**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 1**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

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***PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY***

\_\_\_\_

The House met at 15:01.

The House Chairperson (Ms M G Boroto) took the Chair and

requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or

meditation.

**WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS**

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

proceed with today’s business, I wish to announce that the

vacancies which occurred in the NA owing to the resignation of

Mr G G Hill-Lewis and Mr J Selfe have been filled with effect

from the 25 April 2022, by the nominations of Mr C M Fry and

Mr F Essack. You are welcome members. [Applause.] The members

have made and subscribed to the oath and affirmation in the

Deputy Speaker’s Office. I welcome you all, hon members.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 2**

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): In the interest of

safety, let us wear our masks and sit on the designated areas.

Just a reminder because you have been home. The rules still

apply that we must wear our masks at all times. Hon members,

please note that the Motion on the Appointment to the

Secretary of Parliament will by agreement stand over. Having

said that, we now proceed to the Second Motion on the Order

Paper which is on the name of the Chief Whip of the Majority

Party.

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCES**

(*Mr Mxolisi Simon Sokatsha*)

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: The family is just

entering the House now.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms M G Boroto): Will you allow them to

sit before you proceed, hon Chief Whip?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: That will be very

progressive hon Chair.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 3**

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon House Chair Mama

Boroto, to members of the House physically and in virtually, I

wish you a happy Africa Day.

*IsiXhosa*:

UMBHEXESHI OYINTLOKO WEQELA ELILAWULAYO: Sihlalo weNdlu, ndima

kule ndawo ndinyembezana, ndingaqali ke phofu.

*English*:

This is my 18th member that I move a Motion of Condolences.

From 2020 to 2022, hon Sokatsha is my 18th person from the ANC

Caucus.

Hon House Chairperson, I move:

That the House –

(1) notes with great shock and sadness the tragic and

untimely passing of the ANC Member of Parliament, Mr

Mxolisi Simon Sokatsha in a fatal car accident on

Friday,25 March 2022;

*IsiXhosa*:



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 4**

Yanduluka ngophanyazo inzwane yakwaGcina, ebhuzubhuzu,

imbishimbishi yooXhamela. Kufandini, akufi.

*English*:

(2) remembers that 57-year-old Mr Sokatsha joined the

NA after 2019 General Elections and was deployed to

serve in the Portfolio Committee on Health;

(3) further remembers that he is a trained educator and

an accountant who previously served in the Northern

Cape Legislature from 2003 to 2019, 16 years of

unbroken service and I served with him in the

MinMec in various capacities including as MEC for

Health, Social Development, Sports, Arts and

Culture, as well as Roads and Public Works;

(4) recalls that during the 1980s, Sokatsha was

involved in the establishment of the Midlands and

Karoo Youth Congress, the affiliates of SA Youth

Congress, Sayco;

*IsiXhosa*:

Oovuk’ayibambe.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 5**

*English*:

The young lions.

(5) further recalls that he served as the Chairperson

of the ANC’s Pixley ka Seme region from 1997 to

1999;

(6) acknowledges that Sokatsha served as the first

post-apartheid mayor of Richmond between 1994 and

1996;

*IsiXhosa*:

Ukusweleka kwakhe kwalila umzi, akwatyiwa ngokushiywa nguTata

uSokatsha, watsho umzi waseRichmond.

*English*:

(7) further acknowledges that at the time of his

passing, he was a Provincial Executive Committee,

PEC member of the ANC in the Northern Cape;

(8) believes that Parliament lost a very principled

member, hardworking and dedicated to his work, a

socialite of note, and a dancer; and



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 6**

(9) extends its sincerest condolences to the family ...

*IsiXhosa*:

... uMama uNomvuyo okhoyo phaya, abantwana uNoluvuyo,

Andiswa, Zikhona, Milisa ...

*English*:

... the real Mr Sokatsha, the Junior there ...

*IsiXhosa*:

... wanga umphefumlo wakhe ungalala ngoxolo. Siyabulela kuni

MaGcina, booTyhopho nakuwe MaMthembu ngokusiboleka unyana

kuni, umyeni kuni kunye notata kubantwana bakhe. Wanga

umphefumlo wakhe ungasikeleleka, ulale ngoxolo. Umfundisi

undulukile kuba uBawo uye wambiza.

*English*:

I thank you.

Mrs E R WILSON: House Chairperson, the loss of a loved one is

very hard, but the sudden unexpected loss of a loved one is

particularly difficult. We can only imagine the Sokatsha

family’s pain. The hon Sokatsha was born in Richmond in

January 1965. Regular travellers of the N1 to Cape Town may



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 7**

well have known or heard about Richmond. It is a small town

between Colesberg and Beaufort West. And apart from the garage

on the side of the road, the town is easily missed.

