

English:

... and public entities to implement environmental programmes.
In 2017 the Working ... [Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon Minister, just take a seat ... oh no, there is no seat.

IsiZulu:

USEKELA NGQONGQOSHE WEZEMVELO: Ngiyaxolisa ungaze uqhubeke.

Mnu Z R XALISA: Ngicela ukubuza Sihlalo ukuthi ngubani ubaba we-EFF la eNdlini? [Ubuwelewele.]

English:

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

[Interjections.]

IsiZulu:

USEKELA NGQONGQOSHE WEZEMVELO: Ngiyaxolisa! Maluju!

English:

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

Order! Order! [Interjections.]

IsiZulu:

USEKELA NGQONGQOSHE WEZEMVELO: Maluju! Maluju! Maluju baba we-EFF, bengiqonde uBaba uKhubisa.

English:

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Deputy Minister, order.

IsiZulu:

USEKELA NGQONGQOSHE WEZEMVELO: Ngiyaxolisa!

English:

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Order! Hon Xalisa ...

[Interjections.]

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IsiZulu:

Mnu Z R XALISA: Sengingubaba manje angiselona ilungu elihloniphekile Sihlalo? [Ubuwelewele.]

USIHLALO WESIHASHANE (Mnu M R Mdakane): Uxolisile! Uxolisile, qhubeka Ngqongqoshe ohloniphekile. [Ubuwelewele.]

USEKELA NGQONGQOSHE WEZEMVELO: Sengiyinyathele emsileni?
[Ubuwelewele.]

English:

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon MkhaliPhi?

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Chair, on a point of order: We spoke about this in the Chief Whips Forum ... [Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon members let us hear.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: ... so the members of the ANC must behave because in our Rules we do not have ...

IsiZulu:

... baba, mkhulu, gogo we-EFF ...

English:

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... here, we have members, so I do not think it will be very respectful to say ...

IsiZulu:

... gogo we-EFF, mkhulu we-EFF, mfana we-EFF ...

English:

... we are all hon members.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon MkhaliPhi ...

[Intejctions.]

IsiZulu:

USEKELA NGQONGQOSHE WEZEMVELO: Kuyezwakala, bengiqonde ukuthi ...

[Ubuwelewele.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon members let us allow the Deputy Minister to be heard please. ... [Interjections.] Hon Deputy Minister, just hold on, hon MkhaliPhi ...

IsiZulu:

... uhoxisile, angiyiboni lento ofuna ukuyenza manje.

Nk H O MKHALIPHI: Yini manje ngoba siyamxolela. [Ubuwelewele.]

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USIHLALO WESIHASHANE (Mnu M R Mdakane): Asiqhubeke-ke, masiqhubeke-ke ...

English:

... hon Minister.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Hon Khubisa! ... on Fire Programme was confronted with blazing fires along the Garden Route, most notably in Knysna. The runaway fires that began on 7 June 2017 and burned along a 300 kilometre fire line for nearly two weeks, destroyed 21 500 hectares of land which stretched from Great Brak to outside Port Elizabeth. Members of the Working on Fire team spent almost two weeks fighting these blazing fires. Tragically six lives were lost, infrastructure damage ran into billions of rands and over 2 500 jobs were affected, impacting on the economy of the towns along the route.

Greater advocacy and awareness programmes must continue in an effort to minimise the risk of future fires in areas where highly flammable alien invasive vegetation is present. Let me just touch a bit on the Working for the Coast infrastructure, further development of coastal infrastructure will be undertaken in this financial year. This includes improved community access to the coast, boat launching sites will be constructed to support the newly permitted areas for

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boat-based whale watching and shark diving as well. New policies on boat-based whale watching and shark cage diving were developed to enable participation from previously disadvantaged people and change the status quo.

IsiZulu:

Ngiyafuna ukusho ukuthi lolu hlelo wuhlelo oluzonikeza abantu bakithi amathuba okuthi nabo singababoni sebengabantu nje abahlanza izikebhe. Siyishintshile inqubomgomo ukuthi nabo bakwazi ukuba ngabanikazi bezikebhe bangabi nje ngabashaneli bezikebhe. Sithi mababe ngabanikazi bakwazi ukubamba iqhaza. [Ihlombe.] Bakwazi ukubamba iqhaza ukuze basheshe bafike la abafuna ukufika khona. Uyabona uma usashanela kuyokuthatha isikhashana ukuthi ufike laphaya kuloya mnotho.

