**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 1**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

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

***CHAMBER***

\_\_\_\_

Members of the mini-plenary session met in the on the virtual

platform in the National Assembly Chamber at 16:30.

The House Chairperson (Mr C T Frolick) took the Chair and

requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers

or meditation.

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

we proceed I would like to remind you that this virtual mini

plenary is deemed to be in the precinct of Parliament and it

does constitute a meeting of the National Assembly for

debating purposes only.

In addition to the rules of virtual sittings, the rules of the

National Assembly including the rules of debate apply. Members



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 2**

enjoy the same powers and privileges that apply in a sitting

of the National Assembly.

Members should equally note that anything said in the virtual

platform is deemed to have been said to the House and may be

ruled upon.

All members who have logged in shall be considered present and

are requested to mute their microphones and only unmute when

recognised to speak. The microphones are very sensitive and

will pick up noises, which may disturb other members.

When recognised to speak please unmute your microphone and

connect your video. However, we are going to go into a

loadshedding schedule very soon, so, if you find out that your

connectivity is unstable when you are about speak, please

disconnect your video and continue speaking on the microphone

only.

Members may make use of the icons on the bar of their screens,

which has an option that allows a member to put up his/her

hand to raise points of order. The secretariat will assist me

in this regard.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 3**

When using the virtual system, members are urged to refrain or

desist from unnecessary points of order or interjections.

We shall now proceed to the order, which is debate on vote 3

and 15: Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs

Appropriation Bill.

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

Debate on Vote No 3 – Co-Operative Governance, Including Vote

No 15 - Traditional Affairs:

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL

AFFAIRS: Hon House Chairperson, Chairperson of the National

House of Traditional and Khoi-san leaders, hon Ministers and

Deputy Ministers, Deputy Ministers of Co-operative Governance

and Traditional Affairs, Mr Obed Bapela and Ms Thembisile

Nkadimeng, hon Chairperson and members of the portfolio

committee, hon members, Chairperson of the Commission for the

Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious

and Linguistic Communities, Chairperson of the Municipal

Demarcation Board and its members, President of the South

African Local Government Association, SALGA, Deputy



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 4**

Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission, IEC,

Members of the Provincial Executive Committees, MECs,

directors-general of the Department of Co-operative Governance

and Traditional Affairs, chief executive officer, CEO, of

Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent, MISA, ladies and

gentlemen, and compatriots.

Thank you for this opportunity to present Budget Votes 3 and

15, in honour of the millions of women and men who sacrificed

so that we may realise a better life for all.

On the 10th of May we marked 28 years since the first

democratically elected President made his inaugural address.

On that occasion President Mandela reminded us that:

Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster

that lasted too long, a society of which all humanity will

be proud of, was born.

The recent floods robbed South Africa of 448 people. It has

also destroyed over 6 500 houses and partially destroyed over

10 000 houses. As we speak, in KwaZulu-Natal alone, more than

7 000 people are housed in 91 shelters.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 5**

We wish to extend our condolences to those who have lost their

loved ones. We also offer our sympathy to those whose loved

ones are still missing. We will not rest until each and

everyone is rescued or accounted for.

The floods also caused untold damages to schools, hospitals,

clinics, roads, bridges and places of business, which we are

still quantifying. We intend to rehabilitate and reconstruct

all the damaged infrastructure so that we risk-proof it as we

build back better.

We have also been warmed by the empathy and solidarity

displayed by millions of South Africans who have, individually

and collectively, contributed to the 129 000 affected

residents. We have also received support from the non-

governmental organizations and private sector as well as the

diplomatic corps from the continent and beyond. We would have

loved to mention all of them by name, but due to time

constraints, we are unable to do so.

*IsiZulu*:

Kodwa ke sithi nangomuso nize nenze kanjalo nakwabanye.

*English*:



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 6**

These disasters and calamities have worsened the situation in

relation to challenges of hunger, poverty, unemployment and

inequality. They also contributed to further depressing our

economy.

According to Stats SA over 55% of South Africans live below

the upper poverty line and 25% are experiencing food poverty.

Unemployment continues to rise, recording a 35,5%, which is

the highest over the past 15 years. Youth unemployment at over

70% continues unabated. Inequality also continues to increase,

with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development, OECD, telling us that the poorest 20% of our

households earn only 1,7% of the total income.

Thus, we must heed to the advice of scientists which tell us

that in future the eastern parts of our country are bound to

experience wetter conditions. This means that those parts will

be more prone to floods. On the other hand, the western parts

will be drier, meaning that they will be more prone to

droughts. We must, therefore, plan appropriately.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 7**

But in addition to these floods, we have had floods last year

with Cyclone Eloise and also the covid pandemic, and together

they’ve actually worsened our situation in this country.

In addressing the effects of disasters in this past financial

year, we allocated R157 million from the Municipal Disaster

Relief Grant to address the aftermath of tropical storm Eloise

in the affected municipalities. The storms were accompanied by

summer season rains which led to the displacement of 3 200

poor people in Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, North West and

Limpopo.

We also allocated R221 million to deal with the crippling

effects of the protracted droughts in the Western Cape and

Eastern Capes. These resources complemented the efforts of the

provinces and municipalities to secure livestock feed and

improve the water supply.

Infrastructure and its maintenance play a major part in

building the resilience of communities. We must turn them into

climate-smart communities which care for the environment and

do not build in dangerous ways or places. This requires



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 8**

supporting municipalities whilst facilitating for the ramping

up of the capabilities and capacities of municipalities.

As part of the Municipal Support and Intervention Package

during the past Financial Year, 50 Civil Engineers, 15

Electrical Engineers, 15 Town Planners, 9 Assistant Provincial

Managers and 9 Provincial Managers from MISA were deployed to

various provinces across the country. These professionals are

supporting various infrastructure projects and are supported

by the 519 municipal officials who were trained by MISA in

this past financial year, in infrastructure management.

Additionally, a total of 382 young people were supported

through technical skills apprenticeships, learnerships,

graduate programmes and bursaries. This is complemented by

assisting some 100 young graduates in practical experience so

that they may complete their professional registration

processes. This is our contribution towards functional

municipalities that promote the growth of our local economies.

In further stimulating local economies, MISA has also trained

2 800 municipal officials in Labour Intensive Construction



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 9**

methods through the R50 million allocated by the Presidential

Employment Stimulus Programme.

Going forward, the Department of Co-operative Governance,

through MISA, will accelerate support to municipalities that

struggle in implementation. Such support will include the

R50,6 billion allocated through the Municipal Infrastructure

Grant, MIG, over the Medium-Term Strategic Framework, MTSF.

The grant will support municipalities in delivering basic

services like roads and social infrastructure for poor

households in 218 municipalities. Ten percent of this

allocation is directed at fulfilling the gap as it relates to

repairs and maintenance and an additional 5% will address

Infrastructure Asset Management Planning. This, we did because

a lot of these municipalities were not budgeting for repairs

and maintenance.

We remain concerned that 39 of our municipalities continue to

spend below the 70% benchmark in the third quarter. It is also

alarming that 30% of these municipalities are water service

authorities, meaning that in those communities the quality and

reliability of water and services continue to be of concern.

In implementing the District Development Model, DDM, we will



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 10**

work with MISA and the Department of Water and Sanitation to

support these 39 municipalities.

We have also prioritised the availing of capacities through

the District Development Hubs to the municipalities that are

Water Service Authorities. For us, water is a survival issue,

which is second only to oxygen. Of course, sanitation is

dignity, we cannot allow our people’s aspirations to be dimmed

by the challenge of water.

Whereas we have recorded progress in the implementation of the

District Development Model and the One Plans, we are finding

that the plans must go through a quality assurance process. We

have also found that the current intergovernmental framework

architecture may not be entirely adequate to facilitate the

One Plans and One Budgets.

We revised the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act,

IGRFA, regulations to enable better joint planning. The

proposed revisions are currently in front of the State Law

Advisor after months of intensive and extensive consultations.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 11**

As part of the DDM, we are also jointly hosting the post state

of the nation address Presidential Izimbizo, with the next leg

being at the end of the week in Mpumalanga.

We will also accelerate the implementation of the Eastern

Seaboard Development through the interdepartmental and multi

sphered project teams. Key projects include the outstanding

land audits, the integrated masterplan and the ongoing N2

project. We have also recently received assurance that SA

National Roads Agency, SANRAL, will take over the repairs of

the very dangerous and unmaintained R61 between Port St Johns

and Port Edward.

We have also received interest from local and international

investors. We have also finalised all the consultative

processes related to declaring parts of the Eastern Seaboard

as a region. Of course the Eastern Seaboard straddles two

provinces and four districts, so, it’s important that it

should be declared a region for development purposes. The

Minister for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development,

in line with the National Spatial Development Framework,

Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, SPLUMA, has

agreed to urgently Gazette the declaration of relevant areas.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 12**

This will be supported by a Special Purpose Vehicle which will

drive developments in that area.

Our existing cities, towns and developmental landscapes also

require focused attention. Thus, as part of the Integrated

Urban Development Fund Intermediate City Municipalities

Support Programme, we will accelerate rollout in eight

Intermediate City Municipalities. This will complement the

work we are undertaking under the Smart Cities Framework

which, Deputy Minister Thembi Nkadimeng, will elaborate on.

