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***PROCEEDINGS OF MINI-PLENARY SESSION - VIRTUAL***

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Members of the mini-plenary session met on the virtual

platform at 14:00.

The House Chairperson, Mr C T Frolick, took the Chair and

requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or

meditation.

The Chairperson announced that the virtual mini-plenary

sitting constituted a meeting of the National Assembly.

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

Debate on Vote No 36: Small Business Development:

The MINISTER OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Chairperson, hon

members, the Deputy Minister, distinguished guests,

entrepreneurs and small, medium and micro business owners, as



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we are in times of economic hardship, we stand before the

people of our country to bring programmes that will lift the

burden from their shoulders.

Government policies drawn from manifesto commitments of the

ANC continue to make it easy for investors to inject money in

our economy, creating business opportunities for small

businesses to trade. We will use our policy instruments to

provide business finance to start- up businesses, and invest

in existing businesses to give them the much needed support

for their growth.

The budget vote we are tabling here, as the Department of

Small Business Development, contains programmes and services

drawn from progressive policies that the ANC received as per

the mandate received from the people of our country.

Small businesses might be small in size and turnover but they

are not small in injecting jobs in our economy and in

sustaining the livelihood of our people. While we are in times

of hardship, we have a responsibility to use policy

instruments like business grants that are offered by many



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government institutions to bring joy and hope to the people of

our country.

President Ramaphosa, in his 2022 State of the Nation Address,

announced a number of measures in the Economic Reconstruction

and Recovery Plan to bring such hope, and to place our economy

on a path of economic recovery to replace the 2 million jobs

lost as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The President was very clear: Government has prioritised SMMEs

and co-operatives on the basis that these are the businesses

that create the most jobs and provide the most opportunities

for poor people to earn a living. All stakeholders must pitch

in, as part of the new social compact for jobs, growth, and

transformation. We must leave no-one behind.

In the spirit of social compacting, the Ministry and officials

from the department together with board members and management

from Seda and Sefa, have met with stakeholders, SMMEs and co-

operatives across the width and breadth of our beautiful

country over the past few months. We undertook roadshows

across the provinces – to date we have covered six of the nine

provinces. We met with SMMEs, co-operatives and other



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stakeholders working at the coalface to hear their concerns

and issues.

We opened up our door to meet with strategic stakeholders

including the community constituency in Nedlac, international

and local development partners, large corporates in the

banking, mining, agricultural, manufacturing, retail, telecoms

and digital sectors, representative business structures,

relevant ministries, departments and entities, and our

counterparts at provincial level.

In all these meetings we asked three questions. Are our

policies and instruments working for SMMEs and co-operatives?

What can we do better? How do we work together to achieve

greater scale and impact?

What did we find? First, we need to make it easier for SMMEs

and co-operatives to do business. The regulatory burden on

SMMEs is real, and we need to reduce red-tape.

Second, we need to do more to open up markets to SMMEs.

Everywhere, small business owners are complaining about being

squeezed out of markets by large players. This is what the



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Competition Commission has characterized as over concentration

in our economy.

Third, SMMEs and co-operatives are battling to obtain credit

from banks. This has been especially disastrous for SMMEs hard

hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, by the July 2021 unrest, and by

climate change disasters like the recent floods in KZN and the

Eastern Cape.

Fourth, our own reach and accessibility as the DSBD portfolio

was questioned, especially in townships and impoverished rural

areas. We must address this to have more impact.

Fifth, government is not working as one joined-up force to

support SMMEs and co-operatives. The District Development

Model is directing us towards working as one, and we must do

more to make this work.

Lastly, and which augers well for the broader social compact,

there is huge appetite and goodwill among a wide range of SMME

stakeholders to partner with the DSBD and its entities. This

will ensure that the public funds voted to the DSBD will



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leverage significant additional resources and capacity from

our strategic partners.

This approach of mobilising strategic partnerships across the

entire small enterprise ecosystem is directly aligned to our

National Integrated Small Enterprise Development Masterplan,

which has recently been approved by Cabinet for public

consultation. We have also drawn from the collective wisdom

and feedback of the DSBD portfolio committee which has helped

shape our strategic focus and priorities for 2022-23.

For the year ahead, as the DSBD portfolio we are focused on

five core priority areas. The first core priority area is to

enable the start-up and development of SMMEs and co-operatives

through red-tape reduction and enabling legislation. Our focus

here is on reducing red tape and the cost of regulatory

compliance.

The President announced in his state of the nation address, on

10 February 2022, the creation of the Red-Tape Reduction Office

in the Presidency. The DSBD will support the Red-Tape

Reduction Office in the Presidency in terms of understanding



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where the bottlenecks and pain-points for SMMEs are, as well

as supporting the resolution of issues.

We have done extensive research as the DSBD on red-tape issues

facing SMMEs, and through our Road-Shows to get a first-hand

account of the frustrations of the business community. We are

confident that the political authority and leadership of the

Presidency across the whole of government will enable red-tape

and blockages to be resolved.

The department’s Red Tape Reduction Programme for 2022-23 will

focus predominantly on the local government sphere. Building

on the Administrative Simplification Programme Pilot for SMMEs

and co-operatives which we are piloting in three district

municipalities, we will scale up support during 2022-2023 to

assist 20 municipalities in different provinces with red-tape

awareness and solutions. Here we will collaborate with Cogta

and with Salga. We will work with Provinces through Minmec to

gear up their role in red-tape reduction.

The other significant piece of work we are doing on red-tape

reduction is a review of SMME regulatory impediments. The

focus will be on existing regulatory burdens as well as on



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preventing new burdens through new laws/regulations/and by-

laws. We will be working closely with other government

departments/agencies at all levels of government to create an

enabling environment within which SMMEs and co-operatives can

thrive.

During 2022-23, we will continue with the review of the

Businesses Act which will provide for a simple and enabling

framework for business licensing by setting national norms and

standards. We will also give effect amendments to the National

Small Enterprise Act No 102 of 1996, to provide for the

establishment of the Small Enterprise Ombud Service.

The proposed Office of the Small Enterprise Ombud Service will

provide a fair and inexpensive dispute-resolution for SMMEs,

averting their need to resort to costly and long drawn-out

litigation. Public comments received on the Bill have been

considered and the process of amending the Bill is under way.

We will keep the House as well as the social partners in

NEDLAC closely informed of progress in amending legislation,

and of challenges should they arise.



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Our second strategic focus area for 2022-23 is market

development and market access. Our work in this area comes

from the recognition that markets are not sufficiently

competitive and are overly concentrated, a legacy of our

apartheid past. The recent report of the Competition

Commission provides useful guidance on market power across

different sectors, and how SMMEs continue to be disadvantaged.

We must at the same time use the public spend and work with

the private sector to co-create inclusive markets within which

our SMMEs can thrive. This is at the heart of our localisation

strategy, with prioritisation given to black-owned, youth-

owned and women-owned enterprises.

Markets are also spatially concentrated, and we are developing

strategic private sector partnerships to integrate township

and rural entrepreneurs into key retail, manufacturing, and

other high potential value chains.

We are implementing a Localisation Policy Framework, including

the listing of product brands produced by SMMEs and co-

operatives with wholesalers and retailers, among other

industries, as a way of increasing access to markets. We are



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also working with several government departments and entities

to increase the SMME density of state markets while the public

procurement bill is being finalised.

It is vital that the country reduces its dependency on

imported products by supporting locally manufactured products.

This is also strategic given the disruptions we have come to

experience over the past two years in global value chains. The

department and its agencies have established working

relationships with large retailers and wholesalers across the

country to list and purchase the products manufactured by

SMMEs. These include Dischem, Clicks, Pick n Pay, among

others.

Buzwe Bethu, a women-owned textile and design manufacturer

based in the township of Zwelitsha in the Eastern Cape has

been introduced to a major clothing retailer to design locally

inspired African prints. The business was supported with

machinery and equipment.

The localisation programme also saw an official of the

department, Ms Chantell Martin, win the Public Sector Leader



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Award for the 18th Annual Top Women Awards hosted by Standard

Bank on 4 November 2021.

During 2022-23 we will build on the localization support work

we have done to date. We are currently finalizing Enterprise

Supplier Development partnerships with a number of large

corporates around market co-creation, as well as gearing SMMEs

to service these markets at the right quality and price.

We are setting up a public private partnership platform which

will enable collaboration and shared accountability. By way of

example, our partnership with Tiger Brands will introduce

aggregator models, where small black producers can

collectively achieve the scale for large off-takes.

Tiger Brands will provide warehousing and logistics as well as

stock finance and technical skills to support the integration

of township-based entrepreneurs into their formal food and

beverage supply chains. I would like to invite other companies

to join.

As a department we will make sure we support the SMMEs who

access these supply chain opportunities by contributing to the



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other critical parts of the eco-system – access to finance,

access to business development services, and access to

incubation and accelerator programmes. The R500 million

Innovation Fund developed through the Ecosystem Development

for Small Enterprise Support, Edse, Programme partnership with

the EU is an important initiative to finance black suppliers.

It is envisioned that this fund will leverage more than

R3 billion for enterprise supplier development support from

private banks and non-bank financial institutions.

The other important piece of work we are doing around market

development and market access is implementing the SheTradesZA

Hub through our implementing agency, Seda, in partnership with

the International Trade Centre, ITC. We have just recruited

Provincial Ambassadors to create awareness and pursue

potential collaborations with both private and public sector

institutions. During 2022-23 we are targeting another 2 500

women-owned enterprises to register on the SheTradesZA

platform. We will allocate R416 million over the medium term

to sector and market development work within the department.