A couple of years ago on route from Cape town to my home

province Limpopo, my car broke down not far from Richmond. It

was a Saturday afternoon and I was distraught knowing that

businesses, garages, and anything else in the area was likely

to be closed for the weekend. I managed to get to Richmond and

indeed apart from the garage where there was only one person

to pour fuel, most of the businesses in the area were closed,

bar one. With little help from the garage, I walked to the

only open business and found a young man called Dean. When I

explained my dilemma to him, he jumped into action and within

no time at all, several people from the town had gathered to

assist me. They drove me back to my car 22 kilometres away

from Richmond, assessed the situation, and then drove back to

Richmond. They managed to find the parts for the car needed.

And with expertise got me back on the road Dean and his lovely

team who had taken my numbers sent me messages and queries the

whole way back to Limpopo until they were sure I had arrived

there safely.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 8**

And what has this got to do with the hon Sokatsha you ask?

Well, the hon Sokatsha and I had three passions in common,

both from rural communities, the small and often forgotten

small towns were close to both of our hearts. I discovered a

small remote town, full of wonderful Christian folk who were

prepared to do whatever possible to ensure that I was safe and

well seen to.

When I was distraught, they told me that it was merely the

devil's work and that our David would overcome the Goliath,

and together with prayer and faith, we did. The hon Sokatsha

was proud of his roots and justifiably so. He was the first

post-apartheid mayor of Richmond from 1994 to 1996. And was a

student of theology and a teacher. He worked tirelessly for

the upliftment of rural towns and the people there. We shared

the same faith and concerns about the plight of the poor and

vulnerable in these remote areas. This is obvious in Richmond,

where he was very influential. I worked with the hon Sokatsha

for five years in the Portfolio Committee on Health, and his

commitment to highlighting the plight of the struggling health

system in the Northern Cape was very apparent. He served as an

accountant, Chief Whip and in various portfolios as a MEC in

the Northern Cape legislature from 2003 to 2019, before coming

to the National Assembly. He has a long record in senior



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 9**

positions in politics, despite how ideological differences,

the hon Sokatsha never shied away from a debate or a civil and

mature discussion and was willing to listen to other

perspectives.

We had some interesting discussions, both about politics and

our different backgrounds, where we often found common ground.

He and I shared a passion for food and he would often

entertain with stories about his favourite foods, his love for

his wife's cooking and indigenous foods and herbs. Mrs

Sokatsha. Mrs Sokatsha, he often told me that no one would

ever be able to cook as well as you do. You knew his diet

well. He shared stories of his children and their successes

and was a very proud and loving father too. Mrs Sokatsha and

your children, he loved you greatly. Please accept our

sincerest condolences on your tragic loss. To his colleagues

and friends in the ANC, our thoughts and prayers are with you

all. May his soul rest in eternal peace. I thank you.

[Applause.]

Ms N N CHIRWA: Chairperson, greetings to the commander in

chief of the EFF Julius Sello Malema, and all the officials,

commissars, fighters and ground forces of the EFF, today as

the EFF, we stand in solidarity to mark the life of the now



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 10**

late hon Mxolisi Simon Sokatsha, who sadly and untimely left

the mundane world to join other fallen heroes. The EFF sends

heartfelt condolences to his wife, his children, extended

family, friends, comrades, and the ANC on their loss. As

Africans, the empathy for the loss of life supersedes various

forms of solidarity. We are one when a child is born and we

are one when one of us departs this earth.

This moment is no different. We are one with his family and

his loved ones in grieving and noting his life. Although

prematurely ended, it was well-lived and to the fullest. Hon

Mxolisi Sokatsha amongst the many of the roles he played,

serving as the MEC of Health in the Northern Cape. And most

recently, as a member of the Portfolio Committee on Health. He

was one of a few genuine cadres who was committed to the work

of the portfolio committee we have served together in since

2019. In moments of heated conflict and disagreement, he would

attempt in his peculiar way to simmer down the flames, and

when in the wrong, and even when he was right, he had the

humility to not only withdraw his sentiments but to apologize

profusely during the meeting and even privately. He understood

the sentiment that ...

*IsiZulu*:



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 11**

... kuhlonishwa kabili.