English:

This year, the department in collaboration with protected areas management authorities and their associated provinces will be hosting the 8th national People and Parks conference. This initiative continues to stand out as a government flagship programme aimed at transforming protected areas for the benefit of local communities through unlocking the economic potential thereof. To this date, a number of co-management agreements have been concluded.

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IsiZulu:

Yila ngidideka khona-ke mhlonishwa Khubisa uma uthi lezi zinhlelo zethu azifiki emakhosini. Mhlawumbe kuyofuneka sixoxisane ukuthi amakhosi abayingxenye kanjani ngoba sithi lezi zindawo ezivikelwe namapaki obukade ukhuluma ngawo oSimangaliso sithi, cha, nabo abantu, imiphakathi ayingawabukeli kude, abalawule ngokubambisana nama-management authorities. Ngamanye amazwi, nabo kusuke bezoba yingxenye yalo mnotho, bangawubukeli nje kude. Kuyofuneka mhlawumbe sibonisane ukuthi amakhosi nondabezitha baba kanjani yingxenye yalezi zinhlelo.

English:

The People and Parks projects also contribute towards the expansion of the conservation estate with associated infrastructure including community parks, lodges and ancillary amenities to make these viable economic enterprises. Communities will be capacitated to engage actively in the co-management of protected areas. Lastly, land restitution processes in and around protected areas present opportunities for conservation as well as empowerment. The environment sector is ideally placed to increase the ownership percentage of black women, youth and communities in our economy through the identification of economic opportunities that are associated with the sustainable use of our diverse range of natural

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resources or biodiversity. We recognise biodiversity as a basis for transformation and sustainable development.

IsiZulu:

Kafushane-ke sithi, imiphakathi yethu, wosomabhizinisi mabasijoyine kulo mshikashika wethu wokwenza isiqiniseko sokuthi imvelo yethu yongeke.

English:

We are saying good business is business that should not be harmful to the environment, to the people that live around the area and to everybody at large.

IsiZulu:

Ngiyabonga, Sihlalo.

Mr W W WESSELS: Thank you, Chairperson. Our natural resources are becoming scarcer by the day. We face severe drought and in the midst thereof we should admit to each other that climate change is a reality and not only a buzz word that we use at conferences and in speeches; it is actually a reality on the ground and it needs to be addressed.

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The green scorpions, are not acting efficiently regarding especially pollution of water sources and the department is also not reacting in this regard. In many of our municipalities raw sewage ends up in dams and rivers polluting our sources of drinking water. Whilst we are facing the scarcity of water and the effects of climate change this is unacceptable.

Examples of this are the in Delmas where the Bronkhorstspruit dam is then polluted by raw sewerage because of our deteriorating infrastructure. The same in Mafube where sewerage are flowing into the Wilge River and from there into the Vaal dam polluting the drinking water of millions of people including the most of Gauteng.

Complaint was laid with the department and the Green Scorpions render no results. The consideration of mining and exploration licences raises concern, also taking into regard our scarce resources. In recent cases exploration rights were rewarded by the department and overturned by courts. This is unnecessary litigation and a waste of taxpayer's money.

In those cases, it was quite clear that those activities would pollute ... [Interjections.]

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The MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING: Chairperson, could you request the hon members in the box over there to please reduce their voices.

THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L Fubbs): Thank you very much, hon member. Members, I am not sure I notice that there are some hon members sitting in the box there but in fact all the hon members should be above the box. So, if there are any there come forward. If you are a guest then you have been invited to listen and observe, and that's all. Thank you

Mr W W WESSELS: Thank you, Chairperson. Those cases where the rights were overturned by the courts were a waste of taxpayer's money. In those cases, it was quite clear that those activities were on the exploration and hydro-spitting would pollute underground water and affect drinking water sources and also agriculture in a detrimental effect. It is completely unacceptable that these licenses are awarded to companies just on a basis of economic activity and not taking the environment into account.

