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***PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER***

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The House met at 14:03.

The SPEAKER: There will now be an opportunity for silent

prayer or medication. [Laughter.] That’s because you were

late, Mr President. That is why. [Laughter.] You were late.

Thank you very much. Order, hon members. [Interjections.]

Order, order! Order, hon members.

Mr S N SWART: Honourable Speaker, may I address you on a point

of medication? [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: What is the point of medication, honourable?

Thank you very much, hon members.

Hon members, in the interest of safety for all present in the

Chamber, please keep your masks on and sit in your designated

areas. I thank you.



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The only item on today’s Order Paper is Questions addressed to

the President. There are four supplementary questions on each

question. Parties have given an indication of which questions

their members wish to pose a supplementary question on.

Adequate notice was given to parties for this purpose. This

was done to facilitate participation of members who are

connecting to this sitting through the virtual platform.

The members who will pose supplementary questions will be

recognised by the Presiding Officer. In allocating

opportunities for supplementary questions, the principle of

fairness, among others, has been applied. If a member who is

supposed to ask a supplementary question through the virtual

platform is unable to do so due to technological difficulties,

the party Whip on duty will be allowed to ask the question on

behalf of their member. When all the supplementary questions

have been answered by the President, we will proceed to the

next question on the Question Paper. Members asking

supplementary questions or raising points of order may remain

seated when doing so.

**QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT**

Question 1:



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The PRESIDENT: Honourable Speaker, my apologies, I forgot to

take my medication this morning. [Laughter.] So, if I seem a

bit slow, just blame it on my forgetfulness to take my

medication.

The conflict in Ukraine is a matter of global concern to many

citizens in various countries. The international community

needs to work together to achieve a cessation of hostilities

and to prevent further loss of life and displacement of the

citizens and the civilians of Ukraine. It needs to support

meaningful dialogue towards a lasting and meaningful peace,

which ensures the security and stability of all nations.

As a country we are committed to the articles of the United

Nations Charter, including the principle that all members

shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means.

We support the principle that members should refrain from the

threat or use of force against the territorial and political

independence of other states. That is why, at the UN General

Assembly Emergency Special Session, South Africa strongly

urged all sides to uphold international law, including

humanitarian law and human rights law, as well as the

principles of the UN Charter, including sovereignty as well.



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While there are people within our country and elsewhere that

want South Africa to adopt a more adversarial position, our

position seeks to contribute to the creation of conditions

that make the achievement of a durable resolution of the

conflict possible. Through this approach we are able to make

our voice heard, not only publicly, but also to the parties

that are involved in the conflict. As we talk to them,

exchange views and interact with them we bring are influence

to bear on the issue of dialogue, mediation and negotiation,

which has always stood us in good stead as a nation.

[Applause.]

Our approach is informed by an analysis of the causes of this

conflict. This includes a view shared by many leading

scholars, politicians and other people on international

relations, that the war could have been avoided if North

Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, had heeded the warnings

from among its own leaders and officials over the years that

its eastward expansion would lead to greater, not less,

instability in the region. This was also based on agreement

that had been arrived at in the past amongst various parties.

While it is important to understand and articulate the causes

of the conflict, and advocate for peace building measures, we



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cannot condone the use of force or violation of international

law. We also need to recognise that coercive measures such as

sanctions, outside of the legal prescripts of the United

Nations, may serve to prolong and intensify the conflict.

Like other countries, South Africa is concerned about the

direct impact of the conflict on our own economy, through

financial markets and inflationary pressures that will come

about through food and fuel price increases.

As a small and open economy with significant debt levels, one

of the most significant steps that we can take to reduce our

vulnerability to external shocks is to improve our

macroeconomic stability. We have many strengths even as a

small economy country, such as a highly developed and well-

capitalised financial and banking sector that adheres to

internationally recognised frameworks.

The depth of local capital markets reduces our vulnerability

to foreign currency-denominated debt. We benefit from having

an independent central bank, a floating exchange rate regime

and prudent capital controls. These strengths will be

complemented by the work underway to stabilise debt and reduce



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our deficits alongside the far-reaching structural reforms

that are now underway.

In short, the best way to protect our economy and welfare of

our people is to proceed with the implementation of the

Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. The conflict in

Ukraine demonstrates the need for a multilateral approach to

issues of peace and security. It also demonstrates the

weaknesses in the structure, practices and architecture of the

United Nations. The composition of the UN Security Council, in

particular, does not reflect the realities of the prevailing

global landscape. [Applause.] A continent of 1,3 billion

people does not have a significant voice in the United Nations

Security Council is something of great concern to the citizens

of this continent. [Applause.]

There is a tendency for the most powerful countries to use

their positions as permanent UN Security Council members to

serve their national interests rather than the interests of

global peace and stability. The Security Council needs to be

overhauled so that there is equitable representation and a

more inclusive mechanism for resolving international disputes.

We should also work to revitalise the Non-Aligned Movement to

ensure that those countries that are not part of the hegemonic



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contests between the big powers can work together to build

peace across the globe.

We align ourselves with the calls led by the UN Secretary-

General, Mr Antonio Guterres, for de-escalation, dialogue and

a return to diplomacy. Additionally, the Secretary-General has

called for an immediate ceasefire, respect for the UN Charter

and international law and adherence to existing peace

mechanisms, including the implementation of the Minsk

Agreements as part of multilateral efforts to end the

violence. [Applause.]

South Africa stands ready to support genuine multilateral

efforts to end the conflict and achieve a lasting peace in the

region. Hon Speaker, I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr T N MMUTLE: Hon Speaker, thank you to the hon President for

the response. In light of your response, hon President, it

will seem that the system of veto right of the United Nations

Security Council is constraining the United Nations’ ability

to resolve international disputes, and this therefore gives

space to military alliance such as NATO to assume the

responsibility of resolving international disputes. What does

this observation say in regard to the ability of the United



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Nations to be central and lead the resolution of international

conflict to perceive international peace and security? This,

Mr President, is a gap that we have identified and what will

be the observation in that regard, so that we don’t allow

those that are privilege like NATO to take responsibility that

should be taken by the United Nations? I thank you.

The PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, one of the reasons why the United

Nations was set up was to ensure that there is peace,

stability and avoidance of conflicts in the world. The

Security Council, in the way that it was put together, was

supposed to engender the building of peace around the world,

but its architecture, as I have said, which excludes other

voices — much as they participate on a non-permanent basis —

their voices whilst present do not have the same weight and

impact as those of the permanent members. That is why we are

saying, particularly our continent, it is continuing to urge

that the United Nations Security Council should be reformed

and other countries should be enabled to participate. We are

not only talking about the African continent, there a number

of other countries around the world which will be able to

bring their voices to the table so that the views on the

Security Council are properly weighed up and lead to a

consideration of different perspectives and views.



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If that were to happen, I believe that the UN Security Council

would be able to be a much better structure of the UN and be

able to ensure that there is peace and stability in the world,

and bringing together many other voices like the African

continent which has never really enjoyed permanent seat on the

UN Security Council. We think we have a role to play and we

can add a great deal of value in the building of peace in the

world.

Therefore, it is for this reason that we say the absence of

other countries on the UN Security Council as permanent

members weakens the peace efforts of the United Nations, and

that is why we continue to insist that it should be reformed.

Had the UN Security Council been reformed, we believe that we

would have been in a much stronger position to ensure that

conflicts such as this are avoided and they are actively

managed and peace is brought about. So, it is important that

the UN Security Council should be reformed. Now we have even

more evidence to advocate for the reform of the UN Security

Council. Thank you, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

Mr HLENGWA: Madam Speaker, to the President, one of the

greatest tragedies of ... [Inaudible.] ... country outlook is

policy inconsistency or policy uncertainty. Mr President,



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today I think you have moved an inch closer to helping us

understand the very confused South African government outlook

on this matter and that there have been many contradictions

characterising our response to what the invasion of Ukraine by

Russia. Mr President, we put this to you, does the South

African government find it justifiable that Russia would

invade Ukraine, and is the President prepared to move away

from the mystic terminology of calling this a conflict or a

military operation and call it what it is so that we can be

able to mete out a correct response to what is actually

happening right now? As you have called it correctly, Mr

President, a war. But the policy consistency is required and

you need to call it what it is. So, we need to know clearly

today, what is the South African government’s thinking, and

what are you calling what is actually going on right now?

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, if hon Hlengwa was listening very

carefully to what I said earlier right at the beginning, you

would have been able to have heard an answer in what I said.

Our position is very clear. I did say that there are those who

are insisting that we should take a very adversarial stance

and position against Russia. The approach that we have chosen



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to take, which is appreciated by many, is that we are

insisting that there should be dialogue.

What is happening out there is undesirable and it is not what

should be happening between nations. War and violence never

really solve any problems. It is for this reason that we would

prefer, and we insist, that there should be mediation,

dialogue and negotiation.

I am pleased to continue hearing and having heard it from

President Putin himself that the negotiations are ongoing and

they are making progress. For us, this is an important

development. Whilst other people scream and shout, we want to

focus on the positive outcome of those negotiations and the

mediation process. That is what is important. [Applause.]

Screaming and shouting is not going to bring an end to this

conflict. It is the proper engagement that is going to do so.

I have also said that I want to speak to the President of

Ukraine, and we are also speaking to a number of other world

leaders. Only last night as I was addressing a dinner, I got a

message that two other heads of state also want to talk to

South Africa so that the position that we have taken can be

taken forward. Some are even approaching us on a role that we



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can play. We are a small economy country and we never want to

pretend that we have the great influence that many other

countries have, but we are being approached and we are saying,

as I said in my statement, we are ready to play a role. Whilst

others say condemn that one or that one, it actually

forecloses the role that we could play.

You know, we played an important role in the Northern Ireland

conflict. I got involved; Prime Minister Tony Blair brought me

and the President of Finland at the time, Martti Ahtisaari,

into the conflict and we took a view as South Africa that we

are not going to condemn Britain or the Northern Ireland. We

took that view because we knew that by condemning, we will

foreclose any role we could play. As a result, we were brought

in to play a role to implement the Good Friday Agreement, and

in the end, we created a very conducive situation for the guns

to be silenced in the Northern Ireland.

I forever remember an occasion when I was in Belfast at a

meeting, an old Irish lady came to me and said: “You are Cyril

Ramaphosa, you come from South Africa and you have been

brought here to come and resolve our conflict.” She said:

“Wow, the old colonialists must be turning in their graves

that now you have been brought here.” [Applause.]



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Now, this is the stance that we have decided to take. Let me

tell you, it is born out of our own experience, history and we

believe it is the correct stance to take right now to help in

the resolution of this conflict. So, if you listened to me

carefully, hon Hlengwa, right at the beginning, you would have

found your answer. I am quite happy to ensure that my answer

is sent to you in print so that you can read it. Thank you

very much. [Applause.]