*English*:

In his quest to display loyalty and allegiance to his

political party, he did not forget humanness and sincerity in

interpersonal interactions. We were blessed enough to share

the journey of rounding up public hearings for the National

Health Insurance, NHI, across the country in 2019. He would be

the earliest to board in the morning and through his

charismatic nature, he would be the last to get inside in the

transport on our way back because he would interact with

everyone no matter their social class and or background and

political party t-shirt that they wore. He had the charisma

and ability to round all of us up at the dinner table after

the public hearings and share hilarious recollections of his

history, his family, and his children, whom he loved and never

forgot to mention whenever he was in high spirits.

My deepest condolences are thus directed to his wife and his

children. Know that he loved and cherished all of you. He

carried you with him everywhere he went. And he found great

joy in sharing how much he appreciated the warmth and the

support he received from his family. The country will forever

be appreciative of your borrowing of your father and your



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 12**

husband to the country. To the nation at large, you have lost

a leader in his own right.

*IsiZulu*:

Duduzekani. Alwehlanga olungehliyo.

*English*:

May his soul rest in perfect and eternal peace until we meet

again. Thank you very much, Chairperson.

*IsiZulu*:

Nk M D HLENGWA: Angithokoze, Mhlali ngaphambili, sikhala

sonke. Izinyembezi zethu ziyagobhoza zidlula ngisho izindlebe

ngale nsizwa yomhlabathi waseNingizimu Afrika. Ubaba u-

Sokatsha bekungubaba, bekungumfundisi, bekunguthisha, ngakhoke

sikhalela isizwe ngakho konke lokhu njenge-IFP. Simbonile

uBaba u-Sokatsha ekwenza konke kodwa Mama u-Sokatsha okuhle

ngoNkulunkulu ukuthi akakwenzi okungaphezu kwamandla. Sonke

sasikhathazekile nge-COVID-19. Sonke sasikhathazekile

ngoshukela kaBaba u-Sokatsha kodwa uNkulunkulu wenza ngeyakhe

indlela futhi nangesakhe isikhathi. Ngakhoke duduzeka.

Ngiduduza nomama eKwaZulu-Natal le ngakithi ngithi mama

duduzeka. Indodana yakho ibihlala ikhuluma njalo ngomama ithi



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 13**

ngizoshayela ngiyeKwaZulu-Natal ngiyobona umama ngithokoze

ngincokole nomama. Ube umuntu wamancoko. Uma esengena

emsebenzeni futhi ubengena emsebenzini. Bekungubaba

obezihlonipha.

*English*:

It is with the deepest sadness that the IFP ultimately heard

about the death of Mxolisi Sokatsha. I wish to extend on

behalf of His Excellency the Prince of KwaPhindangene, the

president emeritus of the IFP and our caucus leader in

Parliament, our deepest condolences to the family and friends

and the hon Mxolisi Sokatsha’s wife, as well as his colleagues

in the ANC. Hon Sokatsha, at the time of death, served as a

member of the Portfolio Committee on Health. We will always

remember him as a kind, warm-hearted person who contributed

deeply to the portfolio committee deliberations.

He carried out his oversight duties with diligence and passion

and will be greatly missed by all the members of the portfolio

committee. To the portfolio committee ...

*IsiZulu*:



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 14**

... ngithi bantakwethu, alwehlanga olungehli kwikomidi

elibheke umsebenzi womnyango ngiyanikhalela nani. Bekuwulimu

lakhe u-Sokatsha athi, “mntakwethu”.

*English*:

We also wish to extend our deepest and sincerest sympathy to

his former colleagues in the Northern Cape provincial

government where the hon Sokatsha served before becoming a

Member of Parliament. We wish to honour his commitment to the

fight for democracy in his early student days serving in SA

Students Congress and his lifelong contribution as a public

servant.

*IsiZulu*:

Ubaba u-Sokatsha ubeyindoda impela. Ubengawukhohliwe nomneni

wakhe. Engalikhohliwe nezwe. Siyamkhalela noMongameli.

*English*:

May the passing of Mr Sokatsha remind all of us of the duty we

have towards the people of South Africa. To continue striving

and working towards a better future for all those who live in

this country.

*IsiZulu:*



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 15**

Mama u-Sokatsha, kuneculo elithi, *Ayibalwa Iminyaka*, ngifisa

kube yiculo lakho lelo, usho nawe ukuthi, ayibalwa iminyaka.

Ungomunye womama owuthokozele umshado. Yingakho ngithi,

ayibalwa iminyaka. Uyadinga ukumnika uNkulunkulu udumo

sekwenzekile konke lokhu.

*English*:

May his soul rest in peace. I thank you.

