

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY SESSION – OLD ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

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PROCEEDINGS OF MINI-PLENARY SESSION – OLD ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

Members of the mini-plenary session met in the Old Assembly Chamber at 14:01.

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 5 – Home Affairs:

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Chairperson, Ministers and Deputy Ministers, hon members, distinguished guests, firstly and foremostly, I would like to say Ramadan Mubarak to Muslims, who are beginning their observation of the holy month of Ramadan.

Secondly, we wish to join the international community in condemning with absolute horror and disgust the brutal violence inflicted on

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Palestinians protesting in Gaza; we feel their anguish and suffering.

I also wish to offer our condolences to the family of Mr Sedick Mia who died tragically at our Barrack Street office on Monday. We are grateful to the office supervisor, Mr Regan Winter, who tried to assist Mr Mia as he succumbed to illness and stood by his family's side until his remains were finally taken away.

In early April, I announced a war on excessively long queues. I directed the Department to develop urgent interventions, in the short and medium term to reduce and better manage queues, but in the long term, to eradicate them altogether through innovative solutions.

In response, the Department has developed a strategy ...

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon Minister, please take your seat. Yes, hon member?

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: I'm sorry to disturb the Minister, Chair, but there in the [Inaudible.] it was not Minister Gigaba; we were seeing Minister Jeff Radebe. [Interjections.]

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Awuthule, [shut up] MaDlamini, I'm not talking to you!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Okay, no, it has been corrected. Thank you very much for your observation. Please continue, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: In response, the Department has developed a strategy which focuses, among others, on re-opening our offices on Saturdays, addressing IT system failures, better managing fluctuations in client demand, improving management of offices, and introducing additional service channels.

I have also requested a thorough performance audit of frontline office managers which will be acted upon through management support, training interventions or redeployments. Among others, the Western Cape has developed a detailed monitoring system that analyses queue patterns at various times of the day at all offices in the region and enables swift responses where, for instance, large numbers of people have turned up at a particular office, which allows for effective remedial actions to be taken.

It is hoped that we will be able to broadcast a Home Affairs trafficking report on various radio stations with the assistance of GCIS and direct clients to underutilised offices in the metro.

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Best practices like those will be identified and rolled out to other offices.

We have signed an agreement with the State Information Technology Agency, Sita, and Dimension Data to improve our network reliability, as it is a huge source of frustration for clients and officials when our systems go off line and services can no longer be delivered. Through this partnership, we aim to achieve 99% network availability by 2019.

In 2015, we outlined five key tasks that would be our priorities during this term of office. These are: accelerating the modernisation programme to use technology to deliver more efficient, convenient and secure services; accelerating the finalisation of the Border Management Authority; revamping the physical and systems infrastructure of six major commercial land ports of entry; adopting a new and more comprehensive international migration policy framework; and improving frontline service.

These priorities build on our core services of civil registration and immigration services.

Today, most of our clients apply for identity documents through a live, paperless process, with photographs taken in our offices, and

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receive technologically advanced and secure smart ID cards and passports, which are available for collection within one to two weeks of the date of application in most cases.

We are proud to announce that we have issued 10 million smart ID cards to South Africans over the last five years. [Applause.] In fact, the recipient of the 10 millionth card, Ms Nomthandazo Maweni, is here as our guest in the gallery. [Applause.]

We have introduced innovation in many areas of our work, and yet much more still remain to be done.

Our 184 digitised Home Affairs offices around the country take card payments. Many of our clients even utilise the e-homeaffairs service launched in 2016. This service allows clients to pay online, schedule an appointment, and currently apply for smart ID cards and passports at 14 participating bank branches nationally.

Thus far, approximately 212 101 Smart ID Cards and more than 222 406 passports have been obtained through the existing 14 pilot branches, which is a huge success. We intend finalising a public-private partnership, PPP, with the banking sector and National Treasury, to roll this out across the country before the end of this financial year.

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Meanwhile, we have agreed with our banking partners – Standard Bank, First National Bank, Nedbank and ABSA – to extend e-homeaffairs to 20 additional branches immediately. Areas to be prioritised include Durban, Pietermaritzburg, East London, Nelspruit and Polokwane. We will announce further details on these expansion plans in the next few weeks.

We have made great strides towards universal early birth registration, which is the foundation of effective civil registration. We have a presence at 391 hospitals and clinics, of which 67 have permanent staff. This has helped us increase the percentage of births registered within 30 days from 59% in 2013-14, to 74% to date. Currently, 46% of births are registered at health facilities, rather than our offices. It is imperative that we build on our partnership with the Department of Health to get this number to 100%.

All of this makes us a fitting host for ID4Africa 2018, a movement to ensure all Africans have legal identity, promote the responsible adoption of digital identity systems, ensure all our people can participate in democracy and the economy, and access government services.

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A few years ago, we faced questions over whether our systems were up to the task of managing immigration, both to support the economy and minimise security risks. Through our Advanced Passenger Processing system, we are able to conduct risk assessments to identify and, if necessary, deny entry to high risk persons. Through our Enhanced Movement Control System, EMCS, which has been rolled out to all major ports of entry and linked to our permitting system, we are able to track each movement in and out of our borders. We can identify bona fide frequent travellers which will be helpful for our future Trusted Traveller system, as well as those who have transgressed our law. We have added biometric capability at four airports and six land ports, which has allowed us to store the photographs and fingerprints of people entering our country. This improves our security while enabling efficient entry for visitors.

In this financial year, we will pilot e-permitting functionality which will allow visitors to South Africa to apply for visas online, receive an electronic visa within hours or days, and be able to proceed directly to South Africa. This will optimise the staff we have and increase the efficiency of our adjudication system. It will also improve ease of access to South Africa, and help grow tourism.

We have introduced a visa exemption for Russia, which has increased tourist travel from Russia by 51% in 2017, year on year. [Applause.]

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This year we will simplify visa requirements for Chinese and Indian visitors. We will also ease the entry of people with valid visas from countries with stringent criteria such as the US and UK.

In the medium term, we will introduce trusted traveller e-gates at our airports to fast-track entry of South African citizens and other low risk travellers.

This year we will work closely with stakeholders including the Departments of Tourism and Transport, the Airports Company of SA, ACSA, the tourism industry and others to develop and implement a strategy to grow South Africa as an attractive and efficient transit hub and destination for tourists and businesspeople.

Effective management of international migration also entails enforcing laws which bar the employment of undocumented immigrants and those without work visas. Our laws also require that South African companies ensure that South Africans constitute at least 60% of their workforce.

To enforce our laws, we are shifting our focus to employers – business owners and managers – rather than only individual immigrants working illegally and we will charge these business owners and managers with contravention of the Immigration Act.

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We will continue engagements with business groups in sectors such as hospitality, construction, retail and others with high rates of non-compliance to improve voluntary adherence.

In terms of the five priorities we outlined in 2015, we have, firstly, made steady progress in modernising and digitising Home Affairs in order to make our services efficient and seamless. During this financial year, we will automate and digitise additional services for our clients' benefit, including birth, marriage and death registration, as well amendments of names and citizenship. This will enable quicker applications and shorter turnaround times.

This morning, we launched the Automated Biometric Identification System, Abis, that will enable advanced identification and verification through finger prints, palm prints, iris, facial recognition, and DNA. And when I say "iris", I don't mean the name of a lady; I mean the thing in your eye!

The Abis will form the backbone of the future National Identity System, NIS, which will replace the National Population Register, EMCS and the National Immigration Identification System, NIIS. The successful implementation of the NIS will substantially improve data management, reduce fraudulent transactions and enable e-government and e-commerce services.

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This year, 78 mobile units will be equipped with live capture functionality for the issuance of smart ID cards and passports and this will contribute significantly to the expanding the Department of Home Affairs footprint, especially in rural and marginalised areas.

Secondly, the Border Management Authority, BMA, is close to being finalised by NCOP this year. From September 2018, the department will be rolling-out the BMA Pilot Project at Oshoek, OR Tambo International Airport, and the Port of Entry Control Centre, PECC, in Cape Town. The project will pilot and establish an integrated border management approach between key operational border law enforcement organs of state deployed within identified ports of entry, test and document lessons and best practices, among other objectives.