Minister, we need to address this. Your department cannot allow this activity to take place. Whilst we have scarce resources we cannot afford to look like Texas one day. And go to Texas where these activities took place for many years, and go and look at the

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complete irreversible effects of hydro-spitting and exploration. The department needs to stop this and it needs take research and environment into account.

This department has a very important function, and Minister you need to get your house in order. The department cannot be one that late and detrimentally affected by mismanagement and neglect of officials. Get your department in order without an environment that protected all our other activities, all government activities are going to waste and will not render any fruits. I thank you.

Ms H V NYAMBI: Chairperson, hon Minister, Deputy Ministers, hon members, guests on the gallery, Lotshani. (Good afternoon).

Chair, allow me to dedicate this years' budget vote on behalf of the ANC to our first democratically elected President, Tata Nelson Mandela, who would have turned 100 years old this year. An exemplary leader and father of the national who walked out of the Victor Verster Prison after spending 27 years of incarceration fighting for the freedom of our people, harbouring no trace of bitterness or animosity to those who had placed him behind bars.

His exemplary stature taught us to be selfless and dedicated in pursuit of the betterment of the lives of our people. Through the

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policies and programmes of our glorious movement, the ANC, we will ensure that we give credence to Tata's vision to make tomorrow better than today.

Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. In other words, biodiversity refers to the wide variety of species on earth, whether they are plants, animals or microscopic organisms, which are vital to keep the world's many ecosystems healthy, balanced and thriving.

Biodiversity is therefore the foundation of life on earth, as it ensures natural sustainability for all life by, for example, guaranteeing more abundant crops and fresher air. In a nutshell, biodiversity is essential for sustaining the natural ecosystems on which humans and all life depend.

More than 3 billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity, while more than 1,6 billion people rely on forests for their livelihoods globally. The loss of biodiversity affects the lives of more than 1 billion people living in dry lands. It is

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important to note that these global estimates also include South Africa's statistics for biodiversity dependency.

South Africa joined other nations of the world on observing 2010 as the international year of biodiversity. This was an opportunity to heighten awareness on biodiversity and this is consistently carried out in partnership with the South Africans National Parks, SANParks. This is the celebration of life on earth and the recognition of the links between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing.

Siswati:

Ngitsanda kukhumbuta Lendlu kutsi incenye lenkhulu yemiphakatsi yetfu yasemakhaya yetsembele kuto tonkhe letitjalo netilwanyana letiphilako njengekwehlukana kwato, likutsiwa yi-biodiversity ngelulwimi lwaSingisi. Loku bakwentela kutsi bangenise imali baphindze betame kwakha imisebenti yekusebentisa tona letitjalo netilwanyana letiphilako.

Bakwenta loku ngekusebentisa tinsita tekonga letinjengabo-SANPark, Isimangaliso Wetland Park authority; SANBI; netikhungo tekuvikela temvelo letinjenga Ezemvelo Wildlife, Cape Nature yase Ntshona-Koloni, North West Parks Board, kanye neTekuvakasha taseMpumalanga kanye ne-Parks Agency, kulamanye awo.

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Litiko Letesimondzawo, luhlelo lwe-Biodiversity nekonga kanye neluhlelo lwesimondzawo tiniketa imisebenti enyentini lebantfu betfu, ikakhulu kubomake, nalabasha kanye nebantfwana. Lelitiko lidlala indzima lebaluleke kakhulu yekucedza buphuya nekungalingani eveni. Ngekwenta njalo, i-biodiversity isebenta ngekwemshwalense. Ivikela labaphuyile kutsi bangaphuyi kakhulu.

Ngitsandza kubonga lendzima ledlalwa ngumkhakha wekonga nemboni yangasense, balimi betimfuyo tesiganga, tikhungo leticeceshelwe kutingela nalabaletsa kuphatseka kahle kwendalo bente kutsi live letfu silijabulele.

English:

For South Africa, growing the circular economy and broadening access to the opportunities, its presence is indeed fundamental part of our government's programme of radical socioeconomic transformation. This requires, firstly, a radical rethink of our perception of waste. It is a resource with value once it is recovered, reduced reused and recycled, and provides the opportunity for beneficiation, enterprise development and innovation.