*Afrikaans*:

Mnr P A VAN STADEN: Voorsitter, ek het die voorreg gehad om

saam met mnr Sokatsha sedert ons inswering as lede van die

Parlement in 2019 tot en met sy afsterwe vroeër vanjaar op die

Portefeuljekomitee oor Gesondheid te dien. Hy was ’n man met

’n ryke aktivistiese en politieke geskiedenis, ’n man wat

verkies was as burgemeester van die dorp, Richmond, in 1994,

daarna verkies as lid van die Noord-Kaapse provinsiale

wetgewer vanaf 2003 tot 2019, waar hy gedien het as LUR van

Gesondhied, Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling, Sport, Kuns en Kultuur,

en ook as LUR vir Paaie en Openbare Werke.

Sedert ons mekaar hier in die Parlement ontmoet het, het ons

’n baie goeie band met mekaar gehad. Dit moes die Afrikaanse

taal wees, wat ons saamgebind het, maar nie net die taal nie,



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 16**

maar ook omrede ons soortgelyke ooreenkomste in ons onderskeie

loopbane gehad het - eerstens as aktiviste en later as

politici.

Toe ons, as komitee, op oorsigbesoeke was of toe ons met die

Nasionale Gesondheidsversekering deur die land gereis het en

lang ure op die pad spandeer het, het die langpad besonders

vinnig kort geraak met ’n man wat die beste stories kon vertel

en almal kon laat skater van die lag. Ons twee het baie nagte

laat oor verskeie sake en in soeke na oplossings vir ons land

en sy probleme gesit en gesels.

Ons het mekaar gereeld uit die bloute per WhatsApp gevra hoe

dit gaan en of die families nog wel is. As ek op die langpad

was het hy gereeld gebel om te hoor of ek al by die huis in

Pretoria is en of ek al veilig in Kaapstad aangekom het. Ons

sou mekaar nog hierdie jaar besoek het, maar dit het

ongelukkig nog nie gerealiseer nie.

Ongeag ons politieke verskille in die komitee, het daar tog

die afgelope drie jaar ’n besonderse band tussen lede van die

Komitee oor Gesondheid gevorm. Ons baklei met mekaar en hard

ook, ja, maar ons gesels en lag net so hard saam.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 17**

Die respek wat ons vir mekaar het is werklik iets besonders en

daarom is dit tog hartseer as een van ons kollegas skielik

oornag afsterf en jy die volgende oggend begroet word met die

slegte nuus.

*English*:

To the family of Mr Sokatsha and the caucus of the ANC, on

behalf of the FF Plus, our sincere condolences. His death was

indeed very tragic and shocking to all of us. We, as members

of the Portfolio Committee on Health have become like a

family, despite our political differences and if something

happens to one of us, it happens to all of us. We felt each

other’s pain. May God be with the family of Mr Sokatsha and

the colleagues of the ANC. Rest in peace, my friend. You, will

be missed.

*Afrikaans*:

Rus in vrede, my vriend. Ons gaan jou baie mis. Dankie.

Ms M E SUKERS: Hon Chairperson, I stand to extend the

condolences of our President, Rev Kennith Meshoe, and the

leadership of the ACDP to the family, friends and the

organisation, the ANC, on the passing of Mxolisa Simon

Sokatsha. It is with shock and sadness that I learned that Mr



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 18**

Sokatsha passed on the Saturday morning after his fatal

accident. It was very hard, because, as mentioned by hon Van

Staden and Shaik Emam that morning, this Sixth Parliament has

experienced the most deaths that both have ever seen in their

political lives.

It calls us to pause and consider what we must do in response,

and collectively, we should take the moments like these to

reflect on our own lives what it means for our country when we

lose leaders of the calibre of Mr Sokatsha. Mr Sokatsha, ...

*Afrikaans*:

... as ek nou in Afrikaans moet sê, was ’n oordentlike mens en

’n tipiese onderwyser, met ’n hartlikheid so eie aan die

Noord-Kaap en die Karoo - die Noord-Kaapse menslikheid met die

ope hart en die warm geaardheid soos die aarde waarvandaan hy

kom.

Die laaste vergadering van die portefeuljekomitee voor sy

ontydige dood het eerbare Sokatsha die vergadering gelei. Hy

het na my verwys met my volle name, Marie Elizabeth Sukers.

*English*:

And no one has called me that in a long time, with both names.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 19**

*Afrikaans*:

En hy het met ’n glimlag gesê, eerbare Sukers, ...

*English*:

... that smile is what I was looking for on your face. We must

bring a smile to each other’s faces.

*Afrikaans*:

So, aan die mense van mnr Sokatsha, ek wil vir u dankie sê dat

u u pa en u man met ’n land en sy mense gedeel het, en met die

mense van Richmond. Dankie dat u hom toegelaat het om ’n

legacy [nalatenskap] agter te los, wat baie mense sal onthou.

