**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 1**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

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

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Members of the mini-plenary session met on the virtual

platform at 16:00.

The House Chairperson Ms M G Boroto took the Chair and

requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or

meditation.

The House Chairperson announced that the virtual mini-plenary

sitting constituted a meeting of the National Assembly.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Hon members, before we

proceed, I would like to remind you that the virtual mini-

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

constitutes 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 enjoy the same powers and privileges



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 2**

that apply in a sitting of the National Assembly. Members

should equally note that anything said on the virtual platform

is deemed to have been said in the House and may be ruled

upon.

All members who have logged in shall be considered to be

present and are requested to mute their microphones and only

unmute when recognised to speak. This is because the mics are

very sensitive and will pick up any noise which might disturb

the attention of other members. When recognised to speak,

please unmute your microphone and connect your video. Members

may make use of the icons on the bar at the bottom of their

screens which has the option that allows members to put up his

or her hand to raise points of order.

The secretariat will assist by alerting the Chairperson about

members requesting to speak. 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 a debate on Vote 20: Women, Youth and Persons with

Disabilities Appropriation Bill. I will now recognise the

Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 3**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

Debate on Vote No 20 – Women, Youth and Persons with

Disabilities:

The MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY FOR WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS

WITH DISABILITIES: Hon Chairperson, chairperson of the

portfolio committee, hon members, it is an honour to present

the 2022 Budget Vote Speech of the Department of Women, Youth

and Persons with Disabilities in the 25th year anniversary of

the South African’s formally adopting the Constitution as our

own.

The coming into effect of our democratic Constitution marked a

decisive break from the apartheid past and it ushered in a new

South Africa based on democratic values of human dignity, non-

racialism, non-sexism and freedom.

While women in their diversity played a crucial role in the

drafting and development of this world renowned Constitution,

women continue to suffer the second pandemic of gender-based

violence and femicide perpetrated by men and economic

exclusion. They have not been spared of the dreaded other



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 4**

pandemic, which is the global COVID-19. However, regardless of

all these gendered challenges, women of South Africa are still

standing. More resolute than ... and in order to realize the

promises enshrined in the Constitution.

One of the stalwarts of our liberation struggle, Mme Gertrude

Shope once said, and I quote “Every generation has a

responsibility to know what its mission is. Mine was to

liberate the country, what is yours?”

As the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with

Disabilities, we will continue, in line with our mandate to

advocate, monitor, evaluate, and regulate for the rights and

empowerment of women, youth and regulate for the rights of

empowerment of women, youth and persons with disabilities, as

enshrined in the Constitution.

The empowerment of women, youth and persons with disabilities

cannot be achieved without the socioeconomic transformation of

society. We must advocate for the acceleration of economic

growth to overcome the triple challenges of inequality,

unemployment and poverty, which always bears the feminine face



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 5**

and are the breeding ground for gender-based violence and

femicide.

We are determined to ensure that in the eight years remaining

to reach the 50/50 target of gender equality in accordance

with Goal 5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development

Goals, SDGs, on gender equality and the commitments made at

the 5th World Conference of Women in Beijing through the

Beijing Platform for Action and its critical areas of concern.

In this regard, South Africa has joined the Generation

Equality Forum to accelerate the implementation of programmes

and projects to reach gender equality by 2030.

In order to eradicate the pandemic of gender-based violence

and femicide, it is critical that we all implement the

National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

Accordingly, the impact of the National Strategic Plan can

only be realized when all sectors of our society play their

part.

I am pleased to inform this august House that the Inter-

Ministerial Committee which I chair, continue to do its work



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 6**

of co-ordinating and implementation of the National Strategic

Plan.

In this regard, the department plays a leadership role in

advocating for, co-ordinating, monitoring and evaluating the

implementation of the National Strategic Plan. To date,

several strides have been made including the following: The

National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Draft

Bill is currently being consulted with Nedlac and will be

tabled in Parliament in June 2022; the Multi-Sectoral Rapid

Response Teams are in the process of being established in all

provinces, districts and local municipalities.

We are working closely with municipalities and other sectors

and departments through the Department of Co-operative

Governance and Traditional Affairs to ensure integration of

the priorities of the National Strategic Plan. The gender-

based violence and femicide ... is in the District Development

Model and Integrated Development Plans.

Through the European Union funded programme, technical

monitors and data capturers have been placed in three pilot

provinces in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Gauteng to



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 7**

enhance the capacity of provinces to implement the National

Strategic Plan and the Gender Budgeting Framework. The plan is

to roll out this support in the remaining 6 provinces during

the 2022-23 financial year.

Through the support of the German funding, the department is

developing the National Prevention Strategy on Gender-Based

Violence and Femicide. We must ensure that national

departments integrate the gender-based violence and femicide

priorities into their strategic and annual performance plans.

The department co-ordinate and consolidate the submission of

the monthly progress reports on the implementation of the

National Strategic Plan to the President. We have, in

partnership with SA National Taxi Council, Santaco, initiated

the training of taxi drivers and owners on gender-based

violence and femicide.

On 4 May 2022, I launched the SA Gender Assessment Report in

partnership with the World Bank which highlights that overall,

South Africa has made progress toward gender equality since

1994. Firstly, South Africa is among the top 10 of countries

globally to have successfully implemented reforms to improve

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**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 8**

women’s legal rights; secondly, South Africa is ranked 18

globally according to the World Economic Forum Gender Gap

Index, 2021; thirdly, South Africa is second in Southern

African Development Community, SADC, states according to the

World Economic Forum Gender Gap Index, 2021; and lastly, South

Africa has achieved gender parity in primary and secondary

school levels and in closing the gender gap in rates of adult

literacy and there is notable progress in the number of women

in Parliament.

Despite the significant progress made since the dawn of

democracy, the report also highlights that women remain

marginalized in the mainstream economy and economic

opportunities available in the country.

In addition, the persistence of high levels of gender-based

violence and femicide in the country, continue to threaten the

livelihoods of marginalized groups and compromise the overall

development of our nation.

Our department has also partnered with the World Bank in

collaboration with Sars to release a Report on Women and Trade

Facilitation in SA. The findings of the report highlight the

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**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 9**

challenges that women in business face with regard to export.

The report shows how mainstreaming of gender into matters of

custom processes and export procedures can significantly

reduce the barriers women continue to face in trade.

On youth issues, I welcome the appointment of the new board of

the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA, and I am very

excited that since the inception of the agency, we now have

the first executive chairperson and deputy chairperson being

young women. I look forward to working with the new board in

addressing the challenges facing our young people in the

country. I am also delighted to announce that the NYDA

Amendment Bill has been tabled in Parliament on 26 April 2022.

Furthermore, the Integrated Youth Development Strategy, as

well as the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the

National Youth Policy 2030 will soon be submitted to Cabinet

for approval. These will enable us to monitor the

implementation of the National Youth Policy across the

sectors.

This year, June 16, will be celebrated in the Eastern Cape and

will be addressed by His Excellency, President Cyril



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 10**

Ramaphosa. All Members of Parliament are invited to

participate in all the interactions with our young people.

We must harness the potential of our youthful population. This

includes the political will by government and captains of

industry to ensure an integration of youth across all

strategic sectors of our society, especially the economy.

The NYDA supports the Presidential Youth Employment

Intervention by providing the following: SA Youth Mobi - which

is a free employment network that provides youth with access

learning and employment opportunities; Youth Explorer - a

youth portal that provides them with a range of information;

mPowa - a location-based mobile app that provides employment

and entrepreneurship opportunities, Wi-Fi spots within their

immediate vicinity.

