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***PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINI-PLENARY SESSION – NATIONAL ASSEMBLY***

***CHAMBER***

\_\_\_\_

Members of the mini-plenary session met on the virtual

platform at 9:59.

House Chairperson Mr C T Frolick took the Chair and requested

members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or

meditation.

The Chairperson announced that the virtual mini-plenary

sitting constituted a meeting of the National Assembly.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon

members. Hon members, before we proceed, I would like to

remind you that the virtual mini-plenary is deemed to be in

the precinct of Parliament and it constitutes a meeting of the

National Assembly for debating purposes only. In addition to

the Rules of virtual sittings, the Rules of the National



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Assembly including the rules of debate apply. Members enjoy

the same powers and privileges that apply to a sitting of the

National Assembly. Members should equally note that anything

said on the platform is deemed to have been said to the House

and may be ruled upon.

All members who have logged in shall be considered to be

present and are requested to mute their microphones and only

unmute it when recognised to speak. This is because the

microphones are very sensitive and will pick up any noise

which might disturb the attention of other members. When you

are recognised to speak, please unmute your microphone

and connect your video. Members may also make use of the icons

on the bars at the bottom of their screens which has the

option that allows a member to put up his or her hand to raise

points of order.

Hon members, the secretariat will assist me in alerting when

members are requesting to speak. When using the virtual

platform, members are urged to refrain or desist from

unnecessary points of order or interjections. We shall now

proceed to the Order, which is a debate on Vote No 41: Water



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and Sanitation Appropriation Bill. I will now recognise the

hon Minister of Water and Sanitation.

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

Debate on Vote No 41 - Water and Sanitation:

The MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION: House Chair, hon Speaker

and Deputy Speaker, His Excellency, the President and the

Deputy President, Deputy Ministers of the department, David

Mahlobo and Magadzi, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee,

hon members, members of the public, the director-general and

senior managers in our department, leadership of our entities

– chairpersons of boards, CEOs and senior executives,

leadership of stakeholders and fellow South Africans, it is a

great honour for me to present my maiden budget speech to the

National Assembly in the Republic of South Africa, since my

appointment as Minister of Water and Sanitation in August last

year.

Let me start with the KwaZulu-Natal floods. We are making this

speech at a difficult time, following devastating floods in

various parts of the country, KwaZulu-Natal in particular,



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followed by the Eastern Cape. I wish to take this opportunity

to express our sincere condolences to the families of all

those who lost loved ones in the floods. We would also like to

express empathy for all those who are still without water and

sanitation services due to the floods.

We want to take this opportunity and assure them that we are

hard at work to return to normality as fast as possible to

restore these services. Immediately after the floods, we

established a water and sanitation war room in KwaZulu-Natal,

together with the worst affected municipalities and the

government of the province. Our department quickly hired water

tankers to supplement those available in the municipalities

and we seconded a team of engineers and other specialists to

the war room to assist with the implementation of emergency

repair work and to assess and quantify the damage.

We are at the moment focusing in the areas up north of

eThekwini, particularly in Tongaat area, where people are

still without water to large extent. Good progress has been

made with regards to the restoration of water supply but there

has been immense damage to water and sanitation

infrastructure, we must admit.



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Together with the municipalities, we completed the costing of

the damage and submitted an application to the Department of

Co-operative Governance’s disaster funding. Once funding is

allocated, we will continue to be involved in the planning and

monitoring of implementation of the reconstruction projects,

with a stern focus on building back better.

On the National Water and Sanitation Summit, over the past

nine months we have traversed the length and breadth of our

country, meeting with those entrusted with supplying and

treating water in our communities, our department’s regional

offices, municipalities, water boards, water-user

associations, irrigation boards and catchment agencies – as

well as representatives of the communities and industries

which are the recipients of our services.

In addition, in February this year we convened a two-day long

National Water and Sanitation Summit, which was attended by a

wide range of stakeholders and experts. As a result of these

engagements, we have developed a thorough understanding of the

water and sanitation challenges facing the country, as well as

a high level of consensus regarding what needs to be done to

turn the tide. At this point in time, we want to assure the



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public that we are equal to the task and we are making

progress.

The department is in the process of planning and implementing

a range of major projects to augment national bulk water

resource infrastructure. We are also in the process of

establishing the National Water Resources Infrastructure

Agency to leverage large-scale investments in national water

resource infrastructure that are required to ensure that South

Africa has sufficient bulk water supply now and in future. The

National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency Bill will soon

be submitted to the Cabinet Committee and will thereafter be

submitted to Cabinet for approval and then to Parliament

before the end of this financial year. The final draft of the

business plan has been submitted to National Treasury for

comment.

The augmentation projects, establishment of the agency and

interventions are intended to ensure that the supply of water

does not become a binding constraint to economic growth that

has been envisaged by South Africa. They are also aimed at

ensuring that challenges with municipal water and sanitation

service delivery are not exacerbated by a shortage of bulk



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water, as has happened in the cities of Cape Town and Nelson

Mandela Bay, amongst others, in the past.

The rainfall pattern in South Africa shows that there is more

rain in the eastern parts of the country – from the south to

the north, with a red patch in the middle, and a yellow patch

in the west, towards the west coast – that is from Nelson

Mandel Bay up to Limpopo, including North West, the Northern

Cape and the Western Cape. All those places are yellowish. But

when we shift to the middle, again from Nelson Mandel Bay,

going up to the north – that is where we have a close to

crisis kind of a situation with the red patch that requires a

lot of thinking in terms of other strategies including ground

water.

Our main concern right now is dam levels and the availability

of water in Nelson Mandela Bay, but it also includes the

current challenges in Musina, Vhembe and other parts of the

country that are still struggling as a results of shortages of

water. Some historical, and some as a result disturbances in

infrastructure of one kind or the other, up to sheer lack of

management services that are required all the time. We

acknowledge this challenge.



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Ladies and gentlemen, the department has therefore developed a

number of projects at various stages throughout the country -

for instance, in the Eastern Cape, the Mzimvubu Water Project

which we are advancing in terms planning is aimed at providing

water to 750 000 people. But that dam will come at a cost of

R25 billion. I must say that it is now at the stage where

Treasury and ourselves are finalising the availability of

doing procurement together with companies that would be

involved in this project to try and see what malls we will

have that will ultimately deliver on this particular project.

The designs are 80% complete and the first round of

fundraising began in January 2022 through a request for

information, which is currently being evaluated. We know that

this is an outstanding project over a number of years but we

want to make an undertaking once more. We are on course and we

are aware of the concern in the Eastern Cape regarding this

project, and we will work together with them up until we

deliver this particular project.

In the Free State, we are in the feasibility stage of a

R10 billion project to build a major pipeline from the Xhariep

Dam, which is the biggest in the country, to augment water



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supply in Mangaung. The project is planned to be completed by

2028, if not earlier. In addition, we are implementing a R1,7

billion project to upgrade wastewater treatment works, water

treatment works and water distribution networks in the Maluti-

a-Phofung area. This project is approximately 30% complete and

is due to be fully completed by July 2025.

The R36 billion Phase 2 Lesotho Highlands Water Project is

aimed at ensuring an adequate long-term water supply in

Gauteng via the Vaal River system. The project is funded

through finance raised by the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority,

TCTA, and is being implemented jointly by the governments of

Lesotho and South Africa, through the Lesotho Highlands Water

Commission and the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority.

To date, 14% of the budget has been spent and the project is

due to start delivering water to Gauteng by 2027. And it is

important that we do so because we are aware that after 2027,

Gauteng itself, and the whole of the Vaal River system will be

showing signs of strain. In KwaZulu-Natal, the raising of the

dam wall in Hazelmere Dam to ensure long-term water supply to

Ethekwini is 96% complete. We went there three months ago to

ensure this. This project is due to be completed in the third



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quarter of 2022 if not earlier, at a cost of approximately

R800 million.

The uMkhomazi Water Project is also aimed at delivering long-

term additional water to the eThekwini and Umgungundlovu

areas. It will come at a cost of R23 billion by 2028. And

again, we have been assured by experts that if this project is

not completed by this period or earlier, eThekwini and

Umgungundlovu areas, including Harry Gwala municipality and

Ugu municipality and iLembe municipality – they will suffer in

terms of water. It is imperative that we complete this project

on time. The project is at prefunding stage, with funding to

be raised by the TCTA, and construction is expected to start

in 2025.

This past Monday, 9 May 2022, we officially launched the

R24 billion Olifants River Water Resources Development Project

which will be implemented as a public-private partnership,

PPP, with mining companies, to fast-track water delivery to

communities and mines in the Sekhukhune and Mogalakwena

municipalities in Limpopo by 2028. We are pleased to announce

this because it has been a project that we have been

discussing with the Lebalelo Water Users Association, and



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finally, we celebrated this in cape Town in the evening of

last Monday.

