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**TUESDAY, 24 MAY 2022**

\_\_\_\_

***PROCEEDINGS OF MINI-PLENARY SESSION — NATIONAL ASSEMBLY***

\_\_\_\_

Members of the mini-plenary session met on the virtual

platform at 14:00.

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 (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

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, shall apply. Members enjoy the same powers and

privileges 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 to the House and may be



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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

microphones are very sensitive and will pick up noise which

might ... [Inaudible.] ... of other members. When recognised

to speak, please unmute your microphone and connect your

video. We do appreciate the problems of network ... If that is

the case, you will inform us that you are unable to open your

videos so that you can get a better ... [Inaudible.] Members

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

screens which has an ... [Inaudible.] ... a member to put up

his or her hand to ... [Inaudible.] The secretary will assist

in alerting the Chairperson to members requesting to speak.

When using the virtual platform, members are urged to refrain

or desist from unnecessary points of order or interjections.

Hon members, we shall now proceed to the Order, which is a

debate on Vote No 5 — Home Affairs Appropriation Bill. I now

invite the Minister of Home Affairs the hon Dr Motsoaledi. Hon

... [Inaudible.] ... you are recognised.

**APPROPRIATION BILL**



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Debate on Vote No 5 — Home Affairs:

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: House Chairperson, my colleague

Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Mr Njabulo Nzuza, chairperson

of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs hon Mosa Chabane,

hon members of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs, hon

members of the National Assembly, vice-chairperson of the

Independent Electoral Commission, IEC, Ms Janet Love and chief

executive officer, CEO, Mr Sy Mamabolo, Director-General, DG,

of the Department of Home Affairs Mr Tommy Makhode, the CEO of

the Government Printing Works Ms Alinah Fosi and the

commissioner of the Border Management Authority Dr Mike

Masiapato, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, on this

day of our Budget Vote, we as the Department of Home Affairs

are acutely aware that we are sitting in this House in the

presence of two elephants in the room. Yes, there are two main

things that occupy our minds, your minds as members of the

House and the minds of the South African public at large.

These are the long winding queues outside the Department of

Home Affairs and the issue of immigration in our land. At this

moment in time, you are expecting no less from this Budget

Vote than to hear what the department’s best laid plans are to

deal with these two issues.



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There are of course other important issues that affect members

of the public that the Department of Home Affairs deals with

daily but the two main arms of the department, viz: civic

services and immigration, have an ever-looming presence in our

midst.

Let me start with civic services and let me start with the

issue of the long queues in our front offices. It is common

cause that we cannot pinpoint only one particular reason why

we have this unsavoury state of affairs. There are numerous

and various reasons that are responsible. However, the main

one that sticks out like a sore thumb among the rest is the

issue of systems downtime. In my previous budget speech, I

referred to this as the original sin. Visiting a Home Affairs

office very early in the morning, and just standing there and

waiting for hours on end because the systems are down, is

painful and generates a lot of anger. It is very frustrating

to say the least. Many members of the public simply believe

that the Department of Home Affairs’ computers don’t work and

they keep asking us the following question. Why don’t you just

fix your computers or buy new ones? We can’t blame them. They

don’t know that the problem of continuous systems downtime is

beyond just fixing computers.



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Last year, both the State Information Technology Agency, Sita,

and the Department of Home Affairs appeared in front of the

portfolio committee and outlined plans to deal with this

perennial problem.

As if systems downtime is not enough, you are also aware that

we had a COVID problem where we could not provide all of the

services. Now everybody has come back to demand the services

that they missed for a period of 18 to 24 months. That makes

the situation worse. Let me outline what, together Sita and

the Department of Home Affairs promised the portfolio

committee as interventions:

Number one is the revamping of the old network. I am happy to

announce that Sita has informed us that they are spending

R400 million on revamping their entire network, having just

completed a procurement process in that regard. This revamp

will be concluded in the third quarter of this financial year.

Number two is implementing the Software Define Network, SDN.

This work has been concluded by Sita and will assist in

increasing our bandwidth due to the number of applications we

use at civics. This will increase connectivity.



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Number three is internet capacity. I know of no other

government department that consumes as much internet services

as Home Affairs does. Virtually, internet services are a sine

qua non for the existence of our civic services. Sita has now

doubled its internet capacity and introduced three failovers

located in three cities — Tshwane, Cape Town and eThekwini.

This will ensure that if any of the network ... is down, there

will be two to support our services. Members of the portfolio

committee have always asked about the issue of redundancy,

meaning backup connection or network ... Hence, the failovers

in three cities will assist with regard to this redundancy.

Number four is the development plan for cybersecurity. Sita

has finalised its procurement plan to address cybersecurity

for information technology, IT, infrastructure. This will be

implemented during this financial year once law enforcement

agencies have given approval. All in all, Sita has committed

to spending R1 billion on IT infrastructure to support the

Department of Home Affairs and others. However, we know that

Home Affairs will be the major beneficiary.

Our fifth intervention is the roll-out of switches and

routers. The department has installed 136 routers and



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150 switches in 136 offices. We still need to install

112 routers and 68 switches which have already been bought.

Number six is bringing in engineers from the banks. We wish to

confess that whenever our systems are down, we stand in awe of

the banks which always seem to have stable IT, and we ask

ourselves, how do they achieve this? I am happy to announce

that after engagements on this issue, we are bringing on board

eight IT engineers from the leading bank to assist in

stabilising our network. All eight of them have already been

vetted. The process has been completed and they are going to

join us very soon.

Our partnership with the bank will rapidly reduce our skills

deficit. Members of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs

will remember that on numerous occasions we mentioned that we

want to bring the banks on board to provide some of Home

Affairs’ services. However, this did not work as fast as we

did, simply because the banks are very worried about their

reputation. They are worried because they use the same system

as us, which if down will damage the reputation of the banks.

However, once some of their engineers have helped us the banks

will come on board to offer our services.



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Number seven is SA Connect. ... an announcement made by the

Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies. We know

that this is a government-wide programme but Home Affairs will

be a major beneficiary.

Number eight is installing generators. We have installed

generators in 197 modernised offices but unfortunately, the

remaining 215 nonmodernised offices are always out of

operation during the period of load shedding in a particular

area. This increases the queues.

There is also a national scourge which Home Affairs is

particularly vulnerable to, and that is cable theft. On

26 April 2022, the headline in the *Daily Dispatch*, an Eastern

Cape newspaper read as follows: “Cable theft shuts Home

Affairs”. While technicians from Sita were able to resolve

this, it took two days to install new cables, leaving the

entire province unable to access some services. Again, and

needless to say, members of the public simply believe that

Home Affairs is failing dismally to repair their computers.

They express their anger through abusive phone calls and

emails that we receive.



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We do try and deploy mobile trucks every time there is cable

theft. The National Joint Operational and Intelligence

Structure, Natjoints, is also trying to deal with this matter

but the level of anger from the public is always high when

this happens. We ask members of the public to realise that

when somebody steals cables they make it impossible for them

to get documents from Home Affairs.

Our ninth intervention is the issue of infrastructure. You are

all aware that our offices are hired from the Department of

Public Works. They were built by somebody else for their

purposes. They are not custom-made, but we have tried our best

to start building custom-made offices, such as the Lusikisiki

office which is now open. We are finalising construction and

will soon open offices in Mokopane and Thohoyandou in Limpopo,

and of course in Taung in North West. We are about to start

construction in Stanger in KwaZulu-Natal.

We have also registered 15 offices with the Presidential

Infrastructure Co-ordinating committee for them to be built

through a public-private partnership, PPP, project and we have

chosen our high volume offices. These are Byron Place in

Pretoria; the not so well spoken about Harrison Street office



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in Johannesburg; in the Eastern Cape is Buffalo City, Gqeberha

and Mthatha; in KwaZulu-Natal is Pinetown and Mngungundlovu;

in Limpopo is Polokwane; and in Mpumalanga it will be

Emalahleni and Mbombela.

As you can see, these 15 high volume infrastructure projects

were well thought out and the offices identified were well

chosen because of the perennial problems they present to the

public. However, we need to concede that it will take some

time until infrastructure relief is felt by our clients

because construction is still to start. Hence, as an immediate

relief measure, we have been engaging with several malls in

our country. Operating Home Affairs offices in malls will

obviate the problem of queuing in the sun or rain. Malls will

provide convenient and safe parking for clients. We will start

with Menlyn mall in Pretoria, Cresta mall and Southgate Mall

in Johannesburg, the Pavillion in eThekwini and Tyger Valley

mall in Cape Town. It is hoped that the Cresta mall operation

will help relieve the much-maligned Randburg office and

operations in the Pavillion will relieve pressure on the

Umgeni office in KwaZulu-Natal, which is often not well spoken

about.



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Since the malls have to move tenants around to make way for

Home Affairs, we will install our equipment in the malls

around September this year. We shall start with the Menlyn

mall in Pretoria and then roll out to the rest of the country.

Our 10th intervention is the Branch Appointment Booking

System**,** Babs. This is an appointment system that has been

piloted in 24 of our high volume offices which are the

busiest. Since December last year when the pilot started and

up till now, 33 463 people have used this facility. The Deputy

Minister will outline more on this issue, so I’ll leave it.

Our 11th intervention is staffing of the department. The last

major project in dealing with queues is the capacitation of

the department with regard to staffing. We have complained on

numerous occasions that our front offices are only

39% staffed. This is because, for the past five years,

Treasury has slapped a ceiling or moratorium on the

compensation of employees and we were not able to replace

people leaving the department by natural attrition.

Chairperson ... [Inaudible.] ... is the painful loss of

40 front office staff due to COVID. We also suffered severe



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budget cuts over the past two years because money had to go to

health facilities in order to fight COVID.

In this financial year, we want to thank Treasury because they

came to the party, even though I must warn that we still have

a long way to go. We have been allocated R266 million to deal

with our staffing ... but unfortunately in civics it will only

take us from 39% to 42%. We will hire 364 employees. A total

of 517 will be sent to the front offices and 288 will be new

immigration officers.

We are also deploying mobile offices. We have bought 10 extra

mobile offices for R15 million. In this financial year, we

will buy 15 more for R20 million. These trucks ... mobile

services, have helped a lot during the recent floods in

KwaZulu-Natal and hence, we value them a lot. This is a

project of the Deputy Minister who is running it and I’m sure

he will elaborate on it.

The digitisation of our paper records. We have announced many

times that we have 300 million paper records that stretches as

far back as 1985 but all of them are manual. How do they

contribute to long queues? It’s because people have to come



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back to Home Affairs many times when they change their names

in what is called rectification or name change, and officials

still have to go to archives to search among 300 paper

records. So they tell the client to come back, and

unfortunately this coming back may happen many times.