Thirdly, we have plans to finalise the public-private partnership to redevelop six key land ports of entry this year to fund their total design, redevelopment, finance, construction, operation and maintenance as well as the provision of broadband connectivity.

Fourthly, we are working to implement and institutionalise South Africa's new international migration policy, adopted in 2017. We have already started implementing elements of the White Paper, such

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as long-term multiple entry visas for African academics, businesspeople and frequent travellers.

However, those elements that require major changes will be implemented pending the finalisation of a new piece of legislation, which is at an advanced stage.

In support of the AU policy regarding free movement of persons, the department continues to identify African countries to be exempted from visa requirements. Last year, we extended visa exemptions to the Republic of Angola and Madagascar, which means that citizens of 14 out of 15 Southern African Development Community, SADC, countries are able to visit South Africa visa-free.

The current visa waiver process is a roadmap to the progressive visa removal for all African citizens, that is expected to be finalised by 2023, to facilitate free trade, movement of people, goods and services.

Fifthly, the Deputy Minister will outline in detail the measures we are taking to improve frontline service, including our key initiative in this area, the Moetapele programme.

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In the 2018-19 financial year, we are transferring R1,97 billion to the Independent Electoral Commission, and R149 million to the Represented Political Parties Fund. Preparations for next year's national and provincial elections are already well underway by the Electoral Commission. These preparations include a number of proposed legislative amendments aimed at enhancing various aspects of the election process which will be tabled soon.

The Government Printing Works, GPW, has a five-year plan to reposition itself to be the state's mandated security printer of choice. As part of the plan, GPW is vigorously marketing itself in the SADC region and other African countries for production of identity documents, passports and other high security documents. No transfers are being made to the GPW as the entity is self-funding.

In conclusion, we are making visible strides in meeting our performance targets, rising to an expected 90% in 2018-19, compared to 89% in 2017-18 and 53% in 2013-14.

We have worked diligently to improve the department's financial management and governance, achieving our first unqualified financial audit in several years in 2016-17. Hon members will remember that the last unqualified audit was obtained in 2010-11. We intend to

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make this - improving our financial management and ultimately obtaining clean audits - a consistent pattern in the department.

In this regard, I would like to thank the Deputy Minister for her tireless work, sterling support and counsel all the time.

[Applause.] I also thank the director-general and his deputies for their excellent support. I wish to particularly single out the staff of Home Affairs who have continued diligently to deliver much-needed services to our people at increasing volumes, without increased resources. [Applause.]

I wish also to thank the chairperson, commissioners and CEO of the IEC, the CEO of GPW, and the entire staff of these entities for their hard work, dedication and constructive support. I further would like to thank the chairperson of the portfolio committee as well as all the members of the committee for their support, constructive criticism and guidance in the execution of our mandate. [Interjections.]

The chairperson is whosoever is elected by the committee when the meeting sits! [Laughter.]

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Not least, I would like to thank my wife, children and family ...
[Interjections.] [Applause.] ... for their unwavering support as we
continue to execute our mandate and serve our nation.

Chairperson, it is my privilege at this moment to table Budget Vote
5 for the Department of Home Affairs before this august House. I
thank you.

Ms H S BOSHOFF: I am standing on a point of order, Chair.
[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon Gumede, just hold on.
There is a point of order.

Ms H S BOSHOFF: I think you forgot something. When the proceeding
has started, the people in the gallery may not participate; if you
could speak to them. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): It is a good point. Can we
request all our invited guests not to participate in the debate
taking place in the House. They shouldn't clap their hands, they
shouldn't comment, but they should just enjoy the sitting. Hon
member, continue.

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Mr D M GUMEDE: Hon House Chairperson, firstly, our hearts go to hon Dambuza and hon Nkomo who could not be here because of health reasons. We want to say to the hon member Mnisi that we are with you in your bereavement. She could not be here because she has lost her brother over the weekend. Let me say from the onset that the ANC supports this Budget Vote, and this vote is for the department to efficiently determine and safeguard the identity of citizens as well as to regulate immigration to ensure security, promote development and fulfil South Africa's international obligations.

For that this parliament will vote to allocate R7 915 400 000 to the department, for the department to use it efficiently, effectively and economically. Our portfolio committee will have to oversee implementation of the department's key mandate which is to guarantee identity documentation and status of each and every South African citizen as well as managing the regulation and management of international migration, in its contribution to make South Africans and everyone within her borders safe, and feel safe.

In executing this important mandate in the 2016-17 financial year, the department has shown much improvement in governance and accountability which is reflected in the unqualified audit of the Auditor-General. It is not common for the Auditor-General to state that in his view a department has spent each and every cent for the

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purpose it was meant. We say well done to the Auditor-General and his team.

Having said that, the next question was whether this good governance was sustainable or not, for which we looked at the tools of effective governance, namely the control systems in the department, which are a competent leader and accounting officer, a competent chief financial officer, CFO, a competent and qualified internal audit team, a competent and qualified audit committee and of course a competent parliamentary committee that oversees performance.

Moving away from financial management, into operational management, we have seen that a lot of good work has been done, but a lot still needs to be done as well. Here we are concerned about poor and slow queues, frequent computer shutdowns which result in people being sent back home without a service, shutdowns because of cable theft, etc. Oh! the journey from the dompas to smartcards was long and tedious, all it needs is hard work and dedication, on that there is no compromise from this Parliament. To all clients of Home Affairs we are saying that your Parliament is trying hard to make sure that you have good and pleasant experiences in all offices of Home Affairs. Please bear with us ...

IsiZulu:

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... kuzolunga.

English:

We were pleased though to hear that you are changing that information technology, IT, service provider, and as soon as the new one starts we do not want to hear anything about shutdowns because of your IT system. There is further good news coming our way, some services are available from some reputable banks now, and the department is rolling out that service now, as the Minister has said. Hopefully that will result in faster services and happier experiences for all our clients. Thanks to the private-public partnerships that are fruits of your toil and leadership, hon Minister and your team. We know that you are not only monitoring queues, keep working harder, we can do things and things are getting better. We can also testify that indeed today is better than yesterday, and your actions show us that tomorrow will be better than today. We are coming from dompas and we are into smartcards. We were "dom" [stupid] and now we are "smart". [Laughter.]

Members of the committee are from time to time monitoring Home Affairs offices and whilst many are doing well, not everyone is doing their best to ensure prompt service for our clients; let them know that we want management and staff that care - "batho pele!" [people first.]. Moving on hon Chairperson, on 1 March 2017, Cabinet

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approved repositioning of the department from a mainly administrative approach and management into being mainly a security organ of the state. This change demands resources and capacities that will be in line with a changing mandate. We therefore expect the department to be more efficient, more effective and more professional as a result.

Along with improvements, the government is acting on the porous borders many citizens have been complaining about in order to regulate migration and to improve security within its borders, and as a result Parliament is in its final stages of drafting the Border Management Authority, as the Minister has said, which will combine the strengths, resources, capabilities as well as experiences of many departments to manage activities around the border line. Among these departments are the SA National Defence Force, State Security Agency, Home Affairs, Customs, Agriculture and Health. Other pieces of legislation that are in the parliamentary system are the amendment of the Immigration Bill as well as the Refugee Bill which also need to be finalised with the required speed.

In my concluding remarks, let me mention the position of the ANC on the Oppenheimer's Fireblade arrangement; we reject privatisation of our ports of entry as a matter of principle and that's the principle that determines our position. Public servants cannot dedicate their

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services to the rich few because they can afford and exclude the majority because they cannot afford. I am sure that uTata Mandela and Mama Sisulu ...

IsiZulu:

... bayasivumela.

English:

Our committee is also dealing with the issue of naturalisation in general, as a result of reports about the citizenship of the Guptas. Parliament is verifying the authenticity of some supporting documentation in the naturalisation of that family as a matter of priority. If we find any *prima facie* evidence, we shall not doubt to send that evidence to the Hawks for further investigation. They can investigate better than Parliament. Despite all problems, we have, we remain the best country in the world, if you doubt, travel the world.