This is a project that we are sure that not only the

department but South Africa will be proud of once it is

started and once it is completed with the first drop coming at

some point. That is what we are looking forward to. We

appreciate the availability of this partnership that has been

crafted with Lebalelo Water Users Association. Government and

the mining companies will each fund approximately 50% of the

project, which will be implemented by the transformed Lebalelo

Water Users Association, as we have said. The project is at

approval stage with some of the work packages at pre-

construction stage and construction is anticipated to begin by

later this year.

The R1,2 billion Thembisile-Loskop bulk water supply project

in Mpumalanga is aimed at addressing water supply challenges

in the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality. The project will

provide 23 megalitres of water to communities in the

Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces. The project is at

procurement stage and will be implemented over a three-year

period from May 2022 to April 2025. Bu I must say that I have



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gone out to speak to the director-general in our department

and asked him to think harder to see if we can’t start earlier

due to pressure in terms of delivery of water from this

particular project. It goes beyond the boundary of Mpumalanga

and Limpopo, and it will have a major impact to communities

out there, including Moutse area, whose people have been

grieving for water for a long time. In a short while, we will

be planning to meet them, once we are sure that the project

has been completely packaged so that we are able to deliver

water via this one. We are at work on the matter.

The Vaal Gamagara Water Supply Scheme is critical for both

mining and potable water supply in the Northern Cape. Phase 1

is 96% complete at a cost of R1,4 billion with Phase 2

starting later this year at an estimated cost of R10 billion.

This project is very important. We went out to Northern Cape

and we completed the discussion on Phase 2 and we are happy

that we have a very healthy relationship with mining houses

there. We will ensure that before the end of this year, that

project gets to a starting point, without and delay and

derailment.



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Similarly, to the Olifants River project in Limpopo, this

project is also being implemented as a PPP, that is public-

private collaboration with mining houses, with roughly equal

financial contributions from government and the mines. This

partnership, as a concept and as a strategy is going to be the

pillar of our strategy, going forward, and it can’t be

government alone because of shortages of money and other

related problems. Therefore, we are happy that this

partnership between government and the private sector is

taking root.

We recently commissioned the Moretele South Pipeline in the

North West, a 60km pipe which will be operated and maintained

by Magalies Water and which will be of benefit, among others,

villages of the Moretele Local Municipality, namely Carousel

View, Dertig, Bosplaas, Mathibestad, Makapanstad, and quite a

host of others that the mayor counted when we were together

launching this particular project. This one is complete and it

is delivering water. It liberates those communities from what

is happening, where they were dependent on water from Tshwane,

which will only be twice a week. And it was a constraint to

those people in the context of water being a right to life.

Therefore, we are happy that they will now get water seven



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days a week, 24 in terms of hours – 24/7. We are appealing to

communities there to look after the infrastructure and we are

sure that Magalies Water will maintain our infrastructure

there to the best of their ability, as agreed.

To increase water security in the west coast area of Cederberg

in the Western Cape, we have resumed construction work to

raise the wall of Clanwilliam Dam at a cost of R3,2 billion.

The advance infrastructure is complete and work on the dam

wall is starting this month. It is due to be completed in

2026.

In addition, we are implementing the Brandvlei Dam Project in

the Western Cape. This is a R21 million project which involves

the construction of a feeder canal which will provide an

additional 33 megalitres of water for storage in the dam,

unlocking agricultural growth potential in the area. We went

there and we launched the programme and we know that work is

underway in that particular place. We are working together

with the Western cape government on this matter and we are

pleased that we are talking about something that we have seen

and it is underway.



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With regard to groundwater, this year, the World Water Day was

celebrated under the theme: “Making the Invisible Visible”,

highlighting the importance of exploring groundwater as an

alternative water source. Groundwater is already the main

source of water for large parts of our country, including the

Karoo, Northern Cape, Western Cape, and parts of Limpopo,

KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape and use in respect of it

needs to be managed carefully for it to be sustainable. We are

happy to say that this is something that we want to

concentrate on and focus on from now onwards.

Regarding water use licences, we are sticking to the 90 days

as a period within which each water licence application must

be completed. We have put together a team; we have trained

them and we are on course to deliver on this particular one.

It is very important that we deliver these licences without

any delay. We want to be held accountable on this matter

whenever there is a problem.

On water boards, we announced later after our summit that we

will be reviewing our water boards in term of number for

economies of scale, but we will also be reviewing them in

terms of their work areas also in terms of their mandate. We



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have taken steps in this regard. We have dissolved or

disestablished the Sedibeng Water Board and we continue with

our work to improve efficiency but also to ensure that water

boards are able to raise funds independently and are able to

then come with additional assistance to the needy communities.

But we will continue to work very close to municipalities,

especially those that have no capacity to deliver water and

put our water boards to those municipalities so that they can

render this service without any delay and without interfering

with constitutional and other legislative frameworks with

regard to the role of municipalities.

We are urging municipalities to put water delivery above any

other thing so that communities don’t suffer as a result of

rhetoric which in some cases may not be necessary. At this

stage I want to indicate that the hon Deputy Minister Mahlobo

will later speak on Catchment Management Agencies, the Raw

Water Strategy and a few other policy-related matters. Thank

you very much.

Mr L J BASSON: Good morning Chairperson and thank you very

much. South Africa is one of the few countries in the world

that enshrines in its Constitution the basic right to



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sufficient water. Although we acknowledge that progress has

been made, much remains to be done to fulfil that right. The

department’s legislative mandate ensures that the country’s

water resources are protected, managed and controlled by

regulating and supporting effective water supply and

sanitation delivery.

Before we unpack our water and sanitation challenges, allow me

to congratulate Dr Sean Phillips on his appointment as the

Director-General for Water and Sanitation. Dr Phillips, the DA

fully supports your appointment and we trust that you will not

be bogged down by political interference in cleaning up and

fixing the Department of Water and Sanitation.

As we all know, Water and Sanitation is in a bad state, still

affected by a toxic Nomvula Mokonyane virus, and must be

cleaned up now. Furthermore, Minister Sisulu also added her

flavour in confusing matters by appointing advisory committees

that duplicated work being done in the department, costing

ratepayers R63 million. The DA congratulates Minister Senzo

Mchunu for dissolving the Sisulu advisory committees, saving

us millions. Minister, the *Special Investigating Unit,* SIU,

must follow up on the R35 million kickback paid out on the



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*Systems Applications Products,* Sap, contract. Where did the

money go and who benefited?

We received the 2022 Blue Drop Progress Report on 1 186 water

purification systems in the country that clean 31 911 million

litres of drinking water every day. The report reveals that

48% of the country’s water supply systems were judged to be

low risk, 18% medium risk and 34% high or critical risk. This

result is shocking!

Now, the question is the following. How safe is our drinking

water? To answer this, I quote from the report, “Although some

regions have performed better than others, DWS is concerned

about the poor water quality in the country”.

*Afrikaans*:

Hierdie resultate is skokkend en moet dringend aangespreek

word.

*English*:

The 2022 Green Drop Report covers 995 ... [Inaudible.] ...

treatment works in the country and the outcome just confirms



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the DA’s warning over the last eight years of oversight on the

critical state of our water infrastructure.

Let’s unpack this report. Firstly, only 23 wastewater

treatment works qualified for Green Drop certification

compared to 60 in 2013. This is a 260% drop in Green Drop

certification since 2013. Secondly, 78% of Limpopo’s

wastewater treatment works have the highest critical risk in

the country, with the Western Cape having the lowest critical

risk of only 11%.

That’s not all. Listen to this. The report shows that 102 out

of the 115 wastewater treatment plants under the control of

Minister De Lille and her department are at critical risk,

with an average Green Drop score of only 12%. This implies a

90% failure under her leadership.

Minister De Lille, first you gave us the R40 million washing

line and now you are dumping 40 million litres of real shit

into the country's rivers and streams every day. What a

disgrace!



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We need to take firm action against polluters, and issue huge

fines and lock up those responsible for pollution. Minister,

we must now implement the polluter must pay principle. South

Africa’s water infrastructure is at risk of failure and this

deepening crisis requires leaders from all role-players in the

water sector to address these challenges.

The DA believes that through meaningful public-private

partnerships, a solution can be found. Water specialists

indicated that more than R900 billion will be needed in the

next 10 years on infrastructure to avoid a full-scale water

crisis.

We must also note that R100 billion is needed on mega

infrastructure projects with only R4 billion available. We

can’t keep on running water infrastructure if we don’t look

after it. If you don’t maintain it, it will break and then,

bang! Suddenly you hit the cliff and the entire infrastructure

collapses. This is starting to happen in some areas of this

country.

*Afrikaans*:



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Minister, die DA se boodskap aan u is baie duidelik. Wanneer

Suid-Afrika se water infrastruktuur in duie stort, sal dit

56 miljoen mense affekteer, ryk of arm, swart of wit. Dit sal

geweldige druk op die Suid-Afrikaanse ekonomie en

voedselsekerheid plaas.