The third strategic focus area for 2022-23 is access to

business development services and support infrastructure. Our



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approach here is to up-scale our support to incubators and

digital hubs, to roll-out business support infrastructure in

townships and rural areas, and massify entrepreneurship and

business development training and support. Much of this work

happens through our entity, Seda.

With regards the incubation support, it is now widely

recognized that incubation significantly increases the

survival rate of start-ups. As a country we currently have a

low survival rate for SMME start-ups, with the recent Gem

Report indicating that 80 percent of businesses fail in their

first three year of existence.

To address this, we have set a target of establishing 250

operational business incubators in South Africa by 2024. These

Incubators consist of both private and government funded

Centres. At the end of March 2021, 110 incubators were

supported through the Seda Technology Programme.

Twelve new incubators were approved through the Incubation

Unit at a cost of R60 000 000 million during the 2021-22

Financial Year and are currently being established.



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An additional pipeline of 11 incubators is being readied for

approval during the 2022-23 Financial Year. We are

deliberately targeting underserviced provinces and districts.

Some of the areas where the additional incubators are planned

for includes the districts of Sarah Baartman, Joe Gqabi,

Fezile Dabi, Xhariep, Sedibeng, West Rand, Amajuba, iLembe,

Umgungundlovu, Mopani, Waterburg, Nkangala, Namakwa, Pixley ka

Seme, Dr K Kuanda, the Central Karoo and Overberg. We will

leave no one behind.

The additional new incubators being developed by the private

sector and Seda will create an additional 25 000 jobs, in

addition to the more than 100 000 jobs already secured through

the 110 incubators we have established.

We are deliberately trying to link our incubators with the

broader innovation and tech ecosystem. This underlies the

model of the digital hubs and the centres for entrepreneurship

and rapid incubators we are implementing in partnership with

TVET colleges and universities. Next week we will also launch

the Innovation Bridge Digital Start-Up Community, an open

innovation platform that enables collaboration, access to

finance, markets, and support services for underserved



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entrepreneurs and innovators. This is a partnership between

the DSBD, the Department of Science and Innovation, the CSIR

and the World Bank.

The focus on capacity building for technology start-ups is

also the focus of the partnership between the DSBD, the Global

Entrepreneurship Network, the UNDP and the 22-On-Sloane

Incubator, supported by the Allan Gray Foundation. We are also

partnering with GEN, the UNDP, 22-On-Sloane, and the

Department of Social Development to grow social

entrepreneurship in the country and the continent.

This partnership with Gen and 22-On-Sloane builds on the work

undertaken directly by the DSBD and Seda around

entrepreneurship training and support. During 2022-23 a total

of 20 000 SMMEs and cooperatives will be provided

entrepreneurship awareness training through Seda, with 75 000

SMMEs and co-ops being targeted over the MTEF. There will be

a similar emphasis on Training, Mentorship, and Coaching with

66 000 enterprises/SMMEs and co-operatives supported over the

MTEF.



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We will also be facilitating the Presidential SMME Awards to

recognize and showcase entrepreneurial talent. This will be

part of a broader SMME Indaba where we will officially launch

several partnerships we will implement with the private sector

and other development partners.

Our roadshows revealed the challenge of service access in

townships and rural areas. Many entrepreneurs complained about

the expensive public transport to get to their nearest Seda

Branch. We have listened. This year we will establish 80 new

Seda service access points in townships and rural areas at a

cost of R 24 million. As we move towards the merged new

entity, these service points will also incorporate Sefa

offerings. I repeat, we will leave no-one behind.

Besides service infrastructure, we will also co-fund the

establishment of shared infrastructure facilities for SMMEs

and co-operatives through the Shared Economic Infrastructure

Facility, Seif. The facility has approved and supported five

projects in the 2021-22 financial year with an accumulative

value of R 55,9 million, and which will be finalised this

year. The approved projects will support emerging farmers, co-



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operatives, and informal business, and create more than

5000 jobs.

Our fourth strategic focus area for 2022-23 is access to

finance. Our work here is aimed at reducing the prevailing

credit gap estimated to be R346 billion. A key milestone in

this work will be the finalisation of the South African SMMEs

and co-operatives funding policy. The policy is currently

undergoing thorough consultations and will be concluded this

financial year, creating a seamless flow of funding from

financiers to small enterprises in South Africa.

Through Sefa, we will prioritise building a sustainable loan

book through the expansion of credit and decreasing

impairments. We will also build on the success we have had

with credit guarantees which have been able to leverage

additional monies from private banking and non-banking

financial intermediaries.

Here, we will be deliberate in building a sustainable black-

owned financial intermediary base. This is critical to our

future success. We are also prioritizing the automation of

Sefa’s application process to speed up turnaround times. We



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are also undertaking measures to increase access in rural

areas and townships, through improving Sefa’s visibility and

through direct outreach. We will leverage more off Seda’s

footprint.

We are confident that there will be an equitable fund flow

across provinces. The R2 billion Sefa funding envelope for

2022-23, which is inclusive of the DSBD transfer together with

other generated funds, will see over R200 million disbursed in

each province, and slightly more for the poorer rural

provinces such as Limpopo, the Free State, the North West, the

Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, and the Northern Cape. We are

deliberate about redress.

This R2 billion is expected to support 84 831 SMMEs and co-

operatives creating 104 968 jobs. This is the massification

and scale that the President called for in SONA. We have also

developed our own funding instruments to respond to the SMME

credit gap.

Our flagship is the Township and Rural Entrepreneurship

Programme, Trep. The Township and Rural Entrepreneurial

Programme is a dedicated programme aimed at transforming and



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integrating opportunities in townships and rural areas into

productive business ventures. For the financial year 2022-23,

the allocation for Trep is R953 325 000, with a target of

supporting 24 000 township and rural enterprises across

various sub-sectors.

The second programme is the Small Enterprise Manufacturing

Support Programme. This is a key programme of South Africa’s

localisation strategy. The purpose of the Small Enterprise

Manufacturing Support Programme is to diversify and strengthen

the country’s industrial base through a focused import

replacement programme. The financial support provided through

this programme is up to R15 million per entity. An amount of

R295,994 million has been set aside for the programme for

2022-23.

The third programme is the Young Entrepreneurs Programme. This

is aimed at contributing to the high youth unemployment in the

country, and to align with the National Youth Policy. One of

our new initiatives here which we are implementing with Seda

and Sefa is the Youth Challenge Fund, YCF, launched in 2021.



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The goal is to support young entrepreneurs with opportunities

for self-employment and enable a generation of job creators.

This year the Young Entrepreneurs Programme is being put to

scale with 10 000 start-ups targeted for the 2022-23 financial

year. We are also ensuring an increased targeting of youth

across our various financial instruments. Between the DSBD and

Sefa, R630 million will be made available for youth

entrepreneurs and SMMEs during 2022-23.

The fourth programmatic area of funding is Co-operatives

Support. The objective is to support co-operative enterprises

financially and non-financially in partnership with other key

strategic stakeholders. The programme offers blended financing

to eligible co-operatives on a cost-sharing combination of a

grant and loan. For the 2022-23 financial year, the budget

allocation is R76,9 million with a target of supporting

200 co-operatives.

The fifth and last strategic focus area for the year is

institutional strengthening and gearing. We have listened to

the advice of the portfolio committee to urgently ramp up

capacity. We have heard the line of march that service

delivery should not be compromised while we establish the new



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entity which will result from the merger of Seda, Sefa and the

Cooperatives Bank Development Agency.

In the area of institutional strengthening, for the 2022-23

Financial Year we will be seized with four priorities.

First, we will see the Draft National Integrated Small

Enterprise Development, Nised, Masterplan through to

finalisation. The Draft Nised Masterplan was presented and

subsequently approved by Cabinet to be gazetted for public

comments.

The Nised will provide the overarching strategy around which

strategic partnerships in the small enterprise development

eco-system can be facilitated and co-ordinated. A key part of

organisational strengthening in the DSBD will be around co-

ordinating the Nised, and preparing and managing strategic

partnerships in the ecosystem.

Second, we will strengthen our information management systems

across the SBDB portfolio to better understand the relevance

and value of offerings. Over the next two years we will

complete the SMME database, put in place a district



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information system, develop a capable M&E system, and

ultimately develop a digital one-stop shop with Fourth

Industrial Revolution, 4IR, capabilities that will serve all

players in the ecosystem. To this end we will draw on

technical support from the World Bank and the Edse Programme.

Third, we will finalise our organizational structure and align

it to our strategy. We will over the next few months fill

critical posts, including the DDG posts that have been

awaiting finalization of the new structure. The final piece of

institutional strengthening we will be seized with is that of

the proposed merger/incorporation of Sefa and the CBDA into

Seda.

Already, we have developed a working business case. We have

established a joint operations forum for co-ordination and

accountability, and we have appointed new transitional boards

for Seda and Sefa. We are currently mobilising the required

technical expertise we need, and are finalising a project

charter with GTAC for the necessary legal, change management,

planning and content support to the process.



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In conclusion, I table before you the Budget Vote of the

Department of Small Business Development for the year 2022-

2023. The budget is an indication of government’s commitment

to promote the development of small businesses and co-

operatives that contribute to inclusive economic growth and

job creation. The department is allocated a budget of

R2 563 billion for the 2022-23 financial year.