*English*:

For those of us who believe in the Lord, we know that when we

are absent from the body, we are present with the Lord. Mr

Sokatsha introduced himself to me as my brother in the faith.

We have what the hymn describes, a blessed assurance. I am

going to read the first verse. It is an old hymn that carries

the truth for every believer and it is my encouragement to

you.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine.

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine,



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 20**

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

Born of His spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song,

Praising my Saviour all the day long.

May the Lord bless and keep you, may His face shine upon you.

[Applause.]

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Hon Chairperson, allow me, behalf of the

NFP, to express our deepest condolences to the family, friends

and colleagues of the late Mr Mxolisa Sokatsha. Also, allow me

to extend our condolences to the ANC, and yes, indeed, every

time we got to this platform and had to extend condolences, it

was very, very painful.

We can lose a Member of Parliament and you can replace them,

but when you lose a father, it is very difficult to replace.

So, we know and understand the pain that you go through.

I had the privilege of serving in the Portfolio Committee on

Health with hon Sokatsha. Indeed, I can assure you and I want

to say this to his wife and his children, if there is anyone

and anything you should be proud of, it is your late husband



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 21**

and your dad. He served this country with distinction,

starting in 2003 in the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature.

Until his last breath, he served this country and he served

his people.

We often forget the sacrifices that public representatives,

like Members of Parliament make, the time they stay away from

their families. Sometimes their children grow up without these

fathers and mothers as politicians or public representative

and when you realise it, they are grown. So, look at the time

you have lost. Look at the time that you have spent away from

home, look at time and look at the risks you have put yourself

in, when you spend time on the roads. And her indeed was a

tragic accident that Mr Sokatsha lost his life in.

I want to finally say to the family, friends and the ANC, you

can go back there and rest, knowing that, indeed, this servant

of the people served us with the highest level of integrity,

commitment and dedication. You can be proud that he left a

legacy and my appeal to his family members is follow in the

footsteps of your dad, who served the people and this nation.

Our condolences once again to you, the ANC. It is a sad day,

but we can celebrate the life of this hero. Thank you very

much.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 22**

Mr S M JAFTA: Hon House Chairperson, the AIC gives its

revolutionary banners in honour of the exemplary life that

comrade Mxolisa Sokatsha embraced during his lifetime. Comrade

Sokatsha’s life was cut short in a tragic car accident outside

Belmont in the Northern Cape.

He dedicated his life to public service and occupied various

roles in the Northern Cape, including serving as the

Chairperson of the Education Committee in the Northern Cape

Legislature. He also held various things as the MEC of the

province in various capacities, such as being the MEC for

Social Development, Roads and Public Works, and Arts, Sports

and Culture.

His passion for activism was laid bare when he led the South

African Democratic Teachers’ Union in Graaff Reinet and

Richmond. More rewarding to his movement, the ANC, was his

commitment to the ANC itself, which he served with abiding

loyalty for three years as the Chairperson of Pixley ka Isaka

Seme Region.

Our sympathy goes to his family and loved ones. His very

commitment to our democracy has improved the lives of many



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 23**

South Africans and we thank him and his family for that. May

his soul rest in peace. I thank you.

Mr M G E HENDRICKS: Al Jama-Ah extends our deepest sympathy to

the family and friends of the hon Sokatsha member of the

African National Congress, who passed on in a tragic car

accident on the night of 25th March 2022 exactly two months

ago. The late Sokatsha has been described by his ANC

colleagues as a revolutionary and a disciplined cadre. He had

spent most of his life fighting for a democratic and free

South Africa and he became the first Mayor of Richmond in a

postapartheid South Africa. When a revolutionary falls the

earth shakes and today we still feel the tremors of sadness.

Sokatsha was a qualified educator and an accountant and will

be remembered as a humble person. He was dedicated to his work

and served well on the Portfolio Committee on Health. I

attended the first meeting of the Portfolio Committee on Heath

regularly, as an alternate member and he asked me to make more

time as he saw I was passionate about Universal Health Care

and he wanted the first heath care facility to be launched on

the Cape Flats. He was committed to taking forward the

implementation of the National Health Insurance Act. The way

Al Jama-Ah wants to honour the late Sokatsha is to make sure



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 24**

that the NHI brings medical care to all in South Africa

[Applause.] and it is remembered that this is part of the

legacy he left behind. He will be remembered as a dedicated

public servant who prioritised the interest of the people made

of fond memories of him bring comfort to the family, friends

and his colleagues during this time of bereavement, especially

the hon members of the ANC in this House. May his soul rest in

peace.

*IsiZulu:*

Hamba kahle, Comrade Sokatsha.