Let me move to the issue of immigration. As I said earlier,

another elephant in our room is the problem of immigration. I

don’t have to outline what is taking place regarding this

problem in our country. It is a crisis that we are well aware

of. However, if I were to start outlining here what we need to

do, it will need its own budget speech.

So for today, I think it will suffice for me to inform you

that a complete overhaul of the immigration system in the

country is needed. A complete overhaul means exactly that. I

can assure you that work in this regard has already started

and is underway, and we will soon unveil it to you.

Let me move to border management. We have conceded the problem

of porous borders in our country. You are aware that we are

busy implementing ... The commissioner Dr Masiapato and the

two deputy commissioners are busy every day. They have already



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finalised the recruitment of the first cohort of 200 border

guards. The border guards will be coming next week for

orientation and deployment to selected areas of the borderline

where there are problems. Their uniforms, with its own logo,

has already been purchased, together with their tools of

trade. It is hoped that this cohort will be officially

launched in the first days of the coming quarter.

Presently, the Border Management Authority, BMA, is incubated

as a branch in the Department of Home Affairs. However, I wish

to state to you that from 1 April next year it will be a 3A

public entity — stand alone, responsible for our borders.

Let me go to counter corruption. Chairperson, only 11 months

ago, I came to the portfolio committee to introduce a Counter

Corruption unit of 13 people headed by one deputy director-

general, DDG. I’m sure that you already know their work. The

number of arrests of kingpins and syndicates speak volumes.

Sixty per cent of the cases in the Counter Corruption unit

deal with immigration, especially matters pertaining to

permitting. It’s a testimony as to why we need a complete

overhaul of the immigration system in our country.



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Let me inform you that in the coming weeks we will continue to

arrest more and more people, both foreign nationals and South

Africans involved in passport fraud and other forms of

identity theft, as well as corruption. Since the arrest of the

Pakistani kingpin on 24 March this year at our Krugersdorp

offices, Counter Corruption cannot get any rest.

South Africans from all walks of life, including Members of

Parliament, are reporting on a daily basis what is happening

... corruption, where we need to go and we are heeding the

call. We are going there, we are investigating and we are

making progress. Chairperson, if you want to understand why we

are so deliberate and determined to deal with the issue of

corruption, go to page three of *The Sowetan* today and read

what an independent crime and policing analyst Prof Johan

Burger says. He says that South Africa’s identity system could

be compromised if identity fraud is not stopped by

authorities. So, we are authorities. We are going to stop

identity fraud, and let me tell you, we shall do it without

favour, without fear and prejudice, and we will never be

intimidated or derailed by anybody when we do this work. The

Counter Corruption unit is not just reactive. They also

identify loopholes and that’s why we are going to hire



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12 extra staff members who are analysts, researchers and

investigators.

With regard to the Government Printing Works, GPW, I promised

the portfolio committee that we would have a footprint in the

whole continent of Africa. I’m reporting today that the GPW

has delivered 60 000 copies of Namibian birth certificates. It

will also deliver Namibian marriage certificates, death

certificates and Namibian permanent residence permits. It also

delivered 75 good shepherd college certificates,

1 435 university certificates and 29 royal Eswatini police

service certificates for Eswatini. We have a deal in the

pipeline that has already been signed with Kenya to print

identity documents, IDs, travel documents and examination

materials.

If I go to the IEC, it has concluded a review of the

2021 local government elections, and this experience is going

to help us in the 2024 elections. The portfolio committee is

busy with the appointment of a new commissioner to fill the

space of the former chairperson whose term has come to an end,

and we hope this will be done timeously.



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I wish to take this opportunity to thank my colleague Deputy

Minister Nzuza for working very well with me, the DG of Home

Affairs Mr Tommy Makhode, the CEO of the GPW Ms Alina Fosi,

the commissioner of the BMA Dr Masiapato, and the former chair

of the IEC Mr Mashinini and the CEO Mr Mamabolo for very good

working relationships. I also wish to thank the chairperson of

the portfolio committee Mr Mosa Chabane and hon members of the

portfolio committee for the very warm, and extremely well and

productive working relations. This spells progress. I am

tabling, for consideration by this honourable House, an amount

of R9,4 billion for Budget Vote No 5 — Department of Home

Affairs. I thank you very much.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Thank you very much,

Minister. You still had a minute or more left. That’s why you

didn’t see my face. Let me just say to all members that

whenever my face appears, it’s an indication to you to wrap up

because you’ll be left with one minute. I’ll always switch off

my video to allow that, so that I don’t interfere with your

speech. As we proceed, we will now recognise the ANC and the

chairperson of the portfolio committee, hon Chabane.



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Mr M S CHABANE: Thank you, House Chairperson; Minister

Motsoaledi; Deputy Minister, Njabulo Nzuza; hon members;

Deputy Chairperson of the ... [Inaudible.] ... and all

commissioners, the chief executive officer of Government

Printing Works, Ms Fosi; the commissioner of the Border

Management Authority; director-general and fellow South

Africans, I rise to support this Budget Vote 5 which is Tabled

on the eve of Africa Day.

On 25 May 1963, 32 signatory government established the

Organisation of African Unity, the precursor of African Union.

The objective of this establishment was to encourage political

and economic integration among member states from the African

Continent. Africa month allows us to reflect on the

continent’s progress and the common challenges that she faces.

The African Unity, AU, has themed this year’s celebration; *In*

*building resilience in nutrition on the African Continent*. The

global crisis caused by the COVID pandemic exposed the

economic viability of African countries as well as weaknesses

of health and food security.

The natural disaster which befell the people of KwaZulu-Natal

And the Eastern Cape has also contributed negatively to these



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realities. The speedy intervention by the Department of Home

Affairs, which made financial concession and provided identity

document for rest for residents affected by the flood, must be

uploaded by this House. These interventions ensure that people

are people are able to access much needed social security

intervention provided by the ANC-led government. The core

mandate of the department is to secure, confirm our identity

and citizenship, promoting wellbeing of all citizens

regardless of race, gender or class.

Hon House Chairperson, on 15 March 2020, after the declaration

of a national state of disaster, the President announced a

R500 billion fiscal support package, which included spending

towards COVID-19. This meant that the Department of Home

Affairs had to adopt a special adjustment budget to modify

2020-21 budget allocation. The outbreak of COVID-19 and other

economic factors facing South African resulted in a budget of

the Department Home Affairs being cut twice in amount of

R1,8 billion in the financial 2020-21 and 2021-22. In fact,

the baseline was cut by R969 million and R971 million was for

compensation of employees.



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House Chairperson, the impact of this budget cuts have been

severe as a critical post for both civic and immigration, as

the Minister has outlined. However, welcomed the National

Treasury allocation of R266 million to fill these vacancies in

these critical areas. The portfolio committee has been raising

concern on the vacant positions which are critically in the

life operation of Department of Home Affairs, such that of the

Deputy director-general, counter corruption and security

services and the chief information office. To date, House

Chairperson, we can report to this House that all this

position has been filled.

In a quest to resolve the war against law of long queues and

system downtime we are convinced that the new chief

information officer, CIO, will gradually stabilise the

challenges of system downtime which negatively affect our

people. In the same vein, the Department of Home Affairs, as

outlined by the Minister, has faced criticism from the society

on alleged corruption. Since the appointment of the Deputy

director-general, DDG, Anti-Corruption Unit, we have observed

positive response on the war against corruption within the

department. The Anti-Corruption Unit is further intended to

protect and promote integrity of the department as well as



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ensuring that operations are conducted in a safe and corrupt

free environment.

Through the Anti-Corrupt Units today, the department has

recorded 250 people that have been arrested, including 123

Home Affairs officials in 84 nonofficial were account of

issuing fraudulent security documents such as identity

documents and passports. More concerning, House Chairperson,

is that eight SA Police Services officials were also arrested

in related corruption activities in the Department of Home

Affairs. These acts of sabotage, House Chairperson, by some

officials directly contribute to the undermining of the

security of our country. With this budget, we hope to see the

strengthening of the anti-corruption initiative to ensure that

we protect the integrity of our population register and the

security of our country.

House Chairperson, the President signed into law the Border

Management Authority Act of 2020 This was a critical step

towards the establishment of the Border Management Authority,

BMA, which will enable the implementation of an integrated

border management approach in South Africa. The Border

Management Authority, BMA, will have jurisdiction for



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implementing border law enforcement mandates such as

facilitating and managing of legitimate movement of persons

and goods within the border enforcement area and at the port

of entry. The portfolio committee welcomed the appointment of

the Border Management Authority Commissioner and the two

Deputy Commissioners. We are confident that the Border

Management Authority will be fully operational within the

targeted period and will play a critical role in addressing

our vulnerability and challenges of porous borders.

In 22 June 2020, the Constitutional Court set aside the order

of the Western Cape High Court and declared the Electoral Act

73 of 1998 as unconstitutional to the extent that it required

that other citizens may be elected to national and provincial

legislature only through their membership of political

parties. In this regard, significant progress had been made so

far as to comply with the order. The Electoral Amendment Bill

was introduced and referred to the committee on the 10 January

2022. In line with the Constitution, extensive public

participation is being carried out by the committee. We will

in due course bring before this House a Bill worth

consideration, a Bill replied with the views made by South

Africans.



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Due to the 24-month deadline in which to amend the legislation

is almost upon us, a request of extension has been made to the

Constitutional Court. House Chairperson, one of the entity

which received the budget allocation from the Budget Vote

number 5 is the Independent Electoral Commission, which is an

institution supporting constitutional democracy. The portfolio

committee take this opportunity to applaud the Independent

Electoral Commission, IEC, for maintaining clean for the

outcomes in the past financial year, which is a demonstration

of good governance. This can be apportioned to the entire

Independent Electoral Commission Commissioners, the executive

management and the entire workforce.

We further thank the Independent Electoral Commission for

considering to appoint former Deputy Chief Justice Moseneke,

to undertake an inquiry in whether free and fair elections

were possible under the public health emergency COVID-19. The

Independent Electoral Commission just this past week briefed

the committee on the 2021 local government election Report. We

must applaud the Independent Electoral Commission for

delivering a free and fair election electoral process that

strengthen our democratic system. Despite these successes,

we’ve called on the Independent Electoral Commission to



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continue strengthening its process, particularly on the

challenges experience as a result of the new system, the ...

[Inaudible.] ... to ensure that the credibility of our

elections are protected.

The portfolio committee has accepted the local government

election Report and isolated issues that the Independent

Electoral Commission must work on as we prepare for the 2024

national and provincial elections, including the coming by-

elections. Since its inception, House Chair, the Independent

Electoral Commission has been improving its system for fair

and free conduct of elections. It is a critical institution

which support our relatively young, yet maturing democracy. We

further want to extend our collective appreciation to the

former chairperson of Independent Electoral Commission Mr

Mashinini, for his contribution to the work of the

institution, as you know, his term has ended and the Minister

has outlined the process that the portfolio committee is

undertaking currently.