In the 2022-23 financial year, the NYDA will target the

following: The training of more than 25 000 young people to be

youth entrepreneurs; two thousand youth-owned enterprises who

will receive financial assistance from the NYDA through the

NYDA grant programme. These enterprises will go on and create

6 000 jobs in the economy; seventy-five thousand young people



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 11**

will be provided with skills development programs to enable

them to enter the economy; ten thousand young people to be

placed in jobs through the National Pathway Management

Network; fifty thousand young people to be recruited in the

structured National Youth Service where young people will earn

an income, learn skills and increase their employability and

offer meaningful quality service to their communities; and the

NYDA will conduct monitoring and evaluation reports on the

impact of the grant programme, revitalized National Youth

Service and the Community Works Programme.

South Africa is the most unequal society in the world. As a

result, the department has taken a bold position to close this

chasm by ensuring that there will not be any mega project in

the country which excludes women, youth and persons with

disabilities.

Accordingly, during March and April 2022, the department in

partnership with the Minister for COGTA, hosted two Izimbizo

in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, on the Eastern Seaboard

Development to facilitate access to information for women,

youth and persons with disabilities on this development and

its value chains to ensure their participation.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 12**

In March 2022, the department procured an exhibition space at

the Africa Energy Indaba held in Cape Town, which provided

women in the energy sector space to exhibit their work in

order to expose their work to big business in the energy

sector throughout the continent.

The department held three dialogues that focused on renewable

energy, financial inclusion and best practice models on the

empowerment of women, youth and persons with disabilities. We

are planning to host another Imbizo on the Eastern Seaboard

Development at Alfred Nzo at the end of this month, in

partnership with COGTA and the local municipalities.

You will recall that in October 2021, His Excellency,

President Cyril Ramaphosa launched the Women’s Economic

Assembly, Wecona, that seeks to unlock at least a minimum of

40% of all procurement opportunities for women-owned

businesses across sectoral value chains.

The Wecona has developed a strategy to roll out the structure

to provinces to ensure that women-owned businesses benefit

from preferential procurement processes in all spheres of



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 13**

government and create access to markets in the private sector.

I will hold the 2nd Wecona in October 2022.

The department continues to strengthen the implementation of

the Sanitary Dignity Implementation Framework. In this

context, we are working on value chain management within the

sanitary dignity process. These include empowerment through

support programmes to ensure competence in doing business with

government.

We must all ensure the full implementation of the threshold

for public procurement set at 40% for women, 30% for youth,

and 7% for persons with disabilities.

The department undertook a rapid evaluation in 2021-22 and the

findings are disappointing. Only 16% of black women-owned

businesses benefited in 2020 and 13% in 2021. In construction

29%; accommodation and food service industry 18%. Sectors such

as transportation, wholesale and retail and ICT were the

lowest at between 3% to 6% of women-owned businesses

benefitting.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 14**

Our main challenge in effectively monitoring the progress of

women, youth and persons with disabilities is due to the lack

of access to disaggregated data. Access to data is critical

for making evidence-based planning and programme design and to

inform better policy and decision-making.

The department is collaborating with the Department Trade,

Industry and Competition and other departments towards

mainstreaming women youth and persons with disabilities into

the African Continental Free Trade Area and the development of

the African Union Protocol on Women and Trade to facilitate

their participation in cross-border trading.

To strengthen disability inclusion in line with the UN

Convention and AU Protocol, the department has developed and

gazetted two frameworks on Universal Access and Design and

Reasonable Accommodation.

We welcome Cabinet’s approval of the National Strategic

Framework on Disability Rights Awareness-Raising Campaigns for

Persons with Disabilities. The framework seeks to guide both

private and public sectors in ensuring the rights of persons

with disabilities are protected.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 15**

One of the barriers to participation in the economy for

persons with disabilities is access to education. Therefore,

in 2021, the department in partnership with the Department of

Basic Education hosted the Inclusive Education Summit to

discuss key interventions in increasing access to education

for children with disabilities of school going age.

Exclusion of persons with disabilities continues unabated in

workplaces. The disaggregated data collected by the Department

of Public Service and Administration on employment of persons

with disabilities in the public service show that the public

service is at 1% of employment of persons with disabilities.

This is significantly lower than the 7% proposed across all

public sectors.

The research report published by the department on the impact

of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities highlights

recommendations towards upholding rights and improving the

living conditions of persons with disabilities during

situations of disaster.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 16**

Parliament is in the process of ratifying the AU Protocol on

the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as announced by the

President in his Sona reply.

Later this year, the department will convene the Economic

Empowerment Summit for Persons with Disabilities in order to

plan and design a strategy that will accelerate an inclusive

process of persons with disabilities in the mainstream economy

of the country including the Economic Reconstruction and

Recovery Plan, ERRP.

I reported in the 2021 Budget Vote that the department has

initiated the implementation of the Gender Responsive

Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. We

are continuing with this work across all three spheres of

government. We will have to broadened this framework to

include youth and disability as well.

In 2021-22, we conducted 46 capacity-building sessions across

the government. At least more than 500 officials have been

capacitated on the framework. As I am speaking here today, the

department is presenting this framework at the provincial SA

Local Government Association, Salga, Women’s Commission



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 17**

Lekgotla at the Western Cape. Similarly, we are planning to

roll out this framework at the local government level in

collaboration with the Salga and Department of Co-operative

Governance, to capacitate newly appointed councillors.

In the 2021 Budget Vote, I informed the House that we will

undertake analysis of the draft national department APPs. In

this context, the 2021 Monitoring and Evaluation Report showed

that less than 50% of the departments were implementing the

Gender Budgeting Framework.

However, the analysis of the 2022-23 draft APPs points to great

improvement in inclusion of priorities of women, youth and

disability in these plans. We are targeting an increase towards

100% by 2024.

In 2021, I reported that the department has been engaging with

the National Treasury, Department of Planning, Monitoring and

Evaluation and the International Monetary Fund, IMF, in

developing a strategy and road map for gender responsive

budgeting. I am happy to inform this House that there will be a

rollout of phase 1 of the project over the coming months by the

National Treasury.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 18**

In addition, the department in partnership with the EU hosted a

policy dialogue on gender responsive budgeting in February 2022

which included over 700 international and national experts and

participants. The aim of this dialogue is to foster discussions

on the policy directives for gender responsive budgeting in the

country.

The South African government and the economy was built on mining

and agriculture, with land being a key factor. Therefore, my

department has signed a memorandum of understanding with the

Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development in

order to ensure that women, youth and persons with disabilities

are mainstreamed in agriculture and land redistribution.

In pursuit of Medium-Term Strategic Framework, MTSF, Priority

7: A better Africa and World, the department continues its

commitment to achieve this priority in the following areas: We

continue to participate in the African Union Specialized

Technical Committees. In November 2021, the country had a very

successful session with the Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW ... [Time expired.]



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 19**

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Hon Minister,

unfortunately your time is now expired.

Ms C N NDABA: House Chair, hon Minister, Chief Whip, Deputy

Chief Whip and hon members, let me start by first saying that

the ANC supports this budget, Budget Vote 20. As the Portfolio

Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, we

are tasked with a huge responsibility of overseeing that the

conditions of the most vulnerable in our society transforms

and improve for the better. It has become a dreadful practice

that annually we have to pay condolences to the families that

have lost their loved ones to the obliterating pandemic of the

gender-based violence and femicide. This is the second

pandemic that we as a country continue to grapple with without

success. The fight against gender-based violence and femicide

require every fabric of society to confront toxic behaviours

and patriarchy. The role of overcoming gender-based violence

and femicide can never rest on government alone. It requires

all of us, our families, our groups of friends, communities

and the broader society.