*English*:

Minister, you have your work cut out for you, but

unfortunately your ANC government has dropped the ball and is

not living up to the slogan: Water is life, sanitation is

dignity.

And so, South Africans continue to suffer without water, not

because of drought but because of corruption and mismanagement

by this ANC government.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon members,

[Inaudible.] who is hon Mohlala [Interjections.] Hon members

of the ANC, I can’t listen to all of you at the same time. Can

I listen to the hon Radebe?



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Mr B A RADEBE: Chairperson, can hon Grace Tseke do the speech

of hon Mashego please? She’s the last one on the side of ANC,

Grace Tseke.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, I’ve now

already called the hon Mohlala. I’ll ask the hon Tseke to

follow after the hon Mohlala.

Mrs R M MOHLALA: Chairperson, the EFF rejects Budget Vote 41

on Water and Sanitation. The grave matter of lack of water and

sanitation services to millions of our people. Without these

services deserves an extraordinary approach form a government

that cares for the people. Not this lacquered desical attitude

shown by the Department of Water and Sanitation.

As things stand now, your own national water and sanitation

master plan shows that over 5,3 million households in this

country do not have access to clean water services. Your own

water and sanitation master plan shows a growing gap between

water supply and water demand in the country and estimates

that if no significant investments are made to beef up water

infrastructure and promote conservation of water services,



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supply will eclipse demand by over 17% in 2030; that is in

eight years from now, Minister.

But what impactful investment in water infrastructure has the

department done? What forms of water conservation practices

have been initiated?

The department is fiddling while the country is on the

precipice of water disaster. Without a bold plan to avert this

water shortage disaster, the country will face a water crisis

worse than the electricity disaster we are currently facing

with the failing Eskom. We need bold action now.

We are already seeing the consequences of this neglect of

water demand problem in municipalities such as Makana and

Nelson Mandela Metro in the Eastern Cape.

We are already seeing the desperation caused by lack of water

in communities around Limpopo, who depend on boreholes for

their water. This department and municipalities cannot even

install boreholes for our communities.

As we speak, Minister, Musina is burning, there’s no water.



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The water boards that have been used as playgrounds for the

ruling party’s patronage politics and which have been

factories for producing the most corrupt activities must be

revamped and refocus towards building water infrastructure and

delivering water services.

The artificial separation between this department’s mandate

and the municipality’s responsibility in delivering water must

be addressed.

If no executive oversight is given on the infrastructure

projects that have been initiated, and if the Lesotho highland

project is not expedited, Gauteng will experience serious

water shortages before the end of this decade.

Protest over water will become common place across the country

and social unrest will [Inaudible.] this country over.

South Africa’s large water and sanitation projects currently

under construction are behind schedule; with some facing

delays of more than five years. Almost all of them fail to

meet their initial deadlines.



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Projects in the planning phase, upgrading the Olifantspoort

and Ebenezer water supply scheme in Limpopo have not cleared

deadlines. This is the same for other projects such as the

long-standing Giyani bulk water supply project, also in

Limpopo.

The Giyani intervention was conceived in 2014 to supply the

surrounding villages with clean drinking water and be

completed within five years. After details of corruption in

match on the project, with a lengthy investigation, the date

for completion was shifted to December 2022, and now March

2023.

Other examples of inefficiencies in completing bulk water and

sanitation infrastructure are the Masodi Waste Water

Management project.

Projects are not restricted to Limpopo. However, missed

deadlines, wasteful expenditure and poor planning of bulk

infrastructure projects have become the norm in almost all of

the country.



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Every large project in the Eastern Cape has been delayed. The

uMzimvubu Dam project was started in February 2015 and the

target completion date was May 2023; this deadline will

obviously not be met as well.

The Nooitgedacht Coega low level scheme and the James

Kleinhans bulk water supply project, both in the Eastern Cape,

will also be delayed.

In the Western Cape, the raising of Clanwilliam dam wall was

initially to completed in November 2021; challenges have

pushed the deadline to June 2026.

The Thembisile regional water supply project in Mpumalanga was

due for completion in 2022, but this is now moved to 2024.

The Britz water treatment works in North West started in 2007,

was meant to take seven years to complete, but will only

complete its second phase in 2023.

Pollution of our river system, spillages of influence,

dysfunctional waste water treatment works and water treatment

plants are daily occurrences in different parts of the



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country. Linked to bulk water and sanitation infrastructure

are the operations and maintenance of the infrastructure.

The national Department of Water and Sanitation appropriates

billions of rands each year for built water and sanitation

infrastructure, only to have all that money going down the

drain.

The recently published green drop report 2022 is testimony to

the country’s failing water and sanitation infrastructure.

We reject this report. We condemn the incompetence and

corruption of the ANC. We encourage our people to keep

asserting their right to water and sanitation by all means

necessary. Amandla! [Power]

Ms G K TSEKE: Thank you very much Chairperson and good morning

everyone. I read the speech on behalf of the Chairperson of

the Portfolio Committee Water and Sanitation, hon Mashego. Hon

Chair, water is life, sanitation is dignity. The Constitution

of the Republic of South Africa section 27(1)(b) states that:



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Everyone has the right to access to sufficient food and

water and;

The state takes reasonable legislative and other measures

within its available resource to achieve the progressive

realisation of these rights.

As the ANC, we are convinced that the Department of Water and

Sanitation and its entities Budget Vote 41, will take forward

the building of the water infrastructure today to secure the

future of the next generation. Hon Chair, since the ANC took

over the running of this government in 1994, there is a lot

that has been done, and there is still a lot that we are doing

in ensuring that our people have access to clean drinking

water in adequate sanitation. The Minister has elaborated on

that.

Our democratic government took the decision to provide free

basic services, such as water and sanitation for indigent

households. Currently each indigent household informal

settlement with taps in their yards are entitled to six

kilolitres of water per month, and have been provided with

adequate sanitation in the form of flushing toilets. As per



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the United States Nations Sustainable Development Goals Report

for 2021, it indicates that in 2017, 92.7% of the population

had access to basic drinking water, while a 75,7% of the

population had access to basic sanitation.

Hon members, ours is to ensure that every household has access

to basic services, irrespective of where they reside. The

Department of Water and Sanitation and is entities has this

financial year, committed to implement measure water projects

to augment national bulk-water resources infrastructure. For

this financial year, the Department and its entities would be

spending an amount of 12,7 billion for the development,

rehabilitation and refurbishment of the raw water resources

and water service infrastructure in our country.

We further welcome the report by the department and these

entities that will be implementing and finalising two mega

projects, 24 large and 28 small bulk-water infrastructure.

That report was presented to the portfolio committee, and hon

Mohlala was part of that.

Hon Chair and hon members, as the department and its entities,

we continue to provide bulk water infrastructure. We must



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ensure that when infrastructure is handed over to the various

water services authorities, there is capacity to maintain and

operate the new or refurbished infrastructure. The country’s

population rely on the 144 water services authorities, for the

provision of water and sanitation services. The department has

acknowledged that there are key challenges facing the water

services authority as it relates to technical capacity,

investment in and maintenance of the water and sanitation

infrastructure.

As the ANC, we welcome to intervention already made by

Minister Mchunu to support these municipalities, where there

is failure to meet the minimum water and sanitation national

standards. We are hopeful that by the end of the financial

year, Parliament will finalize the Intergovernmental

Monitoring Support and Intervention Bill. The Bill will ensure

that the national government is able to regulate the

implementation and provide the processes, for an effective and

efficient intervention in the water services authorities.

Hon Chair, the ANC government is committed to the provision of

water services to all its citizens. However, in order for the

local municipalities to be able to deliver water quality and



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sanitation services, it is also dependent on its ability to

collect water tariffs. As the ANC we support the introduction

of the water user pay principle. It must be enforced to ensure

that the water services authorities are financially viable

entities. Our support for the water user pay principle is

cognisance of the vast majority of our people, as the vast

majority of our people are intelligent. Therefore, we

encourage those water services authorities to apply for

indigent funding from the National Treasury.

Hon Chair, we know that municipalities are owed huge sums of

money spent residents which then means that these

municipalities all huge sums of money to various water boards.

We have recommended that, the department must come up with

ways of improving debt collection by these municipalities.

Further, encouraged the department to assist local

municipalities to ensure that their billing systems and

revenue mechanisms are strengthened.

Hon members, central to the government infrastructure

development and the socioeconomic development of the

surrounding communities, President Ramaphosa in the state of

nation address, made a commitment that government will be



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undertaking in far reaching [Inaudible] ... measures to

unleash the potential of small businesses, micro businesses

and informal businesses, as they are the ones that create the

most jobs and provide most opportunities for the poor to earn

a living.