Suffice to say, these frameworks and plans must be

supplemented by practical projects which can bring about

quality jobs and livelihoods in the short term. One such

programme is the Innovative Waste Management Programme which

has employed 7 444 participants in two provinces since its

inception in December 2021. The participants are currently

engaging in solid waste management activities such as street

cleaning, litter picking and management of illegal dumping. In

this financial year we intend to create 8 238 additional jobs

in this area. This will be complemented by the revised

Community Works Programme.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 13**

We will continue to monitor and implement actions which are

directed at addressing the issues that were raised by the

Auditor-General in her report. This, we shall do through the

forum we have established which includes the National

Treasury, the South African Local Government Association, the

Auditor-General and the provincial departments responsible for

local government and finances. Bringing the necessary skills,

capabilities and capacities to a local level are an important

lever by which we can address the issues raised by the AG.

We are also paying special attention to the Mangaung Metro as

well as the Enoch Mgijima and Lekwa Local Municipalities,

under section 139(7) of the Constitution, which was invoked in

Mangaung Metro in March 2022. This was after section 139(5)

invoked by the province in the metro in December 2020 did not

bear fruit. Consequently, a team of interdepartmental experts

has been dispatched to Mangaung. These come from the

Departments of Co-operative Governance and Traditional

Affairs, Human Settlements, Transport, Treasury, Water and

Sanitation, and MISA. The team and workstreams are expected to

turn around the dire financial status of the metro, address

the duly escalating political challenges while addressing the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 14**

governance and administration challenges which include

consequence management.

Enoch Mgijima and Lekwa have been identified as financially

distressed and are challenged by governance and political

issues. Following Court Orders against the provincial

co-operative governance and traditional affairs, we have

placed the municipalities under section 139(7), working with

Treasury.

Since our last budget presentation to this House, we welcomed

the President assenting to the Local Government Municipal

Structures Amendment Act, which came into operation on the

1 November 2021. Amongst others, it brings into being an

enforceable revised Code of Conduct for Councillors. This

amendment provides for the MEC to remove a councillor from

office for a breach of the code of conduct. The amendments

were also introduced in section 79A of the Structures Act,

which prohibits Municipal office-bearers such as mayors and

members of executive committee, EXCO, or mayoral committee,

MAYCO, from being members of the Municipal Public Accounts

Committee, MPAC. We believe that this will ensure



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 15**

transparency, effective oversight and accountability over

council matters.

We will also submit to Parliament the Independent Municipal

Demarcation Authority Bill. The amendments to the Municipal

Demarcation Act are largely based on proposals received from

the Municipal Demarcation Board based on lessons learnt over

time. These lessons also form part of the 21-Year Review of

Local Government, which we shall conclude this year. By

utilising the 21-Year Review prism we shall be in a better

position to introduce further reforms.

During this month the National Assembly passed the Municipal

Systems Bill and referred it to the President for assent. This

Bill also standardises the processes related to the

appointment of municipal managers and managers directly

accountable to municipal managers. It also provides for

competency criteria for such appointments whilst prohibiting

the holders of such offices from political positions. We

firmly believe that this legislative intervention, together

with the provisions introduced through amendments to the

Structures Act, will address many of the governance challenges

that are facing the municipalities.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 16**

On the 1st of November 2021 we successfully held our fifth

free and fair local government election. We also noted the

declining levels of voter participation where 23 million of

the 26 million registered voters voted. Following the

elections, we have also seen 70 municipal councils with no

outright majority, which could potentially result in

instability in these hung councils.

Last year we reported that we would remodel the Community

Works Programme, which in fact had been the main source of our

negative audit outcomes. We are pleased to say that from the

piloting of the remodelled Community Works Programme we have

already seen some improvements in the operational efficiency

of the programme. The savings realised through the remodelling

allowed us to increase the daily stipend paid to participants

from R97,50 to the current R110 per day. We have also

increased the target number of participants from 250 000 to

255 000 within the existing budget allocations.

This financial year we have allocated R4,3 billion to the

Community Works Programme. We intend to integrate the

Community Works Programme into the core work of the department

as we build community-level resilience and ensure that we



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 17**

support community initiatives in the context of the DDM

approach. We are confident that our new approach will ensure

sustainability development through meaningful work and

economic activity, and also through the training of the

participants.

The Department of Co-operative Governance is reviewing its

organisational design. This will enable the department to

entrench the District Development Model approach across three

spheres of government whilst building the resilience of

communities. Through these budget votes we are strengthening

the capability and capacity of municipalities, institutions of

traditional leadership, community organisations and all organs

of state to implement and mainstream inclusive disaster risk

reduction management strategies.

We are also drawing lessons from the all of society approach

we adopted in combatting COVID-19. Even though we have not

entirely won the battle, we take this opportunity to once

again salute you, the people of South Africa, who have heeded

our calls and applied difficult safety measures. We must

continue to apply the non-medical and preventative measures

including masking, sanitising, maintaining social distance and



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 18**

vaccination. Such sacrifices have contributed to building

resilience and minimising the costs and effects of COVID-19.

Unfortunately, of course, the measures we have adopted are not

always entirely understood and accepted by all. Consequently,

we have had 109 court cases since March 2020. So far 92 of

those cases have been finalised and only four of the orders

were in favour of the applicant. It means by and large the

courts and South Africans understood why we had to take such

measures.

I wish to conclude by acknowledging the progress recorded by

the National House of Traditional and Khoi-san Leaders. For

the first time in the history of the House it is under the

capable leadership of a woman, iNkosikazi Mhlauli. We are

confident that the landscape of rural South Africa will change

and the hopes and dreams of the rural masses will be realised

with the Invest Rural Master Plan as the lodestar.

The Master Plan was developed by the traditional leaders after

consultations with communities. It guides potential investors

and all of society with regard to the areas of community

investment, infrastructure and the economy.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 19**

With regard to community development it prioritises health,

education, financial inclusion and food security. It also

prioritises investment in rural infrastructure including

Information and Communications Technology, ICT, renewable

energy as well as water and sanitation.

With regard to economic growth areas it prioritises

agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and enterprise development

amongst others. It is, indeed, a plan by the people for the

people. Thus, we intend to request government to integrate it

into the economic development plans of the country.

Amongst other progress areas is the implementation of the

Customary Initiation Act of 2021. It regulates the

registration of initiation schools so that it ensures that the

initiation surgeons are trained and competent, thus protecting

the initiates.

We have also recorded progress in the appointment of the

Khoisan Commission under the capable leadership of Professor

Nico Botha to facilitate for the formal recognition of the

Khoi-San communities and leadership. This will also add to the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 20**

number of legally constituted tribal councils which according

to legislation should be completed by 31 March 2023. The

formula for determining the number of members of traditional

councils was therefore gazetted on 4 February 2022, giving way

for the legal constitution of traditional councils. Deputy

Minister Bapela will elaborate on this and other promising

plans in the traditional affairs space.

For now, I wish to thank all the people I work with and

request the House support budget vote 3 and budget vote 15

which allocates R350 billion and R545 million over the MTSF.

I thank you very much and hope that this will contribute to

the eradication of hunger, poverty, unemployment and

inequality.

Together we can do more. I thank you.

*IsiXhosa*:

Mnu F D XASA: Sihlalo weNdlu, uMphathiswa, ooSekela

baPhathiswa, uSihlalo weNdlu yeeNkosi namaKhoisan, isikhokelo

seSalga, abahlali abaphambili kwi ...



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 21**

*English*:

... Demarcation Board and the CRL Rights Commission, ...

*IsiXhosa*:

... maLungu Epalamente ahloniphekileyo

*English*:

From 3rd-4th of May 2022 the Portfolio Committee on Co-

operative Governance and Traditional Affairs met and

considered the 2022-23 Annual Performance Plans, Strategic

Plans and budgets of the departments and entities reporting to

it. This consists of the Department of Co-operative Governance

and Traditional Affairs, the Municipal Infrastructure Support

Agency, the Commission for the Rights of Cultural, Religious

and Linguistic, the Municipal Demarcation Board and South

African Local Government Association. The Department of Co-

operative Governance tabled its 2022-23 Annual Performance

Plans and budgets in the aftermath of heavy rains, flooding

and strong winds and landslides that devastated various

municipal areas in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, which

caused the loss of lives and damaged to property,

infrastructure and the environment. Having received a

comprehensive update from the department on the co-ordination



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 22**

of response and disaster recovery efforts, the portfolio

committee is now ready to also lend a hand of support by

visiting some of the affected areas. It will also be

imperative for the committee to monitor the three annual

performance targets envisaged under the National Disaster

Management Centre programme to ensure that they contribute

meaningfully towards enabling the provinces to deal with

effectively with the aftermath of the disaster.