As the committee conveys its condolences to the Gardee and the

Mtwa families along with the countless numbers of women and



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 20**

children brutally killed that have not reached mainstream

media, we are reminded again as a country the second pandemic

of the gender-based violence, GBV, has not dissipated. The

committee welcomes the convictions of Chris Lategan for the

brutal murder of Jesse Hess and her grandfather back in 2019.

But too slow have the wheels of justice turned for the victims

and their aggrieved families and more need to be done and more

must be done. This has been the call from the Uyinene

Mrwetyana Foundation to the committee via a petition through a

committee member this year that key to the fight against

gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, is the establishment

of the national council on gender-based violence and femicide.

However, this is hinged on the promulgation of enacting

legislation.

The department must act and move swiftly in this regard

because we were informed in the portfolio committee that the

Bill has been with the National Economic Development and

Labour Counci, Nedlac. I am sure it is more than two months

now.

This budget is also considered at a time where as a country we

are experiencing high levels of unemployment, particularly



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 21**

youth unemployment. It is our responsibility as the portfolio

committee to ensure that the economic reconstruction and

recovery plan and the Presidential Employment Initiatives

benefit the disadvantage particularly young people. The future

lies within our youth. We therefore have the responsibility to

safeguard that future.

As per the announcements, tabling and committee reports, ATC,

36 of 11 March 2022, the Department of Women, youth and

Persons with Disabilities’ annual perform plan for 2022-23 was

tabled for consideration and the report of the portfolio

committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. The

portfolio committee in executing its oversight duties also

considered the revised strategic plans and annual performance

plan 2022-23 of the National Youth Development Agency and the

Commission for Gender Equality. The Portfolio Committee omn

Women, Youth and Persons with Disability in performing its

constitutional oversight mandate, engaged with the Department

of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, the National

Youth Development Agency, Commission for Gender Equality, CGE,

on their respective annual performance plans for 2022-23 and

revised strategic plans on 03, 06, 04, and 11 May 2022

respectively.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 22**

The Auditor-General of South Africa also briefed the portfolio

committee on 03 May 2022 having assessed the department and

the National development Agency’s, NYD’s, annual performance

plan, APP, 2022-23 financial year.

The Budget Vote report was subsequently adopted on 17 May

2022. The department’s mandate I would say is tabled as read

because the Minister has already presented it. The estimates

of the national expenditure 2022, I would say tabled as read

because the Minister has already presented it. The committee

maintains that in order for the department to achieve its 42

targets it is imperative that these targets are smart and that

this this give effect to the department’s mandate as

regulator. The committee took cognisance of the Auditor-

General’s concerns in this regard and as such this will be

closely monitored and assessed on a quarterly basis by the

portfolio committee.

The committee welcomes the introduction of the National Youth

Development Agency amendment Bill by the department, but we

are astutely aware that the long awaited national council on

gender-based violence and femicide Bill, the wage Bill and the

disability Bill have yet to be introduced. These proposed



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 23**

pieces of legislations are incredible important and should be

expedited.

Furthermore, the committee is aware that the department

intends developing the SA youth development Bill and awaits to

see what transpires in this regard. The committee welcomes the

implementation of the national youth policy and integrated

youth development strategy and looks forward to see the

outcomes of the implementation in this regard. Just as youth

development and mainstreaming is important to gender

mainstreaming as such, the updated implementation of the

national gender policy framework as well as the monitoring and

evaluation thereof is critical. Furthermore, given the

continued search of gender-based violence and femicide in the

country, the implementation of the national strategic plan on

GBV and the prevention strategy as well as monitoring and

evaluation is key.

The committee’s recent oversight visit to the North West and

Gauteng provinces is testament that even though government is

doing, but more need to be done. Improved monitoring and

evaluation is key. Government departments must be held



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 24**

accountable for what they have committed in the national

strategic plan on GBVF.

As we are about to adopt these reports we also considered that

there is no equality without consideration and inclusion of

persons with disabilities. As the portfolio committee we will

continue to oversee that the rights of persons with

disabilities are protected and promoted. We cannot condone a

country where a certain portion of people enjoys privileges

and some do not.

This House recently agreed to the ratification of the Protocol

to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa. Being a

signatory to the protocol and the United Nations Convention on

the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is not enough.

Demystification and enactment is what persons with

disabilities in this country requires.

The committee’s recent oversight visit to the North West

School for The Deaf in Leeudoringstad was spared on by the SA

Human Rights Commission 2019 report on the North West

provincial investigative hearing into the lack of safety and



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 25**

security measures in schools for children with disabilities.

[Time expired.] Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson,

“Siyabonga” [Thank you].

Mr L MPHITHI: Hon House Chairperson, the Portfolio Committee

on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, in performing

its constitutional oversight mandate, engaged with the

Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, the

National Youth Development Agency, NYDA and the Commission for

Gender Equality, CGE on their respective Annual Performance

Plans for 2022/23 financial year. One thing that was clear

from this engagement was that we have a department that is

completely out touch with the realities of the most vulnerable

South Africans in this country. Minister that has never taken

accountability the many cries of women, youth and persons with

disabilities.

This is a department that is bank-rolled by South Africans to

do absolutely nothing but to pay the salaries of officials.

There are absolutely no successes that can be claimed by this

department in this term of Parliament. It has been unable to

respond decisively to gender-based violence, youth

unemployment and the continued side-lining of the disabled



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 26**

community. It has been unresponsive, uncaring, and uncreative

in finding the solutions to the problems that we have

personally experienced whilst on oversights across the

country.

Just a few weeks ago, we visited a woman who was bed-ridden

for over 10 years with no wheelchair. The department had

promised to assist the woman but a week later there was still

no assistance. We called the said official who made up all the

excuses in the world of why they had failed to help uMama. We

have officials here who earn tremendous amounts of money for

simply not doing the work to help communities on the ground.

There are some really great officials who are trying their

best to contribute to the betterment of this country but

unfortunately they are too far and few between.

The DA strongly suggested that the department should ensure

that that its key performance indicators and targets are

smart. This means not allocating millions to a programme that

only has a key performance indicator about producing reports

through the use of consultants. A quick example is how the

department would spend R2,3 million for the use of consultants

to do work like writing reports and collecting data. One



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 27**

wonders what the officials are doing in this department whilst

there are 19 officials in the department that are doing

nothing but are paid more than R1,2 million per annum. This

does not translate to actual change on the ground.

Minister, your reports are not helping and your imbizos are

not working because the people want a department that is

fighting for them and a government serving them. People across

the country are telling us that they do not see the work of

the department on the ground. That is correct because there is

actually no work that is happening on the ground. The Auditor-

General of South Africa’s assessment of the department’s

Annual Performance Plans, APP indicated that the targets of

the department are not well structured, not well verified, not

well defined and do not reflect the mandate of the department.