My last concluding remark will be on the IEC. The IEC mandate is aligned with the NDP's vision of building a capable developmental state, and an active and engaged citizenry. Three comma one billion rands has been allocated to it over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, METF, period. This commission undertakes extensive civic

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and democracy education and communications campaigns to protect the credibility and integrity of our electoral process.

In supporting this Budget Vote, we are positive that the funds will be spent for what they were meant. I thank you.

Mr M H HOUSEN: Hon Chairperson, two days ago, dozens of civilians, including women and children, were massacred in the Middle East. We all have a responsibility to openly and strongly condemn the loss of any innocent life. There is no justifiable reason for taking the life of another person.

Closer to home, we are seeing an increase in the number of political killings in KwaZulu-Natal. On behalf of the DA, we extend our condolences to the families of the ANC and IFP councillors who have lost their lives through political intolerance. Once again, we condemn this brutal act. I also want to express our concern regarding the increasing religious intolerance in the Muslim community, which resulted in a young man being butchered to death at a mosque in Verulam, in Durban.

I raise these concerning matters for the very specific reason of highlighting the simmering tension between Somali shopkeepers and local community leaders in KwaMashu, in Durban. I hold in my hand an

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ultimatum from the North Region Business Association issued to all Somali shop owners in the area to shut down their stores within 14 days or face the consequences.

I want to draw to the attention of this House that, unless we take urgent, preventative measures, we shall see the repeat of xenophobic violence in our communities, once again, as we saw so many years ago. This is the same organisation which issued a similar threat a few years ago. That threat resulted in an all-out war between vulnerable foreigners and local leaders. Many of them lost their lives and lost their possessions.

I call on the Minister to give this House the assurance that he will give this matter the urgent attention that it deserves to prevent a recurrence of that ghastly situation. We have a responsibility to protect those vulnerable and innocent refugees who are simply trying to live an honest and decent life.

On the other hand, we have a situation in our country where an unknown number of people enter illegally because of our porous borders. Then, there are millions of people who enter legally but don't leave - and we have only just under 800 immigration officers in the country whose job it is to seek out and arrest undocumented immigrants. This situation forces some people in our country to take

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the law into their own hands and drive out foreigners. This is because they have lost confidence in this department's ability to secure our porous borders. In the process, innocent and properly documented foreigners become the victims of their anger. In an environment where 9,5 million people are unemployed, this failure on the part of Home Affairs only serves to inflame the tensions between locals and foreigners.

When we met here, two years ago, Minister Gigaba gave this House the assurance that his department is working hard to provide an efficient, professional and dignified service to the people of our country. Let me quote what he said, "I am convinced that the leadership demonstrated by each and every one of our employees is a critical ingredient to our success." He went on to say, "We are committed to ensuring our customers consistently experience excellent customer service."

Hon members, when one visits a Home Affairs office anywhere in our country, on most occasions, the experience is very often anything but professional and excellent. People would rather visit their dentist than a Home Affairs office because they dread going there. [Interjections.] Listen! Perhaps you can fix the problem.

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Poor office conditions, long queues, and the bad attitude of some staff members have built us a reputation of being the department of horror affairs. People wait for many hours in long queues and are often greeted by a rude security guard to treats you more like he is doing you a favour. Then, people wait the entire day to reach the front of the queue, exposed to the sun or the rain, only to be told that they must return the next day because the office has reached its quota.

Unscrupulous elements have now seen a business opportunity and are selling places in the queue – and the department turns a blind eye to this. When you do eventually manage to get inside the office, you are often met by unfriendly, underpaid, and overworked staff. There is nothing more annoying to a customer than to arrive at a packed Home Affairs office and find only two out of 15 counters open.

Let me pause at this point to mention that not every staff member at Home Affairs is guilty of treating the public with disrespect. There are many hardworking and very professional staff members who go way beyond the call of duty to be daily ambassadors of the department. However, there is very little recognition for their hard work. There is very little incentive for professionalism in the department.

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I want to call on the provincial managers who are present here, today - because speaking to the political leadership doesn't help anymore. Please, for the sake of the people of our country, get rid of those unprofessional and rude staff members who give our department a bad name. You know who they are. Why are you still protecting them and keeping them in this department? If they are not prepared to serve the citizens of our country, then let them go and work in a spaza shop.

The allocated budget to this department is clearly insufficient to meet the demands of effective service delivery, especially in immigration affairs, where we need more immigration officers. One of the contributing factors to the long queues at Home Affairs offices, countrywide, is that there are too few live capture systems for smart ID and passport applications. The DA has called for an appointment system to be introduced, but even this is ignored.

If the people of South Africa give the DA the opportunity, we will double the number of applications per day and we will guarantee those long queues will disappear. [Interjections.] When you have an ANC Minister who spends almost R900 000 on travel and accommodation for his wife, then the people of South Africa should understand why they receive poor services at Home Affairs.

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I want to ask Minister Gigaba this: Does he really believe that it is acceptable to spend such vast amounts of money on his own wife, under our current circumstances? Even the Independent Electoral Commission, IEC, is struggling to meet its targets of voter registration because of insufficient funds.

A few years ago, a company named Fireblade made an application to the department to operate a private, VVIP terminal at O R Tambo International Airport. Initially, it seemed that everything was going as planned. The Minister and senior officials had meetings with the company, pursuing the feasibility and exploring the possibilities. There is, on record, a wealth of back-and-forth correspondence between Fireblade, the Minister, and officials in his department. At no stage, whatsoever, did the Minister ever say to anyone that permission for such a facility could not be granted because of a lack of existing government policy – or whatever it is that the hon Gumede referred to earlier. In fact, both the Minister and senior officials in his department held many meetings with many departments, working to make the VVIP terminal at O R Tambo International Airport a reality.

Suddenly, however, something happened. The Minister had a very sudden change of heart and the matter ended up in court, where he lost miserably. In fact, the court even expressed serious concern

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about the Minister's lies. So, what exactly happened? Why did the Minister change his mind? Was there something sinister happening behind the scenes? Well, let me share with you the version from affidavits filed in the court papers.

Reports indicate that an associate of the Gupta family apparently rocked up at the Fireblade offices with a message from Mr Rajesh Gupta, and that message was clear. [Interjections.] Apparently, Fireblade would never be granted approval for the VVIP terminal application because they had the wrong empowerment partners, and if they could agree to choose an "appropriate" partner, Mr Gupta, himself, could guarantee that the application would receive ministerial approval. [Interjections.] When Fireblade turned down the offer ... please, listen. You want to conduct an investigation so, listen. When Fireblade turned down the offer, their battle with the Minister started. Is this just a coincidence?

When we quizzed the Minister, last week, about why he had a sudden change of heart, his response was that he did not think a family should own a private terminal at the airport. We agree. Yet, for years, he engaged with them. He met with them. He instructed officials to make progress. He even asked Fireblade to allow Jacob Zuma to do the official opening ... [Interjections.] ... but now he suddenly behaves like he was opposed to it from the very beginning.

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The Minister will, naturally, deny this. However, today, we call on this committee to include in its probe into state capture the involvement of Minister Gigaba in this whole Fireblade saga. We also invite persons who have the relevant information to come forward and assist Parliament to get to the bottom of this matter. In addition to our request for the investigation into the Gupta citizenship affair, we want this Fireblade matter to be included in that probe, so that we can get to the bottom of it and expose the Minister's involvement with the Guptas.

Before I conclude, let me say that a serious and worrying trend is developing in the Department of Home Affairs. Home Affairs continues to show complete disregard for court orders. It has the reputation of giving our courts the middle finger.

The Supreme Court of Appeal – supported by the Constitutional Court – ruled in September, last year that all refugee reception centres were to be reopened by 31 March 2018. To date, these centres remain closed. They show scant regard for the difficulties asylum seekers have to face by having to travel all the way from Cape Town to Durban or Pretoria just to renew their asylum-seeker permits.