House Chairperson, oversight means for holding the executive

accountability for its action and for ensuring that it

implements policy in accordance with laws and budget passed by



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Parliament. It is through oversight that Parliament can ensure

a balance of power and asset its role as the defender of

people interest. Since the sixth Parliament, the portfolio

committee conducted three oversight at government printing

works facilities, engaging with labor management on challenges

faced by the institution. As the Minister has outlined,

significant progress has been made in terms of its governance

and operational system.

Furthermore, the Government Printing Works is expanding its

footprint in the Southern African Development Community, Sadc,

region which must be uploaded because it will contribute to

the economic spinoff and creation of more jobs. We welcome the

recent appointment by Government Printing works of the

specialist who will support the Information and Communications

Technology and the finance unit to manage the pertaining

challenges that we’ve identified of system downtime during our

oversight.

House Chairperson, we must emphasise that South Africa remains

open and accessible for migrants, but we must reaffirm that

immigration laws of the country must be respected. Evident by

the progress of the Border Management Authority, the portfolio



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committee has directed the department to increase its capacity

on immigration inspectorate and strengthen immigration laws.

We commend the Minister in your entire team for the good work

you’ve demonstrated in respond to all the recommendation of

the portfolio committee.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity, House Chair,

to wish South Africans and the citizens of the Motherland,

Africa, the happy Africa Day tomorrow. The future we are

building today must leave Africa in integrated, prosperous and

peaceful for the current and the future generation. We support

this Budget Vote.

*Swahili*:

*Asante sana*.

*English*:

Thank you, House Chairperson.

Ms T A KHANYILE: Thank you Chairperson. Today, as we debate

the Home Affairs Budget, I would like to take this opportunity

to thank Mr Jackson McKay, former Deputy Director-General of

Immigration, for the sterling work and dedication he has shown



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while serving in the aforementioned portfolio, and we wish him

well on his retirement. We would like to express our

appreciation to the Director-General, Mr Makhode, Director-

General Civic Services, Mr Sigama and their teams for the

efficient service and response to all queries we escalate to

their offices. Sadly, these men and women are thrown under the

bus by the Minister, who does not take this department

seriously.

The network system at Home Affairs is consistently offline. As

a result, queuing at Home Affairs branches before sunrise

gives no guarantee of making it into the building before

sunset. We have conducted oversights at Balfour, Nigel,

Springs, Barrack Street, and Stellenbosch branches. We also

conducted an oversight at the Home Affairs Regional Office

situated on Harrison and Plein streets, and this oversight was

led by the Leader of the Opposition, as he felt he could not

fold his arms while we were inundated with a huge volume of

calls from members of the community complaining about the

disservice they were subjected to in various branches. They

are always told to return the next day because of an offline

network.



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For all the above oversights, we have witnessed the network

being offline, or a photo booth crashing while we were on the

premises. The Home Affairs network regularly goes offline,

effectively shutting down the application for documents until

the system is back online. This may take up to seven and half

hours, which may prompt officials to ask the applicants to

return the following day. The applicants will then make an

effort to arrive as early as five o’clock the next day to be

first in the queue. This also puts the applicants' lives at

risk as they are expected to leave their homes around four in

the morning because some of them catch about three taxis to

get to the Home Affairs offices.

In August 2021, we welcomed an announcement by the department

to introduce an appointment booking system. This intervention

will not yield fruitful results if the Minister does not

attend to the system’s upgrade urgently. This network issue

also puts the lives of the officials in local offices at risk.

We have been told by some officials that when they advise

applicants that the system is offline, they get physically and

verbally attacked because applicants blame them for the

department’s inefficiencies. On many occasions, they have been

rescued by SA Police Service, but the Minister wouldn’t know



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about this because he is hardly on the ground. Some

individuals use the long queues to exploit applicants by

making them pay R300 to skip the queue. This also puts those

without money further back in the queue.

Just last week, on May 16 2022, all Home Affairs branches were

offline and we have been advised that most branches, if not

all, lose about 40 hours of work per month. I would therefore

like to suggest that the Minister urgently attend to the

systems upgrade. Introduce a queuing system where applicants

will be given numbers as they arrive and the numbers must be

linked to an attendance register with full details of the

applicant. This will ensure no one skips the queue. A queue

marshal must always be available outside to direct applicants

to designated queues. They also need to issue a schedule to

schools for mobile unit visits a month in advance to enable

parents to make arrangements to take leave.

National Treasury has allocated about R266 million to the

department, which will enable the department to appoint more

officials. Most offices operate with insufficient staff. We

urge the department to urgently finalise the filling of funded

posts. I also invite the Minister to visit various Home



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Affairs offices and witness the horrible long queues that

applicants are exposed to.

The Electoral Commission of South Africa, IEC delivered the

worst local government elections in November 2021, a huge

number of voters were denied their right to vote for their

preferred candidates, and this was caused by the IEC’s

incompetency. On the registration weekend, the IEC system was

offline, which prompted the details of those who wanted to be

registered to be captured manually and those details were

never captured. This was caused by the use of a newly procured

voter management device which was not tested.

On the voting day, we witnessed lots of voters being turned

away from various voters’ districts because they did not

appear on the voters’ roll. This happened even after the IEC

appeared many times before the portfolio and confirmed its

readiness to hold elections. Many voters were registered in

voters’ districts that are between 5-7 kilometres away from

their residential area - not only that – others were

registered in a different ward.



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In closing, the Afrobarometer survey conducted in 2021 on the

community trust rate for the Electoral Commission, and it

shows that it has declined from 69% in 2014 to 36% in 2021. We

expect the Minister to ensure that every voter exercises their

right to vote as enshrined in our Constitution and the first

time voters are just as important. They must never be

denied an opportunity to vote. I thank you.

Ms L F TITO: Thank you, House Chair. The EFF rejects the

proposed Budget Vote of the Department of Home Affairs. We

debate this Budget Vote just a few hours before we celebrate

Africa Day. A celebration that should have one message. A

message of love and reconciliation justice for the continent.

A celebration that should be characterised by an unwavering

call for a united Africa. A celebration that should dement the

removal of colonial borders. And, a celebration that should

call for a united front against new colonial regimes and

puppets of England friends and Western imperialisms.

As the EFF, we condemn the undebated xenophobic sentiments

driven by hate of our African brothers and sisters. We were

not shocked when a Minister and a member of Cabinet, went to

Diepsloot after the painful killing of Elvis Nyathi, holding



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hands with vigilant groups assisted by the police, going door

to door conducting illegal raids. Elvis Nyathi did not have to

die for the Minister of Home Affairs to know that there are no

services at the borders and Home Affairs offices are

dysfunctional. Elvis Nyathi did not have to die such a painful

death, stoned and burned like an animal, because crime in

South Africa is out of control, and townships and informal

settlements are a safe place for criminals. One of the many

reasons why the Minister had no right to parade himself in

Diepsloot like messiah, is that Home Affairs officials are

taking money from desperate African foreign nationals who only

want to make an honest living.

The solution to migration is the development of the African

continent and the creation of massive industries that will

create sustainable jobs, not the criminalisation of Africans

who were born on this continent. The past five years,

committee budgets and recommendations reports, have all

lamented the shambolic state of Home Affairs offices. Home

Affairs workers work in disgusting offices. Computers in

Orange Farm and Randfontein centres, don’t work. Sibasa

offices have been without the internet for several days.



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In East London, people stand in queues outside in the sun for

hours and sometimes go to Home Affairs without services. Old

people are sleeping outside Home Affairs because their

grandchildren needs birth certificates to receive social

grants. But none of these issues have been resolved. Instead,

the Minister always comes here to ridicule the Members of

Parliament and take cheap shots as if we are in an ANC branch

meeting. Giving an impression that he knows it all and he is

doing something when on the ground. Home Affairs workers are

suffering, and our people are stranded every day at Home

Affairs offices. We must all stop laughing at this Minister’s

cheap shots, especially us as Members of Parliament. The

plight of our people is not a joke.

We know that there is no competency and capacity to resolve

Home Affairs offices. That is why even the proposed budget

cuts are not a problem for this Cabinet. It is now almost two

months since people lost their Identity Documents in the

floods in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. Some cannot get

social assistance because they do not have Identity Documents.

African foreign national who are here with all the required

papers are treated like criminals because this department is

failing to intervene urgently.



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The Department of Home Affairs emergency operation, functions

like any other Home Affairs in the country. We must all be

angry at this because it is the lives of people we are talking

about. Deploy all mobile services and employ additional

assistance, including the appointment of graduates in affected

communities to fast track the issuing of IDs, passports and

work permits urgently.

The continuing reliance of SITA in the Public Works without a

solution in sight, is a sign of incompetency of the ruling

party. SITA cannot even help itself, and its systems are

always offline. SITA prides itself on being the government’s

biggest consumer of IT goods and services because it relies on

contractors who inflate prices and do poor work. A state

technology company must have its own capacity, its own

engineers, and inform the country’s technology industrial

policy. The fact that the master plan for the government

printing works hasn’t been finished, it’s part of a plan to

keep taking money from the department’s budget. We reject the

proposed budget as the EFF. I thank you, Chairperson.

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: House Chairperson, it is another year,

another budget vote debate and yet the Department of Home



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Affairs remains broken. So broken is the system, that South

Africans are forced to rise at the crack of dawn, take a day

off work and use their last bit of money to travel to a Home

Affairs Office. Yet, queuing outside a Home Affairs Office for

an entire day is no guarantee that you will get assisted,

never mind getting into a Home Affairs offices ...

[Inaudible.]

To add insult to injury, Home Affairs Offices are perpetually

offline, largely due to ageing, obsolete wireless

infrastructure and all the issues the Minister listed earlier.

Calls and emails go unanswered. And their website is often not

functioning. This department has also not been able to roll

out its services to more than a handful of banks.

This dysfunctional system has opened the door to a variety of

entrepreneurs, including the so-called ‘queue-sitters’, but

there are more elaborate schemes, such as the one at the

Pretoria Home Affairs Office, where, for R500, you can jump

the queue, and get your paperwork processed in 30 minutes.

And, as an added bonus, you are even walked to your car and

offered a cool drink.



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So broken is this system, House Chairperson, that Members of

Parliament, MPs, have become admin officers of this

department. Every day, we are inundated with calls from

citizens in desperate need of help with their passports,

identity documents, IDs, birth certificates and permits.