The department has constantly lamented about being a regulator

instead of an implementer, yet have not been able to finalise

frameworks and legislation in critical policies that needed to

be updated. We noted with great concern that the department

has proposed a merger of the programmes focusing on the rights

of persons with disabilities and youth development with no

justification. As it stands, the department’s work and image



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 28**

remains poor within government and society at large. The DA

noted with great concern that the CGE can no longer afford or

offer legal advice to clients. This matter has been unresolved

since 2020. As it stands, the CGE does not have an HOD for

legal services. This leaves many victims and survivors of

gender-based violence with one less avenue to find justice.

The truth about this APP is that it is less for our people and

more for the department itself. This is the ANC way. The way

of countless bloated entities and unnecessary departments

often with overlapping mandates and functions all created to

distribute a piece of the pie. Too many millions and billions

have been blown without substantive change on the ground by

this department. What have the successes been? What have been

achieved? What tangible change has happened in communities?

Hon members, we must ask ourselves whether this department

that spends millions on reports is genuinely been working for

the people.

The DA way entails streamlining the work of government in

confronting the challenges facing our people. This would mean

less money used as a form of patronage in the duplication of

bureaucratic functions and offices and more money actually



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 29**

working for the people. In other words, less money to fund the

business of government and more money to fund the businesses

of the youth. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): We now proceed and from

the EFF we recognise hon Sonti. Hon Ndaba, you may switch off

your microphone. I beg your pardon, your video.

Ms N P SONTI: Hon House Chairperson, the EFF rejects the

Budget Vote 20 on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities.

Hon members, we have repeatedly stood on this platform to

lament on the uselessness of this department. Their inability

to respond to the many challenges faced by women in this

country. Their refusal to work with the Departments of SA

Police Service, Social Development and with Home Affairs in

order to have a co-ordinated approach to fight femicide in

this country.

Just a few weeks ago, we buried our beloved daughter Hillary

Gardee, rest in peace my girl. She is one amongst many women

who have succumbed to the sadistic violence of men in this

country. Also a few weeks ago, a leader of Abahlali

baseMjondolo Nokuthula Mabaso, was killed in cold blood at



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 30**

eKhenana informal settlement in Cato Manor, KwaZulu-Natal. In

February this year, the body of Asiphe Nqoloba was discovered

in a shallow canal behind the Sanitizer informal community in

Langa, Western Cape. On the same day, the police in Gugulethu

also discovered the body of a 40-year-old woman on the canals

of NY44 and NY45. May all their souls rest in peace?

New research by the SA Medical Research Council reported that

Eastern Cape is leading in the number of women who got

murdered and that most of these women were killed by their

intimate partners. Lusikisiki has the highest number of rapes

and sexual assaults in the country. Minister, you know these

statistics and you know the names of these women and children.

You hear them repeatedly but what have you done? What has this

department to ensure that women feel safe in this country and

that those who are victims are provided with shelter and

protection? Why are you fiddling while women are dying in

their numbers Minister?

Recently, the Human Sciences Research Council, HSRC released a

report on the state of shelters in this country. The report

paints a very sore picture for those of us who are concerned

with the plight of the victims of sexual violence and gender-



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 31**

based violence in this country. Why it is the responsibility

of the Department of Social Development to maintain these

shelters. It is supposed to be your responsibility to monitor

those shelters meant for abused women and abandoned children

and people with disabilities that are well taken care of.

You have failed the women of this country, the youth and the

differently abled persons. The mess in the National

Development Youth Agency, NYDA is proof of a continuing

neglect of your department has for young people in the

country. Today, almost 50% of the population is unemployed. A

greater number of the unemployed is the women and young

people. With 74% of the youth of working age are unemployed in

this country. You have done absolutely nothing to promote

initiatives for young people in their fight against

unemployment.

This budget offers no new initiatives and breaks no new

ground. It is a repetitive which is ignorant of the agency

mirrored to deal with the problems of the young people and

young women in particular. We reject this budget vote. Thank

you.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 32**

*IsiZulu*:

Nk C N NDABA: Ubungekho Sonti.

*English*:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Thank you Mam’uSonti.

Hon Ndaba, please mute. We proceed now to the IFP, with hon

Hlengwa.

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Hon Chairperson, it is hon Van der

Merwe, please could you move to the Freedom Front Plus, I will

check on hon Hlengwa and come back to you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): No problem, I can do

that. Now I proceed to the FF Plus and invite the hon Breedt.

Ms T BREEDT: Madam Chairperson, let’s not beat about the bush.

This department is a failure of a department. This department

should not exist.

*Afrikaans*:

Ek het al verskeie kere in debatte met betrekking tot hierdie

departement gesê dat ek ideologies nie saam met hierdie

departement stem nie en wanneer ware gelyke geleenthede



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 33**

seëvier, is daar nie ’n behoefte aan so ’n departement nie. Ek

praat egter nie vandag oor een van hierdie twee aspekte nie.

Hierdie departement faal Suid-Afrika, veral die persone wie

die departement ten doel het.

*English*:

Some shocking findings were tabled by the Auditor-General SA,

AGSA, and the committee raised a number of concerns. Almost

half of their report are in fact concerns. That is very

worrying. Many of the findings had to do with the department’s

mandate. For reference, I looked up the department’s mandate

again and thought it good to bring it back into context for

this debate.

The mission of the department is to provide strategic

leadership, co-ordination and oversight to government

departments and the country in mainstreaming empowerment

programmes on women, youth and persons with disabilities. The

priority of the Ministry and the department is to ensure that

the socioeconomic empowerment and rights of women, youth and

persons with disabilities are mainstreamed across all sectors

of society. It further continues to explain in detail through



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 34**

what mechanisms this is supposed to happen. Here are some of

the findings and concerns.

Firstly, the AGSA indicated that the targets of the department

are not well structured, not well verified, not well defined

and do not reflect the mandate of the department.

*Afrikaans*:

Mmm, nogal ’n hengse problem, as jy my vra. In kort, die

departement faal, want dit kan nie sy mandaat uitvoer nie en

ek glo nie enige mate van ingryping gaan dit kan omdraai nie.

Vrae wat ontstaan het gedurende die afgelope begrotingsproses

sluit onder andere in hoe die departement ander regerings-

departemente aanspreeklik hou vir die stadige of versuiming

van uitvoering van daargestelde teikens in verband met vroue,

jeugdiges en persone met gestremhede.

*English*:

Furthermore, there was found that there was a merger of the

programmes focusing on the rights of persons with disabilities

and youth development with no justification provided by the

department. A further concern is with regard to the changes in



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 35**

the organisational structure. Also, without approval from

National Treasury. Annual performance plans, APPs, are unclear

with targets that do not guarantee service delivery. There are

name changes of subprogrammes not effected throughout.

*Afrikaans*:

’n Naampie hier en ‘n plekkie daar, gaan nie dit wat

institusioneel verkeerd is met hierdie departement regmaak

nie. Die herstrukturering is byvoorbeeld al sedert 2019 ’n

prioriteit wat nie soos ’n prioriteit behandel word nie.

*English*:

The majority of staff are employed within the Administration

programme, as opposed to the core programmes and despite this

there are still key critical vacancies in Programme 1. To

further add insult to injury, R2,3 million is budgeted for use

of consultants to do work of the department ie report writing,

collecting data, etc, and the question that begs to be asked

is what the current staff and department are doing?

The department has 19 staff members who are paid more than

R1,2 million per annum, salary level 13 to 16. Then why does



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 36**

the department still budget an allocation for consultants to

implement programmes of the department?

*Afrikaans*:

Dis so goed ons betaal twee keer vir ’n burger en kry nie ’n

enkele burger nie!