While Home Affairs claims to respect international agreements on the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, in practice, they make it

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impossible for asylum seekers to abide by the rules. This means they can then be found guilty of breaking our immigration laws and then be deported without trial. In his response, Minister Gigaba must please tell us when these offices are going to be reopened.

Then there is the very embarrassing ruling by the Constitutional Court against the department for detaining and deporting undocumented immigrants without first granting them their constitutional right to a fair trial. This is the same kind of activity that the apartheid government conducted. This ruling was handed down more than a year ago. To date, the department has not even started to make the necessary amendments to the Immigration Act. Once again, it waves another middle finger at the courts.

What else can one expect from a department when its political head, himself, was found to be lying to the court? In fact, it was so serious that the court expressed his conduct amounted to a serious violation of the Constitution.

Although the Department of Home Affairs has been making some good progress under very difficult circumstances, its political leadership damages the good reputation the department can build. We must congratulate the department for the good work it does. However, our job, here, is to remain focused on the areas that require

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attention, so that the people of our country can get what they rightfully deserve – a decent, efficient, and professional service.

For as long as we have this kind of political leadership, the situation will remain unchanged. This is why we are asking South Africans to answer the following questions: Do you want a Home Affairs department that works for you? Do you want a department that treats you with respect and dignity? Do you want a fast, efficient, and professional Home Affairs department that operates with excellence and professionalism? Then, you need to bring total change to Home Affairs.

Get rid of this department. Get rid of this government and replace it with another one that knows how to deliver. I thank you.

[Applause.]

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Thank you, hon Chairperson. Can the ANC behave please? If there is one department amongst those that have suffered the most in the recent past because of the Gupta capture crisis and collapse is the Department of Home Affairs. Instead of servicing millions of South Africans, Africans from all over the continent and all over the world the Gupta stooge Minister decided to privatise the services of home affairs to dictate the resources to naturalise members of the Gupta family illegally. [Interjections.]

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Order, hon Mkhalihi, there is a point of order.

Mr H P CHAUKE: Chair, on a point of order, the hon member cannot refer to an hon Minister of this House stooge of a particular family, it's unparliamentary. My fighter here understands the point I am making and when and when I speak, the DA must shut up! You must shut up when I speak; I am coming for you here. I will be with you just now - you must just shut up. But the fighter, just withdraw that part.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): No, the hon Chauke has withdrawn that - he has withdrawn that ... [Interjections.] ... hon member let us not disturb speakers for the sake of doing that.

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Sorry?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Continue.

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Oh, thank you. People in KwaZulu-Natal, in Durban station office stand in long queues exploited and forced to pay bribes, to be on the queues in order to get services. People in Sibasa office are forced to queue as early as 3'oclock in the

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morning but your officials in the department come around 09 am and leave the office around 02:00 pm.

This is happening all over the country. [Interjections.] Minister, you go all over the country and declare wars against the queues. Minister, we don't want wars. We need practical solutions. We have too much violence in KwaZulu-Natal, people are dying left and right and the ANC is not doing anything. And we have war against women which is done by men.

Members of the Gupta family have South African ID numbers but they did not meet the requirements. Atul Gupta has South African ID, Rajesh Kumar Gupta has a South African ID, and Ajay Gupta has a South African ID. This is despite the deliberate lies by the Minister when he was trying to hide his rot and corruption.

Members of the Gupta family are registered to vote in the general elections while they are not supposed to, because of the Minister of Home Affairs. Even when the Minister misled the nation and said Atul Gupta is not a citizen of South Africa; Atul Gupta with an ID number is registered to vote at Saxonwold Primary School.

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What is the matter of fact is that Minister had lied so much that he cont even tell the difference between his old and new lies.

[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Hon Mkhaliphi, just avoid using those unparliamentary language, and continue.

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Yes, Chair. Thank you. Even the North Gauteng High Court found that Minister lied under oath when he testified - deliberately so, told untruth under oath, said the judge of the court. If it was not of the ANC's inability to legislate and govern properly we would not be sitting here with a family claiming a private terminal at O R Tambo International Airport. Today is the open hymns with their own terminal at O R Tambo International Airport, tomorrow is the Rupert with his own private terminal at Winnie Madikizela Mandela international airport.

The next thing you must know is that money, mineral resources, traffic women and girls will be laundered through this private terminals Minister. Before we know it Home Affairs will need permission to enter into these private terminals to do their job. Government has a responsibility to properly file the correct papers at the correct court and make the correct argument to prevent any ownership of private terminals in South African airports.

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But there is no rescuing anything in this department as long as Mr Gigaba is still a Minister, there will be no hope at all. Minister, you have lost all credibility, you have lost public trust and you should not be in Cabinet as a Minister and hold any public position for that matter until such time the President Cyril Ramaphosa comes to his senses, then EFF will not support the Department of Home Affairs budget because we are in a shame.

We reject this budget vote, Chair, as the EFF. Thank you.

Mr N SINGH: Hon Chairperson, there is no doubt that this department has an extremely high volume administrative burden and its officials and immigration officers are all taxed to the maximum. It must remain a well-functioning department. My parliamentary office remains inundated with queries from constituents that are unresolved; queries that vary from permanent residence, PR, applications submitted years ago, but not yet finalised, to obtaining copies of marriage certificates, ID cards etc. We have been raising the issue of inordinately long queues, and other members have done so.

Whilst you, hon Minister, has made some pronouncements in this regard after the unannounced site visit, there seems to be no credible working system or at very best a system that runs

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intermittently. Computers are often offline, hon Gumede has referred to this. And we have heard of people having to spend days at a Home Affairs branch to resolve simple issues. What is the problem hon Minister and how are you planning to resolve it? All of these people cannot be complaining just for the sake of complaining. Let us not burry our heads in the sand and think that the problem does not exist. Let us deal with it and we wish you well in the interventions that you may have.

I have walked into the SA Revenue Service, Sars, and I think many of you have, and there is a well-functioning system in place. You should know that, Minister, you were the Minister of Finance a few months. You don't stand in queues 500 people deep and then when you finally get to the counter you are advised that you are in the wrong queue. Officials should be outside interacting and advising people in these queues, informing them of the procedure and checking that they have the relevant documentation. The inconvenience, especially for the people from rural areas who have to travel great distances only to be told that the office is too busy and cannot accommodate them on that day, is not only costly, but humiliating. These are the real stories, and this is how the system is treating ordinary South Africans.

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The infrastructure in some of these offices are horrendous and definitely not what this government would want to showcase. It is demotivating all for the staff who work in these offices.

This department also has a responsibility to contribute to peace and stability in South Africa. This starts with who is allowed through our ports of entry and land borders, and hon Hoosen referred to this. The increasing tension between local spaza shop owners and foreign spaza shop owners is a time bomb out. You have to do something about it Minister through your department.

In terms of illegal immigrants and private companies that employ them or facilitate their entry into South Africa, I agree with you that they must be brought to book.

In terms of corruption we would like to know, to what extent have you identified this in the department? What is the extent of people coming into South Africa who should not be here?

To this end, Minister, human resources in our Home Affairs offices based internationally must be looked into. We went to the United Kingdom recently and we found that the human resources were lacking in the UK office.

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Finally, hon Minister, put service delivery first because your department deals with 55 million South Africans and international visitors. The IFP supports the Budget Vote. Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Good afternoon to everybody here today and thank you all for being here. This month we celebrate Africa, a continent that has given much to the world in terms of science, medicine, sport arts and culture. We draw on the wisdom of the Akan people of Ghana, whose mythological bird Sankofa always looks back while flying forward. It learns from the past while moving resolutely forward.

Our work at Home Affairs is guided by the symbolism of the Sankofa that connects with history to build solid future outcomes.

The restoration of dignity to millions of South Africans is what inspires us each day we come to work. For many years the department has seriously engaged in a mission to bring about huge improvements in our services and outcomes.

In the light of bad experiences suffered by some citizens that are regularly reflected in our media, this may not be abundantly evident. But, the facts outlined in Minister Gigaba's speech show several substantial gains in many areas of operation. We are

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determined to ensure that this trajectory is maintained and strengthening as we forge ahead. Minister, there are words that say: If you do nothing, you are sure to not make mistakes.