Indeed, the department and its entities have responded to the

President’s instruction of ensuring that, small and micro

enterprises benefit in government programmes. The department

has set aside 40% of procurement to be spent for women while

the youth and people with disabilities will be allocated 30%

and 7% respectively. Further, there are 165 direct job

opportunities that will be created through the implementation

of the augmentation of infrastructure and operation of water

resource projects. An additional further than 450 jobs will be

created through the implementation of the Regional Bulk

Infrastructure Grant.

We believe that the sector has the potential of creating more

job opportunities, hence in our portfolio committee we

recommended that, the department and its entities must provide

quarterly reports socioeconomic impact in terms of the number

of jobs created, and the number of small and medium



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enterprises benefiting from the various water and sanitation

infrastructure structure projects.

Hon Chair and hon members, there are a number of ...

[Inaudible] ... that are allocated to municipalities from

various government departments, which are meant to address

water and sanitation services. The experience has shown that

most of our local municipalities are not really able to spend

the monies allocated to them as a result of lack of planning,

budgeting and co-ordination of the various grants that they

received from national department. To remedy the situation,

the President announced the implementation of the District

Development Model, DDM as a government approach that national

department and their entities give the necessary technical and

financial support to local municipalities in the

implementation of the one plan, one budget.

We have recommended to the department and its entities to

align their Annual Performance Plan, APP along the District

Development Model. By doing that, the department will make it

possible for the portfolio committee to play an effective and

efficient oversight over the spending of the various grants to



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waters services authorities. The DDM strengthens transparency

and accountability on the use of taxpayers’ money.

Hon Chair, we are confident that the measures contained in the

department and its entities, will build water infrastructure

that will secure the future of the next generation. Once

again, as the ANC we support 100% the Budget Vote 41 as

presented by the Minister of the Department of Water and

Sanitation. I thank you.

*Setswana*:

Ke a leboga.

Mr K P SITHOLE: Thank you, hon Chairperson. I am reading this

on behalf of hon S A Buthelezi who is the main member of Water

and Sanitation. Hon Chairperson, water is not a supplement to

our daily living. It is in fact very necessary to our

assistance. And surprisingly, the Department of Water and

Sanitation is one of the most important and conservative to

the sustainability of the population of South Africa.

Vast quantities of countries water services are under stress

dilapidated and insufficient. The dependence of water by all



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further emphasises the importance of taking no nonsense when

it comes to protecting this vital resources.

One of the major challenges of recent has been seen in the

province of KwaZulu-Natal and part of the Eastern Cape floods

damage was explores to adequate attention to water

infrastructure. However, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape

are not the only affected provinces. In Gauteng, it has been

reported that water leaks due to poor infrastructure resulted

in a loss of half of all water – a loss that is estimated to

sit at around R500 million in our municipalities. Before the

floods affected KwaZulu-Natal, water infrastructure was

already in a state of collapse. Anyone who will stand here

today and claims that the problem with water infrastructure is

as a result of unforeseen circumstances of the floods damage

is attempting to mislead the House and the citizens of this

country.

The truth of the matter is that, there was no maintenance plan

for water reticulations infrastructure in KwaZulu-Natal. There

is solid evidence to support this as a budget for KwaZulu-

Natal and eThekwini in particular was almost entirely spend on

the operational requirement of the water reticulation system.



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The eThekwini Council has before the floods estimated that a

plan to fix and upgrade reticulation process, which include

pump system dam put a pipe required a budget of about

R1 billion per year over a period of 10 years. This means that

a special budget over and above general operation need to be

adequately repair existing infrastructure as the loses set up

at about 54% of reticulation water.

The IFP has over the past has been bringing the importance of

water infrastructure to the attention of this House and to the

department. It is however seen to a fallen over deaf ears. In

this Parliament, we have asked whether an audit had been done

on all the water infrastructure that needed repair in the

country and the Minister could not be given us a definite

answer. Now that we are forced into crisis we have to accept

any half back ideas how to fix and repair our infrastructures

of balancing the growing demand and reliance on water.

The department should desist the opportunity at this point to

draft the well organised budget in that would address the

floods affected areas and then move into other areas that is

in dire needs of water. Without a plan to address the slowly

threatening water infrastructure shortcomings in South Africa



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we are simply planning to fail the people of this country. The

IFP do support the budget. Thank you very much.

*Afrikaans*:

Mnr P MEY: Voorsitter, Suid-Afrika het die afgelope ses maande

baie goeie reën ontvang, met die uitsondering van die gebiede

bokant die Nelson Mandelabaai damme. Ongeag die goeie reënval,

bly die krane oor groot dele van Suid-Afrika nog droog. Die

verslag meld dat alle inwoners van Suid-Afrika teen 2030

bekostigbare en betroubare toegang tot genoegsame skoon water

en sanitasie moet verkry. Op dié stadium blyk dit steeds ’n

droom te wees. In dele van die Vrystaat — Parys, **...**

[Onhoorbaar.] ... en Tumahole — was die gebied vir 66 dae

sonder water.

Tydens die sitting van 7 September 2021, het agb Tammy Breedt

van die VF Plus ’n lidverklaring oor Qwaqwa se water ingedien.

Die Adjunkminister van Water en Sanitasie het gereageer en

bevestig dat hulle ondersoek ingestel het en R26,5 miljoen

bewillig het. Die munisipaliteit dra geen kennis daarvan nie.

Die situasie bly net versleg. Die waterkrisis in die Nelson

Mandelabaai-metro duur al vir byna sewe jaar. Die VF Plus het



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sedert 2019 permanent tydens toesprake oor die dreigende

waterkrisis verslag gedoen. Niks is aan die situasie gedoen

nie. Ek het in 2019 daarop gewys dat ons sê ons is een van die

30 droogste lande in die wêreld. Dit is nie waar nie. Ons het

genoeg water maar ontbreek aan genoeg damme om daardie water

op te gaar. Die massas water wat see toe vloei moet na droë

dele in Suid-Afrika opgegaar en herlei word. Dink net aan die

groot getal werksgeleenthede wat geskep word.

Ek wil vandag spesifiek na die Nelson Mandelabaai-metro

verwys. Die gemiddelde damvlakke is vandag 12,81%. Binne

30 dae gaan 40% van Nelson Mandelabaai-metro se inwoners geen

water tot hul beskikking het nie. Ek wil herhaal. Binne 30 dae

gaan 40% van Nelson Mandelabaai-metro se inwoners geen water

tot hul beskikking het nie. Dit sluit ook die grootste

gevangenis in die Oos-Kaap, namens die St Albans-gevangenis,

in. Dit sal een van die grootste rampe in die geskiedenis van

Suid-Afrika wees.

Verskeie redes kan genoem word waarom daar so baie water

vermors word. Eerstens is dit die inwoners van die metro wat

nie vir water betaal nie en dus nie omgee oor die hoeveelheid

water wat hulle vermors nie. Tweedens, die Nooitgedacht-



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watersuiweringsprojek wat uit die water van die Gariepdam

gevoed word, is vertraag oor ’n betalingsdispuut. Die

kontrakteur het sy kontrak in 2021 beëindig omdat Amatola-

waterraad nie ’n betaling van R1,9 miljoen betaal het nie. Die

projek moes in September 2021 al voltooi gewees het. Die

Nooitgedacht-watersuiweringsprojek is ’n projek van die

Departement van Water en Sanitasie.

Ek wil net noem dat dit so belangrik is dat daardie projek

vining voltooi moet word aangesien dit tans 170 megaliter

water per dag voorsien, en as fase drie voltooi is, is dit ’n

verdere 40 megaliter per dag.

Die VF Plus dagbestuur het so vyf weke gelede die

Nooitgedacht-watersuiweringsprojek besoek en ek wil nou vir u

een ding sê. Daar word hard gewerk en die oponthoud onnodig

was. Maar wat is die korttermyn oplossing in die Nelson

Mandelabaai-metro?

In 2019 het ek ’n beroep op die Minister van waterwese**,** agb

Sisulu gedoen dat geen bouplan goedgekeur moet word indien

daar nie voorsiening gemaak is vir die opgaar van water deur

middel van watertenks nie. Die groote van die woning se dak



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moet bepaal hoeveel water gestoor moet word. Elke huis wat

gebou word moet van geute en ’n 5 000 liter tenk voorsien

word. Dit moet op ’n sement fondasie geplaas word om diefstal

te voorkom. Waarom is dit so belangrik?

In die metro anderkant die opvangsgebied was die reënval goed

en sou die watertenks gereeld gevul word. Ek wil vandag ’n

beroep op die Minister van Water en Sanitasie doen. Begin

onmiddelik met die oprigting van watertenks. Ek wil vir u sê

dat die krisis geweldig is maar ons kan nog ’n oplossing vind.