The other annual performance targets of interest relate to the

department’s local government support and interventions

management programme. There is a legislative gap in respect of

clarifying and regulating the process of intervention by one

sphere of government into another as envisaged in section 100

and section 139 of the Constitution. The lack of clarity and

regulation often leads to the application of the intervention

process that sometimes worsen the problem it was meant to

solve. As a result, there are many municipalities that have

been under constitutional intervention, but show little or no

improvement. In this regard, the department’s Annual

Performance Plan proposes the tabling of an Intergovernmental

Monitoring, Support and Interventions Bill to address this

legislative gap. The objectives of the Bill are, among other



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 23**

things, to regulate the implementation of the processes

provided for in section 100 and section 139 of the

Constitution.

However, the Bill has been coming slow as it has been in the

pipeline since the time of the fourth administration. The

deadlines for tabling the Bill in Parliament have kept

shifting. It is the portfolio committee’s oversight duty to

ensure the department follow up on this long-standing

commitment to table the Bill. The portfolio committee knows

the introduction with effect from 1st October 2021 of an

implementation policy for community works programme in

response to the committee’s persistent demand for a clear plan

and timeframes for the resolution of legacy issues in this

programme.

This new model is still very much work-in-progress. It is not

yet succeeding in ensuring that stipends are paid on time and

that workers have adequate equipment to do the work. This is

creating a negative perception around the utility office

programme and raises questions on whether it is delivering

value for money. The department will do well to conduct an

evaluation and cost-benefit analysis of the programme, to



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 24**

assess whether it is serving its intended purpose and to

determine whether the cost incurred on this programme is

consistent with the benefit derived.

On the Annual Performance target of the SA Local Government

Association, Salga, the key message advanced was that local

government is inadequately equipped to fulfil its

developmental agenda. A number of root causes for this were

put forward. Amongst this, was that there are inefficiencies

and nonintegrated local government delivery mechanisms,

systems and processes to enable service delivery, contributing

to this, among other things, is in appropriation allocation of

functional roles between district municipalities and local

municipalities.

This was also raised strongly from the three district

municipalities recently visited by the portfolio committee in

the Free State province. Mention was made of the devolution of

certain legislated powers and functions from the districts to

local municipalities, resulting in the district not receiving

any government grants relating to this function. The districts

have called for the devolution of these powers and functions

to be revoked so as to enable them to perform their legislated



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 25**

mandates. As the custodians of the laws governing local

government, the portfolio committee is duty-bound to

investigate this matter further and make appropriate

recommendations.

A common theme across 2022-23 Annual Performance Plan and

budget presentations of the department, Salga, Municipal

Demarcation Board, MESA and the CRL Rights Commission was that

their funding models were not sufficiently responsive to the

responsibilities they are expected to fulfil. While the

portfolio committee is sympathetic to these funding

constraints and supports the augmentation of the budget

shortfalls, it is necessary to impress that the existing

budget allocations used more efficiently and channelled more

towards core service delivery objectives. Where allocations

seem disproportionately skewed towards administrative

overheads, there must be a coherent explanation as to why this

is the case.

In conclusion, the portfolio committee appreciates the

fruitful, cordial and constructive engagement with the

Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs,

the CRL Rights Commission, Salga, Municipal Demarcation Board,



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 26**

MESA on their 2022-23 Annual Performance Plans, Strategic

Plans and budgets. We also would like to appreciate the

contribution of committee members as well as support staff for

the committee. The committee supports the Budget Votes 3 and

15. Thank you very much.

Mr C H M HUNSINGER: Hon Chairperson, Disaster Management takes

up a relatively small portion of the budget of the Department

of Co-operative Governance.

But in the past two years it has consumed the lion share of

the Minister and the department’s attention.

As we speak, another national disaster is unfolding. Within

the next month Nelson Mandela Bay will reach Day Zero. The

taps are going to run dry.

Both the municipality and the Eastern Cape Provincial

Government have failed to put effective contingency measures

in place.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 27**

The water crisis in Nelson Mandela Bay is to a large extent a

man-made crisis, a political crisis and it is made worse by

neglect and ineptitude.

There are other disasters in the making. Sol Plaatjie,

Manguang, Emfuleni, Msunduzi, Ugu – the municipalities that

have become by-wards for state failure.

To be sure, the National Disaster Management Centre must come

to the assistance of the people of the Bay, and soon.

But managing the consequences of state failure at every sphere

of government cannot become the main job of the Department of

Co-operative Governance.

Neither can ‘national government intervention’ become the

default response to all case of provincial and local state

failure.

There are hard limits to the capacity of national government,

even in disasters and emergencies. Just consider what has

happened recently in the flood-ravaged KwaZulu-Natal.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 28**

Despite the declaration of a National State of Disaster,

electricity and water is yet to be reconnected to scores of

communities across the province.

The services that have been reconnected are unstable. And, in

any case, it’s not clear that the progress that is being made

is due to the national government’s involvement.

There has been an extremely slow start to the work of the Ad-

Hoc Committee established by Parliament to prevent the looting

of Disaster Relief Funds.

The lesson is that the centralisation of power, and the

concentration of resources, in the hands of national

government is not the solution to state failure.

Not just because national government lacks the capacity to run

the country from one centre of power.

But because in many instances national government policy is

the cause of the problem. Doubling down on the implementation

of these policies will make things even worse.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 29**

These are the problems ignored by the government’s District

Development Model and its main prospectus in favour of more

centralised government.

The Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act has made

every item and service needed by a municipality more

expensive.

By narrowing the pool of available suppliers, municipal

contracts are set up for an extremely high rate of litigation

and failure.

This is what Moeletsi Mbeki means when he describes Black

Economic Empowerment, BEE, as ‘institutionalised corruption’.

The legislative framework for ‘institutionalised corruption’

was not created by provinces and municipalities, but by this

Parliament.

And so, the DA has formulated draft legislation in favour of a

non-racial procurement policy, one that will allow all state

entities to procure the best value for money.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 30**

But the problems that national government bequeaths to

provinces and municipalities aren’t limited to bad policies

and bad laws.

Often national government simply fails to fulfil its own core

functions, and municipalities are then left to deal with the

consequences.

In large parts of the country, including the metros, the

criminal assault on electricity installations and

infrastructure is reaching crisis levels.

This is no longer just a matter of policing. It is a matter of

co-operative governance.

Recently, a criminal gang in Johannesburg took control of an

entire electricity substation, operating with mere military-

type efficiency.

Most cable thieves now have the upper-hand over police

stations when it comes to logistics and intelligence.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 31**

While station commanders scramble to find vehicles to dispatch

to the scene of cable theft, the criminals have all the

resources needed to do their job.

The assault of municipal infrastructure has devastating

consequences for communities and basic service delivery.

Think of how many substations, feeder cables and protection

gear forming part of municipal reticulation networks are being

operated way out of their own life cycle.

Now add to the effect of poor maintenance, the extreme wear

and tear caused by load shedding, the unavailability of

qualified electrical engineers. Only then does it become clear

how fragile the infrastructure is that these criminals are

striking at, and why communities suffer power outages beyond

load shedding.

The DA has made concrete proposals on how service

infrastructure can be secured against criminal attack,

including the establishment of specialised units.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 32**

These measures do not require national government to exercise

more power and control, but to use its existing powers, and to

optimise its current resources.

Lastly, in many instances the answer to better service

delivery is the exact opposite of centralisation.

And so, the City of Cape Town is better able to manage the

rail network than the National Department of Transport.

With the go-ahead of National Treasury, the City will now

complete a feasibility study into taking over commuter rail

network.

If devolution of powers and functions can lead to better rail

services for commuters in Cape Town, surely Mayor Geordin

Hill-Lewis deserves the Minister’s support.

As my colleague hon Eleanor Spies will point out, the budget

and strategy of the department do not seem to match the

commitment required from the department to fulfil its core

function. Therefore, the DA cannot support this vote. I thank

you.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 33**

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Thank you very much, Chairperson.

Chairperson, the EFF reject Budget Vote 3 and 15 of Co-

operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. As we speak here

today, Chair, departmental report indicates that 64

municipalities in the country are considered high risk and

dysfunctional while 111 municipalities are considered medium

risk but also highly dysfunctional.

There are only 16 municipalities that are considered stable in

this country. Oh, you are a big joke. A functional state of

municipalities has been public knowledge for a while, and yet,

there seems to be no appetite for fixing the mess that is in

these municipalities by the ANC.

Year after year, the Auditor-General makes almost the same

findings about these municipalities. These are lack of

internal controls, inability to attract and retain skills

staff, deeply embedded corruption, inability to manage finance

and to raise funds. Yet, there is no overarching vision to

change these inefficiencies in municipal governance. There is

little appetite in government for relooking at a structure of

municipal funding, which favours more urban municipalities



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 34**

where residents are able to pay their rates and still finance

the operations at the municipalities.

Rural municipalities, Chairperson, do not have that luxury and

are often only able to pay salaries and deliver the bare

minimum when it comes to services. The Department of Co-

operative Governance and Traditional Affairs has failed to

provide decisive leadership on the dysfunctional

municipalities and the management are pushing away the

officials with experience in order to accommodates their

friends and close cronies in the department under the

Minister’s favourite Director-General. And under her

leadership victimisation of senior officials is the order of

the day. As a result, well experienced senior officials are

leaving the department.