At the heart of this crisis is an underfunded department with

dilapidated offices, staff shortages and vacancies in critical

senior posts. Less than half of the department’s offices have

been modernised. But the biggest crisis this department

presides over, House Chairperson, is a full-blown immigration

crisis.

The reality is, we do not have borders. The current manual

asylum-seeker system has collapsed and has been abused

economic migrants. Corruption is endemic. Syndicates run by

foreign nationals are printing fake South Africans documents,

brazenly using Home Affairs Offices as their base of

operation. Millions of non-citizens enter South Africa, never

to leave again. And let me state that the Border Management

Authority, BMA, is not the panacea to our problems yet – it

will take more years, we don’t have and many more years to

become fully operational.



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House Chairperson, so deep and far reaching is this

immigration crisis that reports suggest that Islamic State of

Iraq and al-Sham, ISIS is being funded from our shores by

small businesses run by illegal migrants.

So deep is this immigration crisis that it has relegated South

Africans to the unemployment lines. By Government’s own

admission, some employers prefer employing only foreign

nationals – even those who are not legally permitted to work

in South Africa.

It is our government failures that are turning worker against

worker, destabilising communities, and pitting citizen against

non-citizen. The rise therefore, of groups seeking to tackle

our immigration crisis, is a direct response to our

government’s own failures.

So deep is this immigration crisis that a Russian-born actress

reportedly recently succeeded in lodging a bogus asylum claim

in order to attend a party hosted by a South African

billionaire. This, after alleged political interference to

persuade immigration officers to let her into our country,

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failed. That House Chairperson, is a scope of this crisis. A

clear picture of a dysfunctional, broken Home Affairs system.

House Chair, it’s time for our government to table to the

nation a plan of action to fix our immigration system to ease

the legitimate concerns South Africans are raising. I am glad

that the Minister made a commitment in this regard earlier,

but we would need timeframes for this plan to be launched.

Minister, the IFP believes that such a plan must include a

commitment for additional immigration inspectors and resources

for deportations from Treasury. With the prevalence of fake

South African documents increasing, we require a review of all

passports, Identity documents, IDs and residency permits; a

commitment to resolve the backlog in the asylum-seeker system

within 12 months, as well as establishing asylum-seeker and

refugee processing centres at ports of entry. Those selling

South African documents are committing a crime against the

state and must face long and harsh prison sentences.

Minister, a failure to fix your department will continue to

put the safety and security of our citizens and the very

future of our nation.



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Urgent action to restore the credibility of the Department of

Home Affairs, DHA, is needed now. Minister, we need to build a

Home Affairs South Africans deserve: one that meets its values

of being people-centre, patriotic, professional, ethical,

efficient, and innovative. I Thank you.

Mr F J MULDER: Hon House Chair, the Department of Home Affairs

is most probably the largest contributor in creating an equal

society in South Africa. The department is a great leveller.

The long queues are where the nation meets, citizens with

little kids, pensioners, people with big cars, people with no

cars, all races, all ages.

People are spending hours and days at local branches of Home

Affairs and often has to return the next day for another

attempt to be assisted. In this department, Hon House Chair,

the legacy of the Zuma and Gigaba era is clearly visible and

it seems as if the department is on the road to nowhere and

state failure once again comes to mind.

What is so complicated about processing, producing and

disbursing identity documents, ID, and passports? If we can’t



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succeed with something as simple as this, how can we run a

sophisticated economy and the state?

House Chair, the department is supposed to be the custodian,

protector and verifier of the identity and status of citizens

and other person’s resident in South Africa and to control,

regulate and facilitate immigration and the movement of

persons through the ports of entry.

In June 2021 the processing of applications was gazetted to

resume on 1 January 2022 after no permanent residence permit

applications have been processed since March 2020 when the

COVID-19 State of Disaster was first declared. This suspension

has left ordinary permanent residence applicants in limbo,

with their daily lives being severely affected.

Several applicants have however never, not even once received

any response or feedback from the department even form as long

ago as 2017. The FF Plus receive requests from desperate

applicants on a daily basis. The backlog in applications

standing at more than 33,700.



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House Chair, the Constitutional Court deadline of 10 June 2022

to finalise and pass the electoral Bill will still require a

significant amount of time and the department has already

applied for postponement at the Constitutional Court. Yet

another example of noncompliance by the department.

Poor border control and illegal immigration compounds serious

challenges in the provision of basic services and temporary

emergency accommodation. Electricity Commission, Eskom’s

inability to provide electricity also has a detrimental effect

the ability of Home Affairs offices and border control, for an

example at Namibia last week where cars and trucks were being

held for several hours because no fuel was provided for the

generators during load shedding.

House Chair, The FF Plus will be the watch dog on how the

department will manage the Represented Political Parties Fund

doubled sub-programme from R166,8 million in the previous

financial year to R342,1 million in the current financial

year. This increase translates to a 96,26% increase in real

terms.



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Over the medium term, House Chair, the Department of Home

Affairs, will have to focus on establishing and incrementally

operationalising the Border Managing Act to secure

international migration, modernising the Information and

Communications Technology, ICT infrastructure to ensure

integrated planning and efficient administration, the reducing

fraud, ensuring the timely issuing of permits and visas to

facilitate economic growth and job creation.

The Hon minister of Home Affairs Dr Motsoaledi today in fact

acknowledged that the department is in trouble and is on a

road to nowhere, which is exactly where the department is

heading to if extraordinary measures are not implemented.

These measures are still not visible or provided for in the

new financial year and therefore the FF Plus will not support

this budged vote Thank you, House Chair.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Hon Chairperson, Minister

of Home Affairs Dr Aron Motsoaledi, members of the executive,

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs, hon

Mosa Chabane, members of the Portfolio Committee on Home

Affairs, Acting Chairperson of the IEC, Director General of

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the Department of Home Affairs and the entire management team,

the CEO of Government Printing Works, the Commissioner of the

BMA and fellow South Africans.

It is always an honour and with a sense of great pride and

duty to address this occasion which deliberates on the

allocation of resources by the Department of Home Affairs to

its key programmes. The deliberations on the allocations of

resources in the form of a budget vote contribute extensively

in ensuring that the limited resources make a great impact

toward improving people’s lives.

These resources will give their new born child their first

form of identity and belonging to our great nation. These

resources will continue to protect the identity of millions of

South Africans. These resources will open gates to millions of

South Africans who continue to travel the world. These

resources will give access to identity documents to our young

people allowing them to grow and fulfil their dreams. These

resources are important for all of us to live because without

these documents we would become invisible.



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The Department of Home Affairs carries the responsibility of

ensuring that no South African under any circumstances suffers

the scandal of invisibility. This we do by managing

citizenship and civil registration.

Chairperson, our commitment is to resolve and respond even in

times of crises we were put to the test during the floods that

ravaged KZN, Eastern Cape and other parts of our country.

Thousands of citizens were affected by the floods and more

than a 1000 lost their enabling documents. We had the

responsibility to respond to this crisis in order to normalise

the lives of those affected by having to speedily issue

enabling documents to the victims allowing them to rebuild

their lives.

In order for us to respond to the crisis, we deployed nine

mobile units which have serviced 41 sites, we’ve serviced 2224

citizens for smart ID cards applications and issued 349 birth

certificates on the spot. The re-issue of both smart ID cards

and birth certificates were at no cost to citizens

understanding that this was and still remains a disaster.



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It is blatantly untrue that we have not serviced those

affected by the floods in KZN, in fact we have done so and we

will continue to do so.

The disaster situation also displayed the capabilities of our

mobile units to service people in areas which they live taking

both application and issuing of enabling documents. Our mobile

unit fleet has proved to be effective with reaching out to far

flung areas and in order to provide services to people who are

unable to visit our offices.

We are currently operating a fleet of 100 mobile units which

also provide support to high volume offices and offices under

distress.

In the past financial year, the budget allowed us to conduct

2056 site visits. This fleet has been able to service 131 164

clients and school learners with smart card applications in

the 2021/22 financial year.

This resulted into citizens saving thousands of rands in

travel costs that would have been incurred had they gone to

our offices.



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The 2021/22 budget allowed us to procure 10 additional mobile

units which are ready for deployment. We’ll be procuring

further 15 mobile units in the 2022/23 financial year. Through

the mobile units, we are better placed to reach out to areas

where there is little or no Home Affairs foot print especially

in rural and remote areas.

The mobile units are also the back bone of our school smart

cards ID campaign which has benefited both urban and rural

schools.

Using mobile units, we have been able to target learners

ensuring that South African learners doing grade 12 sit for

their examinations already in possession of a Smart ID Card.

We have now placed focus to grade 12 which saw the number of

learners starting their grade 12 without identity documents

reduced from 8 187 in 2020 to 2 560 in 2021 academic year.

In the period we visited 1 011 schools working in partnership

with the Department of Basic Education. The additional mobile

units purchased and the ones to be purchased in the new

financial year will extend our reach and greatly enhance our

school ID campaigns.



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Chair, this budget will allow us to further our efforts in

issuing Smart ID cards to our citizens. I am pleased to

announce that by the end of the 2021/2022 financial year, more

than 19 million South African citizens had been issued with

smart ID cards. The replacement of the old green barcoded ID

books with the new smart ID cards initiated in 2013, remains

on track, with milestones set for each year.

Chairperson the 2021/22 budget allowed us to issue a total of

2 369 172 smart ID cards surpassing the targeted 1,6 Million.

This was despite the limitations imposed on operations by the

Covid-19 pandemic and its management and preventative

measures.

Of these smart ID cards issued, 966 068 were for first-time

applicants comprising mainly of the youth. It is a significant

improvement compared to the 622 539 issued to first time

applicants in the previous financial year.

It is indicative of the impact we are making in the lives of

young people of our country. Chairperson, we can never do this

without the resources and the budget that we are deliberating

upon today.



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The budget allocation for the financial year 2022/23 has

allowed us to increase the planned issue of Smart ID cards

with 37.5% which is 600 000 more than the previous financial

year which meaning in the 2022/23 financial year we will issue

2,2 million smart ID cards to citizens attaining the age of 16

years and above.

We continue to make steady progress towards universal birth

registration. We strive to build a credible, accurate and

secure National Population Register, NPR, with a single point

of entry, within the first 30 calendar days of birth. In

2021/22, we had set a target of registering 700 000 births

within 30 days.

We however surpassed this target by registering a total of

1 018 718 births, of which 800 057 accounting for 78.5% were

registered within 30 calendar days. This percentage is up from

73.7% of the previous financial year. We intend to normalize

early birth registration at above 90% by the year 2024.

Part of the strategy in this regard is expanding our office

footprint in health facilities, in order to bring Home Affairs

services closer to the people. In this way parents can



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register their children before leaving the hospital or health

facilities, a service which is more convenient than planning a

visit to Home Affairs at a later stage. This service is

rendered in partnership with the Department of Health.