Dr K L JACOBS: Thank you, Chief Whip and Chairperson, “I lift

my eyes to the mountains where does my help come from? My help

comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.” And that

is Psalms 121 and you might ask why am I quoting this verse.

It’s purely because in the last six months, it is what hon

Sokatsha and I have been talking a lot about. You might not

know, but we had many telephone calls late in the night - ask

Mrs Sokatsha there. Whenever there is a bit of trouble on my

side or little trouble on his side, we would call each other

and apart from that we would also talk about the work of the

portfolio committee. He would always talk about his studies in

theology and the fact that he was going to be a full-time

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**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 25**

pastor when he had completed his term in Parliament and he

would say my real job is ‘umfundisi’. You know I would always

wonder. So, I would say hon Sokatsha, of course, I would say

Comrade Sokatsha what is it that you are really talking about?

He would say the following verse and I’m going to quote this

verse and I’m also going to give the following verses and it

was Psalms 27:1 and I’m going to say it in Afrikaans because

that was the favourite language of hon Sokatsha.

*Afrikaans*:

“Die Here is my lig en my heil: vir wie sou ek vrees?” Dit is

baie interessant dat Biskop April vandag dieselfde vers

aangehaal het. Ek was baie beïndruk want dit spreek boekdele

oor die persoon dat ons almal vandag hierdie waarheid oor die

persoon praat, dat ons oor dieselfde vers kon gepraat het. In

vers 8 word ons herinner dat daar staan, u het vir my hard

gesê, kom en dien my. Ek antwoord, Here, ek kom u dien.

*English:*

Now, you know, when we spoke about this with hon Sokatsha, he

would say I am preparing myself and I always thought he was

looking for the salvation, the truth of salvation and what had

that to mean to his own life. Now, through those discussions

hon Sokatsha was revealing the real person that he was and



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 26**

that all his participation in the matters of the struggle of

the people, no matter where he was finding himself or which

deployment he was participating in, he served this with

honours because of an intense awareness of his duties in terms

of his faith to serve the people.

No wonder he served in so many organisations and they had

reached such heights in those organisations to serve as

chairperson, to serve as MEC etc. It was all rooted in himself

and his faith in what he believed in. He was really a true

social activist because that was at the heart of his

participation in the work of the people. Whether it was as a

student, a struggle in education as a member of teacher’s

union, a struggle for legislative changes at provincial or

national level. Everywhere he was you would have seen it would

have been in the struggle of our people, as we are still

looking towards the emancipation that is ours and we should be

reminded that we have not fully really reached that

emancipation.

Now, hon Sokatsha being described as humble, hard working with

a character of a true example of a Christian faith, was also

involve in the improvement of the lives of the people of South

Africa. The departure of hon Mxolisi Sokatsha through untimely



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 27**

and tragic death has unspeakably devastated the Portfolio

Committee on Health. He was deployed at the National Assembly

by his party, the ANC and after the 2019 general elections. He

was then deployed to this committee. The work of this

portfolio committee and its mandate was very close to hon

Sokatsha’ s heart. He prioritised the work of the committee

and played his role in it with outstanding dedication and

commitment. He was invested in it because he believed firmly

in the National Health Insurance and the right for everybody

to have access to quality health care. Again, the good of all

and the good for all was the mainstay of his beliefs. He

leaves a shining legacy we will forever be indebted to him for

the work that he has done.

Those closest to him describe him as I said earlier as a

family man. A man who would always speak about his wife and

his children in every single telephone conversation. I knew

each and every of them by name. I knew the characters already

by what hon Sokatsha would be speaking to me about on the

phone. I know that there is one task that he had left with me

and his daughter to be re-admitted to medical school after

they’ve had some struggles. Really, I’m raising this on this

platform so that we work as a portfolio committee towards that

achievement. Something that he really wanted to happen during



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 28**

his lifetime. So I commit myself that we are going to work

very hard towards that. [Applause.]

To the family, his wife and his children, I want to say you

were much loved by your husband and father. I firmly believe

that hon Sokatsha had tasted that salvation which he was

seeking before his departure from this very earth, which was

so untimely. It was a great shock to all of us. It was said

here and really expected that maybe with COVID it was a very

bad time for him, and that we were on the telephone so much

and I do miss that time when he was on the ventilator that I

was not able to speak with him. It was a very difficult time

being concerned and all of us not being able to contact each

other during that period and we must always be reminded people

of South Africa about that time so that we are very careful

about what we do in terms of our interactions and please wear

your mask, maintain social distance, sanitize regularly, wash

your hands with water and soap, make certain that you protect

the family and the people whom you love. We are missing you

already, my dear friend.