Given the potential to significantly scale up green economy initiatives in this sector, we are preparing to host a chemical and waste Phakisa that will see the annual Waste Khoro for 2017 taking

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the form of a chemicals and Waste Circular Economy Lab Programme. At this, we are also going to plan from a high level to a lower level. In taking the industry waste management plans forward, we are currently evaluating the inputs received from various sectors.

It is in this regard that we are greatly esteem the work that the department as well as SANParks are doing in transforming the biodiversity economy in the spirit of the Freedom Charter, which explicitly states that People shall share in the countries wealth. We further note the wonderful work that the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority is doing in ensuring the sustainability of our unique world heritage site, especially its revenue sharing model with land claimants.

We gratefully not the cutting edge research that SANBI is doing to inform our biodiversity conservation initiatives. It is your strategic research support and output that shape our biodiversity conservation policies. You are truly the big deal in greater scheme of things.

Hon Minister Molewa, hon Deputy Minister Thompson and Director-General of the department, Ms Ngcaba, as well as the staff of the department that make up the entire environment team, we would like to thank you heartily for your great sense of stewardship in

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protecting our environmental assets despite the ever-growing challenge of poaching in our national parks. We put our hands on deck by asking this august House to approve the department's budget. I thank you.

Mr R K PURDON: Hon Chair, hon members, all our guests in the gallery: good afternoon to you all, goeie middag, molweni nonke. We are gathered here today to analyse a budget for Environmental Affairs of R7,1 billion. This is not even 1% of South Africa's total budget; not even 1%. This hardly seems fair as our environment is under significant pressure from a rapidly increasing population, water scarcity and climate change. A healthy environment depends on clean water, clean energy and clean air and is critical to ensuring the health of all the citizens of South Africa.

It is against this background that we take a closer look at our budget and how we should be caring for our precious environment. The report tells us that although the R7,1 billion is up from last year's R6,8 billion, there is a significant budget reduction in real rand terms after inflation has been taken into account. Reduced funding will severely hamper efforts to sustain our country's biodiversity and the department's ability to enforce compliance with legislation. The report also tells us that the department has not tabled its annual report to Parliament on time for the last two

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consecutive years. This is totally unacceptable and the department must take the necessary measures to ensure that this never happens again.

Other political issues relegate environmental issues, such as air quality and rhino poaching, to small articles in the middle of newspapers. Just recently the news has been filled ...

[Interjections.] [Inaudible.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L Fubbs): You are guests here.

Mr R K PURDON: Hon Chair ...

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L Fubbs): Yes, do proceed.

IsiXhosa:

Mnu R K PURDON: Bakhona abanye abangxolaya apha namhlanje. Baphaya ngasemva nangapha kweli cala. Basangxola okwa ngoku kodwa ngowama-2019 baza kukhala phaya ngaphandle. [Kwaqhwatywa.]

English:

Other political issues relegate environmental issues to small articles in the newspapers. But, just recently, the news has been filled with alarming reports from the North West: A premier gone

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rogue. Illegal game donations have dominated headlines; and just last week ... [Interjections.] ... Premier Supra and his unsavoury team wanted to disband the provincial parks. They are busy ramming through legislation in this respect as we speak. [Interjections.] We, the DA, are watching proceedings closely ...

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L Fubbs): Allow the speaker to be heard.

Mr R K PURDON: ... and we will keep asking questions.

The hon members and the public at large need to know that there is a strong connection between the North West province and Environmental Affairs. [Interjections.] Minister Molewa is a former premier of the North West. Our chairperson is from the North West. The newly appointed head of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority, Prof Karodia, is also from the North West, as is fellow board member Satish Roopa.

Environmental Affairs needs good, clean governance and administration, and we sincerely hope that our Ministry and department have not been tainted by the toxic developments in the North West.

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The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L Fubbs): One minute.