Transfers and subsidies amount to R2 305 billion, compensation

of employees R190 million, goods and services R63 million and

capital expenditure R4,7 million. This means that, 89% of the

budget is channelled towards supporting small businesses and

co-operatives and 11% towards operating costs.

The allocation to the agencies of the Department, the Small

Enterprise Finance Agency, Sefa and the Small Enterprise

Development Agency, Seda amounts to R2,2 billion. Seda is

allocated R 884 million, Sefa is allocated R1,3 billion of the

transfers and subsidies.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the portfolio

committee for guidance as well as to stakeholders and all

SMMEs, co-operatives and informal businesses for the continued



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support to this Ministry. I would also like to thank the

Deputy Minister, Mr Sbu Dlamini, the rest of my Ministry team,

the DG, Mr Lindokuhle Mkhumane, and the department, as well as

the boards and officials in Sefa and Seda, for their

contribution and support. I would also like to thank the

President and Cabinet colleagues for the support they are

providing.

As the Minister responsible for Small Business Development, I

invite you to work hand in hand with the department in the

year ahead as we continue to reinforce our commitment to

develop, support and promote small enterprises to ensure their

growth and sustainability.

This Budget Vote shows the unwavering commitment of the ANC

and of the DSBD to SMMEs and Co-operatives development.

Working together and leaving no-one behind, we will build a

better tomorrow for the SMMEs and Co-operatives of South

Africa. I thank you.

Ms V S SIWELA: Thank you, hon House Chairperson. Hon Ministers

and Deputy Ministers in our midst, members of the Portfolio

Committee on Small Business Development and hon members, it



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has been an eventful year in the life of our country and

across the globe since the last Budget Vote debate. South

Africa like the rest of the world has had to deal with the

human cost and massive economic impact of the coronavirus

disease 2019, Covid-19, pandemic, social unrest in KwaZulu-

Natal and Gauteng in July 2021, and the devastating floods,

particularly in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and North West.

There are signs of economic recovery taking place, especially

since vaccines have been rolled out. We see economic

activities happening all around us in our townships, villages

and cities. People are selling their products, going out to

restaurants, music concerts, tourism attraction and living

life as they used to be before the pandemic strike our

beautiful country. While we celebrate this beginnings of

economic recovery we must not lower our guts and suffer as a

fifth wave of Covid-19 is looming. There are many risks to our

outlook for small business recovery, including the ongoing

Covid-19 pandemic rising interest rates and our domestic

electricity constrains. It is important to acknowledge that

the purpose of Vote 36 – Small Business Development is to

promote the development of businesses and co-operative

enterprises.



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Its ultimate objective is to contribute to inclusive economic

growth and job creation in South Africa. It is on this mandate

that the portfolio committee reports to this House, makes

observations and recommendations for consideration and

adoption. One of the most debated points made by the President

in this year’s state of the nation address was his affirmation

that the private sector has a large responsibility to drive

job creation. The President said that about 80% of people in

South Africa are employed in the private sector. The test for

government, therefore, is how it creates the conditions that

enable particularly small business and co-operatives to

emerge, to grow, to access new markets, to create new

products, and to employ more people. Our people must be given

the necessary regulatory financial and other support to

unleash their dimensions in the economy.

*Xitsonga:*

Ha khensa, Holobye ...

*IsiZulu*:

Siyabonga ...

*English:*



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... because you have mentioned that you’re going to make sure

that you don’t leave anyone out. Hon members, while there is

undoubtable evidence of progress with structural reforms as

outlined by the President in February and our Minister today,

there is still the difficult reality experience by people on

the ground. The drive to reduce red tapes support businesses

and facilitate the development of new industry are, indeed,

encouraging. However, small business people have told our

committee on numerous occasions that they would like to see a

greater sense of urgency and a far stronger commitment to

accelerate employment stimulus to create jobs and funding for

their business ventures. This can only happen if the

department can fast-track those Bills to be adopted by

Parliament. Government must do more to address backlogs,

particularly in the energy sector that continue to haunt

particularly small business.

Hon Minister, we are considering this Budget Vote when the

unemployment rate in our country is the highest it has been in

decades. They really unemployment rate stood at 46,3% at the

end of the fourth quarter of 2021. This is horrible picture by

any measure. These levels of unemployment in a country with a

history of racial class and gender operation are simple



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unsustainable. The Department of Small Business Development

should be capacitated to play a much more dynamic role in

rolling back these painful realities in a country as much as

we agree with you, hon Minister, that in your organogram and

on the issue of vacant posts will appoint. Because if the

vehicle is not oiled it won’t move. Therefore, we appreciate

that and that should happen urgently.

We have noted the marginal increase in expenditure of the

department at an average annual rate of 0,6% from R2,6 billion

in 2021-22 to R2,7 billion in 2024-25 financial year. Given

the scale of the challenges in our economy this by no means is

enough to allow the department to fulfil its mandate. The

committee has expressed its concern regarding the budget cuts

to Small Enterprise Development Agency, Seda, funding in the

light of rising unemployment. However, ...

*IsiZulu:*

Kodwake siyabonga, Ngqongqoshe, ngoba uyasho ukuthi ...

*English:*

... you will open centres so that you are closer to the people

and we would appreciate that. Let us also utilise our



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Parliamentary Constituency Offices, PCOs, because what is

important is that we appreciate all the plans documented well,

but the problem is to make sure that we reduce this

unemployment and more people get job that will satisfy us as

the committee.

The committee welcomes the reintroduction of the Small

Business Advisory Council as this has been our regular

recommendations since the Fifth Administration. We also

welcome the measures taken with respect to cutting unnecessary

red tapes. The committee supports and welcomes the appointment

of Mr Sipho Nkosi by the President as a seasoned business

expert. We trust that he will assist government eliminate red

tapes that stifles investment and growth of small and medium-

sized enterprises, SMEs, and co-operatives. We believe as the

portfolio committee, hon Minister, that the District

Development Model, DDM, will assist us because there is

disjuncture between the three levels sphere of governance

where we must make sure that local economic development, LED,

desks in our municipalities is working together with us

because most issues which are supposed to be dealt on the

ground are not being dealt. Therefore, the department cannot

be all over, but that model will assist us to make sure that



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we touch the ground. Therefore, we really appreciate that DDM

model as the portfolio committee.

Hon Minister, as we said in our previous engagement, our

committee is concerned that the department has not table

legislation in recent years for consideration by Parliament.

And we know that those processes take long. The department is

now eight years old, and it must move. Therefore, our request

is that please as the department try your best that those

pieces of legislation are taken into cognisance. In spite of

the numerous loopholes that necessitate policy or legislation

change in the sector, we acknowledge that the draft National

Small Enterprise Amendment Bill intended to ament the National

Small Enterprise Act of 1996, which was published for comments

in the Government Gazette in December 2020.

However, it is disappointing that not much progress has been

achieved since then. We, therefore, call on government to

accelerate the completion of the National Small Enterprise

Amendment Bill. The committee believes that the achievement of

the department’s objectives depends on the successful

completion of this Bill, for instance, the amalgamation of

Small Enterprise Finance Agency, Sefa, Seda and Co-operative



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Banks Development Agency, CBDA, must be underpinned by an act

of Parliament. The establishment of small enterprise Ombuds

office will also be facilitated in part by the Bill. The

committee notes and welcomes the areas where progress has been

made. We call for the finalisation of the department’s

organisational structure and fill of critical senior posts

because if your structure is limping we will not achieve our

objectives, hon Minister.

We recommend that proposed business case required by the

National Treasury, Department of Public Service and

Administration and Department of Planning, Monitoring and

Evaluation concerning the major structural reconfiguration and

filling of vacant posts should not be achieved to the

detriment of the small business sector. We call on the

department ... Thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr J N DE VILLIERS: Chairperson, there are currently two wars

that have a major impact on South Africans. The first is the

much-publicised war in Ukraine, where Russia has invaded the

independent country and is relentlessly murdering its

citizens. This war will have a devastating economic effect on

the worlds’ economy, including our own. Ukraine is one of the



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biggest producers of grain and cooking oil in the world, and

the war in Ukraine will translate into rising local prices on

these items, which form an already important part of South

African households’ ability to put food on the table. Small

business owners will be hit hard, as they are forced to react

to the rising cost of doing business, while their customers’

ability to spend worsens.

This brings us to the second war that threatens South Africa -

the war on poverty, unemployment, and inequality. This war is

currently being lost, as unemployment recently soared to 35% by

the narrow definition and 46% by the expanded definition. As

explained by the President in his Sona, it is widely supported

by most parties and commentators that small businesses and

small, medium and micro-sized enterprises, SMMEs, could be the

engine of economic growth that South Africa needs to bring down

unemployment, and it therefore becomes critical that government

creates an environment for SMMEs to thrive. The purpose of this

Budget Vote for the Department of Small Business Development is

exactly that, to enable the department to promote the

development of small businesses, which it does via various

services and its agencies, the Small Enterprise Development

Agency, Seda, and the Small Enterprise Finance Agency, Sefa.



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As a department, there are various goals, which most portfolio

committee members agree on. These include the prioritisation

of the following. The urgent merger of Seda and Sefa in order

to give an improved service to small business owners who need

business support and financial solutions, such as access to

finance. The creation of a regulatory environment that

improves the ease of doing business. The establishment of the

Small Enterprise Ombud Service office, so SMMEs can settle

disputes more cost-effectively and have more effective

protection against bullying by bigger businesses. And lastly,

measures to embrace the informal business sector and help them

come into the formal sector.