I am privileged to lead the Moetapele programme/initiative that was introduced in 2015 after Minister Gigaba demanded a leadership ethic from each and every one of us who work in Home Affairs. Moetapele entails structural and organisational changes, yes, but most importantly the progressive realisation of a culture of caring and of going the extra mile. Our interactions countrywide in recent years convince us that a growing number of staff are internalising the principles of Moetapele.

In addition, we get positive feedback from many citizens which is not often publicly shared because good news makes no headlines. Here are just some of a few examples. Mr Lebogang John Tserema, an official stationed at the Mankweng Office in North West, volunteers his free time at the Moses Kotane Community Clinic, to ensure that the babies who receive their medical treatment there are registered on the National Population Register. Last year alone, he managed to assist 2 815 mothers to acquire their children's birth certificates - entirely on a voluntary basis. [Applause.]

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The Desmond Tutu Refugee reception centre opens its doors to clients at 8am. We know that many people queue outside from much earlier in the morning. Eight officials at the Desmond Tutu Refugee Centre see to it that the office is fully operational by 6am each day. Several of them work long hours each day to attend to the large crowds who gather there, bearing in mind that 70% of all asylum applications are lodged there.

Six officials at the Cape Town Large office have volunteered to work until 6pm if there are clients who are still in the queue at closing time, which is at 4pm. Our Orlando West and Maponya Mall offices in Soweto, as well as our office in Krugersdorp, regularly open on a Saturday morning and voluntarily work to assist school goers to obtain their IDs, so that they can write the matric exam.

[Applause.]

Wearing name tags has helped members of the public calling officials by name when either complaining or praising their efforts. Mr Michael Erasmus, an area manager for PPC Cement, had this to say after he had to wait in a queue in the busy Bellville Office here in the Western Cape. He says:

Despite hundreds of people waiting, official Michael Hlahlenta was very clear and efficient when he addressed clients individually.

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The long wait did not matter to me as I knew I had the correct documents. I knew where to go and what to expect. I then got my passport in nine days. And, for that I say thank you, you have my respect and I recognise the whole department. [Applause.]

The Western Cape senior management, working together with office managers, have developed a detailed monitoring system that analyses queue patterns at different times of the day, at all offices in the region. It enables swift responses where, for instance, large numbers of people have turned up at a particular office. This allows us to know exactly which office have a lot of people and at what time of the day.

With this information, we would be able to broadcast on community and other radio stations. This is very much like a traffic report, so that people who want to come to Home Affairs would know where to go – in which office in the metro. These are some of the initiative that we have been developing in response to the Minister's call for a war on queues.

As part of the good citizenship program, we have continued in the last year to ensure that citizens know the importance of civil registration. While understanding that as South Africans whose citizenship was bequeathed to us by so many freedom fighters who

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sacrificed their freedom, their comforts and even their lives: We have a special responsibility to live up to their brave and heroic lives, by doing all we can to be model citizens who live the values of respect for human dignity, strive toward transforming and making our country work.

Understanding the singular role that women play in the transformation of our nation, the good citizenship program has focused on re affirming the dignity of women in society. We have addressed hundreds of Muslim women, stressing the importance of registering civil marriages.

This is to address the ongoing injustices and indignity facing many who are left without legal protection upon divorce or the death of their spouses. Marriage registrations may be concluded at the offices of Home Affairs or under the hand of Imaams, who are marriage officers associated with about 200 mosques around the country

In the Overberg region of the Western Cape we recently hosted a dialogue on the, Abuse Against Women. Apart from empowering women about the cycle of violence, in intimate relationships - which is sadly a growing crisis in our country - we handed over several identity documents, one of which was to an 82-year-old lady

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farmworker, who for the first time in her life has the dignity of an official identity card and can now access her state pension amongst other things. [Applause.]

Like the mythical bird, Sankofa, we look back with just a little satisfaction that multitudes of South Africans deprived of their identity during apartheid, are having their citizenship affirmed in the democratic era of equality. [Applause.] In November 2017, the Department of Home Affairs introduced a hugely improved refugee travel document. [Interjections.]

I want to just say, very briefly, that for the first time since 2003, we recorded just under 24 000 new asylum applications last year alone. This is the lowest number for 16 years. The dynamic management under the leadership of newly-appointed Chief Director Mandla Madumisa and our centre managers is largely to thank for the turnaround. The director-general must be commended for his personal attention to various initiatives at Refugee Reception Centres.

I am pleased to announce that the regulations to the Refugees Amendment Bill will be published for public comments next week. The provisions will enable us to effectively deal with backlogs but will also tackle the spectre of abandoned applications. We suspect that

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many of the people who abandoned their applications for asylum are still living in the country as illegal migrants.

There are about 514 000 abandoned cases on the National Immigration Information System, NII System. These essentially are people who received short-term visas entitling them to work, study and stay in the republic, but then simply never returned to finalise their applications. [Time expired.] Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Ms D D RAPHUTI: Hon Chairperson, the Minister of Home Affairs, the Deputy Minister, hon members, distinguish guest and fellow South Africans, we, the ANC supports Budget Vote 5 of Home Affairs.

This year, we celebrate the centenary of Mama Albertina Sisulu and Ntate Nelson Mandela. Most importantly, on 12 May 2018, we celebrated International Nurses Day and also on 13 May, Mothers Day. I want to say happy Mothers Day to the mothers who are here today. [Applause.] We dedicate these two days, which is Nurses Day and Mothers Day to Mama Albertina Sisulu, who could have turned 100 years, and other mothers, especially my mom, who used to love and follow this committee so much. She could tell and give me positive feedback about the progressive development this department has done, taking from the era of apartheid.

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She could not understand why some of the blacks are still voting the DA. She could not understand seeing people sitting on the left and speaking ill about our ANC.

I am going to discuss about programme 2: citizen affairs ...

[Interjections.]

Mr M WATERS: Chairperson, on a point of order! One could ask about 9,5 million unemployed people even thinking about voting for the ANC.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): It's not a point of order. You are out of order, Mr Walters. Ms Raphuti, please proceed!

Ms D D RAPHUTI: ... I am still saying that my mother, who experienced the ills of apartheid used to give me positive feedback about what the progressive ANC government has achieved. She couldn't understand why blacks in the DA are supporting this verkrampte organisation.

I am going to discuss about programme 2, which is citizen affairs, which is being allocated about R3,6 billions. It is the programme that has been allocated the most of such budget. The purpose of these civic affairs is to ensure an efficient, accessible services

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and documents for citizens and ensure lawful documents for residents through the execution of the following core functions: Management of legislation and records relating to issuance of identity documents, births, marriages, deaths, passports and travel documents; maintain secure accurate accessible system, such as national population register, national identity system and related data; affirm and regulate official identity, civic status, acquisition and the loss of the citizenship; provide access to secure and efficient services through an enabling documents.

From the state of the nation address, President Cyril Ramaphosa mentioned the following five government priority areas, which the department of Home Affairs plays a critical role in them:

Encouraging of investments; creation of jobs especially for youth; infrastructure development; address corruption; and improve service delivery efficiency.

On addressing corruption, I just want to highlight to those who lie under the pretext of working for the people. If you are a whistleblower, if you are trying to work for your government, please, do not falsify documents as we have witnessed in our committee. People falsify documents under the pretext of working for their organisation. It is totally unacceptable and it is corruption of the highest order.

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On improving service delivery efficiency, all that I have mentioned, Home Affairs facilitates in ensuring that all is being realised. The National Development Plan, NDP, requires the Department of Home Affairs to facilitate acquisitions of critical skills, to facilitate the building of a capable state and play a role in the regional development by working with *Southern African Development Community*, SADC, countries to improve the efficient, secure and manage movement of the people.

It is with this in mind that the ANC wants to lead our people along a path that leads to a better, sustainable future of tireless, ethical and innovative services.

At the ANC policy – the 54th national conference, the ANC committed itself in positioning Home Affairs as the backbone of security and service delivery. Under the apartheid regime, the main objective of the Department of Home Affairs was to control our people and deny them the right to citizenship, identity and freedom among other injustices.