Mr R K PURDON: The late Patrick Cull once wrote that it is a sad fact that many South Africans suffer from denialism or, in other words, an immune syndrome. We have become immune to the fact that our roads over Easter and December have become killing fields. We have become immune to shocking education results, to high levels of crime, to rampant corruption and to the inefficiency of the Public Service. But we must never become immune to the fact that rhino poaching has increased dramatically since 2008. We must never become immune to poor air quality in many areas in South Africa, which severely affects the health of many of our citizens.

When the country is rewarded next year with a predominantly blue government, we the DA ... [Interjections.] ... will improve the co-ordination between the various organisations in the state security cluster.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L Fubbs): Your time has expired. Thank you. Just close off now. Close off. [Interjections.]

IsiXhosa:

Mnu R K PURDON: Baza kukhala phaya ngaphandle. [Uwelewele.]

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English:

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L Fubbs): Hon Purdon, can you please close off?

Mr R K PURDON: All of these issues and concerns revolve around political will. Al Gore said, "Political will is a renewable source." So I can assure everyone here today and all South Africans not present here that a DA-led government will give Environmental Affairs the priority it deserves. We owe it to our people and, above all, we have a duty to protect future generations. Enkosi kakhulu. Thank you.

Dr Z LUYENGE: Hon Chairperson, allow me to greet all Ministers and Deputy Ministers that are here. Hon members of this House, guests, the leadership of the department and its entities: in the name of the ANC I am standing here to say that we are appealing to this House to adopt this budget of this department owing to its importance.

In the poem *The Worship of Nature*, John Greenleaf Whittier depicts the movement of the sea and nature in general as a form of worship. He writes:

... And prayer is made, and praise is given,

By all things near and far;
The ocean looketh up to heaven,
And mirrors every star.

Its waves are kneeling on the strand,
As kneels the human knee,
Their white locks bowing to the sand,
The priesthood of the sea!

They pour their glittering treasures forth,
Their gifts of pearl they bring,
And all the listening hills of earth
Take up the song they sing.

... So Nature keeps the reverent frame
With which her years began,
And all her signs and voices shame
The prayerless heart of man.

This poem uses vivid imagery to bring to life the beauty, the power and the generosity of the ocean. Nature bows to the great oceans that bring gifts, life and sustenance in abundance to billions of God's humble creatures. This has been the order of things on earth until the arrival of man, especially the prayerless capitalist.

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We, of the progressive school of thought, seek to design government policies in such a way that we use the resources of our oceans for the social and economic upliftment of the people in a sustainable way. Based on our Ready to Govern policy document, our negotiators were able to insert the rights of the environment in the Bill of Rights in our Constitution. In this regard, we were leaders among the countries of the world.

The purpose of the oceans and coast programmes is to promote, manage and provide strategic leadership on oceans and coastal conservation. The programme sets out our government's strategic objectives, as we have recognised that oceans and coastal ecosystems are important because they directly and indirectly have an impact on human livelihoods, food security and agriculture, and trade and industry.

Nearly a third of South Africa's population lives at the coast. Poverty, unemployment and inequality vary considerably across South Africa's coastal regions owing to the legacy of apartheid. The ANC has transformed South Africa's approach to oceans from being predominantly conservation-focused, biophysical and bureaucratic to one that is more participatory in nature and driven by human development imperatives and sustainable livelihood objectives.

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These efforts culminated in the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act of 2008, which established South Africa's first statutory requirements for integrated coastal and estuarine management. The oceans are a key source of protein both locally and globally. Seafood now accounts for almost 17% of the global population's intake of protein.

Although not as economically important as agriculture, fisheries contribute 0,5% to South Africa's GDP and play an important role in meeting food security needs, as well as providing livelihoods for more than 100 000 South Africans. We call on government to help preserve these communities.

Currently, a number of our country's marine resources are overexploited, resulting in the loss of potential sources of food, livelihoods and income, as well as the loss of the traditional fishing culture associated with South Africa's coastal communities. There is a growing awareness of the environmental impact of fishing on our oceans and it is heartening that consumers and retailers alike are increasingly seeking sustainable seafood alternatives.

Consumers are becoming more aware of sustainable seafood challenges and are holding their seafood vendors accountable for the sustainability of the seafood they are selling. Major seafood

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suppliers, restaurant chains and retailers have also started to respond to growing markets for sustainable seafood by setting standards and adopting credible ocean sustainability strategies.