The number of registration sites where births were registered

during the review period was 803, consisting of 412 Home

Affairs front offices and across all 391 health facilities.

Currently, there are 391 Home Affairs civic registration

offices in health facilities. Our country has 1 445 health

facilities with maternity wards and our plan is to ensure that

the civic registration capabilities exist in all of them. The

health facilities connections are funded through the revenue

we generate from issuing enabling documents and other

activities which were negatively impacted due to Covid-19.

The positive impact of the health facilities is demonstrated

by the 42.3% of births registered in 2021/22 which were done

at health facilities which is an increase from 33.4% in

2020/21. We anticipate that the numbers of birth registration

in health facilities will increase in the current financial



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year as we increase the footprint and presence of the

Department of Home Affairs in health facilities.

Chair, we are making progress in strengthening our partnership

with the banks in support of the rollout of the smart ID card

and the machine-readable passports. We currently have 28 bank

branches connected to the live capture system to enable online

processing of smart ID card and passport applications.

Our clients need customised and personalised services due to

the unique nature of their needs hence our technology must

respond to such unique needs. We have clients with names that

have special characters, fingerprints that are damaged by

years of physical labour, amputees due to medical or accidents

and many other challenges.

It is our duty to ensure that our systems respond to such

individuals irrespective of their challenges hence we continue

to enhance our technology to have multimodal biometrics like

facial recognition.

The 2022/23 budget will see us exploring new ways to better

service to citizens. We will procure kiosks that will allow



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clients to self-service for passports and smart ID

applications and reprint birth, marriage and death

certificates. The kiosk will be designed in the manner that

will require authentication through biometrics and will be

located in strategic areas to allow access even after office

hours or weekends. The self-service kiosk will usher a new era

in the manner in which we service our clients.

The recently piloted branch appointment booking system that

the Minister mentioned earlier is proving to be the solution

in as far as dealing with the management of queues. The Branch

appointment booking system can be accessed by clients through

the Home Affairs website and is web based. It provides

citizens with the ability to book the dates and time slot of

their choice and is linked to the national population register

for additional security.

The rollout of the system will follow a phased approach and 43

large offices will have the system by 30 June 2022 and 120

medium offices will have the system by 31 October 2022 and 34

small offices by 30 November 2022 and the remaining offices

will continue as walk in services.



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The branch appointment booking system pilot currently operates

on a hybrid model in the 25 offices that we have rolled in

because we didn’t want to turn away clients that have not made

a booking and it is only used to book for applications of

passports and Smart ID cards only.

In the future we would like to only service booked clients for

those two products because it is our firm belief that

scheduling an appointment for those two products is possible

compared to scheduling a death or birth registration because

those are occurrences that are not planned for in advance

hence we will continue to take walk ins for those two

services. The citizens will be able to access the Home Affairs

website link to schedule an appointment on their desktops,

laptops, tablets and smartphones.

We are exploring partnerships with more institutions and are

in discussions with the South African Post Office to extend

accessibility of our services.

We are also exploring opening offices in the major shopping

centres in which we envisage a positive uptake, with five of

the malls having offered rent-free space for five years.



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I would like to appreciate the work that continues to be done

by our National Youth Forum. The Home Affairs National Youth

Forum continues to be a pillar of support in improving service

quality. The youth forum in the previous financial year

conducted outreach programmes with other youth sectors in

government and in the NGO sector.

In this area, a key activity for this year is the National

Youth Imbizo. They have also led the weekend volunteer program

where specific offices are opened to service learners and the

youth over weekends.

Chairperson, we have the responsibility to ensure that the

budget is managed in a responsible manner that is free of

corruption, a budget must do what it is meant for that derives

value for money. We are pleased that the department achieved

an unqualified audit result in respect of the 2020/21

financial year.

This was the fifth successive unqualified audit opinion for

the department. Matters preventing the department from

achieving a clean audit outcome are the impairment of

receivables and accrued departmental revenue. We do



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acknowledge that there is still more to be done in improving

the departments audit outcomes but our ability to maintain an

unqualified audit opinion means we are taking correct steps in

the right direction.

Chair, in conclusion, through our collective commitment and

resilience, I believe that the vision of a modern, secure

Department of Home Affairs that strategically delivers its

full constitutional mandate is within reach.

There are already pockets of excellence. As you may recall, at

the height of the Covid-19 lockdown, our front offices were

confronted with extraordinarily long queues. The East London

large office is an example of our commitment to improve

service delivery.

By voluntarily starting work at 6am along with a few

innovative measures, the Office Manager, Mr Alie van Heerden,

and his team have managed to turn things around.

On a normal day, public members are served swiftly and

efficiently, and the sight of long queues is no longer a

problem for this particular office.



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I invite Honourable Members who visited that office a long

time ago to go there now and see how the situation has

improved.

There are many other examples that we can give of officials

who go beyond the call of duty. We wish to applaud all of them

for the good work they are doing.

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the Minister, the

director general and the entire management team of Home

Affairs for continuing to working tirelessly in steering the

ship.

We must remember that our task is never to point to problems

but our task is to resolve the complex problems. I would like

to further thank the Chairperson and Members of the Portfolio

Committee on Home Affairs for their steadfast support and

counsel over the years. Through their continued oversight and

valuable guidance, together we can build a future-fit Home

Affairs department. I thank you.

Mr V ZUNGULA: Minister as the ATM we are very happy that you

have demonstrated that you understand that your department is



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critical, in ensuring the integrity of the National Population

Register. and the national security risk of having millions of

undocumented and untraceable immigrants is dealt with. We

appreciate that you are aware and dealing with some of the

failures of your department, that often lead to conflict

within communities, of which the government is nonchalant on

the immigration crisis we have.

In addition, Minister, we are calling on you to seize the

moment and utilize the opportunity granted by the courts to

amend the Electoral Act, Act 73 of 1998 to bring the necessary

changes even in the Constitution. Our Constitution must allow

only native South Africans to run for public office. It cannot

be that in South Africa, we run the risk of a British

national, American or Chinese-turn South African running for

public office.

In the absence of government enforcing the law, what is

unfortunate is that people govern themselves and that could

lead to violence and loss of life. Minister ...

*IsiXhosa*:



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... akukho lizwe lingenamthetho. Awungekhe ukwazi ukwakha

ilizwe, ungaqinisanga ingalo yomthetho.

*English*:

It is unfortunate that South Africa is the preferred

destination not just for economic migrants, but for criminals

and all people who want to abuse our receptive laws. Minister,

there are reports of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, ISIS

used in South Africa as a financing outpost through shady

businesses, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and

kidnapping. The staff in your department that commit crimes of

selling our sovereignty must not only be dismissed, they must

be charged with treason. The law must go very hard on those

unpatriotic corrupt outlaws.

Minister, you must protect millions of poor native South

Africans from unfair economic competition with people from far

parts of the world where there was no apartheid. The bleak

reality is that; millions of citizens are displaced from

economic activities in favour of non-South Africans. This

displacement is unsustainable, and it is likely to lead to

tension and violence like we witnessed in Robertson.



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Minister you must continue to be unapologetic, bold and strong

in affirming our laws. South Africa is not a banana republic

...

*IsiXhosa*:

... apho nokuba ngubani na angafika enze unothanda. Qhuba

Mphathiswa

*English*:

... be loyal and faithful to the people of South Africa.

Affirm our laws, protect our nation from any invasion or

terror activity that can happen on our soil. It is very

dangerous to have millions of people who are undocumented,

whereby if they commit crimes, they can easily skip the

country and South African victims of crime can never get

justice.

Minister, defend the country affirm the dignity of South

Africans who have never enjoyed the economy, land and

opportunities that their forefathers fought for when fighting

for freedom. The ATM Minister will always support you when you

enforce our laws and we will you make sure that ... [Time

expired.]



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Mr B N HERRON: House Chair if Eskom is the yardstick for the

state’s operational inefficiencies, the Department of Home

Affairs must sadly come a close second. Having to queue

endlessly to access official documents is not just a matter of

inconvenience, for many in our country, it is more a matter of

life and death. They depend on these documents to which they

should be entitled, in order to access social grants, travel

documents, refugee papers to retain jobs and maintain

livelihoods.

Getting an identity document in South Africa in 2022 should be

more or less as simple as opening a bank account. The reason

it is simple to open a bank account is because, banks

understand that if they make it complicated or unpleasant

potential customers will go elsewhere. The problem for Home

Affairs customers is that there is nowhere else to go. House

Chair, it is poorer people as usual to who suffer the worst

consequences.

A recent site visit by the departmental officials highlighted

the fact that, many people are unable to access social grants

because they don’t have original identity documents. According

to people in the queues, temporary identity documents don’t



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work to access a social grant. Before COVID-19, the department

was battling to stay afloat trying to manage a growing backlog

of applications with outdated operating systems, reduced

operating hours and staff shortages. Many people who already

struggled to put food on the table are expected to pay for

temporary identity documents and again later, for the actual

documents. Those who can’t afford these fees have no

alternative, but to wait until they can and so the poverty

cycle continues.

Both the department and SA Social Security Agency, Sassa have

introduced a new online system to book appointments and access

various services. To book an appointment, a person needs to

visit the website and enter their South African identity

number. Online appointments are ideal in a world with proper

infrastructure and management and access to affordable data.

This is not the case for the South Africans living below the

poverty line. Here we want efficient online systems but we

also need efficient and accessible counter space or counter

service. What we have is that, those citizens who are able to

make appointments online, receive appointments two or three

months away. When the due date dawns they get up early in the



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dark to hit the queue early, but when they eventually get to

the front they must brace themselves for further delays, and

then must sometimes come back again.

House Chair, South Africans have the right to be able to prove

their identity. We have to ensure that that right, and all the

services associated with being able to identify who you are

including voting, are not denied because an identity document

is unaffordable and inaccessible. House Chair, we must re-

examine the tariffs for Home Affairs services and they cannot

be a barrier. Thank you

Ms T I LEGWASE: Hon Chair, Ministers, Deputy Minister ...

[Sound overlaps.] Parliament, colleagues from the Department

of Home Affairs, fellow South Africans, good afternoon.

One would want to respond to members of the opposition that

can before one who are grandstanding on the platform rather

than giving credit where it is due because every time we are

in portfolio committees and they would congratulate and

applaud the department for the sterling work they’ve been

doing with the department.



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But let me not waste time and extend a word of gratitude to Mr

McKay for the sterling work that he has been doing with the

Department of Home Affairs and say we wish him well.

The ANC has invested more time in making sure that those that

they send in government does exactly the mandate that they are

sent to do in the department, especially of Home Affairs.