If executed effectively, these and other measures by the

department can help SMMEs become better engines of growth. But

Chairperson, the simple reality is that for small business to

really thrive, South Africa needs much more than just the

Department of Small Business Development initiatives. Small

business cannot function without a growing economy that

creates markets and profit opportunities; a stable power grid

that works and is reliable; functional and well-maintained

transport infrastructure via roads, rail, harbours and

airports; protection of citizens and their place of employment



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by a functioning and well-run police force; and a professional

State, run by capable officials who have no political ties and

were not cadre deployed.

The reality is that small business cannot function if national

government does not function. And herein lies the biggest

threat and also opportunity for small business. The biggest

threat to small business development remains the management of

our country, via the ANC in control of national government.

There can be no doubt that as long as the ANC remains in

control of the country, we will have no reliable power.

Politically connected criminals will be allowed to continue to

steal taxpayer money, infrastructure will increasingly fail,

the police will remain dysfunctional, and unemployment,

inequality and poverty will get worse.

But it is not just doom and gloom for South Africa. The

opportunity at our country’s doorstep is the 2024 national

election, where voters can choose to break the ANC cycle of

abuse that cripples our country’s wonderful potential. If

voters reject the ANC in 2024, a new DA led coalition

government can fix the power network so that people and

businesses have power. Road and trains can run again, so that



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people can travel to work. The police can be restored to

corrupt-free guardians of society, so that small businesses

and their employees can operate fearlessly in a society free

from criminal syndicates, theft, murder and fraud. Taxpayers

can trust the government that their taxes are not being stolen

by cadres, but paid to professional government officials who

are qualified for their jobs and operate free from political

interference, giving all small businesses a fair chance to

compete for government tenders without political meddling.

If South Africa was a business, it would be as simple as just

to say, we need new management, and for that, the shareholders

- the citizens of this country, need to fire the ANC

management in 2024 by voting for a party that has a proven

management track record - a party that gets things done. Only

then can we break the back of the poverty cycle and create

employment, equality and wealth for the deserving people of

South Africa. I thank you.

Ms B MATHULELWA: Thank you, House Chair. Greetings to the

commander-in-chief, the Whippery of the EFF, the battalion of

the EFF, and the rejected businesses out there. The EFF

rejects the proposed budget for small businesses because this



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is a budget of salaries and procurement for the department and

not to help small businesses. This is made worse by giving

such an important portfolio to a Minister who does not take

either their job or small businesses seriously. As for the

EFF, we have made it very clear in the past that we do not

need the department ... [Inaudible.] ... but a way for the

ruling party to distribute patronage to the cronies in

training who do not have original ideas but steal other

people’s businesses. We have proposed in the past that there

is no basis to separate small businesses from trade and

industry. The basis of industrial policy in South Africa must

start with small businesses and spread across all provinces.

This was captured in the failed NDP where government made

commitments that it will procure more than 30% from small

businesses but this is not through. It was a department

created out of a need to create positions of factions in the

ruling party and it must come to an end. The same way we said

as the EFF that there was no need to have a Department for

Economic Development and we were vindicated. We didn’t just

say this in speeches but we have spent time with small

businesses in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape and other

provinces to understand how the decision to separate small

businesses from industrial policy has impacted entrepreneurs.



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We have spent time with Uncedo txi association and border taxi

associations in Matatiele, Mount Fletcher, Maclear and Mthatha

in the Eastern Cape who spend a lot of money in automotive

industry but do not benefit from any industrial activities.

And this is the case with most taxi associations all over the

country. As a result, the only source of revenue is the roots

and it causes conflict. Even when these associations ask for

basic support such as land to build taxi ranks, they are not

given land, instead they are harassed by the traffic police on

a daily basis.

We have spent time with small businesses in Ezingolweni

Township in Port Shepstone whose businesses were burned down

during the 2021 unrests, Minister. Your department promised to

intervene and other entities in the provincial and local

government promised to intervene, but these businesses are

still in ruins. We have spent time with small businesses -

those in Ezingolweni Township in Port Shepstone. We have spent

time with hawkers and street vendors in Isipingo in KwaZulu-

Natal, who are also still waiting for the relief fund after

2021 July unrests. When we submit questions on written reply

to the Minister, they are responded to with disregard. We have

also spent time with the co-operatives who produces tea tree,



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peanuts, mango and bananas in their own gardens in Ward 32,

Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality in Ugu District.

These communities are the victims of the colonial and

apartheid laws that dispossessed black people of their land.

Today, they want their land back to do their farming as they

are already exporting their products overseas. But because

there is no clear direction from the government - no intention

to expropriate land without compensation for equal

redistribution, and there is no clear link between farming and

agro-processing and retail, these small businesses are doomed

to die.

Small businesses are not only suffering in the automotive and

farming sectors, but in all other sector as well. We found the

same in construction, retail, textile and hospitality

industries. What is even worse is that the government,

especially municipalities, are the biggest culprit that are

killing the small businesses. They accept services from small

businesses but do not pay them on time. In November 2020, a

small business called Thompson Construction did work for

Alfred Nzo District Municipality, but they haven’t been paid



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yet. We must close the department and make small businesses

the businesses of industrial policy. I thank you.

Mr B N LUTHULI: Thank you, Chair, small business is a key

driver of the economy and empowerment, and deserves the

dedicated support of government. It is not just the IFP that

emphasises the importance of small business when it comes to

job creation. According to “Small Matters”, a 2019 study by

the International Labour Organisation, ILO, which included

data from South Africa, in almost all of the 99 countries in

the sample, the self-employed and micro and small enterprises

- small economic units - make up more than two-thirds of

employment.

This being said, we would like to remind government of its

commitment, through the Department of Small Business

Development to focus on enhanced support to small business and

co-operatives, with an emphasis on programmes to advance

entrepreneurship amongst women, the youth, and people with

disabilities to contribute to job creation and economic

growth.



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As our country attempts to slowly pick up the pieces in the

wake of the crippling COVID-19 pandemic, we were knocked

sideways in July 2021 by the destructive unrest in Kwazulu-

Natal and Gauteng. According to the SA Special Risks Insurance

Association, Sasria:

The damage in July’s looting and mayhem, the most

expensive riots in the world cost more than R50 billion.

This was followed by yet more devastation in 2022, with

the flooding in Kwazulu-Natal and the eastern cape. Not

only lives were lost, but businesses and livelihoods

destroyed.

As the IFP, we are concerned.

According to National Treasury, real gross domestic product,

GDP, is expected to grow by 2,1% in 2022 an average 1,8% over

the medium-term. This limited economic growth rate does not

bode well for South Africa as a whole, and small businesses in

particular. This is why the budget allocated to the Department

of Small Business Development must work harder, and give

beneficiaries more bang for the buck. We cannot afford a

single cent to go to waste through irregular or fruitless and



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wasteful expenditure. Any opportunities for corruption must

also be identified and prevented before losses can occur.

As the IFP, we further have concerns that we believe merit the

attention of this House: Firstly, is the merger of the Small

Business ... [Time expired.]

Mr W W WESSELS: Thank you House Chair, the Minister speaks

about bringing hope. The question is: If the R2,563 billion

appropriated to this department will bring hope? Will it bring

hope to struggling Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise, SMMEs?

Will it bring hope to the millions of unemployed South

Africans?

I understand why the Minister’s video during her address. If I

was responsible for the destruction of small business in South

Africa, I would also hide my face in shame.

We hear the same thing over and over again each year. One

roadshow after the other and one master plan after the other.

We hear that government will make it easier and will focus on

making it easier to do business. We will cut the red tape. Yet

this department fails year in, and year out, to do that.



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The hon President has appointed someone who will appoint –

nobody knows – someone to do this pivotal and very important

function. Something this department should have played a role

in doing. This proves once again that this department is

redundant.

The hon Siwela says after eight years of existence, it is now

time for the department to move. This department can be

considered as a failed experiment. Small business development

did not take place since this department has come into

existence. The actual opposite has happened.

This department should be merged with the Department of Trade,

Industry and Competition rather for small businesses to

thrive.

We firstly need basic service delivery. Our municipalities

should function. No business can function under the current

circumstances where roads and transport infrastructure are

completely deteriorated. No business can function and thrive

whilst there is load shedding and unreliable electricity

supply. No business can thrive whilst there is erratic water

supply and sewage running in the street.



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This government has failed to develop small businesses and

create a conducive environment for small business.

Government’s policies have failed. It is cadre deployment and

corruption that are responsible for the difficulty to do

business.

To get this economy going and develop small businesses, we do

not only have to get rid of this department but the ANC

government – the failed ANC government. That hon Minister,

brings hope. That is what is bringing hope this 2024. I thank

you.

Mr W M THRING: Thank you, hon House Chairperson, as we

consider this Budget Vote, the ACDP is cognisant of the fact

that in most developed and developing economies, up to 70% of

the jobs created emanates from the small business sector. The

critical importance of small businesses ... those who seek to

destroy or diminish the role of small business, we cannot

allow this to take place.

The ACDP is aware that the Department of Small Business

Development is tasked with the responsibility of leading and

co-ordinating an integrated approach to the promotion and



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development of entrepreneurship, small businesses and co-

operatives, within an enabling legislative and policy

environment, to increase employment and reduce poverty and

inequality. However, with a three-year budget extending to

2024-25 of over R7,8 billion, over four programmes, this is

easier said than done.

If the values of this department, such as integrity and

professionalism, are to be upheld, then it is important that

some of the recommendations of the committee are fast-tracked.