Oceans and coasts provide many valuable services and uses through both extractive and nonextractive activities. I would like to remind the House that South Africa's coastline is rich in mineral resources that are mined, particularly in the Namaqua district of the Northern Cape. Some activities, such as sand mining, are being undertaken illegally, outside the policy framework of government. These need to be arrested, hon Minister.

It is important to note that while the mandate for fisheries has moved to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the regulatory framework for sustainable management of our marine environment falls within the ambit of Environmental Affairs.

Maritime transport is vital to the world's economy as over 90% of the world's trade is carried by sea. In fact, 98% of our country's exports are carried by sea. Coastal tourism generates approximately R13,5 billion for our economy annually. There is great potential for energy and other uses of the oceans.

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Hon Minister, the Deputy Minister has actually alluded to the importance of community participation in the activities of the department, something we appreciate as the ANC because we firmly believe that one of the important attributes of a developmental state is the active participation of communities in their own development. I thank you. [Applause.]

Ms J STEENKAMP: The Recycling and Economic Development Initiative of South Africa, REDISA, was sold to South Africa as the Holy Grail and the solution to our ever-growing tyre problem.

The Department of Environmental Affairs, DEA, failure to monitor and manage REDISA allowed managing directors to manage a bit too much into their own pockets.

Having collected R2 billion, they failed to create sufficient jobs, they failed to create an open, inclusive environment and they failed South Africa.

Now we have the Waste Management Bureau, WMB, which will fix all the mistakes the DEA made with REDISA, but since taking over, not much has improved! On the contrary, there are major concerns. To mention a few: the departmental official that was responsible for monitoring REDISA left the DEA under a cloud. And now, this same person is back

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as a consultant to the new WMB, being paid massive amounts for it; staffs has been appointed, but no CEO; the salary scales of WMB staff are another issue. Why are they paid so much more than higher ranking DEA officials? The Director-General of the department is the acting CEO of the Waste Bureau, which means she is the only person needed to sign off on any money spent. The DA believes this leaves too much room for error; plans for the WMB submitted from industry have been gathering dust on the Director Generals, DG's, desk since December of 2017. To date, no plans have been proved, rendering the WMB useless; the WMB's depots are a joke. Shame on you, Minister! Tyres are diverted from landfills to these depots which are essentially glorified and costly tyre landfills. There is no direction as to what will happen, yet the WMB has spent millions on these depots. I can't help but see another failure in the making;

Moving on to recycling, this government has absolutely no direction on recycling, no plan to reduce waste going to landfills and even less of a clue how to reduce landfills in South Africa.

Turning to plastic, why isn't plastic a national priority? Why doesn't it have a monetary value? Why are you quiet on drastically reducing plastic, specifically single-use plastic? This is an international crisis and South Africa is silent.

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One solution to massive landfills is sustainable recycling. This ANC government's approach to recycling is closed, narrow minded and non-inclusive. It lacks initiative, has zero incentives and creates too few jobs.

Throwing another levy at the problem won't work either. The useless plastic bag levy proves this.

The DA has a solution. Under the DA government, we will change the way the department is administrating waste.

We will give waste sufficient value, which will create and aid an ever-growing recycling culture and create much needed jobs for our 9,5 million people who are unemployed.

We will incentivise it so that the private sector will become involved, thereby creating more jobs and opportunities. In this way, the department will be enabled to create an open, inclusive environment for everyone to share in. The DA calls on you minister, to publicly declare war on waste.

Mr Z S MAKHUBELE: Hon House Chairperson, the Minister of Environmental Affairs, all Ministers present, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs in particular and all other Deputy Ministers,

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Members of Parliament, distinguished guests in the gallery, comrades and compatriots. I greet you all this afternoon in this departmental Budget Vote of Environmental Affairs, in honour of the democratically elected President of South Africa, the late Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, and the late uMama Nontsikelelo Albertina Sisulu.

In the same breath, our hearts go to the Palestinians who currently are confronted by miserable conditions imposed upon them by dark, evil and oppressive forces. These anti-apartheid activists and our forefathers and foremothers represented a generation of brave men and women who ushered the present era of democracy, which is characterised by freedom, justice and progress that our country is slowly, but surely cementing on a daily basis. We must therefore as a nation, forever cherish their contributions and the values they stood for and worked hard to inculcate both in us and future generations who are yet to come.