Mr B N HERRON: Madam Speaker, we can get behind much of what

the President said today that the war could have been avoided,

we advocate for peace, we don’t condone the violence and we

are ready to support the multilateral efforts. The President

referenced now to a mediation in Northern Ireland. As the

President would know, there were two preconditions that former

President Mandela imposed. One was that there should be a

cease fire and the other was that all parties should request

our participation in the mediation.

Last week the President indicated that we have been approached

to mediate, and I am wondering if the President can share with

the House how we envisage our mediation rolling out, and

whether we would impose those same preconditions. Thank you.



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The PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, it does seem like what I am saying

today is not getting through. [Laughter.] I did say right at

the end of my initial answer that we support the efforts of

the Secretary-General of the United Nations. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, Muntwa on the virtual platform.

The PRESIDENT: The Secretary-General of the United Nations has

said it clearly that he wants to see the end of this conflict

and there should be a cease fire. Clearly that is what

everyone else would desire. We do not support war because war

results in just too many problems and challenges for people.

We support the end of this war, and last night I was also able

to say that we would like the war to end. Obviously, a cease

fire is the beginning of that process to bring an end to the

war, and then serious negotiations should ensue. Those

negotiations are ongoing. I got it from none other than the

President of Russia who I spoke to said that negotiations are

ongoing and they are showing some promise.

Now, we have been approached by a number of other

interlocutors, some of whom are not necessarily playing a

direct role in the conflict. We say that when called upon to

do so we would be ready to make a contribution, however minor



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that contribution would be. So, we stand ready and we stand on

the side of peace, dialogue and negotiations. That is our

position and nothing can be clearer than what I have just said

now. Thank you, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

Ms N V MENTE: Hon Speaker, indeed NATO should have taken a

hint that it should not have any ambition to extend to the

eastern Europe because that will cause a great instability.

President, in 2001 the United States invaded Afghanistan in

search of Osama bin Laden. In 2003 they, together with

Britain, lied to the world and invaded Iraq under the false

pretence that Iraq had nuclear weapons. All these happened

without being sanctioned by multilateral institutions. From

March to October 2011 NATO flattened Libya with their bombs

until they murdered our brother Muammar Gaddafi. The present

crisis in eastern Europe is as a result of the push by the US

to expand NATO. What impact has the unilateral destruction of

countries by the US and their allies had on the ability of

multilateral institutions to promote peace and harmony

coexistence amongst nations in the world? Thank you, Speaker.

The PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, clearly as I said in my main

answer to the first question once again. I said that we need

to look at the history ... [Interjections.] ... It will get



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through eventually. I think it is important that we also look

at the history and hon member Mente is getting us to that

point where she said that we need to look at what history has

taught us. Some of us may forget that in 1962 the world was

almost plunged into a nuclear war when at the time the Soviet

Union had sought to put missile in Cuba and the United States

was very clear that that was something they would never allow.

Because to allow a power like the Soviet Union to put its

missiles in Cuba would have been an existential threat to

them, and the world was brought this close to a nuclear war.

I didn’t quite understand at the time because I was 10 years

old, but the history that I have read tells me that it could

have been catastrophic. We have seen how over time countries

have been invaded and wars have been launched over the many

years. That, as hon Mente seeks to address, has left

devastation. Some leaders of certain countries have also been

killed. Like on our own continent Muammar Gaddafi was killed

and that has happened over and over again. We are saying this

should be avoided by heeding the warnings.

I read the other day that even as recently as a few years ago

Condoleezza Rice who was like the national security advisor to

the President of the Unites States actually warned that a



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further expansion of NATO towards the east would just cause a

great deal of instability and havoc. Leading international

specialist like Hendrik Tiesinga and many others have warned

about this happening over many years. This has now happened to

the Ukraine and we are saying that we need to look at

everything in context. We need to look at the history but we

also need to be saying that we want everyone to remember what

the history teaches us as we engage in dialogue and

negotiations so that we can avoid this.

Obviously, Russia has felt that this is a national existential

threat to them and Obviously no one desires war, as I have

said, and we want peace, negotiation and dialogue. I firmly

believe that that is the only weapon and instrument that

should be used to resolve conflicts. War doesn’t. sanctions

don’t. various actions that can be embarked upon either than

dialogue and negotiation don’t. and it is for this reason that

our stand is very clear as South Africa that negation,

dialogue and mediation is what we are calling for. This

message, I believe, is sinking in in the ears of a number of

other people. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Question 2:



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The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, as South Africa

works to recover from the damaging effects of the COVID-19

pandemic, our economy is confronted by several other

inflationary pressures. The most immediate of these pressures

is the sharp increase in the international price of oil and

the price of food as a result of the conflict in Ukraine.

The interconnectedness of the global economy means that no

country will be spared from the effects of the conflict and

its impact on the supply of goods such as oil and wheat. It is

going to affect many countries around the world. Families

across South Africa are already feeling the effects of rising

prices in supermarkets as well as at the petrol pump, and many

are worried about how they will continue to provide for their

families and make ends meet.

We are using all of the levers at our disposal as a government

to cushion South Africans from the effects of the rising cost

of living. It is a major concern to us, that is why

government’s programme of Economic Recovery and Reconstruction

focuses on responding to the immediate needs of poor and

unemployed South Africans.The 2022 Budget extends government’s

support to poor and vulnerable South Africans by allocating an



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average of 52% per cent of consolidated spending to the social

wage over the medium term.

We extended, as we all know, the special COVID‐19 social relief

of distress grant for another 12 months, with additional

funding for health, education as well as the Presidential

Employment Stimulus. Increases in all social grants, including

the old age grant, will help poor households to help them

adjust or to some extent be cushioned against the rising food

prices. Given the improvement in revenue collection, government

has proposed R5,2 billion in tax relief to help support the

economic recovery, and to keep money - as the Minister of

Finance has said - in the pockets of tax payers and boost

incentives for youth employment. To address the rising cost of

petrol, the Minister of Finance announced that no increases

will be made to the general fuel levy on petrol and diesel for

2022-23 to provide for some respite from rising costs that are

continuing to go up.

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy and National

Treasury are reviewing the methodology for the basic fuel

price as well as other regulated components to identify

changes that could reduce the cost of fuel. These is work that



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is underway. These changes will be implemented as soon and as

quickly as possible. In short, our fiscal stance will insulate

public finances against the possibility of domestic and

international monetary tightening while simultaneously

supporting households and ordinary taxpayers through higher

allocations to pro-poor spending. It is important to

acknowledge that the South African economy has thus far proved

resilient to external shocks, including the turbulence linked

to the conflict in the Ukraine.

We must also dispel the notion that our economic challenges

were caused by the measures that we implemented to contain the

spread of the coronavirus as well as to save lives. That

notion exists in some quarters. It was the pandemic, and not

the measures that we implemented, that caused a severe shock

to our economy and indeed to all economies across the world.

And we are not an island, and many other economies suffered

exactly what we have been suffering. If we had done nothing in

response to this grave threat, the economy would still have

been disrupted and many more lives would have been lost.

As a result of our collective action to overcome the pandemic,

including the roll-out of vaccines to millions of South

Africans, we have been able to lift all but the most essential



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restrictions. Our task now is to ensure that we remain agile

and move quickly to cushion South Africans from the risk of

higher inflation, to ensure that all are able to meet their

basic needs, and to accelerate our economic recovery. And that

is the direction that we have chosen to take. Thank you, hon

Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The first supplementary question will be asked by

the hon the Leader of the Opposition from the Chamber.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY: Thank you very much madam

Speaker. Mr President, South Africans face a tough winter,

especially poor South Africans. The price of food, fuel and

electricity are going to increase incredibly steep, and much

faster that any social grants increases - which actually means

that poor South Africans are going to get poorer. Grants will

go up, as you said, by 4,5% next month, but electricity and

fuel prices will go up by more than double that - electricity

by 9,6%, and fuel by 11% ... [Inaudible.] ... corruption and

maladministration of your government. We are really paying

more for petrol than our neighbouring countries Swaziland,

Botswana and Mozambique. They pay R16 a litre and we are

paying R21 a litre. That is the price South Africans are

paying for the corruption and incompetence of government. Food



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prices have also gone up on the back of us, and I am sure

billionaires don’t do their own shopping. But I can tell you

today that cooking oil has gone up by 28%, sugar by 6,6% ...

[Interjections.] ... meat by 8,2%, vegetables by 8,6%, and

pilchards by 5%. This ... [Inaudible.] ... cost R15 in 2015

and now it costs R24. And they going to go up more.

[Interjections.] Mr President ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Order!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY: Mr President, they ...

[Inaudible.] ... that your government can take to alleviate

this. Will you commit today to bring the fuel price down to

R16 by cutting out your levies? You can scrap your sugar tax

and immediately lifting vat on meat and chicken, because that

will bring immediate relief to poor South Africans.

The SPEAKER: Hold on. Order! [Interjections.] Order, Minister

Zulu. Order, Minister. [Interjections.] Okay, hon members ...

[Interjections.] Hon members, order! May I just remind all of

us that this is a very small Chamber, and whatever small

comments or little noise you make, it disrupts everything we

are trying to do here. The President is on the floor right



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now; may I request order in the Chamber. Thank you very much.

The hon the President?

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, if the hon member

had listened very carefully to what I said ...

[Interjections.] ... If he had listened carefully, I said, and

the answer was very straight – the answer said, we are

determined to take steps to cushion South Africans to the

various price pressures that our people are facing. And

recently as yesterday, we discussed it also in one of our

Cabinet committees. As a government we are deeply concerned

about the continued rises in prices, particularly arising from

the conflict that is ensuing between Russia and Ukraine.

We are aware, as I said, that food prices are going to go up

but not only for us, but for many other countries around the

world. A number of countries are already positioning

themselves and taking steps to mitigate against the rising

prices, and we are looking at this so you know. We have set up

a committee of Ministers that is going to look at precisely

what the impact of the conflict is going to have on us as

South Africans when it comes to fuel, when it comes to food

prices and all this is being given consideration.



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Hon Steenhuisen, I want to thank you for some of the

suggestions that you are putting forward. You are not the only

one who is putting forward suggestions, you have done it in

the most dramatic way today, by bringing a plastic with oil,

food, bread, Lucky Star Pilchards and whatever. Former

Minister Mboweni would have been very delighted with you.

[Laughter.] So, let me thank you for the suggestions that you

are putting forward. A number of other people are coming

forward with suggestions on fuel, as well as on other food

prices. All these are being consideration and as a

compassionate government we will find a way of addressing this

as well. I can assure you that it is not only a concern to

you, but it is also a concern to me as well as my fellow

members of the Cabinet. We have heard as we are hearing other

people. But thank you very much for your suggestions.

The SPEAKER: The second supplementary question will be asked

by the hon J Hermans from the Chamber.