Chairperson, the Department of Home Affairs plays a pivotal role central to enabling security and service provision, which all South Africans now can proudly claim their citizenship, their identity and dignity despite the challenges they face.

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From the ANC policy congress, the ANC resolved on 4,2e that ANC branched together with ANC councillors should develop and maintain ward profiles in order to account for all the residents in their respective wards and participate in the Department of Home Affairs. [Time expired.] I support this Budget Vote. Amilcar Cabral said; tell no lies and claim no easy victories. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Chairperson, hon Minister, Deputy Minister, hon members and our distinguished guests, allow me at the outset to say that the NFP supports the Budget Vote tabled here today. [Applause.]

My colleague on the left says it is a surprise. I do not know what he expects. We must admit that there are a lot of successes and challenges. In order to address these challenges, you can't oppose a budget. I would like him to oppose Parliament Budget so that he doesn't get paid and lets see how ... [Inaudible.] He is not going to do that. He must get paid to come and oppress our people.

Hon Chairperson, whilst the director-general reported that management authority - the Border Management Authority's, BMA, upgrading of key point of entry and improved client experience will be prioritised in the 2014-19 Medium-Term Strategic Framework, MTSF, the question is: How much and what have we achieved?

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Let me admit that there are still very serious challenges at the borders. Let's be honest about it. I have been speaking to people; it is so easy for people to be able to get across the border. Some of them pay as little as R50 just to get across even if they have expired papers and things like that. I hope the Minister is taking note of that so that he could perhaps deal more effectively with border control, especially those coming from the SADC region appears to be a serious problem.

I must also admit and agree with hon Haniff Hoosen, when he spoke about the issue of foreigners and the Somalis in the country, there is a ticking time bomb in South Africa if we are going to allow foreigners to come into the country and remain in South Africa, coming illegally and be employed in South Africa with employers exploiting and paying very little while also employing them at the expense of South Africans. We are going to have a very serious problem in the country. I think and I hope that we can also address that. One way of addressing that is to deal with what is happening at the borders.

Chairperson, I will be failing in my duty if I don't give credit where it is due. The Home Affairs branches of Barrack Street and Randburg, particularly, have been providing exceptional services. There are times and occasions where people have been calling from

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all over with challenges and when you send them through these offices and make that one telephone call ... they have been very effective.

We also believe that there is a problem with regards to the refugee centres, Minister. Refugees in different parts of the country have to travel all the way to Pretoria and sometimes wait there in long queues, from the night before and still not get served and have to go back the next day. They have to pay bribes to get people to stand for them in the queues. We think that you should think of trying to set up refugee centres in all provinces so that people in those provinces can travel to those centres.

The other problem that we seem to be having is the issue of Temporary Residence Permits, TRPs, and permanent residence in the country. One of the problems we have is that repeatedly, we are finding people coming. I have a particular case of a lady who has been here 13 years. She has a 10-year-old child and married for 13 years in South Africa. She applied for a TRP ... every two years. It continues. What eventually happened is that she didn't have to apply for a visitor's permit because it had expired. She appealed and they rejected the appeal.

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Now, what is also happening is that we find that people that are paying exorbitant amounts of money are getting the documents and those that are doing it legally and legitimately are not. We call upon the department to deal with these matters.

We welcome the interventions by the department and we are of the opinion that if the interventions are implemented the department will run smoothly and more effectively.

Your IT department seems to be a challenge. While you are upgrading, let us not forget when you upgraded, there were challenges before and instead of dealing with those challenges, you went ahead to upgrade without taking those challenges into consideration. The NFP supports the Budget Vote tabled here. [Time expired.]

Mr C D KEKANA: Thank you Chair. Hon Minister, hon Deputy Minister, hon Members of Parliament, the department officials led by Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Locating the mandate of the debate with the ANC 54th National Conference mandate and the year of Nelson Mandela's centenary, it is with a profound sense of responsibility that I stand before you on behalf of the ANC to support the Budget Vote for the 2017-18 financial year. We know the duty we owe to our people to lead them

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along a path that leads to a magnificent and attainable future, to be tireless, ethical and innovative to deliver quality services in a manner that is convenient and enduring.

Improving and through innovative ways how we deliver services in itself devoid of innovation and new ideas is being negated in practice in this department that many people once resented visiting. The ANC government is re-positioning Department of Home Affairs, as a modern, digital, secure custodian of national identity, responding to the present and future needs and circumstances ran by professionals, operating in a highly secure environment to protect the precious records of the lives of our people.

Under the apartheid regime with its Bantustan offspring, the main objective of the Department of Home Affairs was to control black people and deny them their citizenship, identity, dignity and freedom of movement. The National Democratic Revolution seeks to ensure that every South African especially the poor, experience an improving quality of life. It seeks to build a developmental state shaped by the history and socio-economic dynamics of South African society.

The Department of Home affairs is the backbone of our national security, service delivery and development because it is the

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custodian of the unique identity of all citizens and documented foreigners residing in South Africa. Department of Home Affairs plays a crucial role in enabling all South Africans to proudly claim their citizenship, identity and dignity. All modern social system in health, education, welfare, security, employment and banking services are depended on identities being secured.

A developmental state is unable to meet its essential goals without a detailed and secure identification system that incorporates both citizens and non-citizens who live, work, and study within our borders. The identification system is crucial for a range of social, economic and cultural activities, and to ensure that the state is empowered to organize itself; plan for the future and protect its citizens. A better and safe life for all South Africans is only if we are integrated into the global community and if we develop together with our region.

The Department of Home Affairs' vote is allocated R7 billion in the 2018-19 financial year. Of this amount, R2 billion is earmarked for the Electoral Commission and the Represented Political Parties Fund as transfer payments. Compensation of employees for the department at R3 billion constitutes 41% of the budget; goods and services at R2 billion constitutes 28% and capital R251 million or 3% of the vote allocation.

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Performance for second and third quarters were achieved against the backdrop of the following environmental factors: the urgent need to require and record addresses of voters on the voters roll which included an online address harvesting campaign and preparations for the national elections with highly contested and fractious political environment requires a well-resourced independent electoral commission to carry out its mandate.

Due to the budget constraints Independent Electoral Commission is unable to achieve some of its targets which negatively affect the quality of its work. The number of liaison session increased by 68 and exceeded the target set for quarter two. This was due to the increase in the number of by-elections held. Due to budget constraints most of the training interventions were put on hold in quarter two. The number of civic and democracy education events held per annum was not achieved as yet but due to the quality assurance processes currently underway, the quarter two target might still be achieved. A process is being implemented to ensure that the quality assurance processes do not delay the achievement of targets.

There were 18 by-elections in quarter two 2017-18 all of which were held within 90 days. The results for 17 by-elections were announced in one day and results for one by-election were announced in two days in quarter two. In the advancement of certain designated groups

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according Preferential Procurement Regulations 2017, the Government Printing Works, GPW made 75% of all acquisitions from and through B-BBEE level one, two, three organisations.

The Government Printing Works remains financially sustainable and liquid by its high efficiency and continual improvements while operating a lean manufacturing organisation. Completion of the Pavilion 3 Construction Project enables the second phase of developing and occupying modern, state-of-art manufacturing facilities that promote innovative and technologically advanced manufacturing techniques - The attainment of world class quality standards in respect of the manufacturing of high security documents such as passports, identity documents, examination materials and government gazettes - Advancements within the ICT through a hardware refresh programme enabled high performance, security, data flexibility and availability - High ICT security ensured zero security incidents and complete mitigation of all vulnerability.

Chairperson, the only way of dealing with the issue of illegal immigrants is by implementing the Border Management Agency. Of course the Minister has alluded that the Border Management Agency is on the final stage. The ANC supports the budget. [Applause.] [Time expired.]