The most disgraceful of this municipality failures are the

lack of agency in which the disaster of KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern

Cape and North West has been handled by both the department

and the portfolio committee. Members of the portfolio

committee have on several times requested to the committee to

do oversight in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and North West but

all these has felt on deaf ears. We know very well,



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 35**

Chairperson, on what is the reason. It is because the ruling

elite does not care about the poorest of the poor who are

affected by the recent floods. Residents who reside in areas,

which are not suitable for human settlement have no place to

stay. And it does not look like they will be getting any

assistant from anyone in the government any time soon. You

know why? Because these poorest of the poor, they don’t matter

to the elite known as the ANC.

Both the committee and the department have deserted our

people. Minister, you are custodian of the Disaster Management

Act but the disaster management within the department under

your leadership is a disaster itself.

We, recently conducted oversight in the Free State,

Chairperson, and the state of municipalities in that province

is shameful. In all 23 municipalities of Free State, you find

majors fighting with municipal managers for the control of

tender opportunities. These happens while our people are

crying out for services.

In Mangaung, ageing infrastructures and lack of service

delivery have rendered resident barriers in their own



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 36**

municipality. Nothing moves here, and yet, there is no

intervention of kind from the department. This department is

toothless.

*IsiXhosa*:

Iyatyhafisa nje ...

*English:*

... in short, Chairperson. Mayors and speakers have become

rogue as demonstrated by the conduct of the Speaker of the

Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality who gave orders to an

opposition Councillor, Maapea Mosako of NCC to be handcuffed

and tied to a steel pole for merely demanding accountability

for the municipality. Two impact, Chairpersons, to the

Mogalakwena Local Municipality in Limpopo, Chairperson, have

been killed and the suspicion is that they were killed because

they were demanding accountability on corruption that is

sinking in that municipality.

The Masilonyana Mayor is arrested as we speak. And his

municipal manager is under investigation for R5,9 million for

security company belongs to him and the former major. And yet,

he was given a security tender for the municipality. The



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 37**

municipality manager who is there in that municipality, he

does as he pleases in that municipality with no consequences

or no action against him.

This is proven by the investigation, which is taking forever

while the abuse of the municipality funds continues on daily

basis. The committee work programme has been used as a tool

for looting and has not had the intended outcomes of

empowering people and alleviating poverty. These concerns are

always dominating portfolio committee when we are engaging

with the department but it is clear both the Minister and the

Director-General have no appetite to curb such corruption. The

question then arises, who is benefiting under this looting

from this programme? Time will tell. Chairperson ...

*IsiZulu:*

... kungashona ilanga ...

*English:*

If I were to mention all rotten things that are happening in

municipalities under the ANC, in short, the ANC has turned

municipalities into dense of hardness thieves who are cruel,

vicious and dangerous. The painful part is that poorest of the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 38**

poor are the one who must face hardship and suffered the most.

And thieves are in control in municipalities.

Chairperson, as I conclude, we would like to commend people of

Ward 3 in Phokwane in Northern Cape and Ward 5 in Mafikeng who

rejected the ANC and voted for the EFF in the recent by-

elections. People were simply communicating that ...

*IsiZulu:*

... izinto zishintshile ...

*English*:

... in Ward 3 in Phokwane and Ward 5 in Mafikeng. So

therefore, Chair, we are rejecting this budget as the EFF.

Thank you very much, Chairperson.

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

The next speaker is the hon Princess Buthelezi. Hon Buthelezi,

are you there?

Mr N SINGH: Chairperson, it seems that ... [Inaudible.]

[Interjections.]



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 39**

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): I will then call upon

Inkosi Buthelezi to deliver the speech.

Mr N SINGH: Hon Chairperson, I think both of them are having

connectivity problems in KwaZulu-Natal. Can I do it on behalf

of hon Princess S A Buthelezi?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Yes, please proceed,

hon Singh.

Mr N SINGH: Hon Chairperson, we have strong institutional

mechanisms brought to life in terms of our Constitution, with

the sole purpose of strengthening democracy and building on

the vision of a united nation. However, these institutions

cannot become yet another forum to line the pockets of

officials. What purpose do these institutions serve if the

people of South Africa do not physically benefit from their

work?

The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights

of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities, CRL Rights

Commission, has a critical duty in terms of our Constitution.

It is undeniable that our beloved country is facing political



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 40**

and social turmoil and now, more than ever before, the CRL

Rights Commission’s mandate to promote unity within cultural,

religious and linguistic communities, is essential.

The commission must therefore function optimally and we need

to ask ourselves whether the commission is honestly serving

the people of South Africa. Although the IFP fully endorses

the portfolio committee’s view that the funding of the CRL

Rights Commission must be on par with the scale of duties the

commission has to fulfil, we cannot accept that 65% of the

commission’s budget is allocated towards internal

administration instead of service delivery. This fact cannot

and should not be accepted.

The IFP has consistently and adamantly called for the

strengthening of co-operation between traditional leaders and

formal governance structures. Traditional leaders speak on

behalf of millions of South Africans and they cannot play

second fiddle in the developmental agenda. The IFP therefore

welcomes the publication of guidelines on section 24 of the

Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, which regulates

partnership between traditional leaders and government.

However, as the IFP, we must stress that such partnerships



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 41**

should provide for true co-operation and not only pay lip

service to the Act.

The IFP also strongly agrees with the portfolio committee’s

recommendation that a cost-benefit analysis of the

government’s Community Work Programme must be undertaken. We

remain highly concerned that, despite the fact that 85% of the

department’s funds for programmes are allocated to this

programme, it is not serving its critical purpose which is to

create employment opportunities in rural communities. The

people of South Africa deserve answers and deserve an

accountable, transparent and responsible government.

Furthermore, there was a media clip this morning of, I think

it was Amathole Municipality, that is writing off almost a

billion rand in unpaid service charges. The question is, what

systems do they have in the first instance to apply the user-

pays principle? Why do they have to wait when things reach

such critical proportions to then apply for write-offs which

is at the detriment of service delivery in that particular

municipality? Surely, hon Minister, we have a National School

of Government and we have a Department of Public Service and

Administration, and to this end, qualified financial officers



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 42**

should be drawn to service municipalities or to work within

municipalities. Many of the problems with regard to poor audit

outcomes are as a result of financial officers not doing their

basic or not performing their basic functions of keeping

records and getting things straight in terms of the *Municipal*

*Finance Management Act, MFMA*. Hon Minister, this is an area

that you need to look at quite seriously so that we can get

qualified people to assist in the management and

administration of the finances of municipalities.

Finally, hon Minister, I see that the MEC of KwaZulu-Natal has

been redeployed to your department. I must say he was trigger-

happy when it came to applying section 139 to municipalities.

I hope that, that will stop now because there was a tendency

to apply 139 in certain municipalities which were not managed

by the national ruling party. I hope you can look into this

and that the new MEC won’t pull the trigger all the time. We

will support this Budget Vote. Thank you, hon Chairperson.

Mr I M GROENEWALD: Hon Chairperson, “The first lesson of

economics is scarcity: There is never enough of anything to

fully satisfy all those who want it. The first lesson of



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 43**

politics is to disregard the first lesson of economics”. This

was said by the economist, Thomas Sowell.

In the postlockdown economy of local government, the reality

on the ground must be looked at, where the people of South

Africa had been hit hard due to the fading economy, especially

in the local sphere of government, and is still placed under

further pressure due to rising costs in fuel and other input

costs.

The declining economy, with rising costs, will further result

in a loss of employment that will result in less income for

local government. Local government is of the view that by

raising levies and taxes ... will result in a revenue

enhancement. Yet, it will reach a point where that is not the

case, if you study the Laffer Curve, which shows the

relationship between tax rates and the amount of tax revenue

collected by governments. The curve is used to illustrate the

argument that, sometimes, cutting tax rates can result in an

increased total tax revenue.

Given the scarcity of revenue and financial resources, it is

of paramount importance that municipalities focus all their



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 44**

efforts on the creation of a business-friendly environment to

attract investment, especially from small, medium and micro

enterprises, SMMEs. Apart from the broadening of their revenue

base, it will also stimulate local economies and create much-

needed jobs in our communities. Specific preference must be

given to prioritising infrastructure collapse. The Minister

says that the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent, Misa,

sends qualified engineers to various municipalities. The point

must be raised as to why the municipalities never appointed

such engineers in the first place.

It is, however, not possible under the ANC government to

create an environment for prosperity. The ANC is a selfish

government that only cares about money and how much they can

annex in levies and taxes rather than in putting money back

into the pockets of ordinary law-abiding citizens of South

Africa. The ANC wants to be populistic and campaign for votes

rather than admit their failures as government. The ANC is not

a caring government.

Local governments should be able to recognise the opportunity

cost in these daring times and not make populistic decisions.

Local government must understand the fact that it isn’t



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 45**

business as usual, and make provision for economies to grow,

and put policies in place so that there is relief, even for

the elderly and disabled citizens, and not only for those that

are homeowners but for those that are renting or have a

usufruct claim.

Local government must stop spending money on big billboard

marketing and ANC ideology, and stop telling citizens that

everything is going to be okay, even though we know that

infrastructure is collapsing, financial management is

crumbling and service delivery is nonexistent.