Ms J HERMANS: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Given your

comments, Mr President, on our global interconnectedness, and

considering the weakness of the rand relative to the dollar,

and bearing in mind that 80% of global oil sales are traded in

dollars, which largely determines the price of petrol in South



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Africa, one of the world’s stock exporters of oil, Saudi

Arabia have expressed their desire to sell their oil in

Chinese yuan. It will be interesting to see how much that

change, if it happens, will affect our oil prices. Noting

measures, you have already mentioned here today, Mr President,

what additional measures is government working on with social

partners to ensure that the projected increase in fuel prices

will not trickle down to the costs of other foods, leading to

an increase in the costs of living which will very negatively

affect the very poor and marginalised South Africans? Thank

you.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: One of the things that we have

decided to do is to consult a number of our stakeholders - our

partners - business, labour and communities and indeed, also

our traditional leaders, precisely about the effects and

impact of this conflict. So, that consultation process is

underway. We are going to be talking quite broadly to a number

of entities or stakeholders. And through the wisdom that they

will put on the table, we would be able to possibly come to an

answer. In the pot will be included even the proposals that Mr

Steenhuisen has put forward.



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A number of other people have put forward other proposals –

so, all that will be put together in the consultation process

that is going to ensue. Now, we have heard that there is a

suggestion that the trading currency for oil and all that

should be the one –we have not given that consideration. It

has always been traded in dollars and with the exchange rate

between our rand and the dollar, sometimes our rand is weak

and sometimes it strengthens. So, we haven’t formed a view on

the one, and it’s a proposal that we have heard about and it

is something that will need to be addressed.

Having said that, our concern obviously as stated earlier is

the rising prices that are going to impact negatively on our

people. We are very much alive to that, and we will want to

ensure that we secure the livelihoods of our people as much as

we possibly can, in ways that are also affordable for us as a

government and as a country. So, all these will be given

consideration, and I am sure that we will come to correct

decisions that will be able to address the needs of our

people. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The third supplementary question will be asked by

the hon Swart.



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Mr S N SWART: Thank you, Speaker. Hon President, much of what

you have covered already relates to the fuel price which I was

going to ask you, but may I add one or two suggestions as

well. Research on the fuel price regulation has found that a

combination of regulatory amendments as you have pointed out

can reduce the petrol price by up to R103 per litre. And this

include amendments to the international component which you

pointed out as proposed by the department as way back in 2018

and was never implemented. So, that is one aspect that I am

pleased you referred to and which will be considered.

Secondly, almost dramatically ironic, in view of the war in

Russia and Ukraine, the commodities prices will increase,

which could result in a further tax windfall, which could

further cushion the fiscus and allow for a consideration for

reduction in the tax levies of the fuel price. I would like to

ask you, President, you indicated that this review would take

place as soon as possible, but would you prevail upon the

Ministers to consider this and then obviously try to apply for

this or decide on this issue as quickly as possible, given the

impact that the fuel has? Thank you, President.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you, hon Speaker. I would

be able to give the hon Swart a fairly easy and



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straightforward answer and say, yes, we will seek to prevail

on the Ministers to consider this as well because this is

another dimension that needs to be looked at and I certainly

would want every aspect of this whole issue to be addressed as

much as we possibly can. But I would like to thank you once

again for the suggestion. It would be taken up.

The SPEAKER: The last supplementary question will be asked by

the hon Maotwe.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Thank you very much, Speaker. President,

about 44% of the population is unemployed, and over 70% of the

youth population is unemployed in this country that you are

leading. The level of unemployment was at crisis level even

before COVID-19 struck. Despite this stark reality, we have

seen numeral attempts by your government to reduce

dramatically the role of the state in facilitating

development. State-owned companies have all collapsed, there

is no significant infrastructure development programme that

can catalyse employment creation, instead you have ...

[Inaudible.] ... all your private companies to create jobs and

lift South Africa out of the mess it is in. In your reading of

economic history and of socioeconomic degeneration by handing

over the responsibility of developing their countries to the



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private sector, why do you think this strategy will work here

if it has never worked anywhere else? I thank you, Speaker.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you, hon Speaker. I don’t

want to refer any member to some of inputs that I made in this

august House but if the hon member remembers the state of the

nation address’ debate and my reply thereto, we stated very

clearly that yes, we would like to create a conducive

environment to enable those who create 70% of the job pool in

our country to create those jobs. At the same time, the state

will continue playing its role. Now, it isn’t true that for

instance, our infrastructure plans are amounting to zero.

We have come here and the Minister of Public Works and

Infrastructure has been to this House and outlined the

infrastructure plans that we are putting in place. How we are

dealing the incapabilities of the past to make sure that our

ability to roll out infrastructure and to attract investment

pays the dividend that we want. And a number of projects of an

infrastructure type are already underway, and many more are

going to follow.

Already just this year, we are going to be rolling out

infrastructure projects worth about R96 billion and we have



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already set up our infrastructure fund which already has money

in it and the private sector has demonstrated very keen

interest to participate. And similarly, the public enterprises

that we have are also going to be rolling out their own

infrastructure plans, as in Transnet, the Passenger Rail

Agency of South Africa, Prasa, and a number of others are

going to be embarking on mega infrastructure projects. All

those will in the end create jobs, but the most jobs are

created by small and medium enterprises.

In other countries, small and medium enterprises create up to

60% or 65% of the jobs. Our country is still low and that is

why we are seeking to create an environment in which this

engine of growth can actually come into its own and create

jobs. At the same time, we as the state will continue playing

the role that we are and it is for this reason that we focus

on youth employment through the Presidential Employment

Stimulus which already, just last year, succeeded in bringing

in 6 000 mostly young people and women into the job situation.

That is the role that we see ourselves continuing to play.

Already, we have said that we are going to assist and support

250 000 small-scale farmers because we see agriculture as

another sector that can create well over a million jobs. So,



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all those efforts are underway, and it isn’t true that we are

not doing anything on the job creation side. Yes, it continues

to be a heavy burden. Many more people are joining the ranks

of the unemployed, that is why we are focusing on how we can

bring young people into the world of work. And I believe that

we will succeed. COVID-19 did not serve us well, it just

exacerbated the situation.

Almost 2 million people lost their jobs because a number of

companies and not only in our own country, but in many other

countries, had to close down. They went bankrupt and they

didn’t find markets for their goods and services. So, all that

needs to be taken into account as we analyse the situation

that we are in. But government is not sitting on its laurels,

we are doing everything that we can to try and address the

situation. Thank you, hon Speaker.

Question 3:

The PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, the outgoing National Commissioner

of the SA Police Service, General Khehla Sitole, and I have

been in communication over some time about matters that led to

the mutual agreement on the early termination of his contract.

Now, these discussions were, therefore, not related to the

crime statistics for October to December 2021, but were



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instead guided by what would be in the best interests of the

country as we said in the statement. The latest crime

statistics reflect the huge task we face as a society to

combat crime and violence. These statistics show improvements

in some areas, but they also show reversals in other areas.

Between October to December 2020, and the same period in 2021,

for example, there was a 9% increase in murders and a 14%

increase in car hijackings. At the same time, there was a 9%

drop in sexual offences and an 8% decline in burglaries and

other property-related crimes.

While these quarterly statistics are important for tracking

crime trends and informing our responses, the reality is that

crime remains stubbornly high in our country. This reality

reminds us that reducing crime is a responsibility that all of

us need to shoulder – as the police, as political leaders, as

communities, as families, as business people, as workers and

as civil society. The recruitment of 12 000 additional police

officers, among other measures to strengthen the police, will

help us to turn the tide and create safer communities for all.

Hon Malema knows that when the President appoints or releases

his Ministers, he does not consult the public. It is the

President’s decision, and let it remain like that. [Applause.]

I thank you, hon Speaker.



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Mr J S MALEMA: Thank you very much, Speaker and Mr President.

Any responsible President will know that even when you have to

power to appoint Ministers, you do so in the best interests of

our people. It is not a power that you just go around

flaunting without exercising it in a rational manner. No one

has ever questioned your capacity or constitutional powers to

appoint any Cabinet. With this power that you go around, you

know, displaying and not using it correctly, Ayanda Ngila of

Abahlali baseMjondolo has been killed. Eight people killed in

one day in Khayelitsha, more eight in Manenberg and many other

people are killed on daily basis, Mr president, and not this

time around not only in the townships. We’ve seen Professor

Mohamed Tayob, University of Limpopo Professor being killed.

Heavy Pablo being killed. We’ve seen a club owner, Don Ejeh, a

Nigerian citizen, the owner of Black Door Club in Sandton

being kidnapped daylight in the suburbs.

They are no longer even hiding. They are now shooting people

on daylight in front of cameras. They no longer wear

balaclavas and they don’t hide. Reason being that there’s no

policing in South Africa and there is no visible policing in

all suburbs and townships of South Africa. Now, the problem is

that you have taken a person who was a commissioner and you

made him a Minister. Therefore, because he has got competing



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interest of being a commissioner, at the same time being a

Minister, he interferes with the powers of commissioners. I

can guarantee you now, you can appoint any commissioner you so

wish, the most capable person in your life, any one that you

regard as the most capable person you can appoint that person.

That person will never succeed. Whether you take Sydney

Mufamadi there or not to be a commissioner, as long as Bheki

Cele is the Minister ... [Interjections.] ... inspired in

crime. What is that you are so scared about hon Bheki Cele, so

much that you are prepared to allow our people to die like

flies because you want to satisfy political expediency. What

is it that if you think he possess a lot of support in

KwaZulu-Natal which you think ... [Interjections.] ... why

can’t you redeploy him to another department and give us a

capable Minister to fight crime in this country? Crime is the

nightmare, Mr President. Stop telling us that you’ve got the

power to appoint Ministers. We know that, but exercise it to

the benefit of our people. What you are talking about we know

it, but for as long as ... [Interjections.] ... it becomes

useless.

The SPEAKER: Hon Malema! Hon member, this is a statement,

please raise you question. Thank you.



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Mr J S MALEMA: I asked a question, hon Speaker. What is it

that he is so scared of hon Bheki Cele to a point where he is

prepared to compromise the lives our ... [Interjections.]

*Sepedi:*

Wena “Chicco-hairstyle” o thomile man!

The SPEAKER: Order! There is only one Chair presiding at the

moment.

*IsiZulu:*

Mama awume kancane.

*English:*

Thank you very much. The hon the President! Hon members, will

you please take note of what I have raised earlier on. This

Chamber is very small. Whatever it is, the little that you do,

actually distracts everybody. Just stop it. We have to stop

it, hon member, and behave like the adults and the leaders of

our parties’ representatives of our people here in this

Chamber. Thank you very much. The hon the President!

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Malema was very

eloquent in describing the situation that we find ourselves in



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from a criminality point of view. And he touched on important

issues like visible policing and that criminals are now so

brazen and so bold as to be able to embark on criminal

activity in broad daylight. Therefore, if you listened very

carefully to my state of the nation address and also my

reference now to saying that the steps that we are going to

take to strengthen the police service by also bringing in up

to 12 000 new police recruits, you would have realised that we

are taking steps to address this challenge. Visible policing

is a challenge and by bringing in more police we will be able

to urge more and more towards having police being visible so

that they can execute their task of dealing with those who

want to perpetrate acts of criminality.