*IsiZulu:*

Hamba kahle.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 29**

*English:*

Rest in peace. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

*Sepedi:*

MODULASETULO WA NGWAKO (Moh M G Boroto): Re a leboga Ng Jacobs

*English*:

That concludes the speakers list on this matter but before I

proceed...

*Setswana:*

A kere mo gareng ga rona re nale Mme Sokatsha, barwadie ba ga

Rre Sokatsha, ba bogadi ba ga Sokatsha, le ba leloko ba teng.

Le buile thata ka barwadie ba ga Ntate Sokatsha. Ke kopa go

eme bona le ba bone ka mo Ntlong. Ke barwadie ba gagwe bale le

leloko le le feletseng teng le ka ema ka maoto. Re a leboga.

Le ka nna mo fatshe.

*English*:

Hon members, I take it that there are no objections to the

motion being adopted. Will members please rise to observe a

moment of silence in the memory of Mr M S Sokatsha. The

presiding officers associate themselves with the motion, the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 30**

condolences of the House will be conveyed to the Sokatsha

family. Thank you very much.

Debate concluded.

Motion agreed to.

**DEBATE ON AFRICA DAY: AFRICA MONTH – STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE**

**AND SUSTAINABILITY IN NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY ON THE**

**AFRICAN CONTINENT**

Dr M S MOTSHEKGA: Hon House Chairperson and hon members, in

general, we use Africa Day to celebrate the gathering of the

African leaders in Addis Ababa to form the Organisation of

African Unity, OAU, on 25 May 1963. Africa is the richest

continent, but her people are the poorest because some of the

modern African leader have forgotten that the struggle of the

African people, as our icon Walter Sisulu called it, was the

realisation of the right of the African people to self-

determination. This right entails a struggle for political,

social and economic rights.

After achieving political rights some African leaders thought

it was uhuru, that is, they had arrived. They did not know



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 31**

that political right without social and economic rights is not

complete freedom and independence. Every nation needs social

freedom which resides in the arts, culture and heritage of her

people. The soul of a nation resides in these social or soft

power. Above all the life of a nation resides in its economic

power which included the power of a nation to feed, heal and

dress itself. Today, Africans depend on foreigners to provide

food, medicines and attire.

Allow me therefore, hon Chairperson, to highlight the

principal object of the struggle of the African people and the

constraints on the enjoyment of these rights by our people.

During the World War 2, Africa witnessed the emergence of the

new dynamic and radical African leaders who demanded the

reform of the colonial system but its total abolition and the

restoration of African dignity, sovereignty, political, social

and economic freedom. These African revolutionary leaders

convened the Pan Africanist Congress in Manchester in 1945.

This congress was attended by, inter alia, Jomo Kenyatta,

Kwame Nkrumah, who was rooted in Ethiopianism and Pan

Africanism. During his sojourn in the United States and the

Great Britain, Kwame Nkrumah revived and rekindled interest in

Pan Africanism but also called for the liberation of Africa



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 32**

from the colonial rule and work out strategies and tactics for

accomplishing thins which some of the leaders later applied.

Kwame Nkrumah led Ghana to independence in 1957. The following

year 1958, he convened the first Pan African congress at

Accra, the capital city of Ghana, on the African soil. The

eight participants could not have been more diverse, not one

of them was at all close to the liberation ideology of Nkrumah

and yet they met together, committed themselves to the

decolonisation of Africa by nonviolent means and agreed to

condone the armed struggle in Algeria and South Africa. They

also agreed not to interfere in each other’s internal affairs.

Kwame Nkrumah, the father of the Pan Africanism, in December

1958, he convinced a conference of all African people. This

conference projected an unexpected lay of a rapid agenda for

the decolonisation of Africa.

Kwame Nkrumah who had inspired his historic all African

People’s Conference wrote about it as follows, and I quote:

From 5th to 13th December, I invited freedom movements

and political parties in Africa to a conference in Accra.

Delegates came from British, French, Belgian, Portuguese



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 33**

Spanish colonial territories. This was the first all All-

African Peoples' Conference. What I had in mind was to

give the forces of the liberation movement the strategy

to move into action and the tactics for that strategy. It

was to sound the clarion call for the advance and final

assault on imperialism and complete eradication of

colonial oppression in Africa. Freedom fighters came from

all over the continent and those who were then unknown

are now the leaders, presidents and prime ministers of

the colonised territory they represented. My object again

was to infuse into the African revolution new spirit and

a new dynamism and to create this where They were

lacking.