In the Green Drop audit it is reported that municipalities are

responsible for putting more than 1,5 gigalitres of raw

sewerage into our fresh water resources. This is equal to

62% of the total volume of the Vaal Dam. No one plan can

address this if there is no political will, hon Minister.

On 9 December 2021, the Deputy President answered a question

posted to him by the FF Plus as to why government’s

outstanding municipal accounts had not been paid. He answered

that the reason was that municipalities could not deliver



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 46**

correct accounts to government and it would be paid as soon as

they had the correct accounts.

If the Deputy Minister, as Leader of Government **...** gives such

an answer, municipalities must take note that they should take

extra care in delivering correct service accounts to all

communities before communities take the advice of the Leader

of Government ... What is good for the goose must be good for

the gander. On the other side, I would advise government that

they set an example. Therefore, we urge that all government

debt must be settled within 30 days, especially their service

accounts to municipalities.

*Afrikaans*:

Agb Voorsitter, die bewyse van die ANC se onvermoë om te

regeer is voor die hand liggend. In plaaslike regering onder

ANC beheer, sal jy korrupsie en bedrog vind, nepotisme,

munisipale bestuurders wat groter salarisse as die President

van Suid-Afrika ontvang, brandweerwaens sonder water soos in

Kgetlengrivier Munisipaliteit, swak finansiële bestuur,

wetteloosheid, tenderpreneurs, kaderontplooiing, spookwerkers,

interne gevegte, swak leierskap, intimidasie en algemene

kriminaliteit.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 47**

Die bewyse lê in artikel 106 verslae, Ouditeur-generaal

verslae, forensiese ondersoek verslae, die Groen Druppel en

Blou Druppel verslag en soveel ander.

Wat jy nie in ‘n ANC regering sal vind nie is, infrastruktuur

instandhouding en ontwikkeling, ekonomiese groei,

gevolgbestuur, onpopulistiese besluite in die beste belang van

die dorp en al sy gemeenskappe, Batho Pele, suksesvolle

beleggingsprojekte, goeie besigheidspraktyk, waardes en

profesionaliteit.

*English*:

The hon Minister, in her opening today, alluded ... the public

... how many interventions the department made in local

government and is proud of these deployments. Hon Minister,

this is proof that local government is failing miserably. The

time has come for communities to reprioritise representation,

rather than government wanting to reprioritise communities,

again. The ANC government’s promises can be seen, year after

year, in the ever-increasing decay of local government. Thank

you, Chair.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 48**

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL

AFFAIRS (Mr K O Bapela): House Chairperson, hon members,

Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Deputy Minister Thembi

Nkadimeng, Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the National

Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, the

SALGA leadership, ... [Inaudible.] ... Commission and the

Demarcation Board leadership present, ladies and gentlemen,

the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act 3 of 2019 was

signed into Law by the President to commence on the

1 April 2021 and this is a major milestone for the Traditional

and Khoi-San leadership sector.

In March this year, we launched the awareness campaign on the

National Khoisan Commission, which was held in Cape Town as a

symbolic venue and place where the first disposition of land

and the first clashes and battles between the indigenous and

the settlers took place in 1657. The commission is tasked with

the responsibility to deal with applications for the

recognition of the Khoisan structures and their communities.

Some community members have already submitted their

applications and the commission continues to receive more

applications, which process will end in March 2024 and hope



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 49**

that a lot of them will then take advantage of this particular

activity.

Amongst other priorities, the implementation of Traditional

and Khoi-San Leadership Act, TKLA is to address the current

challenges of our Traditional Councils not being legally

constituted. Our enemy is now also still there, unfortunately,

which is the high number of activities arising from the

customary initiation practice and to eliminate the illegal

schools and the illegal traditional surgeries.

As we are approaching the winter initiation season, our plans

and energies will be focusing on saving and protecting the

lives of young people who are about to undergo the cultural

practice of the initiation. Our objective as government is

zero death, as one death is one too many. This we can achieve

through the provision of the law, and we also need the

traditional leaders to work together with parents, communities

as well as other social partners.

We are glad to announce that the Customary Initiation Act was

elected in 2021 and commenced on 1 September 2021 as a legal

tool that is now available to assist government to achieve



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 50**

this objective of zero death. As a critical part of

implementing this Act, the Minister established the National

Initiation Oversight Committee at the national level in

October 2021 to oversee the implementation of the Act.

We appreciate also the provinces that have started

establishing the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee.

We are closely monitoring the over 60 000 initiates in

Mpumalanga who are under going to initiation this year. They

are already in the schools. We are however worried as we

observe the rise of illegal initiation schools, it’s still

rampant. We are on high alert due to the trend of abductions

that are unfortunately still taking place.

Sadly, as we present this Budget, we have received report that

13 initiates have died in Mpumalanga, thus reversing our

objective of zero deaths. We are reversing our objective of

zero deaths, and we send condolences to their families. As

other children will be undergoing the initiation in June in

Limpopo, Eastern Cape and the Free State, we will also be

putting these provinces on high alert as we are now doing in

Mpumalanga.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 51**

Hon members, in March last year, Cabinet resolved on the

processes of consultation on the question of the Communal Land

Tenure, which process is led by the Department of Agriculture,

Land Reform and Rural Development, working with the Department

of Traditional Affairs. These consultations were meant to

cultivate in the convening of the Land Summit of which a

resolution was taken at the Indigenous Indaba Health in 2017

to have a Land Summit that discusses and resolved on 13% of

the land.

Cabinet has announced that the Land Summit will be held later

this month. This is after extensive consultations of various

stakeholders conducted, such as the Provincial Houses Congress

of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, CONTRALESA, National

Khoisan Council, civil society academics and land experts. The

Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

and the Department of Traditional Affairs assist with the

preparatory work in order to ensure that the planned summit is

successful.

With our continuous engagement with the traditional leaders

and whether it is just to resolve challenges that have raised

over the time with government, President Ramaphosa established



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 52**

an Inter-Ministerial Task Team, IMTT chaired by the Deputy

President that will focus on the resolution of these matters.

The IMTT is splitting to the following within streams. One,

advancing land ownership, tenure rights and fast tracking

socio economic development of rural communities. It will be

led by the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural

Development. That’s where the Minister of Mineral Resources

will also be included to dissolve in all those particular

issues of economic development.

Building institutional capacity and ensuring support to

traditional leaders will be led by the Minister of Finance. I

think on this one many of the hon members during the

appearance of the committee will be complaining about the lack

of funding to it, its inadequate, the house is not adequately

funded, CRL is not adequately funded. And, the traditional

leaders also have been complaining about issues of the tools

of trade. We therefore hope that will resolve a number of

issues under this particular work stream.

The third is the advancing infrastructure investment and

skills development in rural communities, which will be led by

Public Works and Infrastructure. The Minister spoke about the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 53**

Invest Master Plan which still has to be included as a

programme of government will also help us in beginning to look

at investment in that area because for you to attract

investment in rural areas, you must deal with the

infrastructure challenges.

The fourth one is the promoting unity, social cohesion and

nation building in rural communities led by the Minister of

Sports, Arts and Culture. That’s where the traditional leaders

would also add their voice to issues that are of a challenge

of social cohesion in the rural areas in particular, working

with other institutions.

The fast tracking, which is the last work stream, is the

finalisation of policy, legislation and constitutional matters

which will be led by the Minister of Justice and Correctional

Services. On fighting gender-based violence, there is an

initiative by the Deputy Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture

who is collaborating with other Deputy Ministers, including

us, to focus on areas where there are high incidents of

gender-based violence and femicide. Especially, focusing on

the rural areas, whilst everybody is focusing on ...

[Inaudible.] ...



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 54**

The area of Lusikisiki in the OR Tambo District Municipality

was visited in March this year as a known area of rape

capital. It has the highest act of violence against women and

children. It is a crime against our common humanity and we

need to deal with those particular challenges. We are working

together with the traditional leaders on this problem and will

be spreading it to other areas where we will then be working

in ensuring that the traditional leaders in those areas are

there.

In the Investment Rural Master Plan, the Minister has already

engaged adequately on it. I just want, as I conclude, to say

that the ARL has an allocation of R47 million as a Budget and

they have just completed engagements and investigations on the

religious abuse. The other programme that they will be

embarking on, which they have started with the Eastern Cape is

around initiations as they did in Gauteng, they will go in

there, understanding the challenges and also advice on areas

of interventions so that we can save lives.

The implementation of the TKLA and the implementation of

cultural initiations are all supported by the institutional

support with a R91 million that goes to it. But then, all



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 55**

other programmes are all included at that. Therefore, we will

also be working to mobilise traditional leaders to really work

within the District Development Model and ensuring that their

role is well defined so that we would then work as a

collective in that.

With that Chair, I will just say that the road will not be

easy. We will encounter challenges, but we will overcome them

and move on in making sure that the traditional leaders and

communities will experience development to ensure that quality

of life improves for the better in the rural areas. Thank you.