Of course, what we have said over time is that our population

has risen and over time we have not lifted the numbers of our

policemen and women in tandem with the rising population.

Therefore, the ratio between citizens and the police has

lessened quite a lot or increased quite a lot on the wrong

side and we, therefore, need to bring that into line and make

sure that we have sufficient number of police. But, also to

increase their own capability and this is one of the measures

that we are taking to improve the security situation in the

country so that South Africans can feel safe. He wants to know



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what as President I am scared of doing a whole number of

things.

*Sesotho:*

Ke re Letona, ha o Letona wena Malema. [Ditsheho.] Ba re ke o

kenye ke o etse Letona...

*English:*

... no, no, no, Malema no, does not want to be a Minister ...

*Sesotho:*

O batla ho ba Mokgatlo wa kganyetso ho seng jwalo e be

Mopresidente. Jwale, o tla tshwanela hore a emele yona nako

yeo.

*English:*

However, all I can say is that, hon Malema, I’ve heard what

you have said, but I fear fokkol.

*Sesotho:*

Ha ke tshabe letho.

*English:*

Thank you, hon Speaker.



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Ms T M JOEMAT-PETTERSON: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Thank you very much, hon President and hon members. If hon

Malema is looking for another midnight Cabinet reshuffle, he

is speaking to the wrong President ... [Laughter.] ...

Therefore, hon President, you announced in your state of the

nation address that the number of changes will be made in the

security agencies to strengthen our security structures.

Congratulations, you have done exactly this. Therefore, what

additional measures, hon President, will your government be

undertaking in the entire criminal justice system to ensure

the effectiveness and efficiency in dealing with crime and

fighting corruption? I thank you.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Joemat-Petterson,

yes, we are taking measures. Security situation in our country

is challenged and everyone is concerned about the lapses,

about the problems that beset our security complex and we are

taking measures. Firstly, as I said in the state of the nation

address that we would be bringing in people changing the guard

in the number of entities and it is the entirety of the

criminal justice system that we are reforming. Therefore, the

reform is also going to be in line with policy or strategy

that is going to be put in place to ensure that we do have a

better handle on the security situation in the country.



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It has been raised by members, including by yourself, hon

Joemat-Petterson, in your discussions with me and this is a

matter that we are addressing and the changes that you have

already seen and many more will be coming. We will ensure that

the security of our country is placed in a much better

position. Now, a number of events that have happened in our

country of a criminal nature as well as of an unrest nature

are matters of great concern to all of us. As for the police

themselves, they’re already doing a quite great deal of work,

setting up special units, for instance, for the construction

mafia. Those who seek to hijack building projects, special

unit is being set up. The special unit that focuses on bank

heist or the heist of money vehicles, we have already seen

great successes in that regard.

In the mining sector great deal of work is being done. On

cable theft we are working with the private sector to focus on

all that and a whole range of other areas where people who

want to participate in criminal activity have been busy and

disrupting and making the country unstable, we are focusing on

that. I am very confident that we are going to see great

progress as we move forward. However, thank you very much for

continuing to raise these issues, hon Joemat-Petterson. Thank

you, hon Speaker.



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The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY: Thank you, Mr President.

When you reshuffle your Cabinet the last time, you said, and I

quote:

We are determined to build a capable state to be able

lead and which effectively serves the needs of the

people.

However, look at the crime statistics. Look at what is on

their reports. Look at the July riots report which says that

your poverty Ministers must take some blame. But, you always

go after the directors-general, DGs, or the officials, never

the poverty Cabinet. Too big, too incompetent, and too corrupt

to get the job done. Where are your ... [Inaudible.] ...

performance ... [Inaudible.] ... Cabinet Ministers? Nowhere.

Where are your lifestyle audit for Cabinet Ministers? Nowhere.

You protect your poverty Cabinet even though they have stopped

protecting citizens. You can’t pity poverty with the poverty

Cabinet. Mr President, you took an oath of office to put South

Africans first. Therefore, the question that I must ask you

today is why won’t you take action against Ministers who are

crooked, corrupt or indifference? Thank you. [Applause.]



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The PRESIDENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Processes that we get

involved in, in strengthening the capacity of the state have

to be overarching, they have to be focused and we have to look

at every aspect of the work that we do. Therefore, I have put

together a team of people who have demonstrated over time that

they have a number of competencies and capabilities. Of

course, what I do know as a politician in South Africa is that

we always don’t agree. We differ on a whole range of issues

including on who should be appointed to whatever position.

Therefore, I do know that whenever I make an appointment which

if I’m constitutionally entitled to make, there will be those

who will have different views. You know we live in a free

country, and people are entitled to have different views. We

are entitled to see things differently and that is a beauty of

our constitutional architecture. Therefore, in this regard, we

do have differences of approach and of opinion, and it is not

that I don’t take council from even members of the opposition.

I do and I do listen and I do take into account what is being

said.

However, we must also agree and accept that there are points

where we may differ even about policy matters, about the

capability of people, be the directors-general, be the

Ministers and what a view. In the end you are absolutely



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right, I took an oath that I will put South Africa first. And

this is precisely what I always seek to do - South Africa

first. Now, we may even differ on that because some of you may

think that, no, I don’t put South Africa first, I put myself

first, I put whoever first, and so on and so on. However, my

commitment to the Republic cannot be questioned. I am

irrevocably pro South Africa and I put this country forward.

Thank you for your ... [Inaudible.] Thank you, hon Speaker.

[Applause.]

Dr P J GROENEWALD: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon President, you

are quite correct, it’s your prerogative to appoint your

executive and I respect that. However, I personally think that

part of the problem in the police is that your Minister of

Police was a former Commissioner of Police although he had no

experience as a police person, and I will come to that with my

next question. On 16 of August 2012, we had the Marikana

situation, the post-94 sample situation in South Africa. The

Farlam Commission was appointed to look into that matter and

he made various recommendations and I want to quote to you,

only two of them. It says the executive should not make any

operational decisions for the police. If they give guidance

there should be properly recorded. It also says operational

decisions should only be made by an officer that has a



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necessary training skills and experience specifically in

Public Order Policing.

Now, hon President, my follow-up question is, the person,

Minister of Police, he wants to also make certain operational

decisions. That’s where there was a problem created. Now, my

question is, did you implement any of the Farlam Commission’s

recommendations? If not, why not, if so, was there any effect

to record any recommendations from the Minister as far as

operational issues are concerned? Thank you, hon President.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. The Farlam Commission

made a number of recommendations, and a number of them have

been implemented. That one that you cite and which really,

really is heard, particularly during the July unrest is the

Public Order Policing one which we have admitted, we never

really sort of increased the number of Public Order Police and

also their direct training. At that one I think we have said

that we have not implemented in full. Now, you want to know

and you are obviously putting forward an opinion that the

Minister interferes in operational matters. It is an opinion.

He is the political head. Ministers are political heads.

Therefore, the reason we have directors-general it’s because

the directors-general, apart from being appointed by Cabinet,



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are in the end finally signed off by the President. They are

appointed because they have a speciality in the areas that

they are pointed to.

Therefore, they are the accounting officers need to take

responsibility and accountability for the running of the

department. The Minister is an oversight official or a person

who should ensure that policy is made and policy is

implemented. So, those processes are processes that we often

want to see adhered to. So, your opinion, therefore, is that

no, there is interference and I think sometimes, yes, there

can be struggling of the lanes, but we always through various

even the performance agreements that we have signed want to

make sure that there is adherence to a policy side, to the

oversight side and leave the running of the department to

those people who been appointed to do that. And that is a

process, hon Groenewald, that we want to continue engendering

even as we move forward. However, your views have been heard.

Thank you very much.

Question 4:

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, a central pillar

of government’s programme is to grow the economy and create

employment. We have taken far-reaching measures to unleash the



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potential of our economy, focusing particularly on small

businesses, micro businesses and informal businesses. This

includes reducing the cost of doing business and removing

barriers to entry for small businesses.

South Africa does not lack an entrepreneurial spirit.

Entrepreneurship is abundant in our country. Our people are

brimming with wonderful ideas – ideas about starting

businesses, running businesses, creating products and

providing services. We also have abundant talent, the

requisite energy and creativity in our country. There are many

entrepreneurs who are ready and willing to start their own

businesses.

I had occasion just last weekend to be in Mafikeng and I met a

horde of young people who are creating unbelievable gadgets –

stuff that one would never have thought would be created by

these young people. One of them just blew my mind - because I

am a farmer – had created a gadget that tests your soil and

immediately tells you what you can plant in a particular soil

and what you need to input in terms of fertiliser, and so

forth, in the soil. All of this is being done by our young

people. The innovation centres that are being set up around

our country enable them to do precisely that. We do have



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talent, we do have energy, and all we need to do is to unlock

that energy.

Too often, however, these entrepreneurs are frustrated by

excessive regulation and work under a massive burden of

compliance. The compliance process in our country is just too

overbearing. It just drowns you. In order to start a business,

to run a business, you have to do so many compliance measures

that you immediately just feel discouraged.

It is for this reason that I announced in the state of the

nation address that we would create dedicated capacity in the

Presidency to reduce red tape, with a team led by Mr Sipho

Nkosi to do precisely that. Already the planning and the ideas

that are coming forward are the types that are going to do

precisely that.

The focus is not only going to be on small and medium

enterprises, SMEs. It is going to be on looking at a variety

of areas where the strictures of the red tape are not allowing

South Africans to move forward. This team will identify

priority reforms and work with other departments and agencies

to simplify regulatory processes and unlock specific obstacles

to investment and business growth.



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This focus will build on existing work undertaken by other

departments, be it by the Department of Trade, Industry and

Competition, by the Department of Small Business Development

and, indeed, by a number of other departments like

Infrastructure Build, Water and Sanitation and many others.

Focus areas in 2022 should include the work that is being done

with the SA Revenue Services, Sars, to improve the turnaround

times for processing things like VAT refunds for SMEs,

reviewing onerous licensing requirements that make it

difficult to start and operate a business, making it easier

for SMEs to do business with the state, and working with

private and government funding institutions to also make it

easier for SMEs to access the credit needed to operate and

grow their businesses. I have made it clear that our job is to

enable businesses, not to stifle them.

In addition to these measures, the Department of Small

Business Development and other public institutions, such as

the National Youth Development Agency, will continue to

provide funding and support to SMEs.

The Small Enterprise Development Agency, Seda, will continue

to establish new incubators and digital hubs that provide a



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broad range of business development support to SMEs and co-

operatives particularly in underserved areas.

This will include centres for entrepreneurship and the rapid

incubators in institutions of higher learning to foster a

culture of entrepreneurship among young people and students,

and to convert job seekers into job creators.