*English*:

It’s daylight robbery, if you ask me! The committee had on

numerous occasions outlined to this department why it should

desist from using consultants, given its limited budget and

provided recommendations on how to address the matter. I can

continue this trajectory, but I think my colleagues have and

will make mention of that which I have not.

Let me rather focus on a project that I really believe in - a

project that should be a priority, a project that can truly

bring the girl child so much closer to an equal schooling

opportunity. And that is the sanitary dignity project.

*Afrikaans*:

Volgens statistiek mis ten minste drie uit elke 10 meisies tot

sewe skooldae ’n maand, as gevolg van menstruasie. Die verslag



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 37**

wat die komitee oor die implementering van die projek ontvang

het, is amper tot op die letter dieselfde as die vorige

verslag, twee jaar gelede. Sedertdien was daar een

opvolgverslag ,en het slegs twee provinsies moniteringsverslae

ingedien. Bygesê was dit na aanleiding van die komitee se

oorsigbesoek. In die Vrystaat kan ek getuig dat hierdie projek

steeds in kontroversie gedompel is en dat daar geen waarde vir

geld is nie. Om eerlik te wees, is daar nie eers bewyse vir

die geld wat na bewering daarop spaandeer is nie.

Vroue, jeugdiges en persone met gestremdhede gaan nooit ware

gelykheid ervaar, solank as hierdie departement nog bestaan en

die ANC met sy ideologies benadering tot probleme in beheer is

nie. Ek dank u.

Ms N K SHARIF: Hon house Chairperson, when looking at the

annual performance plans, APPs, for both the Commission for

Gender Equality, CGE, and the Department of Women, Youth and

Persons with Disabilities, there is a stark contrast between

the two. What is absolutely shocking is that the CGE, with a

budget of R107 million is able to do 10 times more of the work

with half of the budget, when compared to the department, with

budget of R205,1 million.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 38**

The CGE has released reports around the failure of government

departments to implement strategies to fight against the

oppression of women. The lack of accountability to the CGE is

unacceptable. The CGE must look at ways to ensure their

reports, findings and recommendations are taken seriously.

Spending millions of rands doing numerous investigations must

yield results, especially as a Chapter 9 institution that has

its mandate given directly by the Constitution. The lack of

accountability is one of the reasons we keep moving backwards

thanks to this failing ANC government.

In terms of budget, the CGE has to ensure that they use all

the budget allocated in reaching targets. The return of R19

million to Treasury is extremely concerning, especially when

they argue a lack of an adequate budget is constraining the

important work they do.

The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

has been going through an identity crisis for the last few

years, since the proclamation by the President in 2019 to

merge Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities into one

department. We have seen the mandate, the vision and the

actual work that needs to get done change year-on-year. The



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 39**

impact of this means that policies and programmes of the

department do not get implemented and get pushed to the side

because they need to re-evaluate what they are actually doing.

We can see a clear example of this with the Emergency Response

Action Plan on gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, that

has been reported by the department as being scrapped, noting

they were the worst performing department in reaching their

Emergency Response Action Plan, ERAP, targets.

The continuous redesign of the department’s organisational

structure and the continuous delays in implementation of

targets impact South Africans in the most severe ways. The

Wage Bill, the Disability Rights Bill, are delayed and this

includes the National Council on GBVF, NCGBVF, that has not

been established. Treasury had allocated R15 million for the

establishment of the NCGBVF over a three-year period, with R5

million being paid in each financial year starting in 2020 and

yet, in 2022, nothing. With these delays, we are seeing women,

youth and persons with disabilities continue to suffer, in

this country, every single day.

When looking at the department’s APP for 2022-23, it is

evident that the targets are not smart. It does not reflect on



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 40**

the mandate of the department as a regulator. This APP will be

difficult to monitor and evaluate in terms of targets being

implemented and oversight is therefore hindered. Maybe, that

is the whole plan. The department is not convincing in terms

of their capacity to do more and is not fit enough to make

changes in the lives of women, youth and persons with

disabilities. South Africa deserves better. I thank you.

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Thank you very much, hon House

Chairperson and our apologies for hon Hlengwa not being able

to speak. She is being affected by load shedding. Policy

development and drafting as a legislation means very little if

there’s no real ambition to finalize such statutory measures

and above all if there are no real enforcement of these tools

once adopted.

The Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities

proudly stresses its latest Annual Performance Plan that it

has developed three key pieces of legislation. This relate to

the National Council on gender-based violence and femicide

GBVF, Bill, the National Youth Development Agency Amendment

Bill and the Promotion of Women’s Rights Environment and

Gender Equity Bill.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 41**

The department however fails to provide any targets relating

to these critical Bills. How is the committee to monitor any

progress or oversight if these bills are not finalized? The

department also fails to recognize the delay in introducing

these Bills. The National Council on Gender Based Violence and

Femicide Bill, provides for the establishment of an important

multi sector National Council on GBVF which essentially

provides for strategic leadership in the fight against GBVF.

This critical Bill was only published in October 2021 by

department after years of protest and countless promises by

government that it is serious about eliminating GBVF.

One of the first steps promised by government was the

establishment of this council of yet many years later we are

once more faced by the government’s empty promises in this

regard.

The IFP strongly endorses the portfolio committee’s

recommendation that the department must urgently provide

specific targets to the development of this Bill and the

finalization of the establishment of this council. The

Sanitary Dignity Policy Framework Work provides vital norms

and standards for the provision of senator products for



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 42**

vulnerable goals and young women especially those living in

rural areas. The monitoring of this framework should be a high

priority for this department. However, once again, we have

seen very little enforcement or proper oversight over this

framework.

The IFP agrees with the portfolio committee’s observation that

there seems to be no uniformity in the roll out of this

framework and this is simply unacceptable and should no longer

be tolerated. The sanitary dignity of our vulnerable girls and

young women cannot be compromised by the failure of this

government to ensure effective oversight.

Lastly, the IFP strongly agrees with the portfolio committee’s

observations on the use of consultants by the department. It

is really concerning that R2,3 million is budgeted for the use

of consultants to effectively do the work of this department.

One of the main cost drivers under goods and services is the

use of consultants which is incomprehensible considering the

financial constraints experienced by government, this

department and National Treasury in general.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 43**

The IFP strongly agrees that the recommendations that there

must be an effective transfer of skills from these consultants

to the department officials and the IFP will closely monitor

this recommendation. We cannot continue to be a witness to

such wastage and such dismal performance by this department.

Chairperson, in conclusion, we expect better for the most

vulnerable, we expect better for those living with

disabilities. And we expect better for the women and children

who continue to face war on our streets, at home and in the

workplace. They deserve better than what this department is

delivering.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON: (Ms R M M Lesoma): Hon members, you

will forgive me, it’s bit darker where I am because of

loadshedding.

Ms A S MHLONGO: Thank you very much, hon Chairperson.

Greetings to the Minister of the Women, Youth and Persons with

Disabilities, the chairperson of the portfolio committee, hon

members, ...

*Siswati:*



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 44**

... sanibonani.

*English:*

Today marks exactly 20days since 6-year-old girl, Bontle

Mashiyane from Mganduzweni in Mpumalanga province disappeared.

We plead with our police and society to help the family find

this young and innocent soul.

This happens after a young women Hillary Gardee was brutaly

murdered by old men. We again plead with the justice system to

make sure it is old men are behind bars where they belong.

Clearly, they do not belong in our society.