Some of the issues raised here by a few parties do warrant some response. Even before I proceed with my speech hon House Chairperson, hon Radebe does indicate that if – and that is if – the DA was one day to be governing South Africa, they are going to strengthen the capacity of local government sphere and ...

[Interjections.]

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The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L FUBBS): Let's hear the speaker.

Mr Z S MAKHUBELE: ... highlighting in that space is the effort by the Johannesburg city. And truth be told, the dire situation of many of our local government authorities was a deliberate policy design of apartheid of which the DA's predecessors are to blame.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L FUBBS): Just a minute. One moment hon Makhubele! Now anyone sitting in that box is a guest. I have asked all members to come out of that box because it is very difficult to Chair the House when I am not sure if you are guest or a member. That is reserved for guests. So please, if you are a member, come out of that box or otherwise refrain from acting like a member, thank you. And would all the members on the other side of the box come out as well. Right, I am sorry about that hon Makhubele, would you proceed now.

Mr Z S MAKHUBELE: Thanks. I was just about to say that all of that which was done during the apartheid era, the ANC government is undoing all of that based on our progressive and quality policies and laws. The other issue was raised by hon Xalisa in terms of the department's narrow focus according to him or narrow approach in terms of the sectoral approach that has been raised. But the country does know that operation Phakisa as well as the Marine Spatial

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Planning Bill is a broad and expanded approach by the ANC government to the issues affecting relevant departments and government collectively. Now that might not be necessarily raised that the focus of the department is that narrow.

May I just as well attend to hon Purdon, I have heard you indicating that probably in 2019 the ANC may not be in government but let me assure you that come 2019, the ANC is here to stay. In fact, the DA is the last party to engage on where people come from or stay versus their capacities because we know how you deal with the issue of representation in your own structure. [Interjections.]

The very last point I want raise is that we have been faced as the portfolio committee with the issues of the waste bureau and we have resolved on them as to what should happen, how it should be managed and so on. So for a member in particular, hon Steenkamp, to come and say that it's your view or as a party or attend to that issue is merely just grind standing. The portfolio committee is dealing with those issues and we are serious, even the Minister does know that we have an issue with that as the portfolio committee and we are driving that particular process. [Interjections.]

Allow me to indicate that this 2018 Budget Vote debate by making a bold, factual statement from the very beginning that there were no

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known environmental policies and legislation, which were deemed fit to safeguard environmental protection before 1994. South Africa has only known quality policy and legislative development after 1994n terms of the ANC government. There were no best practices, norms and standards for managing the environment; there were no environmental issues as far as the apartheid government were concerned.

Industries behaved as they saw fit, owing to the cosy relationship between the executive managers of those companies and those in government who were supposed to regulate the environmental conduct of those polluting companies. Those companies often bought their ways out of any environmental compliance requirement and continued to do things as they saw fit at the time.

Before 1994, administrative decision-making in South Africa was hierarchical, secretive and deeply unfair to the majority of the people. Land use and resources related policies were implemented to exclude non-Europeans. Conservation meant dispossession for the majority of South Africans.

Consequently, the response of the ANC government to the discriminatory land-use and environmental policies of the apartheid state was characterised by measures to support economic growth and job creation, democratic empowerment, and environmental stewardship,

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following the transition to democracy in 1994. That was truly a formidable task, on which we should anchor this Budget Vote debate on, in pushing our environmental agenda forward.

The 20 year review of the environmental sector recorded an impressive success, for which we all need to be proud as South Africans, and to support the efforts of our hon Minister and her environmental team. Thanks to you Minister and your wonderful, diligent and hardworking team. [Applause.]

We are pleased that the department aims to gazette the National Climate Change Response Bill for public comments in this current financial year. We are of the view that climate change is a cross-cutting issue that requires an Act of Parliament to pull all key stakeholders together in driving our climate change agenda forward. Such a Climate Change Act would oblige all key stakeholders both in government and in the private sector to take account of climate change in what they do in operationalising our two high-level objectives that descend from the National Climate Change Response Policy White Paper, with the first objective being to effectively manage the inevitable climate change impacts through interventions that build and sustain South Africa's social, economic and environmental resilience and emergency response capacity.