The Small Enterprise Development Agency has also developed the

Basic Entrepreneurship Skills Development Programme, which is

funded by the National Skills Fund. This programme uses

coaching to facilitate and reinforce learning and development

support for emerging entrepreneurs. This shows that we are

focusing on engendering an entrepreneurial spirit in our

nation. More than 2 000 emerging entrepreneurs have, to date,

been supported through the programme.

Through our Youth Challenge Fund, we aim to support 10 000

young innovators over the next year, particularly the type

that I met in Mafikeng who are full of ideas and want to

create things.

We are implementing a programme to support entrepreneurship in

schools, called “Step-up to a Start-up”, which encourages



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learners to consider entrepreneurship as an alternative career

to employment. The programme aims to equip learners with

entrepreneurial knowledge and skills needed to start and

manage their own businesses. Of course, they still need to get

into some form of employment so that they can learn the skills

needed, but if they were imbued with entrepreneurial training

right from a school level the future could be brighter for

them.

By making it easier for small businesses to grow, by expanding

access to finance and support and by reaching out to young

would-be entrepreneurs, we are determined to unleash this

potential. And, as I have said, there is great potential

amongst South Africans. All we need to do is to create that

conducive environment for them to be able to thrive.

Wherever I go I find that many South Africans want to run

their own small, medium and big businesses. What we now need

to do as the government is to encourage that spirit of

entrepreneurship among South Africans, so that they can get on

and create jobs and create better livelihoods for themselves

and for their families. This is what our country needs and

this is what we are committed to doing. Thank you, hon

Speaker. [Applause.]



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The SPEAKER: The first supplementary question will be asked by

the hon F Jacobs from the Chamber, but I see a hand there. I

don’t know whether it is a point of order. What is it?

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Speaker, indeed it is a point of order.

You’ll pardon me for delaying in raising this matter. Firstly,

I didn’t want to disturb the President and the people asking

follow-up questions; and, secondly, I had to find out from

first-language Afrikaans speakers whether the word “fokkol”

was parliamentary. They confirmed that, indeed, it is not

parliamentary. You would recall that when the President

responded to a follow-up question by the hon Julius Malema, he

said he fears “fokkol”. It would be ...

*IsiXhosa:*

... hayi thulani, andizi kuyiyeka le nto ndiyithethayo.

[Kwahlekwa.]

*English:*

It would be a sad day, Speaker, if the word “fokkol” entered

the lexicon of Parliament because the President used it here.

This is because MPs will use it in future and you will not be

able to call them to order.



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The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I will consult and just

make sure that “My Afrikaans is reg.”

Mr F JACOBS: Hon Speaker, we appreciate the priority reforms

His Excellency the President outlined. Indeed, small business

is everybody’s business. Given market concentration and the

perception of bullying, how will we encourage the greater

private sector and especially big business to support, nurture

and grow the informal sector, the emerging sector and small

businesses?

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, maybe to save you

from going through Hansard, I am willing, prepared and able to

say that as soon as I used that word ... I almost said ...

Madam Speaker, I shouldn’t have said that. So, to save you the

trouble, hon member, cancel it and maybe just say “niks”.

[Laugher.] “Niks” is an Afrikaans word as well. [Applause.]

[Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr President. You saved me from having

to ...

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Yes, I withdraw. [Laughter.]



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The SPEAKER: Thank you.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Do you want me to say that I am

withdrawing “fokkol”? [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Mr President, you may proceed.

Mr S N SWART: Hon Speaker ... Hon Speaker, point of order.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBIC: He wants me to say that I am

withdrawing “fokkol”. So it means I withdraw nothing.

[Laughter.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Mr Swart, you have the floor.

Mr S N SWART: Hon Speaker, may I attribute that to the lack of

medication the President referred to earlier this morning?

[Laughter.] At the beginning, the President referred to a

possible lack of medication. So we appreciate the withdrawal.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Swart. The hon President

...



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The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Madam Speaker, it must be the

lack of the right medication.

Mr J S MALEMA: Point of order, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: There is a point of order on the virtual

platform.

Mr J S MALEMA: Under which Rule did the hon Swart just stand

to the point where we even recognised him and accepted his

input? Which Rule is that?

The SPEAKER: No, no, no. Hon Malema ... [Interjections.] Hold

on, hon members. I have not requested you to respond to what

the hon Malema has said. I am responding to the hon Malema.

Hon Malema, earlier on, before the hon Swart, the hon Kwankwa

could not raise a point of order. I don’t know whether the

microphones are off or not, but he did try to indicate that he

used “action” to show me that he wanted to speak, and I

allowed him to speak.

The same applied to the hon Swart. When he stood I knew what

that meant. I even asked if that was on a point of order. He



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said yes and I allowed him to speak. So, please, hon member,

what is important is that I don’t want people to start

screaming here and call for points of order. At least he

indicated that he would like to speak and I afforded him that

opportunity, which is the same thing I did for the hon

Kwankwa.

Mr J S MALEMA: Under which Rule was hon Swart standing?

Kwankwa’s point of order was in order. If the hon Swart was

standing in terms of the point of order Rule, then you have to

make a ruling. Because it can’t be that people are out of

order when they say things that you don’t like. But when they

say things that you do like – even when they are not in order

– you allow that to pass. It becomes a circus. It is no longer

Parliament which operates within the Rules.

The SPEAKER: Okay, hon Malema. I have taken note of the point

you have raised. I now request the hon President to proceed.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, there is a role to

be played by all in the private sector, particularly by medium

and, I would say, big business, to help small and informal

enterprises and to do so in a variety of ways through the

supply chain. In doing so, they could also help support,



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strengthen and mentor those who are in small, medium and

informal businesses.

Doing that would, in a way, increase the eco system within the

business sector and particular sectors of the economy. The

private sector would then be able to create more entrepreneurs

in our country instead of continuing just to rely on the same

old ones that they have always used. This is also of a

transformational nature. Transformation would be best served

by getting those who were previously prevented from

participating, particularly women and young people, into

business.

Now, I would argue that big business would be doing themselves

a great favour through their enterprise development

initiatives to support women; to ensure that the procurement

processes tilt towards supporting women and those who have

been previously disadvantaged and prevented from participating

in these businesses.

In that way, we create a wholesome process in which everyone

knows that they are welcome to participate and in which we

actually ensure that the cake that we bake is much bigger and

everyone then benefits. That is the way our country should be



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growing. It is for this reason that I call on big business to

support the emergence of new, small, informal and medium

enterprises and to give them work through procurement, through

mentorship, through real support – financial and otherwise –

as well as through implements and machinery so that they are

able to get up and going.

So, if we can all do that, that would be a great help. It also

goes beyond just that. The financial institutions themselves

need to participate in this, so that banks and other financial

institutions also find ways of reducing their very, very

complex and difficult requirements and enable small and medium

enterprises to participate and also see how the guarantee

system of the process that we have put in place can be of

great assistance.

I think, through this, Madam Speaker, we would be creating an

environment that could enable small and medium enterprises to

thrive. This should not be government’s responsibility alone.

It should be our collective responsibility.

Educational institutions also have a role to play. I would

like to see more and more universities increasing disciplines

and courses for small and medium enterprises, so that people



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can learn various skills even if they are ... [Inaudible.] ...

skills – financial, management and manufacturing capabilities

and all that. So it is through this that we will be able to

create a wonderful, growing economy. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr M G E HENDRICKS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon

President, tonight is the holiest night for Muslims to say

prayers and these prayers are always accepted. We pray for the

Cabinet, for you and for this House.

Creating an entrepreneurial psyche, Your Excellency, is a

revolutionary demand by the Whip of the small business

portfolio committee on which I also serve. I got an award as

one of the pioneers ... [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Paulnita Marais ... Hon Paulnita, please. You

may proceed, hon Hendricks.

Mr M G E HENDRICKS: I was awarded the “Pioneer of the Internet

in South Africa” award in 2002. The entrepreneurial spinoff of

my initiative created millions of jobs and opportunities in

South Africa. So, had I not been with an entrepreneurial

psyche, like the Whip referred to, hon President, you and



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South Africans may have had to wait longer to get into the

Fourth Industrial Revolution.

We now need the government to be the pioneer. Your Excellency,

are you prepared to crack the whip? There are 10 000 villages

in South Africa. I have a constituency which covers 10 of

them. What assistance can you give to me to connect these

villages to the cities and the outside world so that they can

... [Inaudible.] ... compliant and become, for example, call

centres doing work for over 40 government departments and,

potentially, even to the South African corporate sector and in

time for overseas customers too? Any such assistance would

connect my constituency not only to jobs, but also to training

and development and for some to have the opportunity to even

start their own small online businesses? There are no

innovation centres, incubators or digital hubs in our

villages.

We want to know whether the hon President would visit, for

example, Mpame Village which has an ocean with 13 kinds of

fish and a forest with the straightest trees ...

The SPEAKER: Question, hon Hendricks. Please state your

question.



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Mr M G E HENDRICKS: ... if you cannot make it ... those who he

would direct will leave with a basket of fish. So the question

is: What support are you going to give our villages which are

the Cinderellas in South Africa?

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, I would be very,

very pleased to visit that village and enjoy what he said were

the different kinds of fish that it has. I would want him to

guide me there. Thank you very much for your prayers for the

Cabinet and for the government. We always welcome them. Thank

you also for the prayers, I guess, for Members of Parliament.

They should not just be for the Cabinet, but should include

the hon Steenhuisen here. He needs prayers as well. [Laugher.]

[Applause.]

I should say, hon Speaker, that one of the major projects that

we have is SA Connect. It is through SA Connect that we want

and are going to be connecting the various parts of our

country. It is a massive project that government has decided

to embark upon, so that everyone in South Africa is able to

have a measure of connection to the internet – be online, do

business online, learn online and do a whole variety of

things.



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As it is now, not many areas in our country are connected and

that is a matter of concern to us. We would like to see as

many parts of our country as possible – particularly villages

– being connected. SA Connect is a project that we are going

to unfold so that it envelopes the whole country. I’m

confident that through this we will be able to catapult our

country into the 4IR scenario so that people are able to

converse, to communicate, to do business, to learn – to learn

also what is happening in other parts of the world, and to

trade as well.

We have found that when people are connected, they are then

able to trade in an exponential manner. That has been proven

over and over, and that is precisely what we would like to do.

So, SA Connect is the answer to the hon member’s question.

Thank you, hon Speaker.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Mr President, the lockdown is

actually the single biggest piece of red tape tying up our

economic recovery. The real disaster in South Africa is the

jobs and the poverty disaster caused by your poverty Cabinet,

which is a permanent disaster and, frankly, beyond prayer.



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International tourism now is only 20% of what it was before

COVID-19. The tourism industry used to drive 10% of job

creation in South Africa. Tourists are now going to countries

where they don’t have to do expensive PCR tests, they don’t

have to wear masks and they are able to go to stadiums to

watch sports functions.

Covid regulations are strangling government service delivery

as well and many places are still operating on reduced or

rotational staff. The biggest amount of people suffering from

this are the poor who rely on government services more.