For instance, Chairperson, section 10 of the Constitution

entails that everyone has inherent dignity and the right to

have their dignity respected and protected. Human dignity is a

central value of the objective, normative value and system

established by the Constitution. A person’s identity is a link

to a person’s human dignity. The core mandate of the

department ensures the realization of this right, which is to

secure and to confirm our identity and citizenship, securing

the identity and status of every citizen.

The Department of Home Affairs ... [Sound glitch.]

[Inaudible.] the lives of citizens from cradle to the grave.

Starting with the registration of infants within 30 days of

birth. After birth certificates, the department issues

identity documents, which enables citizens to do various



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transactions like opening an account, applying for business

license and registering for a course ... [Sound glitch.]

[Inaudible.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Legwase, you are

fading away. Hon Legwase?

Hon members, we will move on and come back to hon Legwase with

the minutes that she has.

Ms T I LEGWASE: ... [Inaudible.] people are treated with

respect and dignity, even when they travel outside the

country. When people enter into ... [Sound glitch.]

[Inaudible.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Legwase, can you

find better connection, I’ll come back to you when you have

done so.

I now call upon hon Jafta!



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Mr S M JAFTA: Hon Chair, may I also be allowed to my leave

video off because I’m also struggling here with the network,

please?

Hon Chair, this budget vote is delivered at a crucial time in

our history where illegal immigration, poor border management

control and corruption in the department have become a common

place. With constitutional function of securing borders and

managing our ports of entry, the department has often been

left wanting. Illegal marriages are on the rise and fraud

syndicates collude with Home Affairs officials.

The crisis of identity documents fraud must feature in the

debate about the 4th Industrial Revolution. We can no longer

avoid the scaling up of our processes through biometrics

technology. For the untrained, biometric data include blood

typing, finger printing, DNA analysis, retinal scanning and

voice recognition. We, therefore, need to modernize and

digitize the operations of the department.

There is a continued need to add more countries into our

basket pool of visa-free countries. This will boost our

tourism sector and harness our export potential.



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The SA Printing Works is arguably one of the promising

entities of government. Its model could be replicated and

adopted by the Ministry of Home Affairs and also the Ministry

of Transport, which is facing challenges of printing license

cards.

We will, therefore, support this budget vote, hon Chair. I

thank you.

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

hon member.

Hon Legwase, you are left with five minutes and thirty-seven

seconds. Are you back on the platform?

Ms T I LEGWASE: Hon Chairperson. Minister and Deputy Minister,

members of Parliament, fellow South Africans.

Section 10 of the Constitution entails that everyone has

inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected

and protected. Human dignity is a central value of the

objective, normative value system established by the



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Constitution. A person’s identity is a link to a person’s

human dignity.

The core mandate of the department ensures that the

realization of the right, which is to secure and to confirm

our identity and citizenship, securing the identity and status

of every citizen is part of our journey towards the

socioeconomic transformation and the restoration of the

dignity of citizens in line with the Constitution of the

Republic.

The Department of Home Affairs studies the lives of citizens

from the cradle to the grave. Starting with the registration

of infants within 30 days of birth. After birth certificates,

the department issues identity documents, which enables

citizens to do various transactions like opening an account,

applying for business license or registering for a course.

Secured documents like a passport also ensures that our people

are treated with respect, even when they travel outside the

country. When people enter into marriage or civil union the

department is involved. Finally, when people die, their death

are registered.



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The civic arm of Home Affairs is the biggest and the most

active for any individual to live a stable, productive,

struggle-free and the beneficial life within the confines of

the law of the country. Such an individual needs the services

of Home Affairs, at least three times within their lifetime.

While keeping with civic affairs of the department, on behalf

of the ANC, I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to the

families and friends of Namhla Singwa Mtwa, who was murdered

on 21 April 2022 in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape. The war on

the bodies of women and children cannot continue. Gender-based

violence must come to an end. The country’s law enforcement

agencies must act and justice must be served. May her soul and

other souls of victims of gender-based violence rest in

eternal peace.

One of the priorities of ANC government is to build a capable

and developmental state. a capable state is necessary for the

... [Inaudible.] service delivery and guide economic

development. A developmental state must be capable of lading,

guiding and mobilizing all social partners towards achieving

national objectives and goals.



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The citizens are first branches responsible for providing

secure, efficient and accessible services and documents to

citizens and local residents. It ensures that entry to the

population register happens within 30 days of the child’s

birth. It maintains a number of smart identity cards and it

has a target of three million per year. It also targets to

issue 90% of machine, durable, adult passport through the new

life capture processes within 13 working days.

Children are the shell of the society; if we fail them we have

failed as the society. Those are the words of Justice Sajca in

the case of SS versus presiding officers, Children’s Court,

Krugersdorp and others.

One of their longstanding priorities has been to clean up the

National Population Register, NPR. The NPR, which continue for

historical reason to contain significant and accurate, one of

the key approaches to clean up the NPR has been to persuade

all parents to register their children within 30 days of

birth. To optimise birth registration, the department

continues to improve connectivity at health centres through

its increased footprints plan.



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The committee has recommended that the department connects

more hospitals to ensure that more births are registered at

hospitals. This will assist with cutting long queues at the

Department of Home Affairs.

The ANC is committed in fighting corruption. Minister

Motswaledi has established a Ministerial Committee headed by

the former director-general in the Presidency, Dr Cassius

Lubisi, to review all the permit issues since 2004. This is

the year in which the Migration Act came into effect. The

committee will review various permits including all the

permanent residents’ permits, businesses and study visas. IDs,

passports and birth certificates have high value and the

Department of Home Affairs is under attack from local and

international criminal syndicates.

Cybercrime is also on the rise. This is extremely worrisome

because as aforementioned, one’s identity is inextricably

linked to human dignity.

The department has over the years committed to strengthening

the work of the counter corruption unit of uprooting fraud,



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bribery and corruption inside and outside the system. [Time

expired.]

The ANC supports the budget vote. Thank you, Chairperson.

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

House Chair, the Minister of Home Affairs has directed his

nine men legal team and directed to me without Al Jama-ah and

his legal team by lawyers who used to divulge Advocate Anton

Loggenberg and Prof Mohammed Haron and Prof Sandile Amina

Khubani in a whole day working meeting to get the certificate

issuing of the Muslim marriage ceremony recognise as an

official South African marriage certificate giving the option

to discusses on what priority system they prefer.

This is a social compact that President Ramaphosa wants. Home

Affairs officials careful analyse the Muslim ceremony and was

impressed with some of the key protocols. The future wife has

to give her concern. She had to give concern on the amount of

the diary and she had the right to be present.

On a more serious note, Al Jama-ah is supporting this Budget

Vote and we look forward to the Minister using some of the



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money he now has to follow through and make an announcement

that is still in the heart of 5 million Muslims in the

country. It cannot be that when a spouse in a Muslim marriage

dies the death certificate says never married. The officials

of the Minister were so impressed with the rights of the

future wife that it has in a marriage proposal that it is on

the table to use this as a model for the one Marriage Act

South Africa has on the radar for the Seven Parliament.

Minister, when you conclude this debate, please say something

about this bold rules of yours. Party after party don’t want

to approve this budget. Al Jama-ah will support this Budget

Vote.

The entire Muslim communities will vote. No one must be left

out when it comes to a legal South African marriage

certificate. This cause effect to the human dignity of the SA

Constitution guarantees.

Minister, Al Jama-ah has thrown a life line to your department

to have in place a Muslim Marriage Act by the end of the year

in terms of a court order. We have lost a Private Member’s

Bill which is a Bare Bone by Bill avoiding dispute issues that



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has delayed the best efforts of Cabinet to pilot the Muslim

Marriage Bill over the past 20 years.

We wanted a Bare Bone by Bill to get the Muslim marriage

certificate which now may not be necessary. You give us the

good news I asked for earlier.

Those dispute issues can be addressed when you come up with

one seconded Private Marriage Bill in the Seven Parliament. Al

Jama-ah has a second Private Member’s Bill to amend the

Maintenance Act in favours Bill. The Minister stand with woman

so he will make Parliament proud to support Al Jama-al two

Private member’s Bill. Al Jama-ah support the Budget Vote.

Thank you very much, hon House Chair.

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Thank you, House Chair, I think we must not

forget the call that we must not shoot the messenger. I think

under the current Minister there has really been a lot of

successes of recent. Yes, indeed there are challenges. This

are challenges that have been inherited by the Minister and

his team.



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But, let me start of by commending the Minister and his

Director-General and also not forgetting the staff at Umgeni,

Roda, Bonga, Mkhize and Zandile Dlamini. Minister, your

intervention in many of the matters that have been raised were

dealt to timeously and I must thank you.

Indeed, of course, I want to let you know that the Ukranian,

South African who married the Ukranian have subsequently

passed on but your immediate intervention managed to save the

day. Thank you very much for that.

Let me also side the step. You know, lot of each challenges

that the Department of Home Affairs is facing and if you have

listened to what the Director-General has spoken in Parliament

that there are 9 025 unfunded vacancies. Now what does that

actually tells you? You said you cannot expect miracles from

this department. What I think we should be doing is, the

unions, civil society, Members of Parliament – we should all

come together to assist this department in getting its house

in order.

The ITC system Minister; we want to welcome that although I

must say to the Minister, we do not have a lot of confidence



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in Small Enterprise Development Agency, Seda, alone. But let’s

look at some of your success in your department. Look at the

Krugersdorp passport syndicate that you have taken down. Let’s

look at what happened in Mpumalanga and how you have arrested

people there. Let’s look at what happened about the Bushiri

permanent residents about officials in your department who

were arrested. Let’s look at the officials that were arrested

at the OR Tambo.

Let’s look at your intervention on the work permits. Let’s

look at your intervention on the border control. And remember

about my concern on buses moving fast paying R50 is going

through. Look at your intervention. These are all success from

the Department of Home Affairs, which nobody seems to talk

about.

Yes, there are challenges – I want to repeat that again. But

of course, let’s all talk about the good that have been done

by this department. The successes of this department and more

importantly, let’s talk about R1,5 billion on track that the

department intervened on and of course there was a success in

the Goncourt. Why are we not talking about all these things?

So, I think a lot of good things have been done by this



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department. This department needs us to work hand in hand with

this department so that we will be able to deal with the

challenges that this department is facing.

And if we are able to do that I think this department will be

more successful in providing services to the people. However,

I want to reintegrate the Independent Electoral Commission,

Minister, Minister, needs a lot of attention.

I think one of the things we want to recommend is that, you

need a conflict resolution committee in the IEC to deal with

conflicts in political parties who spends millions of hundreds

of million rand in court fighting each other. And sadly, the

IEC does not have the capacity to be able to deal with this.