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Secondly, to make a fair contribution to the global effort to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations within a timeframe that enables economic, social and environmental development to proceed in a sustainable manner. It is important that we as South Africans have endorsed the National Climate Change Response Policy White Paper as a vision and a framework for an effective climate change response, and the long-term, just transition to a climate-resilient economy and society, whereas the National Development Plan serves as our development strategy up to 2030.

With this, I rise on behalf of the ANC, to support the adoption of the Department of Environmental Affairs Budget Vote 27 for Environmental Affairs. [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Chairperson, let me start by thanking all hon members who have participated in the debate as hon members from the portfolio committee and the Chair, who has led the discussions. I would like to just outrightly say that we may not be able to respond to each and every matter raised here. However, we will continue to engage within the portfolio committee.

Thanks for the support to the budget being adopted. Hon Chair, we have listened to the matters you have raised. We do know that you have constructive criticism. In most cases, all members are like

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that. The game meat issue that you have raised ... I am just going to respond to a few issues. You would recall that as we deliberated on the issues related to the biodiversity economy, we illustrated how within the 2 million hectares that has been selected that there would be amongst others, Matsila and many other communities that would become part of the production of game meat going forward so that we increase the production and stock up the shelves of various supermarkets. That is in the plan.

We look forward to issues related to facilitation of dialogue of animals bred into captivity. The body must just highlight and I am saying this for record purpose because somebody on this podium mentioned that animals bred in captivity and canned lion hunting are synonymous. They are completely two different things. We will continue the debate in the meeting as set out that the dialogue which we really welcome. It is and should be intended to ensure that South Africa is respected in the world.

Issues of legislation, yes, indeed, we have had a discussion on this. We do agree with that but it belongs to the other committee, which is safety and security – justice as the hon member stood up and went to raise the matter in that other committee right now.

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With regards to the burning of plastic ... so, hon member, Radebe, they will not kill you nor fire you if you tell them the following: that ... they just fire illegally. They will not even fire you illegally if you say that the DA in Gauteng, in Tshwane, and the whole of Gauteng by the way, they are using the money that comes from the Department of Environmental Affairs, the plans that comes from us. All the issues related to what you said are actually our issues. It's a hand that delivers that thing, the mouths says it, otherwise its ANC issues. So, if you say that and you praise us, they will not fire you. Please, say it next time.

We have scientists in the department. Minister Pandor is here. She knows that from her former previous life. She has been promoting development of scientists - doctoral and masters' scientists. We have produced many of them in this country. If you get into that vessel ... you were there by the way and even if you say this, they won't fire you. You can get the names but you won't even be able to pronounce them. The names, the people ... and he thinks that he can dialogue with me and doesn't know even how.

Hon members, just recall when you were sitting inside Mirriam Makeba, how many young black scientists and women were there? Getting onto that ice-breaker, that ... [Inaudible.] ... for the Antarctica. Yes they are there. Somebody says they are not there.

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Hon members, I want to say to the hon Xalisa ... I thought that at some stage we were in the debate that's not Vote 27 or rather for the Department of Environmental Affairs. Certainly, MEC Somyo has tabled his departmental budget. You can be able to send someone from EFF there to inquire about the gentleman called Dayimane's issues. Here we are debating other issues. Yes, of course if you raise these issues about what has happened, we will definitely work with you to inquire what has happened but certainly not as part of our budget. It is very misplaced.

We are aware of the Gwala issues raised by hon Singh. It's not Harry Gwala fortunately - the old man. It's not even a relative. We continue to raise this matter and we will work with the Department of Justice and all other departments to ensure that the elements that don't belong to Environmental Affairs, like poaching of rhinos are actually tightened; namely, harsher sentences and all other issues.

We will attend to plastic pollution as raised in my speech. Thank you very much. It's the time that's the enemy of things; otherwise I would have covered everything. Thank you very much for the support [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

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Mini-Plenary Adjourned at 18:12.

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