Some of these

Some of these being the National Small Enterprise Amendment

Bill, together with the mergers and necessary organograms must

be concluded speedily. The outstanding forensic investigation

must be brought to finality and the investigation report of

the Auditor-General must be made public, so that where

necessary corrective action can be taken, and consequence

management applied.

It is unacceptable that the Small Enterprise Finance Agency,

Sefa, has not supplied the committee with a list of co-

operatives that were funded from 1 April 2021 to 31 March



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2022, and using the POPIA Act as an excuse will not hold

water. We must remember that the National Lottery Board, NLB,

refused to release the names of beneficiaries citing the POPIA

Act, but when they forced to disclose, it was then that the

rot and corruption were revealed.

In conclusion, the ACDP calls upon the small business sector

not to be used as government agents to flout the section

12(2)(c) constitutional rights of their employees, by

implementing vaccine mandates in the workplace, when science

shows that both the vaccinated and unvaccinated can contract

COVID-19. Professor Shabir Madhi, who advised the Coronavirus

Command Council, CCC, is on record saying that the vaccine

drive did not work because vaccines don’t prevent infection.

In addition, he said that those with previous infections have

as much protection as anyone who has had a Messenger RNA,

mRNA, jab. It’s time to stop the madness. I thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: House

Chairperson and the Chair of the National Council of

Provinces, Ministers and Deputy Ministers, hon members of the

National Assembly, hon members of the NCOP, the distinguished

guests, members of co-operatives that are present here today



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and those listening all over the country, the small, medium

and micro business owners, ladies and gentlemen, the issues

and questions which have been raised in this House are

welcome. We will attempt to provide reasonable responses that

are as honest as possible as being taught by Amilcar Cabral

and I quote, “Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell

no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no

difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories.”

Just as our country was attempting to address the legacy of

apartheid and colonialism of a special type, we had to deal

with the 2007-08 global economic crisis. As if this was not

enough, we had to confront Covid-19 head on in 2020. Just

recently when we had developed an Economic Reconstruction and

Recovery Plan we had to deal with the unrests in KwaZulu-Natal

and parts of Gauteng, and now it is the impact of floods which

happened in KwaZulu-Natal and in the Eastern Cape. These are

provinces with high levels of poverty incidents.

All these have worsened the crisis of unemployment, poverty

and inequality. Therefore, the challenges we face require our

collective efforts across the political divide. Just as we



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appreciate the criticism, we also note your constructive ideas

and solutions to the challenges facing our country.

On the National Integrated Small Enterprise Development Master

Plan, NISED, the master plan is a co-ordinating framework for

the development and support of small, medium and micro

enterprises, SMMEs, in South Africa. It is formulated based on

resolving four key issues that restrict the growth potential

and success for SMMEs and co-operatives. These include the

following: Information asymmetry, policy uncertainty, service

delivery shortfalls and mistrust between government and

business. Cabinet has approved the draft master plan for

public comments and we are calling on the academia community,

labour and various spheres of government, including all South

Africans, to submit comments.

On the red tape reduction, red tape refers to excessive

bureaucracy or adherence to official rules and formalities

that inhibit the ease of doing business. The Department of

Trade Industry and Competition and National Treasury have

focused on specific reforms meant to turn off World Bank’s

teams of doing business indicators. Such teams, amongst

others, focus on specific improvements leading to such



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initiatives as the online BizPortal that has significantly cut

the time taken to register a business, reduced the number of

procedures in the issuing of construction permits through

doing away with approval stamps from four different agencies.

Whilst the ease of doing business programme focuses on the

necessary regulatory and business process efficiency reforms,

the Department of Small Business Development has been driving

awareness around the need to address unnecessary red tape

within government. In this regard, our department has been

working with local, provincial, national departments as in

partnership with Government Technical Advisory Centre, GTAC.

We have completed a diagnostic report on red tape reduction.

Coming out of this report, the department has run a municipal

level initiative. The outcomes of this initiative will be put

into rationalising municipal reporting requirements as well as

initiatives at national, provincial and district level. We are

also taking lessons from the pilot into the red tape reduction

awareness programme. We will run with 20 municipalities this

year with red tape cases derived from bottlenecks across the

local, provincial and national levels.



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In this context, we see the red tape reduction office in the

Presidency working as an escalation mechanism for issues that

cannot be dealt with at provincial level by the Department of

Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, by the

Department of Trade Industry and Competition and National

Treasury or by our department.

On the incorporation of Small Enterprise Finance Agency, SEFA,

and Co-operative Banks Development Agency, CBDA, into Small

Enterprise Development Agency, SEDA, compared to global peers,

small enterprises are the biggest contributors to form

creation and economic growth, but in South Africa the small

enterprises sector is underperforming. The reasons for this

underperformance range from historical legacies, the structure

of the economy, lack of suitable and properly co-ordinated

government support for the sector. The current reality is that

support offered to small enterprises in the country is

disjointed and not able the meet the required magnitude and

generally gets too few SMMEs and co-operatives in respect of

both the financial and non-financial support. This is

reflected in the data on SMMEs survival rates.



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In light of the above, the department got approval from

Cabinet to proceed with the process of incorporating small

business support functions into a single agency. We are at an

advanced stage of setting up a project management unit that

will offer support to the department in ensuring that this

work of incorporating SEFA and the CBDA into SEDA is finalised

by 31 December 2023.

On the development of co-operatives, international studies

have shown that countries which have created an environment

conducive to the promotion of co-operatives by developing

legislative instruments, supportive programmes and delivery

institutions grow rapidly and contribute positively to the

economic development, employment creation and economic

ownership by local communities and human resource development.

I can give examples like Spain, Kenya, Italy, India and

Bangladesh which have successfully worked on co-operatives. As

a country we need to derive lessons from these experiences as

we prepare to scale up our work on co-operatives.

On the funding policy for SMMEs and co-operatives, Cabinet has

approved that the Department of Small Business Development

develop the SMMEs and co-operatives funding policy to unlock



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funding opportunities to the SMMEs sector. The policy is aimed

at strengthening the provision of development finance towards

the SMMEs sector with a view to improve access to finance for

SMMEs and co-operatives. In line with this mandate, the

department is leading the process of developing the SMMEs and

co-operatives financing policy.

The department has been involved over the past two months in

several consultative sessions supported by the EU funded

ecosystem development for small enterprises programme. We are

currently in the process of consolidating these inputs so that

they can be tabled in Cabinet for approval.

Lastly, the envisaged introduction of the Co-operative Banks

Development Agency into our portfolio has presented us with an

opportunity to provide qualitative co-operative enterprises.

With these few words, I thank you, Chair, and thank you for

your time. Thank you very much.

Mr V ZUNGULA: Chair, citizens in the small and medium-sized

enterprise, SMME, sector are very clear. The issue of SMMEs

must not be made about slogans and rhetoric. It must be about

practical programmes to uplift small and medium-sized



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enterprises, SMMEs, in the country. All economic indicators

globally point to one thing, that is, the growth of the

economy is linked to SMME development. Citizens are able and

willing to run their own SMMEs. They just ned support from

government. The department must provide solutions tailor-made

for the South African context.

South Africa is a mix of both formal and the informal economy.

The Department of Small Bushiness only focusses on the formal

economy and ignores the millions of citizens who try their

trade in the informal economy. The requirements for funding

and government assistance must be tailor-made for the informal

sector where citizens run businesses with less formal

requirements. Hawkers, carwashes, spaza shops and saloons must

all receive funding and support from the government. The

department must prioritise correcting the anomaly of 82% of

the SMME sector in the North West not being in the hands of

the citizens.

This is the case all over the country and the silence of the

department in this anomaly is very concerning. What is even

more concerning is the report by the *TimesLIVE* that states

that more than six billion of our South African rands left our



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economy to fund terrorists. This is money that could be used

to circulate around the country, grow the economy and create

jobs.

The Department of Small Business Development must have a

compliance division in order to ensure that all traders trade

within the law. This division must also deal with the fake,

expired and rejected goods that are used to poison our people.

The department must work with the Competition Commission in

order to deal with the predatory business practices that

completely wipe out local businesses in the SMME sector. We

can’t allow South Africa to be a banana republic and everyone

does as he pleases. We can’t allow native citizens of this

country to be displaced from the economy. We can’t allow black

South Africans in particular to be relegated to a state of

being grant dependents. The department must protect South

Africans in the SMME sector. South Africans own spaza shops,

salons, hawkers, general dealers, taverns and hardwares and

must be protected from being completely displaced in the

economy. The department must have means of ensuring that South

Africans dominates the SMME sector. South Africans must

dominate all economic activities in our country. It is a

hatred of our citizens where the majority of our economic



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activities in the SMME sector are not dominated by citizens.

If South Africans are not dominant players in the South

African SMME sector, which other sectors of the economy will

they dominate in?

*IsiXhosa:*

Ngoko ke, siyacela maqabane, bantu abaphethe eli lizwe ...

*English*:

... please, correct this anomaly. Wherever we go across the

country we must have South Africans being the dominant players

in all economic activities. [Time expired.]

Mr H G APRIL: House Chairperson, hon members, Minister, Deputy

Minister and all protocols observed, I don’t know if I can be

heard and seen properly, but let me jump into the work of the

day. The story of South African entrepreneurship is a long and

inspiring one.