Mr V ZUNGULA: Chairperson, the Department of Cooperative and

Traditional Affairs, Cogta is critical as it deals with the

institutions that engage directly with the citizens. It is

therefore imperative that this department has got clear set

programs to uplift traditional and religious institutions, and

municipalities to best serve the people. This would ensure

citizens needs are heeded to by these institutions.

Traditional leadership must not be ceremonial. Traditional

leadership must play a meaningful role in the development of

the country. This would be achieved by also increasing the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 56**

number of permanent members in the House of Traditional

Leaders. In all areas under traditional leadership, the budget

must be administered by the chief. The chiefs need to be more

active in the promotion of the indigenous languages and

traditions, so as to best preserve our heritage. Chiefs can’t

be made non entities by taking the management of the budget of

rural areas to councillors, and the chiefs has no say about

the development ...

*IsiXhosa*:

... kodwa ngumhlaba wayo.

*English*:

Rural development is critical to ensure mass migration for

cities is reversed. The economy of rural areas must circulate

amongst the people in those rural areas, and the people must

be the primary beneficiaries. There is land and the government

must provide mechanisms for funding in all villages. We can’t

have people in villages with gardens and ploughing fields, but

they buy the most basic produce from supermarkets. People

should plough fields and the government must provide.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 57**

The church plays a critical role in shaping the moral fibre of

the people. Government must deal with the bogus churches who

prey on people’s beliefs. Indigenous churches must be

supported by a by all means possible. Cogta must lead in

protecting the faiths of our people, particularly the

indigenous churches that are ignored and side-lined. It can’t

be that in South Africa, AmaNazaretha are still forced to cut

their hair and their beliefs are violated, whereas the beliefs

and practices of other faiths are protected.

*IsiXhosa*:

Inkolo yethu yakwaNtu ...

*English*:

... must be protected and its dignity affirmed by the

government. Government can’t ignore our indigenous faiths, but

prioritise foreign religion that come country. The Commission

for Rights of Cultural & Linguistic Communities must protect

all faiths and hold accountable ...[Interjections.] all

faiths. It must not appear to be targeting certain Christian

leaders in lastly chain would like to wish all Apostles as led

by ...



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 58**

*IsiXhosa*:

... uNgcitshane, uNkwenkwezana, uMev’amhlophe ...

*English*:

... the Chief Apostle Nongqunga, a successful Apostle Day.

*IsiXhosa*:

uThixo ophilayo, uThixo wabaPostile abenani ngale mini

ikhethekileyo, ingcwele.

*English*:

I thank you.

Ms P P XABA-NTSHABA: Hon Chairperson, greetings to the hon

Minister, Deputy Ministers and hon members. I rise on behalf

of the ANC to support this Budget Vote 3 and 15. This Budget

Vote addresses the key issues that the people of South Africa,

in their local communities are concerned about. The issues of

unemployment, social cohesion, and social development are very

important. The government must address them properly.

This Budget comes against the backdrop of the Economic

Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, that was announced by the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 59**

President following the negative impact of COVID-19 not only

community life, but even on our economy, which was already

struggling. It also comes at the time when there is food

insecurity in our community the following the July social

unrest last year, and now the rising food prices due to the

war in Europe. Government must work together with other

stakeholders, such as community leaders, businesses,

traditional leaders, and faith-based organizations within the

community to ensure that communities maintain harmony and

social cohesion.

We welcome we welcome the fact that, the Community Work

Programme continues to be a priority in the budget in the

medium term. The allocation will increase the from

R4,3 billion from 2022-23. In 2024-25, it will be

R4,5 billion. We are concerned about the challenges around the

Community Work Programme, CWP which results in delayed payment

to participants which causes the incomplete projects. This

must be resolved to ensure that the CWP does what we wanted it

to do, and that is to provide short-term employment in poor

communities and ensure that youth participants acquire skills,

in order to access the permanent jobs in the labour market.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 60**

*IsiZulu*:

Sihlalo namalungu ahloniphekile kuyajabulisa lokho ukubona lo

Mnyango unogqozi lokukhuthaza omasipala ukuthi banikezele

abantu bakithi intuthuko ebafanele, kubantu basemakhaya,

basemadolobheni nakumakhosi akithi endabuko nokuvuselelwa

kwamasiko ethu. Siyikomidi sike sayokwenza inhlolomvo

esifundazweniu saseFree State lapho sithole khona iNkosi

uNdabezitha waseMaluti a Phofong obekhala ngokuthi kunomuntu

ozibiza ngenkosi kepha ongeyona inkosi ontshontsha umhlaba

wakhe.

Siyacela ukuthi uMnyango noNgqongqoshe kebazame ukuthi

bancedise inkosi ukuthi iphume kulo bunzima ebhekene nabo.

Ngakho ke siwuKhongolose sikhala kanye nabantu baKwaZulu-

Natali abehlelwa umshophi kanye nabase-Eastern Cape nabo

ngokunjalo, abehlelwe umshophi wokuvinjezelwa yizikhukhula

baze balahlekelwa izihlobo zabo, imizi yabo nakho konke kwabo

akade benako. Sithi ke siwuKhongolose siyasexhasa isabiwomali,

Sihlalo. Ngiyabonga.

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Chairperson, the NFP notes the Budget Vote

3 and 15 tabled here today. The NFP will support this Budget

Vote. However, I wish to raise the following concerns. Hon



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 61**

Minister if you remember through your Chair, last year

sometime I requested that we provide a comprehensive list of

all the contracts that have been awarded in the local

municipalities particularly in KwaZulu-Natal in the last year

or two, names of the companies, names of the directors and the

value of those contracts including cost per item to see that

we’ve got value for money.

But more importantly, to introduce a transparent and credible

process. For on a monthly basis we could advertise these

contracts that have been awarded to ensure that we get value

for money and it is not exploited by a few people as hon

Mkhaliphi said from the EFF, on how the Black Economic

Empowerment, BEE processes are being exploited in the country.

I also want to raise my concern, I thought that in introducing

the District Development Model, I thought we were actually

going to be cutting the cost of administration. In fact, I

thought we were going to be one of the countries like Canada

where you have a two tier government the national and the

district and remove the rest, so more money can go towards

delivering services.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 62**

But now it seems like we are heading for four tier of

government, which means more money will be spent on

administration. Those that don’t perform at the local

government level for now, means district level will come to do

exactly the same thing. Like the oversight mechanisms we have

in the country. Every sphere of government conducts oversight

despite that, the delivery of services is not welcome.

The other problem Chair is the fact that, the amount of

collusion and corruption that is taking place on the

procurement process. Right now as I speak to you, the control

that mayors and deputy mayors have in the local government

level. The collusion that takes place. The meetings that are

taking place to overthrow other political parties. The amount

of money that is changing hands, is the reason why we cannot

deliver our services to the people on the ground. Until you

have an independent process, entirely independent where no

politician, no mayor, deputy mayor, no political party is

involved in the appointment of officials, chief financial

officers, municipal managers, I think you will continue to

have what we have today and that is one of the lowest levels

of delivery of service. That is why we tend to have so much

... [Inaudible.] The other problem that we tend to have is



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 63**

that, if you look at the issue ... [Interventions.] The NFP

will support the Budget Vote. Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL

AFFAIRS (Ms T Nkadimeng): Hon House Chairperson, the Minister

of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Dr

Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Deputy Minister, Obed Bapela, hon

Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders, Mama

Mhlauli and hon members good evening. It is my honour and

privilege to join the Minister in presenting the budget of the

department. I want to thank my predecessor, hon Parks Tau, for

the work done in trying to improve the capacity of the

department and the foundation for the work done to ensure the

performance of local government and ensuring that local

government does become everybody’s business.

I know that my predecessor did participate in the previous Co-

operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Budget Votes in

line with our mandate, but also guided by the departmental

strategic plan.

Since my arrival in the department, I have had the opportunity

to relook in the work that he has done, but also got myself



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 64**

acquainted with the departmental core mandate, key concerns

and challenges, but also to shape and guide the District

Development Model, DDM.

This is an effort to see an effective and efficient way of how

local government through an integrated approach of government

needs to run

To this effect, this Vote is rightfully premised therefore on

the principles, that are cognisant of the need of the three

spheres which are yet distinct, interdependent and

interrelated.

To deal with these challenges which seems to be complex in the

spheres itself, we need all us and a societal-based approach

which can be realised through the District Development Model,

which implores all components of government to function

cohesively as a whole, and effectively deliver a capable and a

developmental state.

It is within this context therefore hon members, that section

154 of the Constitution, is important to ensure that we



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 65**

strengthen our municipalities in pursuit of the objects of

local government contained in section 152.

Our Budget Vote, is strategically enabling conducive

conditions to collectively harness all the public resources by

culminating into *One Plans,* which are also operational and

modelled to ensure stability in municipalities. So, we are

working with all the stakeholders to assist to put the

municipalities to work better.

For an example in the North West, it was agreed during the

recent Presidential Imbizo, that municipalities such as

Maquassi Hills, Ditsobotla and Mamusa would be assisted by the

department to open criminal charges against all those

implicated in fraudulent activities.