We want to say money is something that you put in a committee.

Thank you very much. The NFP will support your Budget Vote,

Minister. And thank you very much for the good things you and

your Director-General are doing. Thank you.

The ACTING CHAIPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Thank you very much,

hon member. Hon members? [Interjections.] Yes?



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Ms C V KING: Is hon King. Hon Angel Andile has left one minute

and that can be added to, hon Roos, please.

The ACTING CHAIPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): I wanted to say that,

thank you very much. Hon Roos will have seven minutes now. Can

you proceed.

Mr A C ROOS: Thank you, House Chair. Minister, we were very

appreciative to see Home Affairs mobile units in KwaZulu-Natal

in recent time to assist with documentation to those who lost

them in the floods. I was also very appreciative to see Home

Affairs mobile units in my constituency last Friday, but this

can’t be a once in a lifetime event. What I saw is that we

have to take Home Affairs services to the people. The DA has

been calling again and again for more mobile units to go out

more often, including to schools. Our many young people of

school-going age were part of the crowds taking this rare

opportunity to access Home Affairs services.

The excuses have now shifted from Covid to saying that you

don’t have any money. But that’s not true, Minister, you have

over R9 billion in this budget. You have the money. It’s the

choice of what you do with that money that is going to make



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the difference. It’s not only law-abiding, documented foreign

nationals being punished by your inability to control

immigration but South Africans as well.

In response to my parliamentary question in March 2022, you

responded that less than one in 10 South African learners

without ID numbers on the Department of Basic Education’s

database had been able to apply through mobile unit school

visits last year. These are undocumented South African

children.

Now a Gogo pleaded with me last Friday to assist as her

grandchild could not get an ID because the child’s mother was

unable to register her birth, being the child of a Swazi

mother and a South African father. The mother and child face

generational poverty for the simple sin that the father cannot

afford the DNA test to prove that he is the father. He should

be able to access this through an indigent programme. It is

heart breaking to see how this man must feel. This

undocumented South African child is excluded from applying for

a bursary, denied social support and let the abuses of

informal employment.



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The DA has highlighted the vulgar amounts spent on rentals of

Home Affairs offices where the landlords don’t even have to

maintain these offices, and this is why you lack money for

mobile units and to provide an indigent programme to such

parents.

A similar get-rich-quick scheme is found at Lindela, where it

costs thousands of Rands per month to house and feed each

illegal immigrant living in prison-like conditions there. Home

Affairs is spending so much on the contract that they can’t

afford the deportation costs, so they eventually release them

onto the streets with an order to leave.

It was the DA who had to fight for the 68-year backlog of

asylum seeker appeals to be addressed, and the United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugee, UNHCR, had to come to the

rescue with R27,5 million a year needed to address the backlog

in just 4 years.

Meanwhile, Government Printing Works spends R150 million on

professional services of consultants and lawyers, despite

having in-house lawyers, so that employees with grievances



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against executives can be faced with a lawyer when trying to

seek justice.

When the DA has called for the Minister to resolve the issue

of opening on Saturdays, he claims to be powerless to come to

a resolution with the unions. But deals decisively with unions

when they touch Government Printing Works. Do you want to be a

security department? Your choices have left Government

Printing Works, GPW, vulnerable and cost millions. The GPW

lost financial data due to gross negligence by the chief

executive officer that is costing millions in an audit and

reconstruction process of that data, and only after the DA had

exposed this was there an investigation.

The ineffective Border Management Authority, or BMA, drags on,

with millionaire managers appointed while the defence budget

is cut. Carte Blanche finds people irregularly crossing the

border within a few days with a camera crew and yet the BMA

can’t. The Socio- economic Impact Assessment on the BMA Bill

recommended the BMA should be a co-ordinating role, and now we

have millionaire managers with land cruisers and uniforms,

while the senior managers in immigration that were supposed to

be doing that job are still employed.



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To hire 200 guards sounds good. Then the Defence budget

earlier we heard that they cannot afford to control the

broader patrols they need. So, who is in charge and who is

doing what? It’s a very confusing situation in our borders.

In the meanwhile, Stockpoort border remains closed. When I

asked why I was informed that Port Health is not there and

therefore they cannot implement Covid protocols. So, who is in

charge of the borders? BMA or a Port Health? Because they are

closing the borders. We have the border officials who work at

Stockpoort sitting somewhere, while businesses in Stockpoort

have closed their doors, the Bureau de change retrenched all

their employees, and vegetable tunnels closed due to no sales

across the border.

Home Affairs’ delays and wrongful rejection of foreigners’

applications are costing millions in litigation. Foreign

investment goes elsewhere and jobs along with it. While you

rack up legal bills opposing even blatantly valid claims, you

refuse to take legal action on officials who leave on

corruption charges and recover stolen money. Once they leave,

they are home free.



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Minister, you need to invest in your Agency SA Missions

Abroad. Today, I received the plea from a citizen Arnold who

waited 10 months for her son’s passport application only to be

told that the passport cannot be proceeded because there was

no ID. Now why was the passport application even accepted

because there was no ID. And why was the passport even

accepted without an ID. This is not an isolated incident. It

is happening all the times. The staff don’t know what they are

doing there in many occasions a person waited for many months

only to find out that something was wrong and that they had to

start over and for 18 to 24 months’ turnaround time to process

an ID or passport application from SA Mission Abroad is

disgrace. You are aware of the problem and leave it.

This ANC Home Affairs Budget gives more money to landlords,

Lindela looters, lawyers, and millionaire managers. A DA Home

Affairs Budget would cut the Lindela and BMA gravy trains and

make sure that staff are held accountable to do their jobs so

that more budget is available for deportation and Defence

Force border patrols.

A DA Home Affairs Budget would ensure more clinics have birth

registration services and indigents have access to DNA testing



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so that undocumented South African children can access

opportunities and dare to dream.

A DA Home Affairs Budget would sort out IT systems and provide

more mobile units to take services to the people. To go to

schools and communities and get the documents they need to

access opportunities.

South Africans are stuck in poverty without Home Affairs

documentation that proves they belong; that gives them access

to opportunity. You have the money, Minister. Do something

about it. Thank you.

Mr K B PILLAY: Thank you very much, Chairperson, hon

Chairperson, hon Minister, Deputy Minister, hon Chairperson of

the Portfolio Committee, members of the executive and the

legislature, compatriots, comrades and friends on the various

platforms, the ANC rises in support of Budget Vote No 5 Home

Affairs the last clause of the Freedom Charter says:

There shall be peace and friendship South Africa shall be

a fully independent state which respects the rights and

sovereignty of all nations. South Africa shall strive to



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maintain world peace and the settlement of all

international disputes by negotiations – not war. The

rights of all the peoples of Africa to independence and

self-government shall be recognised, and shall be the

basis of close co-operation.

The attainment of Africa unity and independence from the

bondages of colonialism is something worth celebrating. In

this vein, I join my colleagues in wishing all Africans a

happy Africa month and Africa Day for tomorrow.

The ANCs January 8th Statement sets out our priorities for all

ANC members and Cadres which underpins our work during 2022

and among these priorities set are: To defend our democratic

gains against attempts to undermine our constitutional order

and destabilise our democracy; to build a capable

developmental state with an effective and ethical Public

Service that drives the implementation of South Africa’s

transformative agenda and to continue to work for a better

Africa and a better world.

Chairperson, in terms of Montevideo Convention of 1933, the

accepted criteria of statehood are that a state must possess a



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permanent population, a defined territory, a government and

the capacity to conduct international relations. The founding

provision of our Constitution affirmed that South Africa is a

sovereign and democratic state founded on the following

values: Human dignity, the achievement of equality and the

advancement of human rights and freedom; nonracialism and

nonsexism; supremacy of the Constitution; the universal adult

suffrage and national common voters’ role; regular elections

and a multiparty system of democratic government to ensure

accountability, responsiveness and openness.

It is a fact that South Africa faces a challenge of porous

borders. The fragmented border management approach has not

assisted the problem. No economy can flourish in an insecure

environment. In Twenty Thirteen, Cabinet agreed on the

establishment of the Border Management Authority or the BMA.

Guided by the National Development Plan, NDP, 2030, the ANC’s

54th National Conference reaffirmed the thrust of the mandate

as outlined in the NDP that South Africa’s borders are

effectively safeguarded, secured and well managed. The

conference accepted the security assessment which identified

four categories of threats facing South Africa which are the

threats to the territorial integrity of the Republic; threats



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to the authority of the state; threat to the safety and

wellbeing of the South Africans and threats to the country’s

economic development.

Conference therefore resolved that the Border Management

Authority Bill must be expedited and implemented. The ANC

government took a decision to establish a Border Management

Authority to take responsibility of all functions related to

management of our borders in an integrated manner. The

establishment of the BMA is meant to solve that problem.

Chairperson, it must be noted that the BMA has had many

critics - just like we have critics here today - since its

conceptualisation but today we can note the progress that has

been made. In 2020 and an attempt to create a more efficient

process for all border control and reduce the corruption

element. The Border Management Authority Act was signed into

law by the President. The MBA seeks to eradicate several

challenges currently experienced within the border management

environment due to existing fragment model and provide a

single authority to oversee all forms of border management

control. The BMA model will be implemented at land, air and

seaports of entry. The proposed BMA model will create a



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platform for a proper co-ordination between different

government departments, such as the SA Police Service, the SA

Revenue Service, the Department of Home Affairs immigration,

and SA Defence Force to work together in an attempt to clamp

down on, inter alia, the importation of counterfeit and

illicit goods and facilitate improved movement of people and

goods.

We note with appreciation that the President has appointed

both the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of

operations at the BMA and the rollout process of the BMA is

currently underway. Joint operations have been conducted by

law enforcement agents from various departments, including

SAPS, DHA and the labour inspectors from the Department of

Labour and Employment Services. An Inter-Ministerial Committee

on Migration was also established to have a co-ordinated

approach in dealing with illegal migration, particularly the

illegal employment of undocumented persons in the freight

industry. The recruitment of 200 border guards is currently

underway. The Act requires BMA officers to respect fundamental

rights, including those of vulnerable groups such as

trafficking victims, refugees and asylumseekers. These

developments are welcomed and indeed a positive step in a



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direction to a successful implementation to a BMA program,

which was significantly aid in the streamlining of the border

control.

Chairperson, allow me to go onto the Rands and cents. The BMA

will be allocated R67,5 million in 2022-23, R67,4 million in

2023-24 and R71,8 million in 2024-25. The BMA will also be

allocated a further R300 million over the MTF in order to

establish it as a public entity. It is encouraging to note

that the BMA’s budget increases to R150,1 million in the

current financial year from the previous allocation of

R40,6 million. This is an increase of R303,93% in real terms.