Before there was our Department of Small Business Development

even before we defeated the apartheid state, black

entrepreneurs like Lebo Gunguluza braved the conditions of

oppression to launch successful enterprises. When Lebo arrived



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in Durban in 1990, he has R60,00 in his name. At the age of 26

he started his first company. He became one of Africa’s

youngest self-made black millionaires without any funding or

tenders from government and overcame tremendous arts in his

entrepreneurial journey to build a multimillion rand empire

over the years. Recalling those heady days, Lebo says, “I

spent my first million in one year.” By the end of 1999, he

was flat broke. “My car was repossessed and now I was

blacklisted,” he said.

Down and out he would go to the sea and to a stores nearby and

stand in a corner reading business books that he could not

afford to buy. If the staff chased him away he would go home

change his clothes and come right back. He says I made up my

mind and whatever I went in to the next I would be in a space

that pace well under the structure. I would also continuously

reinvest in my business, watch my cash flow and do business

with only scrupulous clients who paid me on time.

Entrepreneurs are risk takers who drive an ambition whoever

unique mind set to which shakes them apart from other run of

more businesses.



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Lebo’s story is not different from another famous entrepreneur

by the name of the Chinses billionaire, Jack Ma. Jack Ma tells

his story that he failed his university in written exams. When

KFC came to China, out of 25 people 24 were hired, and guesses

what, he was not one of them. Because Jack was an entrepreneur

he never gave up and work as a self-employed tour guide

helping foreign tourists in order to teach himself to speak

English. A trip to Seattle in 1995 where a friend showed him

the internet for the first time proved to be a decisive

shaping stepping stone into his future. In 1999, he found the

Alibaba group, a business to business e-commerce platform and

today is one of the biggest multinational technology companies

specialising in retail e-commerce and technology.

The Department of Small Business Development is not, and must

never become the SA Social Security Agency, Sassa, for all and

sundry who wish to become SMMEs and co-operatives. It must

unearth talent and facilitate the emergence of South African

entrepreneurs who have the never give up spirit that Lebo and

Jack had. Such a calibre of innovative business people work

hard and make the sacrifices and succeed against all odds. The

department and the whole of government must develop the

capacity to unearth these genes and give opportunities and



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tailor-made support for them. Such people are the ones who

would provide employment to those who are not made for the

risky cut throat endeavours that a real entrepreneur goes

through.

Entrepreneurs in Reiger Park, Alexander and Mitchells Plain

are in equal measure as those existing in Sandon and

Constantia. The only difference is that the ones in Sandon and

Constantia are born into privileged and mountains of money in

trust funds. They are born with the figurative silver and gold

spoon in their mouths.

Our mandate as the ANC is not to fight against the trust fund

babies. No, we are not antiwhite or antirich people movement.

Our mandate is to do what China did since 1978 and what South

Korea did since 1960, to unleash the talent of South Africans

who apartheid had relegated to a miserable existence of

poverty, unemployment, substance abuse and crime. We know that

even in such circumstances our people emerge and form

businesses and industries they can claim as their own. Spaza

shops, taxis and other businesses thrive in our own townships

and our villages. Many of them like our late icon Richard

Maponya who has built a huge mall with a value chain in



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Soweto, is one of the examples that we can make. The impact of

COBID-19, the civil unrest in July 2021 in KwaZulu-Natal and

Gauteng and the natural disasters in some of our provinces

have impacted thousands of SMMEs and co-operatives negatively.

The ANC welcomes the medium-term recovery programme and the

COVID-19 relief programme such as the SMME debt relief fund

and the business growth resilience facility introduced in the

previous financial year. The bounce back support scheme

announced by the National Treasury just now the other day on

26 April 2022, is also designed to support business recovering

from the July 2021 unrests as well as the flood-related

disasters in various provinces.

Examples of business people who have been assisted especially

from Alexandra is the state of the art fleshy the Fourth

Industrial Revolution, 4IR, business incubation hub that has

been launched by the Department of Small Business Development

that is connecting businesses from different spaces and from

different spheres.

I also want to say that it is a real shame that the DA and EFF

coalition cannot even pay small businesses in Tshwane,



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Ekurhuleni and Joburg. They want to score cheap political

points here while they are not paying small businesses in the

municipalities that they are currently governing. It shows

their lack to govern.

I also really want to suggest that hon Babalwa go for a basic

reading lessons to enable her articulate written speeches of

the researchers that they have written for her. Mr Wessels

really has to go to Orania and show what his organisation

think about blacks in general and Africans in particular. It

is only the ANC-led government that is serious about

transforming the lives of small business people. With this I

thank you, Chair.

Mr B N HERRON: Chairperson, if a state is seriously looking

for the small business sector to create nine million jobs and

lead South Africa’s socioeconomic recovery, we need to bring

the banking sector to the party and jointly develop an

enabling environment that acknowledges small businesses

struggles in a struggling economy over the past decade and a

half.



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The fact that just 27% of the R200 million COVID-19 loan

guarantee scheme that was announced by President Ramaphosa in

April 2020 has actually been approved with another 13%

somewhere in the pipeline, shout at us to wake up. It reflects

the very wide gulf that exists between the vision of small

businesses leading South Africa’s socioeconomic recovery and

the precarious position many small businesses that haven’t

been forced to their knees yet over the past two years

actually find themselves in today.

According to the Banking Association South Africa the main

reason that just 27% is the loan guarantee scheme has been

approved was due to many small businesses had already been

been in financial distress before the COVID-19 disaster

struck. Many small businesses were not in good standing before

the pandemic, they did not have a record of paying their debts

and had unrealistic expectations of borrowing money they have

been unable to repay.

If just 27% of entities had their books in order and they duck

in a row on entering COVID-19, it implies that nearly three

quarter of the sector were already in trouble at the time.

Even at an extra 13% of applications are eventually approved,



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it implies that 60% of small businesses entering COVID-19 were

unfundable according to the present financial sector rules.

The loan guarantee scheme announced by President Ramaphosa was

a joint initiative of the government, the banking sector,

Reserve Bank and the Treasury. The Treasury would initially

fund the R100 million guarantee with an option to increase it

to R200 million if needed and provided the scheme most

successful. If we could only disperse R27 million of the

potential R200 million loan guarantee in two years, how does

the state and the financial sector propose to materially

assist small business to grow nine million jobs now? What

happens to business still in distress and drowning in debt

including all those excluded from benefiting from the COVID-19

loan scheme? Do we simply write them off now? Should we be

considering an amnesty of some kind coupled with business

development assistance to enable them keep operating? Should

we be obliging established businesses to play a mentorship

role in guiding new entrants into the market?

In an economy of such dramatic inequality such as ours,

without changing the rules, the real existential questions



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remain. How do new businesses enter the game if they do not

have resources to tap into loans?

Other rules of the game are too geared to further enrich those

who already have resources which implies that most South

Africans are excluded. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Ms K B TLHOMELANG: House Chairperson, Ministers and Deputy

Ministers present, chairperson Ms Violet Siwela and colleagues

in the Portfolio Committee on Small Business Development, hon

members, it was eight years ago that the President of the

Republic of South Africa announced the establishment of the

Department of Small Businesses Development on 20 May 2014. The

announcement marked a turning point in the history of SMMEs

and co-operatives at the centre of economic growth and job

creation.

This is in line with the aspiration of the National

Development Plan. This year the ANC has declared a year to

advance and defend South Africa's democratic gains. We need to

debate what the substance of these gains is, particularly for

our people in the small enterprises and co-operatives. Today I

pay special tribute to those workers in the informal economy



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and those who are abused by metro police and criminals in

cities like Cape Town and Johannesburg.

The priorities of the committee, in our committee meeting last

week, we committed ourselves to maintaining oversight of the

department's commitment and implementation of the committee’s

resolutions. In this regard, the ANC will ensure that we see

improvement and achievement of the targets, particularly for

the empowerment of the youth, people with disabilities and

women-owned enterprises. This together with the development of

the village, township and small dorpies [towns] SMMEs and co-

operatives have the greatest impact on achieving the purpose

of this Vote and mandate of the department.

The ANC welcomes the Township and Rural Entrepreneurship

Programme as a necessary innovation by the department. The

department introduced the programme in the middle of the 2020-

2021 financial year, as part of the country's COVID-19

Economic Recovery Programme. Township and rural

entrepreneurship provides a maximum of R1 million towards

working capital expenditure and other capital expenditure.

What is significant is that in an R100 000 package, R50 000 is

a grant. Small business people have benefited from the



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favourable repayment terms of a maximum of 60 months and a

fixed interest rate of 5%

Township and Rural Entrepreneurship Programme targets

enterprises in rural areas and townships, targeting mainly

businesses owned by women, youth, and people with disability.

This programme supported over 13 000 businesses and aims to

support 20 000 rural and township enterprises in the next

financial year 2023-2024. This support goes to businesses that

are the backbone of villages and township economies like spaza

shops, bakeries, confectionaries, auto body repairs,

hairdressers, clothing, shisanyama and butcheries.

R2,9 billion has been budgeted to continue to roll-out this

programme with the aim of supporting 100 000 township and

rural enterprises by 2024. Concerns raised in the committee,

access to finance has consistently been raised as a challenge

by the informal businesses, start-ups, existing SMMEs and co-

operatives. The ANC supports the department's commitment to

focus initiatives such as building a sustainable loan book,

investing in a sustainable black-owned financial intermediary

base, and a couple of sensibilities services to improve the

sustainability of clients.