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Dr C P MULDER: Thank you hon Chairperson. Hon colleagues, this is a good department and it is one of the better departments. And if you look at the services that this department provides, it should not be political at all. But I think there is something seriously wrong. In is in the debate Members of Parliament would get up and say on more than one occasion that the hon Minister lied. And nobody really takes a point of order - they can't really take a point of order because its part of certain judgements and certain findings that were made. There is something really wrong and I don't want to make cheap points or try to embarrass the Minister but really we can't afford that kind of situation.

I am not trying to make cheap points to kick the Minister and the Deputy Minister. But my experience is that the Deputy Minister has been stable force within that department over the last couple of years. Many people today said that the department is doing really well and they all congratulated the Director-General. But we also remember that it was not very long ago when there was an attempt to get rid of the Director-General. It happened a few months ago. Who did that? It was a political decision again by the ruling party Minister. And life is strange, the Minister is gone and the Director-General is continuing to do an excellent work.

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So, all I am trying to say is that this department is actually doing very good work and its one department if there could be absolutely no political interference, it would be so much better. We should not generalise - yes - there are certain offices where there are problems but in general, the department and officials are doing a very good job and we should be thankful for that. And I am referring to the officials from the Director-General right through.

The establishment of the board and management authority is absolutely essential. Credibility is being jeopardised because of the situation of our borders. I had an opportunity a month ago to visit Europe and I have been to one or two of the developed countries. When I left there, the experience was a bad experience. There was one lady in charge there at the passport control and all of us non-European Unions passport holders had to go through that process and it was almost as if we were being deliberately delayed and questions asked how long, etc.

When I came back in Johannesburg it was a good experience to be welcomed by our own officials and it was absolutely efficient and we quickly went through. We were welcomed in a friendly manner. That's the way we should do it. Hon Minister, I know that in the budget of the department you are responsible for the direct transfer to the direct transfer to the electoral commission but you are aware that

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the Bill has been passed by the NA is currently in front of the NCOP that will deal with the funding of the political parties. Hon Minister, all I am asking is that when it comes to additional budget later in the year you make sure that the right processes are followed and in time to make provision of the implementation of that important legislation that we all think is very important.

The hon Raphuti with all due respect, at the end of the speech referred to the ANC strategy where she said that at their branches they took a decision that branches should get involved on ground level with the department. I want to plead, please don't know do that. Please don't do that. Leave the department and the officials to do their jobs. Political party should not get involved on ground level - on local level directly with the department. Don't hinder the official to do the work that they should do. Please don't do that. I understand very well.

Hon Chairperson, I think this department is doing very well. I think we should assist them but we should also keep down with the interference in the department.

Ms D D RAPHUTI: I'm sorry, Chairperson.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): No thank you very much. Hon Mulder your time has expired.

Ms D D RAPHUTI: I'm sorry, Chairperson, Mr Mulder is misleading the House. He is misleading the House.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M R Mdakane): Can we go to the next speaker?

Mr H P CHAUKE: Thank you very much Chair. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Home Affairs, the Deputy Minister, the Director-General of Home Affairs, the staff of Home Affairs, Deputy Directors and all of them, and hon Members of Parliament.

I'm very happy that hon Mulder as I took this platform, you have made the most important statement ever I have known you. That for the first time you acknowledged that you are not European but you are South Africans. You said that when you were overseas you saw a sign that says that Europeans this side and the rest of you. So I agree that you are the rest of us, and I'm very happy for that.

[Applause.] Now Chair ... [Interjections.]

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The ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Ms J L FUBBS: Thank you very much. On what rule are you rising?

Dr C P MULDER: Hon Chairperson, I 'm rising on the rule that says I'm entitled to ask the hon speaker a very friendly question and if he has enough time. I want to ask him if he is prepared to answer because I am entitled to ask him a friendly question.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Ms J L FUBBS: Let me clear that with him.

Mr H P CHAUKE: I will take the question later. Definitely I'm going to take it. I will give you a minute for that. No, I will take the question. I mean he is my brother not a problem.

Chair, the issue that you then raise hon Mulder that the ANC is a stakeholder, in fact the ANC in 1994 started the programme called "Voutani mawethu" to help South Africans who could not even afford to get the photo to go and apply for an ID at Home Affairs for them to be able to vote.

The ANC has played that role. The ANC continued playing that role of helping South Africans to make sure that they get the South African citizenship for them to be able to exercise their rights, not only to vote for the ANC. As much as we want them to vote for the ANC but

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to vote for - it can be the DA whoever that they want to vote for. That's the responsibility and the leadership that the ANC is giving.

Chair, hon Shaik-Emam raises the point of illegal immigrants and failure to deal with illegal immigrants who are taking the jobs of South Africans. The issue is so big that you cannot address the issue of illegal immigrants without addressing what is happening in the region. For a Zimbabwean to get a passport it takes R2000, to apply for a passport in Zimbabwe. It takes them R2000, which they don't have.

With our borders that are so porous people then opt to jump the fence and come to the country. That's one of the challenges that as we address the issue of free movement of persons - I think Minister in your point that you have made, that we have now certain countries that are being given free Visa regime.

We have to focus at the regional level. The region has challenges. In other countries in the region they do not even have systems to give just an ID for their citizens to be able to travel.

So that's the challenges that South Africa will always have; but let us go back to the reality and look at how far and where we come from with this department.

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Let's go back. Back to years back, 1652, the arrival of three hundred gentlemen, none of them had a Visa. None of them had passport. None of them had the work permit. All of them arrive and descended in the Cape; all of them. None of them had a passport neither a work permit that says I'm going to work in the Cape, none of them.

Today where we are sitting, we are sitting of a Department of Home Affairs that has an international standard when it comes to system. [Applause.] This work is done by nobody else. It is done by the ANC-led government.

If I want to remind you back then hon members – and I think the fighters will agree with me – that at some point in time go back to Sharpeville. Look at the struggles of the people of Sharpeville, why they were killed. They were killed because of the issue of the dompas; the dompas, which was made only for African people to carry.

In South Africa, by the way, whites South African did not even have to take fingerprints. When we took over in 1994 there was never a white system that white people have a fingerprint. Hon Mulder will tell you that he had an ID but did not take his fingerprint. So this department had to start afresh to compile all South Africans

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fingerprints starting with them that side. Hon Hoosen, you were not there, you were not around you don't understand these things.

The point that I want to make, no, no, hon Hoosen you need to be honest. You see, the points that you made I agree with you. There are challenges and it is ongoing challenges.

The IFP, hon Singh, you were supposed to be standing proud to talk about the foundation laid by the former Minister, who is the first Minister of Home Affairs hon Buthelezi, your leader. Right, so as you talk challenges you must be able to measure the work that was done by your leader to date; and then say that - in fact, as we started in 1994, hon Buthelezi was leading and therefore he has laid the following foundations. You need to be proud. Don't support the vote and say we support the vote. You must support it proudly so and say we support the vote. [Applause.]

Hon Hoosen, you raised a very important point about issues of violence and the killing of our people, but you failed to condemn Israel and the killing of Palestines. But the issue is because - no, no, the issue is because - even if you have said it but you have said it very quite again; even if you have said it but we did not hear you.

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Mr M H HOUSEN: Chairperson, while my colleague was reading the history in South Africa he wasn't listening to what I was saying.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Ms J L FUBBS: Hon member, hon member please do not rise until you are recognised. We are not running a circus.

Mr H P CHAUKE: So the point we are making obvious hon Hosen is that let us condemn what has happened - what is happening. Let us condemn the killing of the Palestines. If we were to understand the role that they have played in your liberation here in this country, you will never understand why they continue fighting. I think it is a call that we must make and it is a call that we must everyday call for a negotiated settlement for Two-State-Solution to arrive at, because one life is enough.

It is really enough we cannot allow the situation to carry on and therefore we want to support the initiative taken by our government to recall the ambassador and further more actions that need to be taken. Minister Mualusi you need to look at that.

Now, let us look therefore at the descendents that we now have of Jan Van Riebeeck and the rest of the people that are still on the other side. The progressive South Africans are this side. You find them here. [Applause.] You don't find them that side.

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The ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Ms J L FUBBS: Hon Cachalia, please keep your voice down.