Hon Mkhalipi, following the presentation of the State of Local

Government to Cabinet, for those 64 municipalities a Framework

on Municipal Support and Intervention Plans, MSIPs, was

developed to guide and assist. The 23 of those 64

municipalities, we have already assisted them in ensuring that

they follow these plans to ensure that progress has been



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 66**

registered and they get out of the dysfunctional state that

they are in.

Further than that the hon Minister made an example of the part

of that 64 - Enoch Mgijima Municipality and Mangaung

Metropolitan Municipality. We did not end there. The

collaboration between the Department of Co-operative

Governance and Traditional Affairs and National Treasury

further looked into further 46 municipalities that are having

difficulties financially, to additionally approve and develop

economic recovery plans for them, to ensure that they also are

integrated into the One Plans and can be able to function

properly and support the services of the people.

So, in both of these sections of the One Plans, sections 154

and 139 are enjoined to build capacity, transfer the skills,

bring personnel, but subsequently, leave the municipality

capable to run on its own.

In the recent Free State Imbizo, for an example, much as yes

the committee visited, there are challenges. However, for an

example in the Ngwathe Bulk Water Supply was identified by the

Presidential Imbizo as a catalytic project.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 67**

As we speak, it runs for 46 kilometre of pipeline and a

28 kilometre of that pipeline has been completed. At its

completion 5 776 households will benefit and a total of 21

local subcontractors have been appointed in line with our

Small Medium and Micro Enterprise, SMMEs, development project.

So to boost the 70% of Municipal Infrastructure Grant, MIG,

midmonth spending that the Minister spoke about in

capacitating our municipalities, our Water Services

Infrastructure Grant, has been remodelled with the assistance

of the department trough Municipal Infrastructure Support

Agent, Misa, to ensure that in all the 23 plus and the 46

municipalities we get an end road of that.

Hon Singh, we have put an Intergovernmental Monitoring Support

and Intervention Bill. Currently there is no legislation which

regulates interventions in the provinces that is section 100

and section 139 in municipalities. The MEC might have sounded

the trigger ahead, but it is better to act as early as warning

signs are received or are shown in the quarterly reports

received by MECs subsequently at provincial Treasuries to

assist municipalities.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 68**

However, we will be tabulating for all as you know the Act

itself to ensure that we fill the void and regulate

interventions in both sections 100 and 139, but also aligning

them to what the Municipal Finance Management Act says with

regard to discretionary financial interventions.

As indicated by Minister Dlamini-Zuma, key sustainability and

financial viability of municipalities is also realised by the

training of Municipal Public Accounts Committees, MPACs, which

will assist hon members with the capacity, but also

accountability of municipalities. A training for all the teams

of 457 municipalities and their MPACs has already happened at

the beginning of this first term, five-months-old into their

job.

The Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency, continue to

support identified municipalities to ensure that for an

example, 14 of them they are Social and Labour Plans, SLPs,

are integrated into their One Plans, but ultimately their

Integrated Development Plans, IDPs.

These total of these Municipalities are Elias Motsoaledi,

Lephalale, Mogale City, Merafong, Rand West City, Rustenburg,



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 69**

Moses Kotane, Madibeng, Matlosana, Emalahleni, Steve Tshwete,

Matjhabeng, Ga-Segonyana and Gamagara.

So, we are not only mentioning the One Plans and we are

practicalising it together with Sibanye Mining big planning to

put the training of the mines that is there.

In line with with our Integrated Urban Development Programme

which is the framework, it gives us the development of smart

cities, but also the regeneration of small towns which we have

already picked up out of the 100 small cities for the

generation of smart cities. Three have already being piloted

and approved in a strategy of small town regeneration that has

been adopted by Cabinet.

In the Western Cape, we Piketberg Municipality, in Limpopo

Modimolle and the Setsotso Municipality in the Free State.

There could be challenges in the Free State, but yes, not

everything is doom and gloom.

I would like to commend those communities to make sure that

they participate in the programmes that the municipality is

doing. I would also want to thank the Minister of the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 70**

Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs,

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zumaare and the Deputy Minister Comrade

Bapela for their leadership as well as officials in the

Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs,

for their dedication, support and the work we would want to

achieve.

Lastly hon House Chairperson let me elaborate and clear the

issue that we are refusing the site visits of the committee to

come to KwaZulu-Natal for the disaster. On the 3 May the

department provided the report. We are ready to host the

portfolio committee to look into the challenge that happened

with the disaster in KwaZulu-Natal.

So, it is what Amilcar Cabral says and I quote, “Tell no lies:

claim no easy victories.” We are not running away for an audit

or for a review on what has happened, hon Mkhalipi. We have

provided a report to the committee and we are ready at any

time to host you. Ngiyabonga. [I thank you.]

Ms H O MKHALIPI: We do not want a report; we want to be with

our people!



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 71**

Mr G G MPUMZA: Hon House Chairperson, Minister and Deputy

Ministers, hon members and leaders of the entities reporting

to the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional

Affairs. House Chair, allow me to keep my video off. House

Chairperson, and hon members deepening the implementation

district development model, to eradicate local economic

development is a must.

House Chair, we are rising on behalf of the ANC to support

Budget Vote 3 of Cooperative Governance and Traditional

Affairs. We are of the firm view that this vote supports the

critical aspects of the economic reconstruction and recovery

plan, as outlined by the President, in order to rebuild our

economy following the COVID-19 pandemic.

We must be intentionally about addressing the economic fort

lines of the apartheid spatiality. The post COVID-19 economy

must be decentralised and unleashed to the untapped potential

of our districts and local municipalities, which had been

regarded as a bearer of the mainstream economy.

The role of the state at a local level in driving economic

development and transformation at the macro level is critical



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 72**

for setting South Africa, on more inclusive growth trajectory.

We have made significant stride in the transformation of our

society and advancing towards a truly non-racial, non-sexist

and truly democratic society.

However, in a local sphere we are yet to achieve what was

intended in the 1998 White Paper, on local government. When it

indicated a task of a developmental local government among

other things. To meet developmental objectives which will keep

and create a better life for all.

As the ANC we are unapologetic in actually supporting this

budget as an instrument to drive thorough economic

transformation, in line with the National Development Plan,

NDP, and its vision, to eliminate poverty reduce inequality.

House Chair, we know that infrastructure is the largest

spending programme in economic development function in the

budget, delivered by the Minister of Finance. Despite the

fiscal pressures, capital expenditure programmes are protected

from budget reduction and this evident of the ANC-led

government’s commitment to invest in infrastructure which is a

catalyst for economic growth.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 73**

In order to fund new bulk water project and maintain raw

infrastructure. Spending on national water resource management

is expected to grow from R36,1 billion in 2022-23 financial

year to R36,8 billion in 2024-2025.

Our firm view is that local industries must be the major

suppliers in this projects. As localisation has been at the

central in the economic recovery plan. However, we are

concerned about the declining allocation towards the municipal

infrastructure support agent. More so following an increase in

their target outputs from seven in 2020-21 to 11 in 2022-23

adding new responsibilities

As part of our oversight work, we must ensure that the

infrastructure projects are driven through localisation using

the South African suppliers, materials and construction

companies. An emphasis should be placed on the empowering

young people, women and cooperatives as suppliers for these

materials in order to build the economy.

Hon members, we remain convinced that the challenges of

resource constrain confronting the local government can best

be address through district development model, which is



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 74**

intended to foster practical intergovernmental relations, to

plan budget and implement jointly to provide coherent

responses and maximise impact.

Hon House Chair, having piloted district development model,

DDM, in three municipalities and drawing lessons from

successful implementation throughout the country.

The one plan for all the 44 districts and seven metropolitan

municipalities have been developed and we are steaming ahead.

Some of their successes seen in the pilot stages include OR

Tambo 50 small micro enterprises and medium enterprises and

cooperatives that have received the support from the district

and partners in the form of financial support and equipment

necessary to unlock their business potential. This include 470

young people who were employed in the solid waste recycling

programme of King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality and the

support that the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent, MISA,

is giving on green and cleaning the city itself of Umtata.

We are aware that this particular programme is being

implemented in the district focusing on number of sectors,

including furniture manufacturing with ... [Inaudible.] ...



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 75**

which supports 30 small, medium, and micro enterprises, SMMEs,

entrepreneurs. Similar achievements in eThekwini Metro and

Waterberg municipality can be cited.

We are therefore welcoming the prioritisation of DDM in the

budget of the department and the South African Local

Government Association, SALGA. And the ANC supports the

budget. I thank you.

Ms E R J SPIES: House Chair, good evening, and 163

municipalities are under financial duress; 108 municipalities

have unfunded budgets, and 29 municipalities have been placed

under administration – this is the real state of local

government in South Africa.

Yet a whopping R4,3 billion of this department’s programme

budget is spent on the community works programme. This

constitutes 85,1% of the funds directly administered by the

department and excludes transfers to municipalities, the South

African Local Government Association, SALGA, the Municipal

Demarcation Board, the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency

and the South African sister cities network. Government

support and intervention only gets 2,6% of the budget,

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**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 76**

institutional development 1,5%, the municipal systems

improvement grant 2,7% and the National Disaster Management

Centre is at 2,1%.