Mr President, you told us right from the beginning that you

have been led by science. Severe illness rates are now low and

hospitals are not overflowing with COVID-19 cases, so how do

you justify keeping South Africa’s economy on its knees by

extending the state of disaster and now legislating a lockdown

into permanence? Thank you. [Applause.]

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, the hon

Steenhuisen would remember me standing here in the City Hall

saying that we were going to lift the state of disaster. We

are at level 1. I explained very carefully that there are

certain measures that we will need to keep under management to



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enable us to have the wherewithal to keep, if you like, a tab

on the pandemic.

The pandemic is still here with us. COVID-19 has not suddenly

just disappeared through the door or the window. We are still

concerned about those people who get infected, who get

hospitalised and who die. We are concerned about those people

who have not been vaccinated yet. All of this needs to be

properly managed by a responsible government.

Now, what have I said? I said: We are now going to want to

rely on health measures. Health measures, for instance, that

will say that if you are in an enclosed space like this where

this is no proper ventilation, you are still required to wear

a mask. You cannot just breathe that into existence; you have

to regulate it. And this has to be regulated by a legal

instrument, a law, a regulation.

What we have said we would do is that we would move away from

the harder state of disaster regulation to a health one,

because we are dealing with a health pandemic, a pandemic that

affects our health as a whole. That requires a regulation so

that when we are gathered like this, the Speaker should be

able to say, as she does all the time – unless you are



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speaking – “Wear your mask.” She needs an instrument to be

able to direct us to wear that mask.

This is a health regulation that we have now put in place. If

you have a problem with that, I am sorry. We are government so

we have to put regulations in place. [Applause.] As the

opposition, you have a different view, but you are not

government. [Interjections.] No. Our scientists are telling us

precisely this.

I can admit that you have always had problem, from day 1. Day

1. Right from the word go. If you were ever positive, hon

Steenhuisen, it was at one meeting when I called the political

parties. It was the only time. Beyond that, it was saying,

“You don’t need the state of disaster.”

We kept on saying that we are led by science and we have heard

some of the leading scientists which you differ from. That is

your freedom. You are entitled to differ, even with

scientists. We have been guided by those scientists. You can

shout as much as you’d like, but we, as government, act in the

interests of South Africans. [Applause.] And that is why they

elected us.



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We are being very careful, because there is nothing about

killing jobs by saying that people should wear a mask in a

room like this. Really! It defies logic. It really defies

logic. How are we killing jobs? In fact, we are creating jobs,

because there are people who make these masks. There are new

factories that have come up that make masks so that we can all

feel safe.

For the life of me, I still want someone to come and tell me

what it is that we are destroying jobs through by continuing

with these health measures. [Interjections.] This is because

when we lived ... Listen to me.

Mr J S MALEMA: By closing stadiums, you are killing jobs. By

closing stadiums, you are killing jobs. [Interjections.]

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker ...

The SPEAKER: Hon Malema, allow me just to ... [Inaudible.]

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Point of order.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: We have been going through a

process. Let me tell you something. Many countries around the



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world are exactly where we are. The countries that have opened

up their stadia to 100% participation have a 70%, 80%

vaccination rate.

We’ve been saying, and I have saying this ad nauseam, let us

all as leaders participate in encouraging our people to

vaccinate. [Applause.] I am yet to see and to hear leaders in

the opposition benches talking about vaccination – going to

the people on the ground and getting people vaccinated.

Instead, they talk against vaccination, and all they talk

about is precisely what is being said here. I don’t buy into

that. I am afraid to say, but we have done everything to

manage this pandemic. The interests of our people when it

comes to lives and their livelihoods have been my greatest

preoccupation for the better part of the last two years. And,

as I have said, I want to see the state of disaster coming to

an end. But I am not going to be reckless. I am not going to

be reckless. [Applause.]

I am going to be orderly. I am going to be orderly, and in

days I am going to address the nation and explain precisely

where we are headed to and how we should traverse this new

route that we are taking. We will outline this precisely.



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The health regulations have been published, and there are

processes that we are engaged in and we are engaging with

various leaders and so on. We have met traditional leaders. We

have met various other leaders and we have met religious

leaders, talking precisely about this.

I can assure you, again, hon Steenhuisen, we are going to lift

the state of disaster ... soon. And we are going to put in

place health regulations, regulations that will enable

everyone to feel safe, but, at the same time, we want to boost

vaccination.

We also go through a lot of consultations internationally. A

number of countries have told us that they reached an

inflection point of vaccination at about 43%, 44% - where we

are now, where the resistance to vaccination is evident. There

are measures that they have had to take to boost vaccination

to a higher level. That is precisely what we want to embark

upon.

I want to rely on political party leaders here to join us in

the process of increasing the level of vaccination in our

country. I therefore want to hear you, vocally, speak about

it, because I have not heard that. This is about the lives of



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South Africans. Let us all work together and ensure that our

people get vaccinated in their hundreds and millions. Thank

you very much, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: The last supplementary question will be asked by

the hon ...

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Speaker, on a point of order: The President

was not telling the truth that leaders from opposition parties

have not called for vaccinations. What we have said is that we

don’t want to be imposed upon with Western vaccinations. We

are not spokespeople for Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer.

Approved vaccines from ...

The SPEAKER: Ai, but you are discussing now. You are making

... No, no, no. [Interjections.] Hon Shivambu, that is not a

point of order. You are advancing your own arguments on the

matter. Please, hon member! If it is a point of order, make

your point of order. If it is an engagement on the matter

under discussion, then you find time to do so. For now, that

is not a point of order, I’m sorry. Thank you very much, hon

Shivambu. The last supplementary question will be asked by the

hon O M C Maotswe.



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Ms O M C MAOTWE: Thank you very much, Speaker. President, you

know a leader is clueless and has no idea of what he is

dealing with when he starts by affirming his position. Earlier

on you were telling us that you are the one who appoints

Ministers and then you just said now that you are leading the

government. So this is a sign that you are clueless about this

thing.

But let me go ahead with my question, Speaker. Your attempts

to centralise power in your office, President, are cause for

concern. First, you took over intelligence services and placed

them in your office. Then you took to your office the

responsibilities of co-ordinating the climate change response

by the country from the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Now, cutting red tape for small businesses has been removed

from the Ministry of Small Business Development into your

office.

Have you lost confidence in the ability of your Ministers to

lead the kind of change you want to see in this country? Are

these presidential panels not creating parallel centres of

authority and therefore hindering delivery of services? Thank

you, Speaker.



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The SPEAKER: Mr President, before you take your stand ...

[Inaudible.] ... withdraw what you said.

An HON MEMBER: I withdraw, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. I won’t repeat what he said because

that was foul language. Mr President ... the hon the

President.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, I think the hon

member said what she has said before. All I will say is no;

what we are seeking to do is to increase the capability of the

state. The Presidency plays a particular role in increasing

the capability of the state. Already, we are seeing quite a

lot of progress as a result of some of the measures and

initiatives that we have taken. Thank you, hon Speaker.

Question 5:

The PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, I apologise for speaking before

you gave me permission. Hon Speaker, thank you once again, and

hon members, state-owned enterprises, SOEs, are critical

drivers of inclusive economic growth and social development in

our country. However, the reports released by the Commission

of Inquiry into State Capture demonstrate the extent of the



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repurposing, damage and theft caused by state capture. We are

therefore working to reposition strategic SOEs to fulfil their

vital economic and social mandates.

International good practice suggests that a centralised

shareholder model, along with a central authority to house

strategic state-owned companies is the best way to ensure

effective oversight. A centralised shareholder management

model is likely to entail the following: Firstly, a holding

company that is 100% owned by the state; secondly, an active

shareholder approach to continuously set, monitor and evaluate

SOE performance in relation to commercial and development

objectives; thirdly, ensuring commercial sustainability of

SOEs with minimum or no reliance on the fiscus; and lastly,

development of an appropriate capital structure for the

holding company to ensure profitability and sustainability of

each SOE.

Based on the recommendations of Presidential SOE Council,

government is reviewing state ownership policy in terms of

which SOEs need to be owned by the state as well as the extent

thereof. The Presidential SOE Council is evaluating the

financial and operational status of the major SOEs that we



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have in our country and reviewing the turnaround plans for

each SOE in crisis.

The journey that we have embarked on will transform the manner

in which our SOEs are governed, managed and monitored for the

benefit of the nation as a whole. This is a transformation

that is long overdue. It was preceded by a commission that was

set up to look into state-owned enterprises, but now we are

honing into what needs to be done with regard to the

implementation of the commission’s report and also what needs

to be done in this current moment, particularly post-state

capture environment that we are now going to enter into. I

thank you.

Mr M HLENGWA: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, Mr

President, all the aspects which you have attributed to a

holding company, the ... [Inaudible.] ... in particular, are

basic elementary aspects which should arise regardless of the

structure into which government may be wanting to handle and

run SOEs. What is at play here, Mr President, is that this

move to establish yet another SOE is an admission on the part

of your government that the Department of Public Enterprises,

DPE, has been a total failure in managing these SOEs and

should have been abolished a long time ago and have these SOEs



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and their line function departments where the necessary

skills, knowledge and expertise of each sector are housed.

The second point is that without running the risk of another

patronising outlook to say I should listen to you so far as

your responses is concerned, you attribute this to state

capture, yet we are awaiting you to give us the implementation

plan in so far as the Commission into State Capture is

concerned. Are you now in a piecemeal approach on responding

and implementing recommendations of the State Capture

Commission? If you are, then why are we waiting for the end of

June? The bottom line is that we have heard this rhetoric

before and nothing has changed. It is merely a change of names

and semantics. The issue is that government is wholly

inadequately capacitated to manage and run SOEs and the

results can be seen in Eskom, Passenger Rail Agency of SA,

Prasa, and Transet, amongst others, whom are all literally on

their knees and rolling blackouts. To put a plaster on this

sore, isn’t in itself very irresponsible? The bottom line ...

The SPEAKER: Hon Hlengwa, what is your question?

Mr M HLENGWA: Thank you, Madam Speaker.



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The SPEAKER: But that was a speech. It was a statement not a

question.

Mr M HLENGWA: The President as at liberty to respond to the

argument I am making against his SOE holding company.

The SPEAKER: Sorry, Mr President, there is a point of order

there. The hon Gwarube.

Ms S GWARUBE: On a point of order. Thank you, Speaker, just to

bring to your attention that the member that asked the follow

up question, that is in their name, they have two minutes to

ask their question. Regardless of how they use their two

minutes, as long as they stick within that two-minute

timeframe. I do just want to bring that to your attention.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Gwarube, your point is

noted. Hlengwa, do you have a question?

Mr M HLENGWA: Madam Speaker ...

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Hlwengwa. The hon, the President.



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The PRESIDENT: ... [Laughter.] ... My apologies, hon Speaker,

hon Steenhuisen is distracting me. Maybe, he should not sit so

close to me.