Mr H P CHAUKE: Well hon Cachalia, I don't mind to address you but I don't want to address you directly. So therefore Minister, the points we would want to make is to really encourage you on the foundation that everyday - you see we call you Mr Gigabyte for a reason.

We call you Mr Gigabyte for a reason. Look at how this department has transformed on the issues of technology. Just go outside there and look at the kind of technology in this department, under the ANC-led government by the way; nobody else. [Applause.]

Under the ANC-led government this department has produced systems that a refugee will just go - he does not even dare to go to the office anymore. See it is outside there. You just plug your refugee certificate it will confirm if your status must be renewed or what. It is such a wonderful system that this government is moving on.

The issue of the Guptas let me tell you, both ourselves in the committee together with the EFF members there, our fighters. We have agreed this matter is going to be investigated to the fullest.

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The process that we have started now is that, the committee section of Parliament has started to compile all the information that is required for us to be able to determine the kind of an action that we must take.

What we have done - in fact the very same Guptas are sitting with South African passports some of them. They are sitting with ID books from South Africa. We will recall them. If they got it fraudulently the position that we will take is that we will recall and take those passports from them; but it is a process.

The mistake that we are doing hon Hoosen is to blame the Minister on the loss that is challenged by the constitutional court. The laws of Parliament are the laws of Parliament. They are not Ministers' laws. If the constitutional court found the law wanting it is not about the Minister. Now because he is black than me - in the previous government obviously, it would have been said that, you know these darkies who are new - are you from Malawi? Are you from Nigeria? This one is going through.

Today, as we speak hon Malusi Gigaba the Minister still find himself being questioned about his citizenship only because he is like me ... [Inaudible.] ... opposition parties.

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So Minister me and you are South Africans and we are proud to be South Africans. We will continue to deliver a better service to South Africans. We are very proud of the work that we are doing and we will continue working with people.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Hon Chairperson and hon members, I want to thank you very much for a lively debate punctuated by light moments such as the remarks by the hon Chauke. I want to thank you for the support for the department and the kind words hon members have said about our staff. We will continue to improve our services in line with the Constitution of our country and the expectations of us. I join the hon Gumede in sending our condolences to hon Mnisi and wishes for a speedy recovery to the hon members who are not well.

We have responded and addressed ourselves extensively to issues raised about network reliability and our desire to ensure that we have 99% availability by the end of 2019. We have addressed ourselves extensively to the issues the hon Singh raised, about the long queues, the short staffing, the network reliability and equipment in the department.

In so far as corruption is concerned in the department, I am happy to report that we have seen declining trends. There were 60 cases of

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corruption reported last year and dealt with by the Counter Corruption Unit, 33 of those were home affairs officials. So, 33 against the total of 10 000 officials, I think is good performance. [Applause.]

There have been 11 cases reported thus far since April this year and we hope that we can beat last year in having lesser numbers.

The issues of resources vis-à-vis the SA Revenue Service are quite important, because they deal only with a fraction of the taxpaying population of South Africa, but we deal with the 56 to 57 million South Africans and we only have a fraction of the resources that they have. I am not here pleading for more budget, we will do and continue to do our best within the resources that we have.

The hon Hoosen has a history of twisting the truth to suit his particular objectives. He stands here to claim to be a paragon of honesty, yet the hon member has a history of telling untruths both to the committee and to the House.

In 2015 he stood here to claim that Visa Facilitation Services, VFS, that was hired by the Dubai government and waved a receipt for somebody who was travelling from South Africa to Saudi Arabia and claimed that that receipt was issued by VFS SA. The hon member still

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has to be taken to task by this House for deliberately misleading the House and presenting falsified documentation to support his claims.

The hon member further, makes claims that we will not with extensively today on fireblade because they are going to be subjected to a court process. The hon member resort to vilification to avoid facts and the test of validity to his claims and thus demeans the title of hon member. For he has nothing to say about his nonexistent record or all he has is to try and blemish our good record of delivery by resorting to vilification and slander directed at my person and my family, attacking us for the same privileges that are available to and accessed by the DA government. He does not question them about their access to the same privileges because of racist reasons. There cannot be no other argument to this.

He claims that if the DA given an opportunity would double capacity which goes completely against the grain of the so-called liberal policies of his organisation. He knows that they are a neoliberal organisation which believes in small governments, retrenchments and cutting down labour. How on earth would he increase capacity against the very policies which his organisation belongs to?

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However, they can say these things and be elastic about them because opportunism seemingly in their opinion pays. The question is: Does he represent the DA or the fireblade alliance? Who does he represents, the DA or a family? The question he raises about what happened between the 28th of January and early February, has been answered in the committee. What happened between those two dates has been answered in the committee and is on record. However, the truth does not matter, because it stands in the way of vilification and misleading the public and the House. He does not care a little bit about the truth, because it is not going to advance his agenda of representing a family over the interests of the country.

We have received a request from the committee to open up our documents on this fireblade issue and we will. So, hon members must not confuse oversight for vilification and jump to make findings on issues that the documents are still going to be made available. We have asked the question: If we gave authorisation to this, where is the letter that expressly did so? Where was a competitive bidding process in terms of the Public Finance Management Act which enabled this to be done? Where is the contract signed by the director-general, DG, which enabled this? These questions have not been answered and will not be answered. [Interjections.]

Mr H P CHAUKE: Hon Chair, on a point of order.

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The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L Fubbs): Yes, hon Chauke.

Mr H P CHAUKE: My apologies, hon Chair. It seems as the hon member is having a serious problem. He hit his head on the desk. Is the clinic opened there, he needs serious help. Please can you attend to the hon member. [Laughter.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L Fubbs): Hon Chauke, I think the hon member is able to indicate to us if he is not well. [Interjections.]

Mr H P CHAUKE: The hon member is not well. There is something wrong with the member.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L Fubbs): No, let us leave it. Yes. No it is just a gesture that he enjoys making. Let us leave it at that. Alright. Will you continue Minister.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Hon Chairperson, indeed when they cannot match up to you and cannot reach out to your intellectual capacity, what remains is to insult and to vilify, to besmirch, to blemish and to slander. [Applause.]

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Chairperson the hon Mkhalipi raises an issue and I want to actually clarify, simplify and sink down to her level on this issue.

[Interjections.]

Again, she says and it is incorrect hon Mkhalipi, I do not think you deliberately sort to mislead the House, but you were just incorrect. Mr Ajay Gupta does not have a South African citizenship. He is a permanent resident. [Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L Fubbs): Minister.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: He holds only a permanent resident, PR Identity Document which is green barcoded with an ID number which clearly stipulates that he is a permanent resident. It is not true that he is a voter. It is not true. I was trying to be nice hon Mkhalipi. I was trying to be nice. Mr Ajay Gupta is not a voter and does not have a South African ID.

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Hon Chairperson, on a point of order.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L Fubbs): Yes, hon member. Just a minute hon Minister. Hon member, what is your point of order?

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Ms H O MKHALIPI: Hon Chair, I rise on a point of order. My point of order is: The Minister must not come here and try to be a superstar here. So, how did those Gupta people end up on a voters roll? Because the Independent Electoral Commission, IEC, confirmed that those people are on the voters roll. Please tell us.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L Fubbs): Hon member, hon member, all members just a minute, just a minute! Member, we are not in any position to check the veracity of that statement, one way or the other. So, what we will do, what we will do, is put this forward to the office bearers. Thank you. I cannot check it now.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: The hon member confuses the two brothers who got their citizenship in 2002 and 2003, with Mr Ajay who is not a South African citizen. However, the truth does not matter because it does not make you trend on social media; it does not earn you political stripes in your political party and does not make you succeed in your vilification campaign of your opponents. This matter again, like all others will stand the test of scrutiny and the truth will come out and the lies will also come out. Thank you. [Applause.]

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The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms J L Fubbs): Thank you, hon Minister. I heard members wondering just when this will be checked. I am not in a position to check it today and may I add. [Interjections.]

No, I do not look to the media to provide me with veracity, thank you. So, members on that note thank you and the House is adjourned.

Debate concluded.

The mini-plenary session rose at 15:56.