Hon members, young people in South Africa are the most

vulnerable with unemployment levels at highest. It is

unavoidable that COVID-19 has had a dreadful impact in our

society a number of people lost their jobs their source of

income and are unable to provide for their families.

This in turn further exacerbate the already high levels of

poverty and deepening inequality. However, as South Africans

we are resilient not all is lost.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 45**

Chairperson, as the ANC our focus is to rebuild the economy

through the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and

implementing it which will curb the high levels of

unemployment.

It is an unemployment stimulus to create jobs and sustain

livelihoods. We have to continuously mainstream young people

and women into the various sectors of the economy.

Particularly those sectors that they are least represented in

like the mining sector and the agricultural sector.

we acknowledge that the causes of unemployment in South Africa

can be attributed to a lack of education and training, labour

demands and skills mismatch and a lack of interest for

entrepreneurship. Ours as the government is to turn this

around. We have to ensure that young people in particular have

the necessary skills that are required in the labour market.

We have to drive innovations and support the programs that are

aimed at increasing an interest to entrepreneurship. If we are

to attain our goals of the National Development Plan, NDP, of

realising a 6% unemployment rate and 11 million additional



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 46**

jobs by 2030, we have to address the main drivers of

unemployment in our country and develop our economy.

Today, as the ANC, we are adamant that the budget intends to

try and mitigate the triple challenges of inequality,

unemployment and poverty. In mitigating the high levels of

unemployment amongst the youths, as the ANC realised that we

have to advance the socio-economic empowerment of young

people.

The honours thus rests upon the department to review the

National Youth Policy and legislation such as the National

Youth Development Agency Amendment Bill and therefore report

on the recommendation. The significance of this Bill is that

it will prioritize interventions that support skills

development and foster employment.

This includes the provision of support for young

entrepreneurs, learnership programme and the implementation of

youth programmes.

As the ANC we are pleased to note that over the medium-term

period, the in the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA,



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 47**

will focus on providing interventions to support the creation

of decent employment and the development of skills and

encourage entrepreneurship for all young people. These

interventions will take place in the form of financial and

non-financial support to enable young people to access skills

and jobs establish and sustain enterprises and gain access to

markets.

For financial support is provided through grants to townships

and rural enterprises owned by young people whereas nod-

financial support includes accounting, website development,

business plan writing and marketing.

Hon members, as the ANC we welcome that the large proportion

of the budget has been allocated to Programmes 2 of the NYDA

budget. This programme will assist young people to gain access

to socio-economic opportunities, viable business opportunities

through entrepreneurship, increased access to the economy

through the various sectors including the agricultural

construction and the secondary sector of the economy.

This programmes will also focus on upskilling a number of

young people to allow them the required skills in the job



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 48**

market. As ANC, we also welcome the new increased targets of

the NYDA. A clear indication of understanding the gravity of

the challenges that young people face. This new target will

help assist foster innovation and support young and upcoming

entrepreneurs.

Hon members, we have to understand the importance of

entrepreneurship in the value-chain. It also helps assist in

the creation of jobs and job opportunities which then seeks to

deal with the matter of unemployment and poverty. Such

initiatives have to be supported.

Hon Chairperson, we are pleased to know that an additional

allocation of R450 million has been made to extend the

national youth services for another two-years, enabling

approximately 35 000 job opportunities per year.

The NYDA also has the responsibility to ensure that young

people benefit from the National Pathway Management Network,

which is a Presidential Youth employment intervention

initiative to decrease the unemployment rate South Africa. The

first two phases of the Presidential Employment Stimulus

programmes were launched in October 2020. And have supported



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 49**

over 850 000 opportunities. More than 80% of these

participants were young people and over 60% were women.

We are adamant that this year there would be even more youth

and women that benefit from these initiative to limit the

scourge of unemployment and poverty. We remain confident that

the Social Employment Fund will create a further 50 000 job

opportunities using the capability of organisations beyond

government.

In areas such as agriculture, early childhood development

public ... [Inaudible] ... tackling gender-based violence.

Hon Chairperson, the most important aspect of this vote is

that it will uplift the lives and livelihoods of many young

people and women at large. A budget should always be

responsive to the socio-economic challenges that the country

faces. Young people are not lazy. Young people need to be

granted the necessary platforms and opportunities for them to

thrive. As the ANC, we are well aware of the frustrations of

young people. We are well aware of the frustrations caused by

the pandemic.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 50**

Let me take this moment to recognise the strains that the

mental health has put on our youth. Ours as government is to

respond to the dire challenges that our young people face and

therefore approve budgets that would be beneficial to the

needs of the youth and the nation. As the ANC we support

Budget Vote 20 - Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities.

Ngyabonga [Thank you.]

Ms M E SUKERS: House Chair, the South African tax payer is

investing R987,3 million into the budget of this department.

The ACDP notes the announced paradigm shift from facilitation

to regulatory in the Annual Performance Plan, APP. It is

within this context that we wish to provide comment on this

Budget Vote.

Women are disproportionately affected by the economic and

social crisis in our country. During this lockdown period the

conditions in our communities deteriorated with extreme levels

of poverty affecting women, youth and people living with

disabilities. There has been a significant focus given to the

war in Ukraine but the truth is that there is a low intensity

war in our communities, especially here in the Western Cape.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 51**

I receive calls from my constituency that are desperate. One

such a call was last night when two young people lost their

lives violently a few streets apart in the same neighbourhood.

If we should a body count on the killings that happen in

communities on the Cape Flats the totals will be staggering.

Trauma is a daily reality for women in our country, and if you

live in communities such as Seawinds, Lavender Hill or

Mitchells Plain, the exposure to violence is a daily

occurrence.

We acknowledge the Minister of Social Development and the

department for the coming out on the oversight to facilitate

dialogue with our communities and non-governmental

organisations, NGOs, in the southern Peninsula. We need more

Ministers and their departments to respond to issues of

violence and gangsterism which is a major threat to the

national security of this country. Young women are sold for

drugs to gangs. These are the horrific stories, Minister, that

we encounter every day that requires a multifaceted approach.

It is therefore our call that this department and its

entities, the Commission for Gender Equality and the National



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 52**

Development Agency for them to pay attention to the root

causes that drive gangsterism and violence in these areas.

The ACDP questions what the shift of the department and its

organisational changes will mean in real terms. How will this

strategic focus of this department assist women and youth on

the Cape Flats? What directives and regulations will be

issued, and then enforced to ensure that the department’s task

with overseeing the safety and security of our people are

focusing on the key issues of violence and inequality that

drives the crisis women face in our communities. On behalf of

the communities that the ACDP serves, these are the questions

we seek answers to in this Budget Vote. I thank you.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON: (Ms R M M Lesoma): Thank you, hon

member. I now recognise hon Shaik Emam. My apologies, hon

members once more, it is like I am flying; there is

loadshedding where I am. You may proceed, hon member.

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Thank you, House Chair, I have more than

loadshedding; I have a total blackout. I hope you can see me.

House Chairperson, let me start of by saying that the NFP will



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 53**

support the Budget Vote tabled here today. However, allow me

to raise some of my concerns.

Seven women die every day or murdered in this country. A 123

are raped in South Africa on a daily basis. One fifth of all

women are physically abused by their partners in this country.

Now, added to that is the problem that only 4% of children

live with their fathers or over 50% of children live with

their mothers. But 77% of all children in this country live

with one parent. Now, surely that tells us that that will lead

to dysfunctional families because no child is born a rapist or

a murderer or a perpetrator of violence. The question that we

need to again ask is: What has gone wrong? Why has it gone

wrong? When did it go wrong and what are we going to do to

correct it?