Hon Speaker, I must be frank, I did not decipher a question

from what hon Hlengwa was saying. However, I should maybe want

to comment on some of the issues he put forward. The most

important one was that I thought he wanted to know whether I

was implementing the report on the Commission into State

Capture on a piecemeal basis by coming forward with the

proposition of a holding company to manage our own state-owned

enterprises. I must say that, no, it is not piecemeal

implementation. It stands on its own. Reference to state

capture is about how the state capture report is going to

enrich the process that we need to embark upon to reform our

own state-owned enterprises.

We firmly believe that through having this type of structure,

we will be able to do. If nothing else, what it will do is to

ensure that there is universality and commonality about the

management and the financial discipline across all our state-

owned enterprises and you do that much more effectively

through a holding structure. I can say that in other places,

that’s what they do. They succeeded in Singapore in building



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Temasek, in China, Cosek is exactly what they have done and in

a number of other places. Some have done so through their

sovereign wealth funds and so forth in the way that they have

structured things.

In this case, we are seeking to have uniformity of processes

which are better managed through a single structure. All these

companies will hang on that structure; they will be

subsidiaries. It will also help us as I said in one of the

issues that I mentioned, and balanced sheet management where

we will be able to have a line of sight of what exactly is

happening; from a financial point of view in each of the SOEs,

and synchronise what we have done from a performance point of

view, management point of view, the objectives and the

expectations will be so well set out that we will have one

single view of exactly what is happening. When reporting comes

in, it will be globular reporting, which enables us to see

everything on one sheet of paper. That is going to be the

strength of what we are seeking to do.

There will be good cross-pollination of ideas and processes.

Transnet will know how the Prasa is managing certain processes

and initiatives, be they of infrastructure nature, performance

nature and of market nature. You will only truly achieve that



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cross-pollination as Temasec has done in Singapore where I

visited and saw it myself. This can only be done through a

structure like this.

The other thing it will do is lessen interference. One of the

things that has been raised by the state-owned council is the

issue of interference from the executives because sometimes

there is the eagerness to get involved and end up interfering.

When we have a common state-owned structure, which has all

these subsidiaries, we will then be able to have commonality

of interest, processes and remuneration of either directors or

management so that everything is synchronised. This will bring

about a new era for our state-owned enterprises. It will

enable us and strengthen our resolve in better managing our

state-owned enterprises. Thank you, hon Speaker.

*Tshivenḓa*:

Muf C M PHIRI: Ndi a livhuwa, Mulangadzulo, kha vha ntendele

ndi reshe vhaṱhonifhei vha re fhano Nḓuni ino, ndi dovhe ndi

reshe na vhadzulapo vha Afrika Tshipembe.

Mulangadzulo, nda ndi khou ṱoḓa u isa ndumeliso dzo khwaṱhaho

kha Muphuresidennde, Singo ḽa ha Ramabulana ḽine ḽa aṱamela na

vhavhulayi, vhone vhaṋe Vho Ramaphosa.



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Muhulwane, vho dodombedza zwavhuḓi nga maanḓa zwa uri Mabindu

a Muvhuso ndi one ane a khwaṱhisa ikonomi. Arali o

maanḓafhadzwa kana ... vho ḓi sumbedzisa na kha phindulo

dzavho uri kha mbekanyamushumo kana maga o vhewaho u itela u

khwinifhadza haya Mabindu a Muvhuso. Ri khou tenda nahone ri

tendelana nazwo riṋe sa vhadzulapo vha Afrika Tshipembe kana

riṋe sa Miraḓo ya Phalamennde.

Muhulwane, mbudziso yanga ndi ya uri: Ndi zwifhio zwivhuya

zwavhuḓi zwa u ṱanganelana ha Mabindu a Muvhuso na zwiimiswa

zwa phuraivethe kha Mabindu a Muvhuso ane a vha na mutsiko wa

masheleni na thaidzo dza u sa shuma zwavhuḓi? Honeha, ndi

mbuno dzifhio dzine vha nga ri vhudza dzone dzine dzi nga

konisa u maanḓafhadza ikonomi yashu na uri i dovhe hafhu u

vhuyelela ngonani u itela uri haya mabindu a khwaṱhe a shume

nga nḓila yo teaho. Ndo livhuwa, Muhulisei, Aa.

MUPHURESIDENNDE: Ndi a livhuwa, Mulangadzulo, ndi dovhe ndi

livhuwe na zwirendo zwe vha ranga ngazwo. Ndi khou tama u

khwaṱhisedza haya mafhungo a uri arali ra ṱanganyiso haya

Mabindu a Muvhuso oṱhe a vha fhasi ha nnḓu nthihi na musi a

tshi ḓo vha o ḓiimisa nga oṱhe, ndi zwone zwine zwa ḓo

khwaṱhisa kushumele kwa haya mabindu, nahone zwi ḓo dovha zwa

ri thusa uri ikonomi yashu i bvelele nga nḓila yo fanelaho.



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Vho vhudzisa mbudziso yavhuḓi ya uri arali haya maṅwe mabindu

a sekithara ya phuraivethe ra a ṱanganyisa na a muvhuso zwi

nga shuma naa? Ndi mitshelo ifhio ine ra nga kana? Ndi a i

takalela mbudziso heyo ngauri musi ri tshi sedza maṅwe Mabindu

a Muvhuso ri wana uri arali ra kona u panga maṅwe a sekithara

ya phuraivethe ...

*English*:

The SPEAKER: Hon member, what is your problem?

[Interjections.] You may proceed, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: ... The participation ...

*Sesotho*:

Ha ke bua hantle ke re, ha dikhamphani tse ding tsa mmuso di

ka kgona ho sebedisana mmoho le lefapha la poraefete,

mohlomomg e ka ba ntho ye ka re thusang dinthong tse ding.

*English*:

... for instance,

*Sesotho*:

... ha ke etsa mohlala o motle...



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*English*:

... Telkom used to be wholly-owned by government and we

brought in the private sector. We still own a fairly big share

of about 40-something per cent. What we also did with Telkom

is that it was listed on the Stock Exchange and it is one of

those top-performing companies. It pays dividends to

government every year, on a continuous basis, is well-managed.

The strength of that is that - having been a public-owned

entity and having been listed – Telkom has been catapulted to

another level of governance, management and performance

management as well by bringing in other shareholders.

The same thing has happened to a number of companies in China.

I have said in this House before, China Mobile, which has

700 million subscribers, is listed on the New York Stock

Exchange. Through that listing, they were able to raise a lot

of capital that has fuelled the growth of China Mobile, which

did not require a lot of fiscus support the government. They

have done the same thing with the Industrial and Commercial

Bank of China, ICBC, which is the largest bank in the world.

That is the strength of bringing in participation without

losing control. They have done that without the loss of

control.



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Today, what we are seeking to do is with our own SA Airways,

SAA, having run into enormous challenges and problems. What

are we doing? We say we will bring in the private sector

player, who will come in and invest and inject life into the

SAA. In that way, I find that some of our state-owned

enterprises can reach a level of good performance because by

so doing, we are not privatising but just bringing in partners

who are going to add a lot of strength and capability. Through

the partnership, we will be able to do a very good cross-

pollination of ideas, systems, governance, financial and

otherwise.

It also gives us a good standing. I often say that when Eskom

was in its heyday, that is the entity that we could have

listed. We could have listed the debt burden that Eskom has

and it could have been easily dealt with. Anyway, that is

history. Now, we have to manage it out of where it is and we

will make all efforts.

*Tshivenḓa*:

Nga zwenezwo, ndi khou tendelana navho uri hu na zwivhuya

zwine ri nga zwi wana arali ri tshi khou shumisana na Mabindu

a Muvhuso na vhoramabindu vhane vha vha kha phuraivethe.



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*English*:

The key issue is just to manage that whole process in a way

that your state-owned enterprises still serve public good and

still focuses on the developmental mandate because that is an

important one; to ensure that the services or whatever

products that it produces are still able to reach the poorest

of the poor in our country through the developmental mandate

it should have. It is doable. It is something that we can move

towards. Through this SOE Council, we should be able to reach

that level. Thank you very much.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY: Thank you very much, Mr

President, I am very glad that you mentioned Eskom because we

are on our 15th year of load shedding in South Africa.

In 2015, you said and I quote:

In another 18 months to two years, you will forget the

challenges with power, energy and Eskom ever happened.

Last week, we got hit with stage four, with the potential of

stage six. Electricity has gone up by an astronomical 450% in

the last 10 years. It is killing jobs and the economy. All of

these increases are to cover for your poverty Cabinet’s



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incompetence and corruption. All to make up for government’s

lack of accountability.

People are not paying for more expensive electricity; they are

paying for your poverty Cabinet. Electricity price increases

come directly out of the back pockets of ordinary household

income. How can you justify choosing price increases for

people over accountability for your poverty Cabinet? Thank

you. [Applause.]

The PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, hon Steenhuisen raised a very

important question about electricity price increase that we

saw introduced. As he well-knows, electricity prices are

regulated by National Energy Regulator of SA, Nersa, which is

an independent agency we put in place.

Eskom, looking at its own budgeting, will say this is the

price increase we desire. Quiet often, they pack it at a

higher level and Nersa brings it down. Then there are

interventions and discussions that happen to bring it where it

is.

Eskom faces its own special problems; more special than

sometimes we imagine. I did say in this House on the state of



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the nation that the deficit we have is 4000 megawatts. To

ensure that the availability factor of our energy is at a

level where even some of power stations break, we still have

that cushion. We no longer have that cushion.

When these old power stations and generators trip, break and

some fail to come on stream as well as we wanted, particularly

Medupi and Kusile, which we spent enormous amounts of money

on, when that happens, in the end the deficit is still there

and we still have that shortage. That is what gives rise to

the load shedding.

As I said, it’s not like we are sitting and doing nothing. We

have taken steps, measures and initiatives to ensure that we

have alternative power through the various windows that we

have put in place. We are going to another bid window. We have

allowed the up to sell generation of power of up to

100 megawatts. All that is in the works and is going to come

through. Various investors and manufacturers of equipment are

now in a race to make sure that we get there.

We had thought that we would also get emergency power, but

then again, we are caught up by our own regulations – the

environmental impact assessment decrease something else. I



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travelled last year in December to Ivory Coast and Ghana, they

have exactly the same. They were running short of

2000 megawatts or so. They brought in emergency power and that

enables their economies - they are not at the same level as we

are – to have sufficient power to help them as they are

building up their own more permanent power. In our case, that

has been put to a stop. We had thought that we will be able to

get the 4000 megawatts deficit, we didn’t.

Going forward, we want cheap energy all of us. The renewables

are going to be able to give us cheap energy. The initial bid

windows were very expensive; the latter ones have become

cheaper. I see the era of cheaper energy coming. I agree with

you completely that the 400% energy price rise in the last 10

years is something that has dealt a blow to our economy.

We used to have the cheapest energy in the world and that’s

why we were able to set up smelters both in Mozambique and in

our own country, but those days are long gone now. We are now

surviving on a day-to-day basis with very minimal energy that

is generated here.