Ek wil afsluit. Ek dink min mense besef in wattter situasie

die Oos-Kaap hom bevind en daarom as gelowige wil ek sê, kom

ons as gelowiges glo eh hoop dat God ons damme in hierdie

30 dae sal vul. Dankie, Voorsitter.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION (Mr M D Mahlobo):

Your Excellence Chair of Chairs comrade Frolick , the Minister

[of Water](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/water) and [Sanitation,](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/sanitation) Macingwane, other Ministers that are

here. Deputy Minister Magadzi and other Deputy Ministers, hon

comrade Pemmy Majodina, our Whip and Deputy Chief Whip comrade

Dlakude, the Chair of our committee, comrade Mashego and our

Whip of committee comrade Grace, hon Members of Parliament, GN



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senior managers, the leadership of our entities, esteemed guests

and fellow South Africans.

Your Excellences, comrades and friends, many citizens across the

globe, they continue to perish, economies have stagnated whilst

exposing inequalities that are existing amongst the nations due

to the continued devastating impact of COVID-19, the Russia-

Ukraine conflict, as well as global [security,](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/security) and geo-political

tensions.

In our country we have experienced COVID-19, July 2021 violent

unrests affecting KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng Province and

recently the untold suffering caused by the floods in

KwaZulu-Natal, KZN, some parts of the Eastern Cape, North West

and the fires that ravaged more than 300 shacks in the Western

Cape.

I am joining Minister Mchunu in paying our last respect to all

those who lost their lives due to the matters I have raised.

Their memories will live on because they remain embedded in our

minds and in our hearts. These are the heroes and heroines that

have already succumbed, including the rescue worker that

actually passed on in KwaZulu-Natal.



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The only way that we must know that COVID-19 continue to be with

us. The virus is mutating, there are new strains that are

emerging. And, the only way to stop the spread is through our

behaviour as individuals and collectively. Let us support the

campaign and the programme by President and government of

vaccination and frown upon those who continue to spread the

false narrative about vaccines.

[Water](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/water) is an integral part of the ecosystem, a natural resource

and a social and economic good, whose quantity and quality

determine the nature of its utilisation. [Water](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/water) in our region can

become limiting because of a number of challenges that are

there.

Our water systems are more vulnerable in the region because of

issues of climate change and the issues of annual variations in

terms of rainfall, but also issues of evaporation that we see.

Your Excellences, South [Africa](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/africa) does not have a national [water](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/water)

crisis at present. However, a number of serious problems we

experience currently they could cause to be the seeds of future

crises. Therefore, our [water](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/water) related problems could have a



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negative impact, causing our country’s socio-economic

imperatives to take the turn for the worse.

We must also be mindful of climate change that has a significant

impact causing floods through limited in some areas in our

localities. The drought that we have seen in some parts of the

country as the Minister has spoken to. Many opportunities

offered by the [water](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/water) sector and development and social

transformation will have to be exploited very positively.

We are on course with Minister Mchunu and Mam Magadzi to ensure

that we harness water security in South Africa for the benefit

of all. We would also be deploying technology that is very

destructive to ensure that we are fully secured as a country and

the international experts are also saying that not primarily

that the results of security but we must recognise that [water](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/water)

security is determined by the success or failure of country’s

socio and economic importance.

Therefore, urgent measures are being taken by the Minister as

indicated in his address to ensure that our water [systems](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/systems) they

remain the life blood of the nation around the whole country. We



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are also on course in achieving the United [Sustainable](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/sustainable)

Development Goals, UN SDG, House Chair.

We must indicate that the ANC-led governments over the last 28

years, we have done well to ensure that access to water to many

South Africans. As we speak, access to water stands at about

90%, access to sanitation around 83%. But, we as the ministry we

are the first to admit that more still needs to be done,

especial for rural communities.

As directed by the President and the Minister we shall leave no

South African behind, when it comes to issues of access to water

and sanitation. We are increasing our capability on research,

working with our [Water](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/water) Research Commission, the Council for

Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR, and the other

institutions. And, also ensuring partnerships that Minister has

spoken to. In investing in skills revolution, climate change

mitigation strategies and technologies required for the current

epoch and future demands.

Our Department has promised before hon members we have delivered

on our promise to regulate water and sanitation in our country.

We have delivered on the promise of the roll out on the Blue



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Drop and Green Drop status. And, the report is actually

available.

We have seen how many water treatments have been looked at, this

report now, it must be able to demonstrate the commitment by

Minister to ensure that we transform our thinking of the waste

water treatment system. We must start to use science and

[engineering](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/engineering) to ensure that we have the capability to treat waste

[water](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/water) to acceptable [water](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/water) standard.

We must also be able to use these resource, like we have done

with Ivanplats and Mogalakwena through Minister Mchunu, when we

actually sight the Masodi treatment plant that is actual going

to give used raw water for these issues and we want to confirm

that even Polokwane they are also looking at this. We managed to

do these things within less than three months. Our partnerships

are actually working.

One of the issues around regulations, is the issues of the price

of water that has been escalating over some time. Minister

Mchunu would be working with Minister of Finance. They will able

to ensure that our raw water pricing strategy is concluded

before the end of this financial year in the third quarter.



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Because, we want to create certainty and be able to do

investment.

Also the other issue we are dealing with, is the issues of

polluter pay principles. There’s a lot of pollution that is

happening, we want to confirm that our waste discharge charge

system is being piloted in the three catchment management areas.

We want a zero charging to ensure that all our [systems](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/systems) are

working before implemented in the next [financial](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/financial) year. Polluters

are warned, they must stop pollution or they would pay!

We are also doing ... [Inaudible.] ... resource poor farmers and

we are struggling to improve transparency around water

allocation reform. Working with the Minister of Agriculture, the

issues of Vaalharts would be supporting those communities in the

Northern Cape and the other irrigation schemes.

Our Anti-Pollution Task Team is working hard led by myself. We

are actually have dealt with pollution in the Vaal. There are

areas where the sewer is no longer spilling into communities.

But, more work still needs to be done in the Vaal system, so

that we don’t pollute Free State, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape

and Namibia. But, more importantly even in Kroonstad, issues of



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spillages, they must come to an end. We are doing environmental

... there are environmental inspectors that were brought in,

there is a multidisciplinary team that are doing all these, more

480 audits, they have also been done by the department.

These are some of the issues that we wanted to highlight. But,

more importantly we are also attending to the issues of sewer

spillage that is happing in supporting eThekwini as they are

actually recovering from the issues of the drought.

We would also want to indicate that we will publish the first

“No Drop Report” by march 2023. We are introducing that Your

Excellences.

Around dam safety, we are working around the bulk [infrastructure](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/infrastructure)

to maintain them, ensure safety of our people because we don’t

want to be losing more people. But at the very same time we want

our dams to be used by communities. The areas around dam, for

recreation so the communities they can be in a position,

themselves to benefit.

We are proceeding with the issues of ... [Inaudible.] ... reform

our Catchment Management Agencies will be there. Currently those



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three, we actually expanding to the six ‘proto-Catch Management

Agencies, CMA’s’ we are looking at their roles and

responsibilities and giving them more powers.

Around water pricing and tariffs, the [Water](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/water) Economic Regulation

Committee, is on board. We are concluding that and the two

Ministers, they will have conference. We want also to ensure

that we create jobs House Chair, through our own programme of

infrastructure development, water conservation, waste water

treatment turnaround strategies, but also using asset

management.

As a department, we remain steadfast and on course towards

[building](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/building) a truly united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic

society as envisioned in the freedom [charter](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/charter) and our

Constitution.

As indicated in my introduction House Chair, the challenges we

face, they are too big, but they are not insurmountable. Our

collective effort and resilience of our nation it will see us

through. Let us remain vigilant of the dangers faced by our

revolutionary advancement but we should never be rigid,

inflexible or inactive to change. We remain inspired by our



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shared aspiration and by the desire to create and fulfil our

promise of a better life for all. God bless South [Africa,](https://www.polity.org.za/topic/africa) her

sons and daughters I thank you House Chair!

Ms C SEOPOSENGWE: Hon Chairperson, through our research and

innovation we will lead new water and sanitation technologies.

Hon Chairperson, as the ANC we support the Department of Water

and Sanitation and its entities for Budget Vote No 41. We are

convinced that through research and innovation conducted by

the Water Research Commission, will lead to the creation of

new water and sanitation technologies that will positively

impact our society.

Farming must be made available for research and innovation.

Knowledge and production through quality research is very

critical for the development of our society. However, the

research process is costly and takes a long time to produce

quality results.

We acknowledge the fact that in our country where the public

entity that is dedicated for water and sanitation research to

inform government policy and decision-making processes. For

2021 to 2022 financial year the Water Research Commission



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received an allocation of an amount of R296,765 million. While

for this current financial year, it received an amount of

R361 million from the national Department of Water and

Sanitation.

As the ANC acknowledge the amount of the allocation, we are of

the view and are serious about the development of the new

technologies which will have a huge socioeconomic impact in

our country.