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We are concerned, however, that the Small Enterprises

Development Agency, Seda, budget is projected to decrease,

from 2019 to 2025, as well as Seda’s budget was cut in excess

of R3 million during the previous financial year. The

achievements of the department, the ANC is excited about the

launch earlier this year of the Hustle Academy with the

support of the department and global tech giant Google who is

committed to helping empower local entrepreneurship in a free

week-long boot camp. We are also happy that the department has

focused on master plans targeting the manufacturing,

agricultural and digital automotive mining industries. To

achieve an inclusive economy, we need to more effectively

support and grow vibrant and sustainable small, and medium

enterprises and co-operatives.

The ANC government has specifically set aside targets for

designated groups to have those who in the past were locked

out of playing a role in our economy. As the President said,

we are unapologetic that at least 40% of government

procurement spending must go to the women-owned enterprises;

30% to youth and 7% to companies owned by persons with

disability. With this, the ANC supports the Budget Vote, I

thank you.



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Mr M G E HENDRICKS: Hon House Chair, the chairman of the

portfolio committee referred to the triple whammy that has

caused a lot of disruption in the programmes of the Small

Business Development Department, so I do not want to delve

into their failures, and I must say that if we use the last

term as an example, we will never achieve what President

Ramaphosa has promised the nation that most job will come from

the small business sector. However, we have listened to the

Minister. We have listened to the Deputy Minister. We have

listened to the chairperson and report of the portfolio

committee on the way forward.

And that gives us a lot of encouragement that we are not going

to let the President down and not achieve the many jobs that

we must create from the Small Business Development Department.

I am not going to speak about Ukraine. I do not know where

that fits in the debate but it must be related to the fact

that the DA has put Gauteng under administration. So all its

lawmakers in all spheres of government are now put on terms

and many of them are set to be fired. Let us come back to some

positive developments. We are aware of the fact that a village

in the Eastern Cape called ... [Inaudible.] ... village has

been given a fishing vessel to transform that rural village to



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a fishing village. And I call it a smart village. If the Small

Business Development Department takes it further, they have

used the technology transfer of funding they should do more.

So it would be nice to know that our villages are being

transformed into fishing villages and maybe even a harbour.

I was in Dimbaza over the weekend to be close to the

conference I had in the Eastern Cape and Dimbaza we know was

in former Ciskei and most of the activists during that time

were dumped in Dimbaza for their resistance activities. That

particular area has got an industrial park. And I cannot hear

any reason why the Small Business Development Department

should do something for Dimbaza because our resistance

fighters were dumped in Dimbaza.

Lastly, Minister De Lille is responsible for creating jobs for

the poor which is not necessarily aligned to our Labour

Relations Act, and she has created ... I supported the

President in creating many jobs, but we have asked her to go

full ... [Inaudible.] ... Thank you very much, hon Chair.

*Afrikaans*:

Mnr H C C KRÜGER: Agb Huisvoorsitter, ...



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*English*:

... this is dedicated to the risk takers, the job creators,

the entrepreneurs - those who get up every day and fight a

losing battle against the monsters this government has

created, the bureaucracy that inevitably seeps into everything

government touches, the red tape between success and another

failed small business.

Government spends billions of rands in many departments on the

development of small businesses. However, the SMME failure

rate is one of the worst globally, with an estimated five out

of seven SMMEs failing within their first three operational

years. The result is that people’s dignity is often one of the

casualties, with community instability the consequence.

Global Entrepreneurship Monitor measures the total early-stage

entrepreneurial activity in South Africa at a low level of

17%. A study in 2017 concluded that only 10% of adults intend

to start their own business in South Africa. The fewer SMMEs

that are established along with existing SMMEs faltering,

result in a dramatic decrease in employment opportunities. To

address the problem of limited business establishment and

growth, government must create an environment beneficial for



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entrepreneurs, with no bureaucratic intervention where

politics wait outside.

To state that the ANC has failed the South African small

business constituency is a gross understatement. Government

must use their powers and functions to free small businesses

from the clutches of red tape. However, the DA welcomed the

President’s announcement of the Red Tape Reduction Unit during

the Sona. This was, in essence, a motion of no confidence in

the three Ministers the ANC has appointed since the addition

of the Ministry of Small Business Development in 2014.

The Red Tape Reduction Bill tabled in the Fifth Parliament and

the Ease of Doing Business Bill tabled in the Sixth Parliament

by the DA were sadly rejected by the ANC. What makes the ANC’s

rejection of these Bills staggering is that they were, in

essence, exactly what President Ramaphosa had called for

during Sona 2022. If passed into legislation, these Bills

would have cut costs and relieved burdens on small businesses

who have suffered for far too long.

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms T Joemat-Pettersson): Thank

you very much.



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Mr H C C KRÜGER: Chair, I have six minutes.

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms T Joemat-Pettersson): Yes, I

will give you one minute.

Mr H C C KRÜGER: Chair, no, I have six minutes. Chair.

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms T Joemat-Pettersson:

Continue.

Mr H C C KRÜGER: Chair, according to my records, I have six

minutes.

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms T Joemat-Pettersson: Yes, we

will give you extra time.

*Afrikaans*:

Mnr H C C KRÜGER: Die komitee se verslag is nie ’n groot skok

of onthulling nie, maar bloot bevestiging van die departement

se terminale onbekwaamheid om hul eie skip in veilige

vaarwaters te hou. Die Minister is soos ’n verwarde

skeepskaptein sonder rigting of roer, afwesig van meeste

komiteevergaderings. Ten minste nege van die komitee se 15



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waarnemings is negatief. ’n Duidelike bewys dat die ANC nie

bevoeg is om hierdie belangrike strategie in werkskepping,

deur middel van kleinsake te bestuur nie.

*English*:

If you happened to study the committee’s report, it would be

very difficult to claim that the Minister and her department

are doing a good job of addressing the rights of aid to

entrepreneurs and small business owners.

The massive unbalanced aid environment between the informal

trader sitting next to the road to sell her goods and formal

business, is an oversight of the policymakers in the governing

party, hence their failure to address unemployment.

*Afrikaans*:

Wat kommerwekkend is, is dat die regering nie ons

entrepreneurs kan of wil ontwikkel nie. Suid-Afrikaners is ’n

trotse nasie wat beheer wil vat oor hul toekoms. Ongelukkig

faal die regering om hierdie honger na ontwikkeling te stil.

Ons gemeenskappe in die landelike gebiede suig al vir jare aan

die agterste speen en dit het tyd geword vir ’n verandering,

’n verandering in regering.



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*English*:

Think of a South Africa where entrepreneurs can trade without

barriers from government. Barriers include red tape, spatial

development by municipalities, service delivery, labour laws

and property rights, just to name a few. This thought will

take you to a caring government, a government that is free,

fair and pregnant of opportunities for all. This government is

called the DA government.

In 2024, the DA will take over this government, and we will

make sure that we are the champions of a friendly, job-

creating business environment for all. I thank you.

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms T Joemat Pettersson): Hon

Kruger, my apologies for interrupting you. It is the time I

received from the table staff.

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Chairperson, thank you for you indulgence;

I was busy on another session at the other side on another

Vote. The NFP notes Budget Vote 36 of the Department of Small

Business Development, and indeed, we will support this Budget

Vote. Having said that, we note that R5,2 billion in tax

relief will be made available, particularly for 15 000 youth-



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owned enterprises, to boost economic recovery and youth

unemployment.

However, to properly respond to the aftereffects of the Covid-

19 pandemic, we first need to understand it. Many companies

closed their door because of Covid-19. Then we had the problem

of the insurrection that took place in July and now, of

course, we have had the floods in KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern

Cape and I could say, parts of the North West.

I think what is important to note is that the small business

sector, particularly, which in terms of a report shows that

98% of the country’s economy is made up of small and medium-

sized enterprises, but they are only delivering 28% of the

jobs, yet, 90% of the jobs will created by small businesses by

2030, which is what we are saying.

Now, how do we actually intend doing this. I think we need to

understand something. Yes, indeed, our economic growth is at

an all-time low in the country. Many, many of our youth and

others are unemployed, but we also need to understand that

most of these youngsters, particularly those that go into

small businesses, do not have the necessary skills. When I



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talk about skills, I say that they may have skills in a

particular kind of business they enter into, but unless they

are also skilled in terms of management, accounting

principles, labour relations and things, just allocating funds

to them and leaving them to make a success of it is very

difficult. So, you have to nurture them over a period of time.

Some of the challenges that the small businesses are

experiencing currently are the high costs of doing business,

for starters. They cannot compete because of the conditions,

the high rentals, and all these things that add to it. Now, I

think when we give them assistance it is not just about

rolling out the money, but also to give comprehensive support

so that they can actually make a success of it. [Time

expired.] The NFP supports it. Thank you.

Mr F JACOBS: Thank you, House Chair. Minister and hon members,

as the ANC, we support this Budget Vote debate. We meet at a

critical juncture in our life of our beloved country impacted

by challenges of covid, widespread hunger, poverty, greed,

corruption, unprecedented levels of unemployment, business

locally and global crisis. Despite these hallowing realities,

small business hold, huge potential to address these



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challenges and remain a vital cog in our national economic

recovery efforts.

Across the world there is about 400 000 small, medium and

micro enterprises, SMMEs, and they are the backbone of the

economies of the world and account for more than 95% of the

firms and between 70% of the jobs. So, SMMEs hold a big

potential for us in terms of income generation, improving the

quality of life and also addressing our transformation and

development goals. So, it goes without saying that this

department played a critical role and how the budget vote

debate spells out the building blocks to advance this.