We talk about the targets we set with gender equity and

particularly those that are physically challenged. Let us

start with the National Assembly. Four hundred Members of

Parliament, are we complying? Clearly not. Let us look at the

issue of CEOs of women in South Africa. Only 11,8% of women in

this country hold CEO positions in South Africa, and only

about 20% of them hold managerial positions in the country.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 54**

I want to call upon the department, particularly with these

dysfunctional families, should we not put in measures to

ensure that any father that refuses to pay or neglects to pay

child maintenance or is not in a child’s life, should not and

must not be employed by the state? Maybe that is where we need

to start, over and above ensuring that they pay if they cannot

be in the lives of these children, because this is the root

cause of what we are having in terms of dysfunctional

families. I think as a state we should start there and not

allow them to be employed by the state.

Let me go one step further, there is not enough being done to

protect these women and these children from absent fathers,

including when we talk about maintenance, particularly I want

to raise the concern of those that are in delf-employment

because there are no measures to track their income. For that

reason, they exploit the situation and end up not paying

maintenance for these children.

The statistics in terms of children that are going to school,

why is it that so many members of families are not ensuring

that the children go to school so that we can create a better



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 55**

society or a future generation of leaders? Are you telling me

that my time is up?

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON: (Ms R M M Lesoma): I guess so. I need

to say so. Thank you very much.

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Okay, House Chair, the NFP will support,

and you keep flying, Chair.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON: (Ms R M M Lesoma): You are so out of

order, hon member. [Laughter.]

Mr S NGCOBO: House Chairperson, the Department of Women, Youth

and Persons with Disabilities continues to fail persons with

disabilities in the country. It has failed to change their

living conditions for the better. It has failed to remove the

barriers which keep them locked out of opportunity.

As the South African Human Rights Commission has noted,

households headed by persons with disabilities have less

access to basic services than households headed by persons

without disabilities. Many NGOs in the disability sector, some

of which the DA has visited in the past, are also struggling



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 56**

financially. Without proper funding for them, vulnerable South

Africans living with disabilities are at risk of homelessness

and losing access to dignified care and education.

The Department has also failed to prioritise the development

of the Disability Rights Bill. In its annual performance plan

for the 2022-23 financial year, the department does not

mention the development of this Bill as a separate target,

which will make the monitoring of the development of the Bill

very difficult for the committee. This is concerning, given

that the committee has been calling for the speedy development

of this piece of legislation for quite some time now.

House Chairperson, what is also concerning is that the

department does not have a proper stakeholder database that is

updated on an ongoing basis, which explains clearly why many

disability rights organisations are being left out when the

Department conducts outreach programmes.

The department states that the purpose of programme 4 in its

annual performance plan is to promote good governance

regarding the rights and social and economic empowerment of

youth and persons with disabilities. It further states that in



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 57**

the current financial year it will support, monitor and co-

ordinate government’s implementation of the White Paper on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities. However, it is very

difficult to imagine how the department will do this, given

that the targets it has set under this programme are not smart

enough to achieve this purpose.

It is hard to imagine how simply developing one draft

evaluation report on the implementation of the White Paper on

the Rights of Persons with disabilities is going to support

and co-ordinate government’s implementation of the White

Paper. The questions for you Minister are: For how long must

persons with disabilities in the country suffer before the

department rise to the occasion and do what it is supposed to

do? For how long must persons with disabilities remain

excluded before the department starts prioritising their

issues? For how long must they wait before the department

actually start developing the Disability Rights Bill? Now is

the time for action, Minister. Now is the time for you and

your department to start listening to persons with

disabilities in the country, and take effective measures to

change their lives for the better. The starting point will be

to speedily develop the Disability Rights Bill. I thank you.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 58**

*Sepedi:*

Moh C M PHIRI: Modulasetulo, e re ke buṧe letṧatṧing la lehono

ke tamiṧe Tona ya rena, Mme Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, ke tamiṧe

le sefepisegolo Mme Majodina, gammogo le Motlatṧatona wa

gagwe, ke tamiṧe Maloko kamoka a Palamente, ao a lego gona ka

mo boṧegong bja lehono ke re ...

*English:*

... before I ... [Inaudible] ... allow me to first pay my

condolences to the numerous families that have lost loved ones

through the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide. As

my chair had previously stated, it has been hinderous pattern

that every year we pay condolences to the victims of gender-

based violence and femicide, and commemorate those we have

lost. It begs the question of why does such a vicious pattern

continues and persist in our country. Why are women

continuously being obliterated in our country? We also have to

acknowledge that gender-based violence and femicide affect

particularly those that are vulnerable in our society, women,

children and persons belonging to the community of lesbian,

gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, questioning and asexual

and other gender non-conforming identities, LGBTIQA+.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 59**

As the ANC we have acknowledged that gender-based violence has

reached its crisis and proportion in our country, and it

affects every community in touches the lives of the most

families in one way or the other. We note and understand that

these manifestations are ... [Inaudible.] ... system that is

embedded in the system and traditions of our society or our

country. That is why as a country we have to continuously

support institutions such as the commission for gender-

equality and the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with

Disabilities.

Our objectives on the stand on women and the vulnerable have

always been clear as the ANC. We recognise and understand that

our struggle will never be complete the socioeconomic

emancipation of women. We have always emphasised the support

for the rights of persons with disabilities and children,

combat sexism and ensure that violence towards women is fully

heard and that all women and youth are represented in all

sectors of our society. However, we know that responding and

combating gender-based violence require a multisectoral

approach which led to the implementation of the National

Strategic Plan on gender-based violence and femicide.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 60**

We shall always be in support of the mechanism that aims to

address issues of gender-based violence ... [Interjections.]

... today, we have to understand how this Budget Vote No 20

will assist us to the challenges that we are experiencing. Hon

Mphithi and hon Sharif, as the ANC we are a caring government.

We welcome the budget allocation to the Commission for Gender

Equality, CGE, over R100 million for the financial year 2022-

23 from National Treasury, which is a nominal increase from

the previous budget – that of 2021-22. To us this is an

indication that the matter of gender equality and advocacy of

the vulnerable is being taken seriously by the ...

[Inaudible.] ... and the CGE, led by the ANC.

We hope that the increased allocation on the programme A on

CGE continue ... [Interjections.] ... transformation agenda in

both the private and public sector through legislation. We

hope that the specific focus will be emphasised on the private

sector to evaluate legislation policies, practices and ...

[Inaudible.] ... to ensure that they are in line with the

prescripts understanding that the fight against gender-based

violence and femicide requires to be strengthened. We

therefore welcome the continued effort to curb the scourge of

abuse. We have long awaited the establishment of the National



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 61**

Council on Gender-Based Violence. We therefore welcome the

fact that it will be launched during the financial year and

that an estimated amount of R15 million has been allocated

over the medium term toward this programmer – under the

programme of mainstreaming women’s rights and advocacy.

We have noted that Parliament passed the three gender-based

violence and femicide Bills. It is of significance to see that

these Bills benefit the public, particularly the victims of

gender-based violence. It is our responsibility to ensure that

knowledge on these Bills have to reach members of the public.

We therefore encourage the Commission for Gender Equality to

continue to conduct advocacy initiatives and public education

interventions in the promotion of public understanding of

gender equality and access to gender justice.