We are solving the problem. We are addressing it. I have said

this before. It is not the deliberateness or the intention of



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Eskom to be embarking on load shedding, it is how they manage

the system. It is a very complex and delicate system that one

company holds the energy fortunes of the country in its hands.

When one power station trips, it immediately affects the

entire system.

With the diversification that we have embarked upon of getting

independent power producers, and also the diversification that

Eskom itself has opted for to go into renewables, we are going

to see a new era of energy generation coming to the fore in

our country. I didn’t say that in 2015 nor did I? Yes, I could

have. You were listening.

In 2015, we were truly hopeful that our energy challenges

would lessen, but they have gotten worse. At the same time, we

have become a lot better in bringing in renewable energy; the

sun and the wind generating quiet a lot of energy into the

grid on an ongoing basis as we move forward. We could have

been much worse off than where we are, but energy construction

takes time. We need to allow this process to ensue. I am

positively hopeful that we are going to see better days when

it comes to our energy generation. Thank you very much, hon

Speaker.



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Mr N L S KWANKWA: Speaker, thank you very much, President, I

think there is a slightly more strategic question to consider

here with respect to this question on SOEs. Given the tendency

of the economic superpowers around the world to either ignore

the international dispute resolution mechanisms or to

completely bypass them and decide to resolve disputes through

violence or wars, does that not naturally increase the

propensity around the world for member states to use violence

to resolve disputes? When you consider that one of our SOEs,

for example, Denel is on the brink of collapse, that state-

owned enterprise’ state impacts negatively on the ability of

the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, to discharge its

constitutional mandate? Firstly, what would you try to resolve

that? And lastly, which is also related to the matter of SOEs

is, while the development of a framework governing SOEs is

critical and important for their sustainability, government

should also be talking about what are those SOEs going to use

to mitigate the effects and the impact of the conflict between

Russia and Ukraine on the South African economy. What are you

going to do about those two related to SOEs? Thank you.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, hon Speaker ...

*IsiXhosa*:



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... andikuva, kodwa ndingatsho ndithi ndikuvile.

*English*:

Hon Speaker, the pointed question, for instance, of entities

such as Denel, which at the current moment are going through a

very difficult and almost an impossible period is that we do

need to bring life into them and to show up their balance

sheet.

Denel is a government entity that has so much potential that

the market is just wide open for it. What it really needs, is

to be given, yes, that leg up and support so that it goes back

to its glory days.

Many countries on the African continent keep coming to us and

say, we have looked at the products that Denel produces; from

vehicles, missiles and the Rooivalk. We want to buy our

products from Denel. Would Denel be able to deliver?

Denel has run into a financial problem and a financial

challenge which we are looking at. Denel would also help us in

the times that we live in, like now. Our SANDF is very reliant

on Denel. Most of the equipment that they have were made by

Denel. Therefore, the twinning between SANDF and Denel is very



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critical from a procurement point of view and from a supply

point of view. Denel needs to be propped up and to be

assisted. Once it is and is properly run under the structure

that we spoke about, it will be much better placed to be able

to fulfil its objectives.

It has also been receiving approaches – I must say – about

partnering with other players where other players say, we know

the challenges that Denel is going through. We would be able

to give balance sheet support. We would like to find out if

South Africa will be willing to partner us at an equity level

and more. These are matters that we are giving consideration

to, to look at the costs and benefits of precisely that type

of option.

In the broader geopolitics of the world, as an industrialised

country that we are, you do need a Denel. Denel that will be

able to build and manufacture the type of equipment that is

needed in this day in age given the propensity of a number of

powers in the world to resort to violence rather than to

resolve problems through negotiation. Denel is a great asset

for us to have at a state-owned enterprise level. I would like

to see Denel gets back to its feet rather than remain in the

doldrums where it is, and also participate more actively and



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profitably as a keen pillar of our SANDF. I think we can get

there. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

Question 6:

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, the appointment of

the National Commissioner of the SA Police Service, the SAPS,

is governed by section 207(1) of the Constitution that says,

and which I’m sure hon Groenewald is well aware of:

The President as head of the national executive must

appoint a woman or a man as the National Commissioner of

the Police Service to control and manage the Police

Service.

That’s what the Constitution says. While this places sole

responsibility for the appointment of the national

commissioner in the hands of the President, it does not

preclude the President from putting in place a process to seek

recommendations and proposals.

This is the approach that I took with respect to the

appointment of the National Director of Public Prosecutions

and to the identification of potential candidates for the

position of Chief Justice. In each case, the approach that I



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took was informed by the specific circumstances and the nature

of the position. These considerations will continue to inform

me on the approach that I take with respect to the appointment

of the next SAPS national commissioner. So, they will help to

inform me. However, in the end the Constitution is clear on

who appoints and how that appointment will be done. So as you

have come to know me, and to criticise me at times, I will

embark on a process. You are suggesting a panel of experts and

all that, and I will inaugurate a process which will lead me

to finally appointing a national commisioner. Thank you.

Dr P J GROENEWALD: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon President, I

welcome your commitment to follow a process. It is part of the

National Development Plan, NDP, where you were the deputy

chairperson. In that NDP it clearly says that if you want a

professional and effective Police Service, then it states the

following. The National Commissioner of Police and deputies

should be appointed by the President on a competitive basis. A

selection panel, established by the President, should select

and interview candidates for these posts against objective

criteria. The President should appoint the national

commissioner and deputies from recommendations in the reports

received from this selection panel.



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So thank you, hon President. I hope you will follow that ... a

panel of experts making recommendations because part of the

problem with crime in South Africa is that since 2000 and up

to 2017 South Africa had national commissioners that knew

nothing about the police. We started with Jackie Selebi, a

diplomat who ended up in jail and who found out that you

cannot fight criminals with diplomacy; Bheki Cele who was a

politician; and then Riah Phiyega a social worker. They

disbanded specialised units because they didn’t understand the

operational requirements to ensure an effective Police

Service.

Hon President, my follow-up question is, how soon will that

happen? What is the timeframe? I can also say to you that

having an acting commissioner also does not create a conducive

situation for effectively fighting crime. I thank you.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you, hon Speaker and I’d

like to thank hon Groenewald for his thoughts and views, as

well as what I would say, maybe suggestions, which are really

not suggestions because they are encapsulated in the NDP. So,

a good reminder, a good hope because that’s exactly what you

said. It’s a wonderful hope and it’s being done. It’s going to

happen in a process that I’ve outlined here. So, rest assured



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that a process will be followed and we will make sure that it

is done on a competitive basis as set out in the NDP. It will

be people who are well steeped in the craft of policing. Thank

you, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

Mr A M SEABI: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and President.

I want to join hon Groenewald in welcoming the commitment by

the President in following a process, without disregarding the

prerogative of the President to appoint, as enshrined in the

Constitution.

Having said that, hon President, what practical plans or

measures have been undertaken thus far to implement the

recommendations of the report of the panel of experts in

strengthening the Security cluster? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Speaker, processes are

underway to implement the recommendations of the panel, which

we have taken very seriously in all its ramifications. We are

involved in the process of ensuring that we strengthen the

security complex in our country in all aspects, from people to

processes and to institutions. All of that is being addressed

to make sure that the security system and cluster is properly



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strengthened, particularly in light of what the panel has

recommended in its clear recommendations.

The National Security Council has met a few times to precisely

look at these recommendations and those recommendations are

now in the process of being implemented. Part of what we are

doing now ... the appointment of people, is precisely that,

and to ensure that there will be good co-operation between the

executive as well as the functionaries in the form of, say for

instance, the Minister who looks after oversight and also

those who are more operational, like say, directors-general,

the commissioners and all that.

So, we are looking at the full ramifications of the Security

cluster and beginning the process. It’s a reform process,

informed by a clear strategy that needs to be put in place.

Thank you very much.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you very much. Mr

President, last week a report came out about South Africa’s

social instability. The report said that your party’s internal

faction fighting posed the single biggest risk of political

instability and conflict in South Africa today. So, I think

you have been warned. And, believe you me, what happened in



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KwaZulu-Natal last year could happen again at any time,

especially with fuel, electricity and food prices doubling the

increase in social grants. Another report this week showed

that inequality in South Africa is the highest in the world.

Our country is literally dry tinder and it’s just waiting for

a spark.

Mr President, when are you going to put the country ahead of

your party? You used taxpayers’ money to buy out a useless

police commissioner. When are you going to use your

presidential power to get rid of your useless Police Minister?

Now, before you say opinion, it’s not opinion. The Zondo

Report, crime statistics, gender-based violence statistics ...

Our women, children and our citizens live in fear every day.

When are you going to give us a Police Minister who is going

to inspire confidence and keep us safe? [Applause.]

Mr B A RADEBE: Speaker, on a point of order. Just before the

President responds, is it parliamentary for a Member of

Parliament to call another member useless? It was ruled before

as unparliamentary. Thank you.



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The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Radebe. I will look into

the matter and I’ll be advised accordingly. You may proceed,

hon President.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you, hon Speaker. I hear

what hon Steenhuisen is saying and clearly I ...

[Interjections.] Oh, sorry, it’s my iPad. [Interjections.] I

think hon Steenhuisen has a private wish. His private wish is

that he would like to be President and appoint Ministers, and

I have to say that ... [Interjections.] I have to say that,

that wish is not evident now and might never be.

[Interjections.] Yes. So, the process of appointing Ministers

and Deputy Ministers is the President’s prerogative, and I

think it’s best left there.

Ms Z MAJOZI: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon President, as you

have said and outlined, there will be a process that you will

be undertaking in order for you to appoint the national

commissioner. Can the President then take us into confidence

... that maybe this time in the process that will be

undertaken there will be transparency to the public as well,

so that they know that the person who will be elected is a

person that they will feel safe with and ... will also have

hope that South Africa will be led forward. We should all be



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able to agree that our Security cluster must be

professionalised to the highest degree possible, which

includes the process of achieving an honest, ethical,

competent Police Service which is completely free of political

manipulation and control. Up until now this has been nothing

more than a pipe dream.

How do you intend reversing the tide in this area and ensure

that only competent career security professionals are

appointed to these positions? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you very much, hon

Speaker. I have said that I am going to embark on a process

for the appointment of the next National Commissioner of

Police and in the end that process will yield the type of

results that will be positive ... will be able to take the

Police Service forward.

Now, we will be processing this matter in a way that will

actually take us to a good end. I would like to thank hon

Groenewald and other members who have asked this question

because I take it that you ask this question out of great

concern and you ask it in line with what is set out in the

NDP. I see it in a positive light and I would like to thank



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you for raising it in the way that you have. It does show that

you too have the interest of the country at heart as I do. So

we will move forward and we will act on the various matters

that we need to work on to ensure that the next National

Commissioner of Police is a fit and proper person who will be

able to manage and lead our police in the most effective way.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: That concludes Questions to the President and I

thank the hon the President. Hon members, that concludes the

business of the day. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 16:51.