The community works programme is definitely not serving its

intended purpose and there’s definitely no return on

investment whatsoever. There is no justification for spending

R4,3 billion on this programme as this is not the core

function of this department.

What is worse, is that the R4,3 billion does not benefit the

very people that this programme is intended for. Community

works programme participants on the ground earns a meagre R880

per month and every month it is a battle for them to get this

money paid to them on time.

Today, I’m speaking on behalf of the thousands of the

Community Work Programme, CWP workers who must beg for this

stipend for days on end each and every month. Each time and

after numerous questions and enquiries to the Minister, I get

the same answer:



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 77**

we have implemented a new remodelling policy and we are

having challenges with the implementation of this new

system.

It’s now eight months.

For Mr JP du Toit from Langerberg in the Western Cape, that

means another month of unpaid debit orders – not paying his

funeral policy for him and his family’s on time. He is the one

who is faced his two PWC colleagues sitting outside his house

begging for food for their children. He is the one that must

take his last and share it with his colleagues so that they

don’t go hungry. Twelve years into this programme and we are

still remodelling and reviewing.

The purpose of the community work’s programme in

municipalities is to create access to a minimum level of

regular and predictable income from work opportunities for

those who need them through targeting areas with high levels

of poverty and underemployment.

Female participants in Kannaland, one of the poorest

communities in the country, shared stories of how they have to



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 78**

use their own tools – carrying spades from their homes with

them daily – because there is no supply of tools and material.

Yet the implementing agents, mostly non-profit organisations

appointed by this department to facilitate this programme,

receive millions. And upon researching these nongovernmental

organisation, NGOs, it makes a very interesting reading. The

people who do the actual work still remain poor and

unemployed.

Minister, you have a choice. You can decide to keep on

throwing money at a programme that is not working for the

people on the ground or you can incorporate the community

works programme into local municipalities.

In principle, the DA supports a review of the CWP programme to

ensure that CWP workers, not third parties or implementing

organisations, are the beneficiaries of the programme. To this

end, the DA proposes that the Department of Cooperative

Governance and Traditional Affairs, CoGTA stops administering

the CWP budget as this does not form part of its core

function. Instead, the CWP budget should be allocated to the

municipality administered public works programmes with the

caveat that they provide quarterly reports on programme



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 79**

implementation. Using municipalities will cut out the fees

paid to implementing agents and save the taxpayer millions of

rands. This will result in huge cost cutting and a better

chance of participants being taken up in jobs either in

municipalities or in the private sector.

This, Minister, is a real return on investment and if done

properly can improve service delivery in so many of the

dysfunctional municipalities across the country. Minister, I

beg you on behalf of the thousands of underemployed people, to

consider these recommendations for what they are and not who

it is coming from. I thank you.

Mr X N MSIMANGO: Hon House Chair, hon Minister, hon Deputy

Ministers, hon members, the ANC remains committed to the

vision of an ethical, capable and developmental state as

articulated in the National Development Plan, described as a

state with capacity to mobilise both market and nonmarket

stakeholders in order to champion a developmental agenda which

is aimed at resolving the triple challenges of poverty,

unemployment and inequality.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 80**

The developmental state has a responsibility to deliver

services to the poor and marginalised communities in order to

act as a catalyst for development. This requires fundamental

transformation and redesign of this sphere of government so

that it is adequately equipped to fulfil this developmental

mandate within the programme democratic inclusive growth and

development.

It is also alluded to the legislative and institutional

framework needed to give effect to this vision. Our task is to

bring new capacities, attitudes and approaches which

strengthens relations between the municipal councils and

administrators between management and the workforce, between

municipalities and service users – and all other relevant

actors at local government.

Last year in the 2021 local elections, Cabinet released a

state of local government report which was very explicit about

the challenges facing local government. Amongst these

challenges that were raised by the report is the political

administrative interference financial management, governance

and service delivery challenges. The report revealed that

166 municipalities were experiencing one or more of these



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 81**

challenges. Out of those, 64 have reached a state of

dysfunctionality and service delivery has collapsed in those

municipalities, and 30 are currently under section 139

subsection 7 intervention.

The ANC is of the view that the bigger chunk of the budget

that is before us should be directed to respond to these

challenges facing local government and should be allocated to

programmes that are meant to turn around the situation, mainly

in the dysfunctional municipalities. The municipal support and

intervention plans that have been developed together with the

SA Local Government Association, Salga, to assist each of the

54 dysfunctional municipalities be implemented to turn around

and help to restore functionality and deliver municipal

services.

We are still convinced that the promulgation of the

Intergovernmental, Monitoring, Support and Intervention Bill

will go a long way in addressing some of the challenges,

especially putting in place early warning systems to prevent

collapse in municipalities. Various reports of the Auditor-

General have highlighted challenges with regards to the

finance performance management, lack of human resource



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 82**

capacity and deepening culture of impunity at local government

which breeds lack of accountability and consequence

management.

The 2018-19 report which was titled: “Not much to go around,

yet not the right hands at the till” sharply raised the

challenges around human resources to manage municipalities and

highlighted challenges emanating from the political and

administrative interference. Also in the 2019-20 report

titled: “Ethical and accountable leadership should drive the

required change” carried a special report on the financial

management of local governments’ COVID-19 initiatives.

This report reflected the same terms that were observed in the

main report and it also revealed that compromised control

environment and poor financial performance management work

exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also welcome the fact

that in the medium-term budget, the allocation towards Salga

will increase from R808 million in the financial year 2022-23

to R882 million in the financial year 2024-25. This is

significant to us because the association plays a pivotal role

in co-ordination of local government and it is a key

stakeholder of developments in or municipalities.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 83**

It is important that we make people of South Africa aware that

the DA government in the Western Cape is fundamentally opposed

to the District Development Model which is meant to co-

ordinate and streamline development in municipalities. We are

not surprised by the actions of the DA in the Western Cape.

The DA opposes anything that has a chance of reversing the

apartheid legacy such as the racially skewed spatial

development. They have no interest in streamlining and co-

ordinating development in the white suburbs of Cape Town and

township’s such as Khayelitsha, Langa and Mitchells Plain and

other townships in the province.

This budget is true to the character of the ANC of [NOT] being

biased to the poor and the working class communities. The ANC

Budget Vote No 3. The ANC lives; the ANC leads! I thank you,

House Chairperson.

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

much, hon Msimango. I am informed that this was your maiden

speech. Thank you very much. I will now call the Minister of

Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs to close the

debate. The hon the Minister?



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 84**

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL

AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, House Chairperson. Thank you

very much to all the members of the portfolio committee who

have participated in this debate. Let me first say that it is

disingenuous of some of the members to talk as though we

should run the municipalities, because they know that first of

all we have no constitutional mandate to run the

municipalities. And secondly, we don’t have the capacity to

run the municipalities. So, to come and speak here as though

we should actually run the municipalities is disingenuous.

Let me also say that this department, even though it gets R111

billion plus, after we have transferred all the grants and

taken out the Community Work Programme, CWP, money, all we are

left with is less than a billion, which covers Municipal

Infrastructure Support Agent, Misa, as well. We are a very

small department, one of the smallest in government. So, I

just thought I should make that point.

Let me also say that the division of revenue is in my view not

correct, because local government gets the least out of the

division of revenue. This is because a wrong assumption was

made that municipalities will be able to raise their own



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 85**

resources, which is incorrect. The majority of municipalities

are not able to raise their own revenue. They don’t have a

revenue base; they serve indigent citizens. So, that

assumption was incorrect in the first place. Of course, we

have been pleading that that should change, but it hasn’t

changed yet – so, that’s where we are.

Lots of small municipalities cannot even afford to hire

engineers, and that is why Misa has to assist them with the

few engineers that they have, because they cannot afford to

hire engineers. One of the speakers asked why are the

municipalities not hiring their own engineers, so the reason

is that they can’t afford that. Sometimes they hire

unregistered engineers which is not satisfactory. One need

registered engineer to sign off the plans and so on.

Let me say to the NFP that I will discuss with Treasury but

that responsibility of contracts and transactions in local

government is really under the Municipal Financial Management

Act and it’s not directly under us. It is Treasury that sees

the transactions, but we will discuss with the Minister and

take your suggestions. I think it will be a good idea actually

to have all contracts published and not only publishing those



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 86**

who got the contract depending on how much it cost and how

long it is going to take, so that people can monitor whether

the funds are being used correctly and also whether the

original contract and the amount in the original contract is

what ends up being paid and there is no escalation. I will

discuss with the Minister but it is not something that resides

directly under us.

I agree with the hon Shaik Emam that it would be desirable not

to have part of the ... [Inaudible.] ... members being

involved in appointing managers in the municipalities. But at

the moment, that is where we are and we are just trying to

make sure that the criteria is correct and that people are

appointed according to the prescripts and the qualifications.

I also completely agree with the other members and I thank the

members of the ANC, IFP and the NFP for supporting this

budget. It is always ... [Time expired.]

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

much, Minister. I even gave you 30 seconds. Thank you very

much.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 3 AND 15 – COGTA**

**Page: 87**

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL

AFFAIRS: Thirty seconds? Thank you very much for your

generosity.

The Mini-Plenary rose at 18:32.