The budget for the Water Research Commission should be

increased. The increase of the budget will mean that the

department will be able to recruit and retain critical skills

within its empowerment. Further, it will mean that the new

technologies produced by the commission will be government-

owned with the government heading intellectual property, IP,

returns on that knowledge.

Concerning climate change compliant innovation, we have

experienced the impacts of climate change in our country. The

recent droughts in certain parts of our country, as we would

have heard about the recent devastating and calamitous

situation in Gqeberha and the surrounding areas, but also the



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April droughts impact of climate change in various vulnerable

communities in our country.

Hon Chairperson, we happy to report to the Water Research

Commission launched a project entitled the “Adaptive response

and local scale adaptation for improving water security

resilience to climate change in selected communities in

Giyani” in the Limpopo province.

According to the Water Research Commission, the main objective

of the project is to make local communities from Giyani area

climate resilient by developing Water Energy Amenities that

both addresses water shortages, but also stimulate economic

activity and growth.

Last Wednesday it was reported in the *Daily Despatch* an

Eastern Cape provincial newspaper that residents of Masele

under the Ndlambe Local Municipality had to walk more than

five kilometres to the nearest river to get water. The Ndlambe

Local Municipality is one of our municipalities which their

dams have been affected by climate change and a desalination

water plant has already been commissioned and operational. The

Water Research Commission key focal area for this financial is



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on desalination of sea water. The outcomes of which will be of

much assistance to other communities which have the same

experiences as the Masele community. New and innovative

equipment within the water and sanitation sector will create

new industries.

Hon Chairperson the new and innovative equipment must not only

deal with service delivery challenges as they relate to water

and sanitation, but more also address the socioeconomic

development of our communities through the development of new

industries. This is one of the key strategic goals of the

Water Research Commission which is to produce new intellectual

property or have the ability to introduce innovations that

create new or improved technologies, products and services

that can be used in the real economy.

Hon Chairperson, as the portfolio committee, we have noted

that a number of new technologies produced through research

conducted by the Water Research Commission is underutilised by

the government.

We have recommended that the Department of Water and

Sanitation, Water Research Commission, the Department of



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Trade, Industry and Competition with the Department of Co-

operative Governance and Traditional Affairs should

collaborate and ensure the uptake and develop industry for the

mass production of new water and sanitation technologies. Mass

production of this new water and sanitation technologies will

contribute in job creation and economic growth in the country.

Hon Chairperson, through new innovative water and sanitation

system, our government will fast-track service delivery. The

Water Research Commission, is committed in addressing the

backlog in water and sanitation delivery in our country, with

a particular focus on sanitation in our public schools. We

commend the work that the commission has undertaken in this

regard.

Close to 4 000 public schools, have no adequate sanitation

facilities in our country. In response to this challenge, the

Water Research Commission in collaboration with the Department

of Basic Education, have initiated a programme of sanitation

appropriate for education initiative by piloting a new

innovative next generation technology.



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Key to this new technology is the ability of the sanitation

system to trait waste water for reuse in the same system. The

project has been implemented at the Tsholetsang Primary School

in the Gauteng province, using new technologies as an

alternative to flashing toilet system.

Hon Chairperson, South Africa is a water scarce country,

therefore, we must ensure that we utilise innovative

sanitation technologies that will save fresh water use.

According to the Water Research Commission between 40 and 50%

households water combustion is used for domestic sewerage. It

is with this background that the Water Research Commission has

directed new research for alternative and innovative

sanitation system.

The programmed research would be done under the Sanitation

Transformation Initiative, SaNiTi, which not only seek to

address the sanitation challenges in our country, but also

ensure that new industries emerge out of this research to

create jobs and the socioeconomic development of the various

communities in our country.



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With regards to water conservation and water resource

management - water availability is not only reliant on the

rain fall that the country receives in a particular year, but

it is also about the ability of the country to conserve,

harness and harvest our portable water.

One of the challenges facing water is water leaks. The

Department of Water and Sanitation has implemented a War on

Leaks Programme to deal with the scourge of water leaks in our

municipalities, which municipalities must embrace as that is

where the war will be lost or won.

The Water Research Commission has produced a new technology

aqua trip which detects leaks then switch off water supply and

it reports the leak to a main system so that the leak can be

attended to by municipality officials. This new technology

will not only deal with water leaks but will conserve water in

our country.

Hon Chairperson, we support the Budget Vote No 41 with the

full-knowledge of the strides that are being made by the

department and its entities in the provision of clean,



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drinking water and for proper sanitation services for our

people.

*Setswana*:

Ga ese gore lefapha le la rona ga le dire sepe jaaka batho ba

bangwe ba ba batlang go tla mo ba ngongorega. Ba ngongoregetse

ruri, mme ba sa kgone go tla ka ditsholofetso le ditharabololo

tse di matshwanedi. Ke a leboga.

Mr S M JAFTA: ... [Inaudible.] ...

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Jafta, hon

Jafta!

Mr S M JAFTA: Hello, Chair.

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): We can hardly

hear what you are saying. Can you try and get a better

connection?

Mr S M JAFTA: Am I audible? I will try. Maybe you will come

back for me, please.



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The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Can you

proceed now, you are better.

Mr S M JAFTA: Oh! Okay, Chair. I was saying that two things

need to be emphasized here, though we support the Budget Vote.

One is that access to clean water is a constitutional right to

every South African citizen. Therefore, the department must

make sure that this is ... [Inaudible.] ... the local and the

districts areas. Hon Chairperson, most people still struggle

to get water, let alone clean water.

One other thing that we need to emphasise is that the

department needs to give attention to the informal

settlements, clean water need to be provided in these areas

and to improve their living conditions with regard to sewerage

systems. Otherwise as I’ve said, hon Chairperson, the AIC

support the Budget Vote. Thank you.

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

House Chair, 2 million incident reports and 90,000 folders of

looting and corruption in water provision and proper

sanitation is a very strong indicator of a failed government

department. This must be the worst government department on



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earth. How can the Department of Water and Sanitation expect

any money from the fiscus if half of the money they get is

expected to be looted in the new year?

Once again, this will be ... [Inaudible.] ... against the

sixth Parliament. The human resource department’ need of

offices is an embarrassment and must be really ploy. They

don’t make the cut. They must immediately hold disciplinary

hearings when cases arise, not drag these cases. As we speak

now, there are 100 new incidents and I hope they do it better.

So, no money to give the poor people and water continue to be

compromised. Forensic reports are unnecessarily delayed.

Labour discipline is based on a balance of probabilities and

not onerous standards of the courts.

Can the Minister of Police tell this to the new director-

general? The first ... [Inaudible.] ... resistant fighter to

bring down apartheid came from the former Transkei. Let me

name, Walter Sisulu, yet residents are the last to get water.

Their sons were hanged, persecuted, tortured and jailed in

solitary confinement. Last night we debated how every level of

staff in the Department of Water and Sanitation and its

entities looted R38 billion and why only R1 billion have so



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far been recovered. So, uh, if Parliament cannot deal with

water catastrophe, the ... [Inaudible.] ... is doing South

Africa proud and here I mentioned the *Daily Maverick*.

Every word that was written would bring a drop of water to

children, women and the elderly and some dying of thirst, they

must, please, keep this up and other media must join them

because it doesn’t seem as if Parliament and everyone else is

doing proper oversight, so, we must ask the media for help.

This ... [Inaudible.] ... catastrophe must ... [Inaudible.]

... the nation. Like the Minister and his Chair has stated the

Ministers and Deputy Ministers before him over the decade must

fall on their swords. Thank you very much, hon House Chair.

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Thank you, House Chairperson. Chairperson,

this particular department is in a crisis and it has been in a

crisis for many years. Now - and I’ve said this before,

Chairperson - you can bring Ministers, you can change the

Deputy Ministers, but you’re not going to solve the problem in

this department. I know for a long period of time there’s been

acting director-generals, DGs, and acting deputy-director

generals, DDGs.



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I’m not surprised, Chairperson, that there were some officials

from the Alfred Nzo District that were arrested for corruption

and looting, because I remember under Standing Committee on

Appropriations, six years ago, we highlighted corruption in

the Mount Ayliff area. Today, that department came again and

again and again but will not divulge the information that we

actually wanted. So, I’m not really surprised. You know,

corruption, rooting, fruitless expenditure, wasteful

expenditure is the order of the day.

Currently, as we stand, Chairperson, and you look at the

statistics, 3 million households do not have access to

reliable drinking water and 14,1 million people do not have

access to safe sanitation. Only 64% of households have access

to reliable water supply. Now, more than 20% of South Africans

do not have access to safe sanitation. I mean, how long are we

going to go out without? Let me give you a good example,

Chairperson. Eight years ago, eThekwini had a water loss of

27%, today it’s sitting as good as 50% water loss.