Hon Chair, Small Enterprise Development Agency, Seda, Small

Enterprise Finance Agency, Sefa,’s annual performance plan has

over the last medium-term been impacted by the realities of

covid and it’s important for us to improve and build on the

work that they have done. In regard, the annual performance

plan and budget for 2022-23, are critically important as they

are tabled to reflect our wishes and unlock the immense

differences in SMMEs that they can do to achieve our

transformation agenda. We must ensure that the annual



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performance plans are exactly that and hinges on our ability

to translate our dreams into reality.

Hon Herron, we agree, access to finance is the big elephant in

the room and we must explore your recommendations. It remains

a tragedy and a past that South African banks refused to bank

and learn to the informal traders and emerging entrepreneurs.

Hence, we welcome the innovative micro development finance

products and policy instruments as outlined by the Minister.

We appreciate the commitment to seamless and automated

application process. And we agree with hon Zungula that we

need practically simple programmes. We need to stop the

predatory practice as outlined by the Competition Commission

and get South Africans to big risk. We can’t legislate the

risk and take a chance. But like hon April says, we must

unleash the potential of South Africans and they must become

more entrepreneurial. Hon Kruger, I think we have listened and

Mr Nkosi is with the department and he will apply all the best

efforts to eliminate all the red tape that stifle small

business. We have seen successes from smaller countries like

Rwanda.



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Minister, we are also pleased that there would be a provincial

and district breakdown allocation of the budget so that we can

ensure equity and transparency in the process. We welcome the

finalisation of the legislative framework as this portfolio

committee, and we will watch that with great interest.

We applaud the Gauteng government’ signing into law of the

township economic Bill and the City of Joburg approving the

informal trading policy that will assist with addressing the

tensions between the local and foreign-owned businesses. We

appeal on all metros especially the City of Cape Town to focus

on black, rural, local and township businesses. It’s very

clear that there is a big assault on small informal traders in

Langa, in Rylands and at the Grand Parade here in Cape Town.

We also want to see this department working with organised

government South African Local Government, Salga, to

meaningfully promote township and local economic development

and drive district based economic planning. We also welcome

the commitment to support more than 200 community based co-

operatives.



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In the state of the nation address, the President appeal for

government, civil society, big business to work together in a

social compact in order to drive economic recovery and enhance

social cohesion. In the past two years, we’ve seen many

players in civil society, business, demonstrating their true

South African nature and patriotism and helping South Africa

through this difficult time that we’ve experienced.

We wish to reiterate the call and make the appeal that those

that have concentrated capital in their hands, - you know who

you are, collectively, we must do more. But big business has a

critical role in promoting localisation facilitating entry

into the mainstream economy base emerging black businesses.

Local is not only lekker [nice], local is needed. And we

welcome the public-private platform created by the department.

We cannot do this alone and unless we work co-operatively and

pursue a more inclusive economy. It’s a matter of time where

we will encounter more destructive events as we seen and

witness in July 2021, or perhaps on a larger scale. Are we

agreeing that we must move beyond the road shows, the Indabas,

now is the time for delivery, now is the time for renewal,

rebuilding and to unite?



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Whilst the DA continues to fear monger, nag, promote doom and

gloom and complain, we bring hope, practical change and

renewal. The DA and its leader can only ... [Inaudible.] ...

Come to the Cape flats and do a fact-finding mission on the

lived experience of African and coloured people in the

townships that has to experience daily gang violence and

poverty and open-air sanitation stenches in here. Instead, you

focus on the price of potato chips in school tuckshops.

Because that is the only thing that you can focus on. We must

work collectively to fulfil our constitutional mandate of

dignity and access and a better life for all.

Hon Wessels, we agree that we need to improve infrastructure,

water and electricity. But you must help us encourage white

Afrikaner capital to invest and support black businesses.

Imagine if black shoppers were to start boycotting Shoprite

and other white owned businesses. So, it does make business

sense for South Africans to work together and to co-operate as

outlined by the ANC.

Hon Thring, we share you sense of urgency and transparency for

the beneficiaries and we will also push that quite hard in

this portfolio committee. But we do not share your false faith



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in the anti-vaccination sentiment. Vaccination is proved to

have saved lives and we want to encourage everybody to

vaccinate. And it’s irresponsible for our hon member to have

this anti-vaccination sentiment.

I also want to approach the hon member of the EFF. It is also

a shame that she is deliberately misleading the House. Ninety-

eight percent of this budget will go directly into grant

funding for small business. So, what she says is incorrect.

Hon Thlomelang, we thank you for explaining Small Business

Technical Assistance Program, B-TAP, application and the

innovation that is happening there. Yes, hon Hendrik, we, as

the ANC, we leave no one behind. Even in these small fishing

villages and klein dorpies [small towns], the ANC ...

*Afrikaans*:

... loss niemand agter nie.

*English*:

Minister, we have faith in you and our team of experts and we

will continue to do oversight and delivery. The ANC supports

small business because small business is everybody’s business.



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The ANC tables and supports Budget Vote 36 – Small Business

Development. I thank you.

The MINISTER OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Hon Chairperson, I

want to highlight the following, that we note the contribution

that have been made by the hon members. We do appreciate the

frankness of the contribution and we understand them as part

of the robust debate about how we serve the small, micro and

medium enterprises, SMMEs, and cooperative sector better and

how we improve the economic plight of our people. The

imperative of the economic recovery, construction and

transformation is a challenge that faces all of us. While we

might choose to be partisan about it, and seek to score cheap

political points, our people are looking at us for leadership

and to ameliorate their plight.

Chairperson, I would like to just respond to few of the things

that have been raised as I have said that I appreciate the

engagement. Firstly, we continue to do our good work in our

space in ensuring that SMMEs thrive and succeed. We are still

going to continue to push for more women and young women,

including youth in general, to accept continental and

international market. As a result, we have started to take our



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people out of the country. We went to Tanzania with 20 SMMEs,

women-owned, and that was part of exposure. We proceeded to

Dubai, again with a high number of entrepreneurs mixed of

gender.

We continue to ensure that, whatever that we do, balance the

small business eco system. It’s a pity that others chose to be

blind to that reality. On the issue of investigation, that was

not done or reported, as the other hon member claimed here.

The investigation report was done by Auditor-General of SA,

AGSA, and the department did provide a response on that, on

the portfolio committee of 4 November in 2020, wherein they

gave an input, and they did talk to the implementation of the

report that resulted in a disciplinary action.

Again, on others really wanting to give a false hope to our

people, fortunately, they have eyes and ears to bear testimony

to this because they are our beneficiaries. We may not have

touched everyone, but we have tried our best, and this is why,

hon members, up to now, just this year, we really tried our

best on the informal sector. We’ve distributed about

R9,7 million worth of the equipment and support that we have

provided to small businesses.



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As I have said, I am talking about things that has happened

just now. Under the Business Recovery Programme, following the

riots that occurred in KwaZulu-Natal, that we reported to the

portfolio committee and the House. We have provided

R235 million, and of course, we have disbursed R176 million to

other businesses, and these are the deals that come out of our

agencies, which means, they are a government intervention

through the Department of Small Business Development. Under

the Recovery Scheme for Informal Businesses, we have supported

5 135 informal businesses to the tune of R13,75 million.

Again, this is continued in the report that was provided in

the portfolio committee.

Therefore, it is not fair to the people of South Africa, to

have a hon member misleading everyone that the department does

not support the informal businesses. I agree, that indeed we

have to do more with the little that we have. There is much

more that needs to be done, which is why we really appreciate

your support, hon members, and we are hopeful that you will

walk this journey with us and assist us in pleading for more

money for small businesses. As I indicated earlier, and I

heard hon Faiez also make mentioning it, that it is not true

that the money of the department goes towards salaries. That’s



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not fair, unless one is providing oversight that is not

understood.

It is understood on one rate, from the documents that we have

done, one will know what are the numbers, including the recent

presentation that we have made. I can assure all of you, hon

members, that we are more determined to work with all of you,

in ensuring that our SMMEs thrive, because when our SMMEs

thrive, it means that our economy is going to grow, and when

our economy grow, it means that more jobs have to be created.

That requires all of us, irrespective of the slogans or the t-

shirt that we wear. Yes, towards elections we make politics,

but all of us are public representatives, that through the

processes and the responsibilities that we have, we ought to

make sure that we complement each other.

We shouldn’t be talking about the legacies of the past, if all

of us were focused, including in the municipalities where we

govern. The challenges that continues to be faced by informal

businesses in the Western Cape, are a reality of what we can

see. Yes, national government can’t do it alone. We are

responsible for certain things, as others believe that Mr

Nkosi is replacing our work. Again, it talks to the



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understanding of the scope of small business ecosystem and

what needs to be done.

We are not going to wake up as the Department of Small

Business Development and issue bylaws; we are not going to

wake up and provide water licence, there are respective

departments for that, and I have said, hon Chair, several

times, that the members, especially those that are responsible

for the portfolio committee or those that want to politic

about the work that we do, should make their responsibility to

understand the broader ecosystem, but we are here to assist

everywhere all the time. Thank you, hon Chairperson and thank

you, hon members.

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms T M Joemat-Pettersson): Thank

you, hon Minister. Hon Jacobs, it is not parliamentary to say

that a member has deliberately misled the House without the

substantive motion. This is just a caution and we will look at

that from the side of the Table.

Mr F JACOBS: House Chair, I withdraw.



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The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms T M Joemat-Pettersson): Thank

you very much, hon Jacobs. Hon members, that concludes the

debate and business of this virtual mini-plenary session. The

mini-plenary will now rise, and the House is adjourned.

The mini-plenary rose at 16:01.