It is fruitless to pass Bills when the intended beneficiaries

are not aware of them or do not have the knowledge of these

existing Bills and how they can benefit from them. We also

partake in information sharing in all constituencies to ensure

that members of the public know their rights and how the law

protects them to ensure adequate access to justice. We are now

in the era of digital technology and we should embrace the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 62**

Fourth Industrial Revolution. We should utilise the digital

media and platforms to spread helpful information with regard

to gender-based violence and femicide.

We appreciate that the department and the commission have

reached to over 48 million people using their information and

communication initiatives. We hope that during this financial

year, they would be able to reach out to even more people than

the previous year. We are awaiting the second phase to

implement the National Strategic Plan, NSP, on Gender-Based

Violence and Femicide as the strategy is of the great

significance. We hope that the department will continue to

monitor the implementation of the plan and monitor ...

[Inaudible.] ... and accessibly to Thuthuzela Care Centres

that are meant to benefit victims of violence. We also have to

ensure that our centres do cater for people belonging to the

LGBTQA+ community. They must be inclusive, most importantly,

it is of significance that the department hold the departments

accountable for not implementing the NSP or including it into

their strategic plans. Consequence management is led in this

regard.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 63**

Hon Sonti, the department joins hands with all stakeholders

and the department has good interrelations with other

departments. As part of a ... [Inaudible.] ... for the rights

of the people with disabilities, the department has developed

a framework guideline on how the department can best include

people with disabilities in all government processes and

programmes.

Over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF, period, in

partnership with the SA Law Reform Commission, the department

aims to develop disability rights legislation and polices in

the areas such as advocacy for people with disabilities and

develop all metrics and monitoring and evaluation framework

for the 2015 White Paper on the rights of persons with

disabilities in order to guide the department on

implementation priorities.

These initiatives are expected to ... [Inaudible.] ...

expenditure of R49,3 million over the medium term in the

advocacy and mainstreaming of rights of persons with

disabilities subprogrammes, the mainstreaming of rights of

youth and advocacy rights programmes. This is in addition to

SADC protocol of the rights of persons with disabilities. This



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 64**

is a programme being implemented, hon members. When you say

that there is nothing that this department is doing well, you

are not putting it correctly. The department is doing a lot.

This budget will benefit those that are most disadvantaged in

our communities. It will also strengthen the fight against

gender-based violence and continue ... [Inaudible.] ... access

to justice. ... [Inaudible.] ... “Freedom cannot be achieved

unless women have been emancipated from all forms of

oppression”. It was said by the great statesman.

*Sepedi:*

Ke a leboga, Modulasetulo.

The MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY FOR WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS

WITH DISABILITIES: Chairperson ...

*Xitsonga*:

... ndzi khensile.

*English*:

I wish we had more time. We came straight into conversation

with yourselves in the budget where we are participating

partly in the first international labour organisations. The



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 65**

initiative to stop childhood employment or children’s work

that children should be at school and not at work, to stop

child labour. You know, if one was still in that particular

place, or if one would still take those people who were in

that particular place and bring them into this room and hear

that the whole world think that South Africa is on track and

that South Africa needs support, and that there’s a lot that

they can learn from this country, and many of those things

they pick up from the things we do as the department.

You know the saying that says, it takes a village to raise a

child, they say that they now know and they have picked it up

that it comes from all over the world. They have picked it up

from South Africa, but now they know that the community means

the entire society needs to take care of issues of gender-

based violence and femicide. As hon Shaik Emam has it, it

takes not only a village, but community and all of us to do

things right. That’s why we have joined the District

Development Model, DDM, because, may the souls of women who

have been slaughtered or killed by their loved ones and by

thugs, rest in peace.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 66**

But they are killed in a locality, and that particular

locality does not necessarily need women only, or the

Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities only,

it needs the village, it needs all of us to deal with such

issues. Absentee fathers cannot raise children. Children are

not raised by money. Children are raised by a father and a

mother, so said hon Shaik Emam, and we agree. Hon Phiri, I

think that you said a mouthful. Therefore, we don’t have to

repeat because, we don’t have time, but we appreciate what you

have said, including the support from you and the Chair of the

portfolio committee and many of us, Comrades. Hon members, let

us tell the truth that, the targets that we have set we set

them for the department. Even though the Auditor-General

rejected them, it is not the whole truth.

They were called back, and they emphasised that they support

that work. Yes, we work with other countries because we do not

have money. The department is not a delivery department. It is

a department that does advocacy and regulation, and works with

monitoring and evaluation. So, we cannot be responsible for

every other husband who decides that he is not too drunk today

and therefore he can kill his wife. These things must stop,

but the painful reality is indeed that it is confirmed that,



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 67**

out of every three hours, a woman gets killed in South Africa

by somebody or someone she knows. So, we work with

international community and we work with some agencies.

There is also work that we are doing in Lusikisiki. Let me

tell you this, when we receive support either through Treasury

or through other agencies abroad, we make sure that we plough

them back into the society and help with training. I judge the

Inter-Ministerial Committee, IMC, with other Ministers that

monitors on this matter of gender-based violence and femicide,

GBVF. It is our government that had taken a stance that, when

we negotiate for something to happen, like gender-based

violence and femicide council to be launched, it will go

through Nedlac.

So, Nedlac is where discussions are done, not with us. They

have received this at the beginning of the year. But we will

wait till end of the month to get feedback from them because,

there’s absolutely nothing to hide. We are the ones who make

statements, but statements alone do not bring our people back,

particularly mothers. So, let us work together. There is no

need to fight. There is a need for all of us, particularly

this department, to make sure that, women, young girls and



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 68**

mothers are safe, to keep our nation safe. This department was

supposed to be encouraging more participation of women in the

economy.

Like with the renewal of the economy, women get an opportunity

not to participate like they did in the past, but that we be

part of the cleaning service of the economy of South Africa,

so that we can become full participants. Sanitary dignity, yes

we agree, that it has to be led by women, but we work with the

Ministry of Social Development. We have both agreed that, it

should not necessarily be the responsibility of the others,

but ourselves. Here in KwaZulu-Natal, where people have

experienced floods and lives have been lost, may their souls

rest in peace, we were the first with government to arrive in

those shelters, not only to feel sorry for the victims, but

also to help and share the little we had with the communities,

and sanitary dignity handouts were distributed, which were

highly appreciated.

I was with Minister Zulu and we will continue to offer help.

Where there is a little bit of money, it is sent directly for

sanitary dignity by the Treasury to the provinces, and they

see to it on how they will utilise it or how this department



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 69**

will take care of our people. Let us take this opportunity to

work together, remembering Wangani Maathai of Kenya, and Mme

Gedrude Shope said, we fought for freedom. What will you be

remembered for? Let us do things that help protect and make

lives, in particular, of women better, in this era, by working

together.

It is our responsibility and our honour to serve. The Bills

that we were referring to on GBVF that comes with justice,

were discussed through the IMC which we chair. We encouraged

this. We also encouraged that they will be offer new courts

that will focus on issues of gender-based violence. We also

encourage ... [Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms R M M Lesoma): Hon Minister, I am

afraid, your time is up, Mme.

The MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY FOR WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS

WITH DISABILITIES: Thank you very much.

*Sepedi*:

A re swariṧaneng, bomma le bontate. Tsela ye e thata, fela mo

re iteretṧego boṧaedi gona, a re bo lokiṧeng. Ke a leboga



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 20 – WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**Page: 70**

Debate concluded.

The mini plenary session rose at 18:19.