How are you going to deal with the challenges that people are

facing? The flood is only an excuse on what is actually

happened. The infrastructure in eThekwini alone had been



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crumbling. Let me tell you, the area of Nongoma in the

Zululand District, people have to walk up to seven kilometers

Chairperson, 28 years into democracy, to get some water and we

think it is okay. Clearly, I think there’s a lot of work needs

to be done. Now look at the investigation of the corruption in

this department that started by the previous Minister,

Minister Sisulu, and suddenly this entire thing appears to be

getting suppressed. Why? Why is this investigation not being

accelerated so those people that are corrupt and looting are

brought to book? I think it is time that we change the way we

conduct ourselves, hon Chairperson.

Hon Chair, we talk about pit toilets, it continues unabated. I

got a call the other day from Mandlamasha Combined Primary

School, near Dundee in KwaZulu-Natal, where they have been

told that the department is not going to be able to provide

them any assistance and deal with those toilets and the water

problems that they’re having in those areas. Now, how long are

we going to continue with this? How long are we going to

employ the very same people? That is why I said, if you’re

going to deal with the challenges of the flooding in KwaZulu-

Natal, you can put an oversight committee, you can put

billions of rands, you are relying on exactly the same



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expertise and skills that people who have been failing us year

in and year out. So, how are you going to actually make any

difference?

The National Freedom Party supporting this Budget Vote is not

doing it because we believe there is fantastic piece of work

being done, but in order to be able to make progress, of

course you going to need the budget, but I think a lot of us

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

Mr N MYBURGH: Thank you, House Chair. Hon members, it is my

great honour today to address this House for the first time,

and I feel privileged to be speaking in this particular debate

since water is surely the most valuable resource of them all!

As we all know, water and sanitation determines both the

survival and the dignity of every human being, it is non-

negotiable, and yet today we are facing a looming water

crisis, which has the potential to make the Eskom fiasco look

like a minor hiccup.

One can only hope that the recent appointment of not only a

new Minister, but also a new Director-General and chief



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executive officer will bring renewed purpose and direction to

a department which has until recently excelled in the fields

of maladministration, fraud and theft on a scale seldom seen

before.

This is a department, hon members, where literally billions of

Rands has gone missing, R37 billion according to some

estimate, money that should have been spent on national water

security for all through infrastructure development.

Now the most recent Blue Drop and Green Drop reports tell an

alarming story all on its own, with the Western Cape

predictably as usual, the only glimmer of hope in the wake of

massive failure elsewhere in the country. Support and

intervention is required in order to avert both a

human and an environmental disaster.

And when it comes to the various water entities across the

country, the story doesn’t get any better. Take for example,

the Overberg Water Board where its failure to provide water

affordable and reliable to the agricultural sector is posing a

serious risk to the economic prospects of that entire region.



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Hon members, the truth of the matter is that South Africa does

in fact have enough water. We are blessed with abundant

sources of water which, if managed correctly, will sustain us

well into the future. But what is equally true is that water

is being wasted on a massive scale, revenues are not

collected, and little to no consequence management is being

implemented. And so interestingly precisely one hundred and

twenty years ago, we heard about some in this House, and an

icon of failed state everywhere none other than Vladimir

Lenin, posed the following question when he asked: “What is to

be done?” Now though Lenin usually came up with the wrong

answers, at least he understood at that moment that drastic

action was required.

And so Mr Speaker, as always the DA today wishes to help and

assist the Minister and his department in coming up with the

right answers. We are after all a Party that believes in

constructive engagement.

We want to see Water and Sanitation succeed because we want to

see South Africa succeed. We believe therefore, at a bare

minimum, that the following needs to be done by the

department: Firstly, support and intervention at



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municipalities to be prioritised where there is evidence of

good governance and decent financial management. In other

words, first help those who have demonstrated a track-record

of good governance.

Secondly, demonstrate your commitment to human dignity by

eradicating the bucket system everywhere in South Africa one

and for all.

Thirdly, clean-up corruption, expedite disciplinary processes,

and in addition initiate civil and criminal court proceedings

against not only those officials that have resigned or run

away, but also against those politicians who have been fired

or redeployed.

Fourthly, dramatically increase expenditure on mega

infrastructure development. And as a government, stop treating

the private sector as your enemy because they are not.

Instead, establish meaningful long-term Public Private

Partnerships in order to augment accelerated infrastructure

development.



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And finally, implement plans and measures to improve revenue

collection and to recover monies owed to the department and

entities.

Hon members, if these few simple patriotic steps are taken it

will go a very long way towards meeting the nation’s

legitimate expectations for water security and clean

government.

In conclusion, House Chair, I know someone like it or not, I

wish to remind the House that Winston Churchill remarked many

years ago that the best investment anyone can make is to put

milk into a baby. Now whilst that still true today as far as

infants are concerned, I am convinced that we can all agree

that in South Africa today surely the best investment we can

make is to put clean and affordable water into every

household. Let us now do that with a new convention and

determination because we owe it to the people of this country.

Thank you, Chair.

Ms G TSEKE: Thank you, Chair, good morning hon members,

colleagues and other guests,



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*Setswana*:

Motl. Modulasetulo, morago ga gore mokgatlho wa ANC o tsenye

puso ka ngwaga wa 1994, o ntse o tsweletse pele ka go

diragatsa kgang ya phetoloso loago go tlisa botshelo jo bo

botoka jwa botlhe. Re tshegetsa tekanyetsokabo e ya dimilione

di le 17, jaaka e tlhagisitswe ke Tona ya Lefapha la Metsi le

Kgelelo Leswe, gonne re a itse gore se se tsamaisana le moana

wa phetolo wa go tshosolosa serodume sa maAforikaborwa ka go

fitlhelela metsi le kgelelo leswe kwa ntle ga dikgoreletsi.

*English*:

Chairperson, it is unacceptable that after 28 years into our

democracy, we still hear formal housing using bucket system.

Our government had planned to eradicate the bucket system in

the formal housing by the year 2014. However, the target

wasn’t achieved. According the department’s Annual Performance

Plan, only 10 798 bucket toilets are remaining in informal

housing, and this will be eradicated by the end of this

financial year, March 2023.

As the ANC in the portfolio committee, we have recommended

that the department provide a detailed action plan and further

said that the department must submit quarterly progress report



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towards achieving these targets by March 2023. As the ANC, we

take seriously the issue of the bucket system and with that,

we have recommended in the portfolio committee that the

department must, with collaboration with Cooperative

Governance and Traditional Affairs, COGTA and the Department

of Human Settlement, also regulate the mushrooming of informal

settlement by allocating well suitable land with social

amenities, such as water and sanitation services.

Furthermore, we said that this department must expedite the

development of a National Sanitation Framework as a guiding

document in the provision of adequate sanitation services. We

are aware that many of the challenges we experience in the

provision of adequate sanitation and water infrastructure, is

due to the impact of migration of people from rural to urban

areas. The migration of people to urban centres, puts a strain

in the existing infrastructure of the receiving municipalities

due to the limited human and financial resources to provide

every household with adequate water and sanitation

infrastructure.

Water is not only important because it is a constitutional

imperative, it is also an economic resource for socio-economic



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development of our country. Just like any other resource in

this country, its distribution has been skewed as a result of

the legacy of colonialism and apartheid. The ANC government,

through the Department of Water and Sanitation has resolved to

address this skewed water resource distribution also, by

transforming irrigation boards into water user associations.

For too long, white commercial farmers have had an advantage

in the distribution of water resources. By transforming these

irrigation boards, we are hopeful that the historically

disadvantaged individuals. The Africans, Coloureds, women and

people with disabilities will now equitably share in the water

resources which are closer to their areas of residence.

Furthermore, the President during his state of the nation

address earlier this year, has committed that the department

and its entities must reduce the backlog of water use licences

by 80% by June this year. We fully support this commitment to

reduce the water use licence application backlog. In our view,

this has the potential to stimulate even economic growth in

our country we so much need, and in turn will create job

opportunities.



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The ANC will monitor the implementation of this 90 days

processing of water user licence by demanding quarterly

reports to be presented even to our portfolio committee. In

addition to that, we further requested details of the socio-

economic impact outcome of the transformation of this

irrigation water boards, to water user association. The ANC

government has prioritised infrastructure development economic

recovery and reconstruction post COVID-19. To demonstrate this

commitment in delivering adequate infrastructure, the

department has allocated 69% of this Budget to the

construction of the renewed infrastructure, rehabilitation and

refurbishment of existing infrastructure.

This year alone, the department and its entities is

undertaking 193 ... [Inaudible.] ... infrastructure projects

that are in construction phase, while another in regional

infrastructure programme are to be completed by the end of

this financial year. A further 294 services infrastructure

projects are under the construction phase with a further 115

water services infrastructure projects to be completed before

the end of this financial year. There is no doubt of the ANC

government’s commitment in restoring our people’s dignity

through proper water and sanitation services.