The BMA’s allocation which will be utilised for

operationalisation and recruitment of staff. The department

envisages that the BMA will be fully implemented and

operational by the end of the 2023-24 financial year.

The ANC supports the establishment and implementation of the

Border Management Authority which we believe will contribute

significantly to improving the security of our borders and the

management of immigration in our country. We will continue

playing an oversight role over the implementation of the BMA.



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On immigration services, the immigration affairs branch

facilitates and regulates the secure movement of people

through ports of entry into and out of the Republic of South

Africa. It also determines the status of asylumseekers and

regulates refugee affairs. The Department reported that it

plans to have 85% of permanent residence visas adjudicated

within eight months for applications collected within South

Africa. This is from the date of receipt of application until

the outcome is in a scan at VFS Centre. The permanent

residence visas referred to here are the: Critical Skills,

general work, and business Visas.

The Government Printing Works, GPW, is a success story for the

country. This is a highly efficient self-funded organisation

that produces, amongst others, secure passports and ID smart

cards. The GPW has positioned itself as a high-security

printer of official documents and contributes to security and

credibility of government.

Chairperson, the natural disaster which befell the people of

KZN and Eastern Cape could not have come at a worse time.

Deputy Minister Nzuza and KwaZulu-Natal Premier Zikalala

handed over enabling documents to people who were affected by



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the floods in the province. This is well documented and I

can’t understand how members will come here and not be able to

see that.

In line with the BMA roll-out and the African Continental Free

Trade Agreement, ACFTA, the department is planning to develop

and upgrade six of the six land borders in a project known as

the One-Stop Border Post, OSBP. The annual target in terms of

the OSBP in the previous financial year was to issue a OSBP

Policy for public comments and finalise the contractual

agreements with the contracted bidders.

Chairperson, the ANC is steadfast in contributing to a better

Africa and a better world. We are committed to the Africa

Continental Free Trade Area and BMA, which in fact reinforce

one another. The operationalisation of the ACFTA, will

increase trade and increase the trend towards political

regional and continental integration, which will enhance

efforts to promote peace and security in war-affected regions

of Africa.

Let me just stop by having to respond to some of our hon

members this afternoon. We have a multiparty democracy and



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opposition parties are present at our portfolio committees. At

these portfolio committees they contribute, support

discussions and decisions and most times congratulate the

departments on the work done. Yet, you choose to come here at

the budget vote and then blame the ANC for everything. Then

what is your role in Parliament? Are you here just to be an

opposition or are you here to also contribute to the solutions

and support departments.

Hon Khanyile, let me remind you that the Home Affairs has

piloted 24 offices and by June there would be a further 19

that gives us 43 offices where the booking system has been

piloted. Now you come and make a suggestion that we should

then start this which has already started and you were present

when this presentation was made. Hon Khanyile does not

appreciate the good work that’s done by the IEC and the

department because actually she’s not present at these

important meetings and so she’s not able to get these reports.

Hon Liezl, you are absolutely correct. Members pf Parliament,

MPs, are public representatives and must interact with the

issues raised by our people. We commend the joint work of the

portfolio committee and the department. Hon Herron if you are



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part of the Home Affairs Portfolio Committee you will then

understand and perhaps you can go back and look at some of the

recordings that there was a full presentation on the booking

system. It does not and it will not only be available online

on smartphones but there will also be the USSD platform.

Meaning that you could use any phone to be able to make this

booking at Home Affairs.

Hon Roos, as members, we have a direct access to the Director-

General, DG. We have direct access to the department. In fact,

members would regularly bring forth cases and report this to

the Home Affairs Department they would comeback and report in

terms of where we are. We also have a spreadsheet of the cases

that have been reported and the outcomes of that. So, then to

come here and to grandstand, and then just use the platform to

be able to say this case and this case. There are hundreds of

cases which members bring daily, but do we come back and say

to the public that this has been resolved, the individual

received a passport or this individual received an ID document

after the intervention - no. The DA is antiprogress and we

must accept that.



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The ANC government has been and remains unequivocal on this:

Everyone who enters the country lawfully is welcome. Everyone

– citizens and foreign nationals who are in the country must

adhere to the laws of this country. South Africa is a

legitimate and sovereign state. The government of the Republic

of South Africa has an obligation to grant protection to

refugees and other persons in need of protection under a

number of UN Conventions such as the 1951 Convention Relating

to the Status of Refugees. The qualifications of refugee and

asylum status are contained in such instruments.

Chairperson, I must say that we must appreciate the work done

by the IEC, Home Affairs Department and government printing

works because repeatedly we received reports that says under

the circumstances and challenges that the country has faced

both through COVID, lockdown, civil unrest etc that they are

still able to maintain and provide the service that is

required and the service that is necessary.

Let me end in these words of President Ramaphosa in his

Freedom Day speech:



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For those seek refuge from persecution and have

legitimate grounds, for any who have entered our country

legally and have the legal right to be here, they will

find South Africa a welcoming place.

The ANC supports this Budget Vote. I thank you.

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahaule): Hon memebrs, I

am informed that the Minister on his initial allocation manged

to save one minute. I am also informed that the Deputy

Minister also saved one minute, which are the minutes

allocated to the executive. That means the Minister will now

have seven minutes.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Hon House Chairperson, thank you

for the extra minutes.

Hon House Chair, in the final analysis in my speech, I

outlined the problems, that I am surprised when some members

here who were criticising just rehashed, as if they have just

recovered the problems themselves. I have outlined them.

However, they rehashed the problems without acknowledging that

we have proposed solutions. If people do not believe in the



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solutions that we have proposed, it is up to the. I put

together about 13 actions we are taking to deal with this

issue of downtime – of system of being always down.

I have explained the conditions under which they happen. The

downtime and all those possible solutions. As far as we are

concerned we are tasked and have confidence in the solutions

we have proposed. We are going to implement them without fear

or favour.

Now, the hon Tito said the Minister ridicule Members of

Parliament. I cannot do so.

Firstly, it is not in my nature. It is not in my DNA to

ridicule people.

I am sure you are aware that I work very well with all members

of the portfolio committee. I have never ridiculed them.

However, it is you who sometimes ridicule yourselves. For

instance, you mention here on this platform that indigent

people are not able to get social services in KwaZulu-Natal,

because the lost their IDs during the floods.



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Let me give you information on top of what the Deputy Minister

has already given.

The Department of Home Affairs visited 38 sites in eThekwini

where people were affected by the floods. Three sites in the

Ugu and four sites in iLembe. A total of 45 sites which were

visited, physically, to identify people who were having

problems in the wards. In those 45 sites, we served 2 394

people who were affected by the floods.

Amongst which unfortunately, 334, are the ones who have passed

on. They were given dearth certificates timeously. The

documents which people applied for were later on issued by the

premier and the Deputy Minister.

The Deputy Minister visited those sites for the second time to

issue those documents. So, it is not true that we never

service people affected by floods.

For your information, all of them were serviced free of

charge. They were not charged anything.



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The hon Khanyile, I think you have already been responded to,

by the hon Pillay, suffice to say do not ever try it again to

try and separate nor divide the Minister from officials,

because we work as a unit and we work very well. That will not

be successful.

Yes, hon Shaik Emam, I need to report to you today that you

were right, after tipping us about the buses. You saw me on

Good Friday going to the borders and we are actually charging

them.

Last week we met with Minister Mbalula and the Cross Boarder

Transport services. Let us get it clear. Nobody will ever

again convey people who do not have documents in South Africa

illegally.

You are aware of the Rincey bus services which we are charging

them R420 000. For we are charging the R15 000, for each

passenger they bring here illegally. We have informed them

that they will never enter South Africa again. We are not

apologetic about that, as the hon Zungula has said. We are

protecting our country.



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You cannot just come here, without any documentation

whatsoever in a bus and hide in there illegally, because that

is what was happening.

Hon Roos, yes, you are aware that I gave this report to the

portfolio committee that we want to increase the mobile

transport – that is the trucks. We said we want to double

them. I have actually mentioned it in my speech. Yes, they are

serving our people very well. That is why we like love them

very much.

Hon Roos, you also mentioned the issue of indigents that some

children cannot get IDs because they are indigent. Let me

remind you, the first issue with an ID, it is free for

everybody. It is free. We do not charge anything for an ID

whether you are indigent or not, it is free. However, once you

have lost it and we replace it you pay. Those who are

indigent, we give them waivers. Others, we send them to the

Department of Social Development to write a report.

We do not practice a situation where somebody cannot get an Id

because they are poor. If you encounter such people, please

bring the here. For we have systems to help them and do a



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waiver for them. That is why all the people involved in this

disaster, I wrote a waiver as a Minister and I am empowered by

the Act. I wrote a waver that they are not going to be charged

a cent.

So, it is not true that there will be people because they are

indigent they cannot Identities. It does not happen like that.

Hon Roos, I know that the DA has tried everything in their

power to get the chief executive officer, CEO, of Government

Printing Works fired. Please, I have asked you many times,

show us what he has done and put it on the table. You have

never exposed anything at the Government Printing Works.

The tribunal which I put up there after consulting the

President was not because the DA pointed out or exposed

anything. It was because of the systems that were down there,

and the report is out from those experts, eight of them who

were investigating what would happen. Please, come to the

portfolio committee meeting because I want them to read the

report to you, directly on their own.

Hon Herron, let me make this correction the Temporary

Identification Certificate, TIC, is a replacement document of



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people who are already on the National Population Register. It

is definitely accepted by the Department of Social

Development.

Hon Liezl Van Der Merwe, there is this issue in the media

about the Russian woman. That woman is not from Russia, she is

from Lithuania. She was stopped when she entered South Africa

without any documents. We stopped her. Our immigration

officials stop her – please praise them for that. We even

confiscated her passport. Yes, we know she went to a party.

That is why we are so angry about abuse of our immigration

system, because she has applied for asylum.

You are aware that last week Friday, she went to court for us

to bring her passport back. The court threw her case out, we

even reported her criminally to the Police. So, we are not

playing games in the Department of Home Affairs for people who

come here regardless of which part of the world they come

from. Then they misuse our systems to come to parties and say

they are refugees and asylum seekers and they are not.

Hon Zungula, yes, once more you would not cringe to protect

the country. Thank you. [Time expired.]



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**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDY, 24 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 5 – HOME AFFAIRS**

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The ACTING CHAIPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon members, you are

reminded that the debate on Employment and Labour Budget Vote

and the Police Budget Vote which includes Independent Police

Investigative Directorate and Civilian Secretariat for the

Police Service, will take place at 16:30 on the virtual

platform. That concludes the debate and the business of this

virtual mini-plenary session.

Debate concluded.

The mini-plenary session rose at: 16:08