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Hon members, the ANC believes that the Catchment Management

Agency and the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority, TCTA has a huge

role in the transformation agenda of our country and the

construction industry in particular. We welcome the commitment

of Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency in allocating an

amount of R15 million for procurement designated groups,

women, youth and people with disabilities. In addition, the

Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency has also allocated

an amount of 30 million for procurement of these designated

groups for this financial year.

The portfolio committee was forthright with these catchment

agencies that they must report back to the committee on how

they intend to create much more needed jobs in our country.

The TCTA also with its huge budget allocation, is responsible

for financing and implementing bulk raw water development in

our country. In addition to the Lesotho Highlands Water

Project, which the committee visited in the previous year, ...

engaged in other water projects which includes, amongst

others, the ACID mine drainage, Mokolo Crocodile Water

Augmentation Project in Olifants River, resource development

and others.



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We welcome too the Budget allocated to Mzimvubu Water Projects

which will provide water and other economic activities to

thousands of people in the Eastern Cape. We support you

Minister. As much as this project is long overdue, but really,

as the portfolio committee, we support you. We note also the

Budget that is allocated to this big project. We had observed

that the participation of black-owned companies is limited

within the procurement spend of the TCTA. We therefore

recommend that the department and the TCTA should provide a

detailed report on how they are going to ensure that the

transformation agenda of the country find expression even in

this entity.

Hon members, corruption in government and our entities has

become the order of the day.

*Setswana*:

Batho ba itseela, ga ba sa utswa. Madi a, ke madi a batlhoki.

MaAforika a batla ditirelo mo nageng ya rona.

*English*:

Politicians are colluding with private sector just to collapse

the state. Corruption in this nature is anti-revolutionary. It



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erodes trust in government and undermines the social contract.

Corruption impedes investment with consequence effect on

economic growth. We therefore as the members of the ANC,

supports Minister Mchunu and the Department of Water and

Sanitation in ensuring that all those who have been ...

[Inaudible.] ... on acts of fraud and corruption face the

might of the law of our country.

Your reports Minister, gives hope to the nation. We therefore

support you in making sure that the money which is stolen from

the poor are paid back. All officials who resigned prior to

the start of the disciplinary actions must be brought to book.

We therefore support the SIU in making sure that they fast

track the cases of fraud and corruption before them and report

back to the portfolio committee.

Hon Shaik Emam, I think it is important that you attend the

committee meetings. We have received progress report from the

department and the Minister, that as we are speaking currently

- yes we acknowledge that the department was in Hollywood for

many years - people have been acting, your Director-General,

your Chief Financial Officer and so forth. But since the

Minister was appointed or was deployed in that department, in



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December, they have been able to appoint the Director-General

Philips. He is here. He is on the ground working. He is

working. You must join him.

The CFO has been appointed, Ntate Frans Moatshe. He is at

work. You must join him. Different Deputy Director Generals,

corporate, regulations, water services, are appointed but you

are trying to grandstand in misleading the nation. As we are

speaking, top management has been filled in the department.

Hollywood is gone. No more acting. The Minister is serious

about taking the work of this department serious. So we must

be able to attend our meetings.

As for hon Myburgh, I agree with you. You are still new in

that department. We welcome you. As much as you are raising

genuine issues, but you are new. I think that you must work

closely with hon Leon. He has been a member since 2014. He

understands issues and we work very well with him.

As for the EFF, we had hoped that you have gone beyond

political ... [Inaudible.] ... but it is clear that there are

serious challenges to getting into the ... [Inaudible.] ... of

robust debate. Is it not hypocrisy that you do not support



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this Budget Vote while you claim to be pro-poor. Nevertheless,

we will embrace you as the ANC. The ANC never gets tired. As

for the matter you have raised in Musina, we have just

received updates hon Minister, the media briefing, just now on

the 13; that the main pipeline that has been prepared in

Musina and the water supply has started flowing yesterday. No

lying area received water, whilst water could not reach high

lying areas. As we are speaking, the municipality is on the

ground trying to address this matter. We therefore request

that the department must be on the ground in making sure that

the communities of Musina are getting water.

Hon members, our role is to ensure that the ANC government

restores the dignity of our people through the provision of

quality water and sanitation. Hon Minister, one speaker once

said:

You will never reach your destination if you stop and

throw stones at every dog that barks.

But nonetheless, as long as you are stationery, no one will

complain, nor utter a single wind. Dogs don’t bark at parked

cars. They are barking at a moving car. So continue, Minister.



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The ANC has given you a mandate to implement. Which is that of

bettering the lives of our people. Continue, Minister. We, as

the ANC, we fully support Budget Vote 41. Water is life.

Sanitation is dignity. Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION: Thank you very much

Chair. With everything said and done, it’s now time to

indicate what budget we have to implement all this.

Firstly, the department and the water trading entity have been

allocated a combined budget of R111, 256 billion over the

medium term expenditure framework. This consists of

allocations of R34,976 billion in the MTEF that is 2022/23,

2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively. The department’s budget

consists of two components, the main account and the trading

account.

The main account of the department has been allocated

R59 billion over the MTEF and this consists of 18,5, 20,1 and

20,9 over the three-year period. The main account budget

includes conditional infrastructure grants for municipality

services totalling 37,4 over the MTEF, it includes R19 billion



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for the regional bulk that is R-BIC and R14 billion for the

water services infrastructure.

Other grant will be spent on 113 different projects across the

country which the grant being allocated to 200 projects across

the country.

Hon members, it as an unormal which I would like us to note

that municipal water services continue to decline while we

make these very substantial grant allocations. Now, mark my

words, we are going to stop this going forward through

necessary interventions of wanting to deliver water.

What makes the difference between the ANC and opposition

parties like EFF as other members of the portfolio committee

and NA have indicated, it is the delivery of water to

communities that require budgets not slogans. It is

regrettable that they reject the budget yet point at

challenges of water which requires budget.

We are however, wide awake to everything that everybody is

complaining about, corruption and inefficiency and we agree

that these must go. We are committed to managing this budget



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responsibly and effectively. We have instructed our accounting

officer and the team to ensue all compliance and improvements

on unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful

expenditure. Those must go.

As a result of these, no new unauthorised expenditure was

incurred in 2021/22, irregular expenditure which is still

appearing at the department’s audited audit reports relates

mainly to the, contractual obligation from prior periods. We

are determined to comply with treasury prescripts and to spend

money responsibly, efficiently and effectively.

Hon members, the department has underspent on its allocated

budget particularly that is historical on the budget allocated

to infrastructure and these two must go under expenditure. Of

course this is unacceptable and that’s why the director

generals instructed to make improvements in this area.

I will proceed to the issues of corruption, which is quite a

concern and we are up to fighting corruption with all our

engines and we will spin our efforts in doing this and we will

succeed. It is for this reason that we first concentrated on



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appointing responsible people who will be able to account to

the ministry at all times.

So, we now have the director general appointed, we have the

CFO, Chief Finance Officer, fully appointed, we have a DDG,

Deputy Director General, corporate services fully appointed,

water resource management fully appointed, we have a DDG water

resource management fully appointed as recently as Wednesday

this week and then DDG in regulations and compliances also

appointed this Wednesday. The only DDG that is not filled is

that of infrastructure due to problem that we are resolving.

Now, these people as a team will act as a buffer and a barrier

to a large extend to these inefficiencies that I’ve indicated.

Now, everything in terms of investigations that are currently

both internally and externally by SIU, Special Investigating

Unit, SAPS, SA Police Service, and any other agency will be

followed to the last drop and the last crossing of the tin.

There’s nothing to be swept under the carpet, there’s nothing

ignored and this includes of course those who resign and run

away. We will follow them until the end including in terms of

what they will have in their accounts when they resign civilly



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and in terms of criminality. We will follow them in that

regard, follow each and every cent of the state and recoup it.

I just want say to the Nelson Mandela Bay people, you need to

be warned that we have added 70 mega litres per day via

Nooitgedacht which was just completed and gave them the first

drop by the end of March.

Despite this, there are still accute shortages of water.

People need to conserve water. That’s a very strong warning

that we need to send to them, as well as individual households

and companies. There is scarcity of water and while we are

exploring other means, please conserve water.

I want to guarantee that we will go on to improve water

safety. It is for this reason that we commission this report

when the last one was done in 2013 and that is the Green Drop

and is now our baseline going forward. Next year March, we

will be releasing the Blue Drop report and that too will be

our baseline. We do not want to issue out wrong messages; we

want to base our report on water quality based on evidence.

Going forward, we will ensure that we improve in this regard.



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Finally, it is true that infrastructure is the problem and we

have to work on this matter drastically with municipalities

who are the ones responsible for such infrastructure.

I urge hon members that all the time when it comes to

corruption including media, to use their freedom but to speak

on audited, authentic and factual accurate information not on

just wild alarmist statements. Thank you very much to the

members of the portfolio committee and the Members of

Parliament. Thank you very much.

*Sesotho*:

Re ya leboha.

Debate concluded

The Mini-Plenary session rose at 11:56