At the conference two significant points were made. First and

foremost, Nkrumah committed himself to the total liberation of

the Africans in a more definite and emphatic terms, and I

quote:

Ghana supports the struggle of the depended people for

the speedy elimination of imperialism, colonialism and

the eradication from this continent of racialism as I

have always declared even before Ghana attained her

present sovereign status. The struggle for the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 34**

independence of Ghana will be meaningless unless it is

linked with the total liberation of Africa.

In rejecting racism whether it be white or black, Nkrumah

said, and I quote:

When I speak of Africa for Africans it should not be

interpreted in the light of my emphatic declaration that

I do not believe in racialism. The concept of Africa for

the Africans does not mean that other races are excluded

from it. It only means Africans who are naturally in the

majority in Africa shall and must govern themselves in

their own countries.

The conference was attended by, among others, leaders of the

national liberation movements of Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya,

Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde island. All in all, there

some 300 delegates representing the entire continent t of

Africa.

The African iconic leader, Patrice Lumumba, of the Congo made

a short speech where he denounced the balkanisation of Congo

and ended his speech with the cry of down with colonialism and



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 35**

imperialism, down with racism and tribalism, long live the

Congolese nation, long live independent Africa.

The conference passed a number of resolutions. The most

important resolution was on imperialism and colonialism in

order to combat the colonial strategy of divide and rule.

In 1960, when a handful of African countries were free, there

was a first sitting of the UN General Assembly. That sitting

brought together newly independent African leaders in Harlem,

the incubation centre of African nationalism. There, they met

Fidel Castro who emerged as the leader of the Afro African

nations. It was in that conference where the basis for the

African struggle was clearly explained in resolution 15(14)

which was championed by Khrushchev, the Soviet leader. That

resolution made it clear that all colonial powers must

transfer power to the colonised people without restrictions or

any form of conditions. That meant therefore that the type of

freedom that had to be given to the people must be full

political, social and economic freedom. If that had happened,

we would not have an Africa today which is poor, where the

people are sick, the people cannot help themselves and they

rely on foreign countries, especially Europe to feed, heal and

dress them.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 36**

This means that land reform is indispensable for food

security. We cannot after so many years of freedom in Africa

have a situation of food insecurity. But food insecurity is

not going to depend on resolutions by parliaments that there

must be enough food for the people. The food security can only

be guaranteed if we effect meaningful land reform because the

land is the basis of any economic power. On the land people

are able to produce food, medicines, minerals, arts and

crafts. During the colonial times the monopolists owned

agricultural farm lands, water and mineral rights and markets.

The colonialists were therefore able to control food and

mineral production and to reduce colonial peoples into their

cheap labour.

Leaders like Fidel Castro, Patrice Lumumba, Kwame Nkrumah and

Thomas Sankara became the victims of the European imperialism

because they opposed monopolies and exploitation of colonial

people. This European aggression forced newly independent

African states to become depended on foreign monopolies for

food, medicines and all goods and services. Thus African

countries do not own their economies. Countries like Zimbabwe,

which was the bread basket of the Great Britain, was brought

to its knees by trying to regain the land and natural



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 37**

resources which is a prerequisite for establishing a national

economy. African countries ... [Time expired.]

*Sepedi*:

Ke a leboga, mme.

*Sepedi*:

Mna N P MASIPA: Kgotsong ...

*English*:

... House Chairperson, the Charter of the United Nations

Organisation enjoins African states to amongst other things,

create a better life for all the peoples of Africa. Post 1994,

South Africans were promised freedom and a better life for

all. South Africa’s Constitution that was adopted in 1996,

bears the hallmarks of a liberal democratic order. The

Organisation of African Unity also enjoins leaders in the

continent to play an active role in the global arena.

The Ukraine war provides Africa with an opportunity to

introspect on global matters that affect our food basket. In

keeping with the spirit of the Organisation of African Unity

Charter the Democratic Alliance leader not only spoke against

the war in Ukraine, but also visited the conflict zone and saw



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 38**

first-hand the threat of food scarcity and looming high

inflation if the war persists. That is what Africans do to

show love and care.

*Sepedi*:

Batho ke go hlolana, ke segagaborena seo.

*English*:

House Chairperson, while 60% of the world’s arable land is in

Africa, the continent is faced with many farming challenges

with abundant opportunities. These challenges and others

contribute to many of our brothers and sisters to flee the

continent to the world to seek asylum and refuge due to hunger

and other economic reasons because of our institutions are

being mismanaged. House Chair, our challenges are not without

opportunities, already prior to Russian war on Ukraine, prices

of fertilizers have already gone up by over 100% and we expect

another increase of 70%. All the potassium and 70% of the

nitrogen fertilizers are being imported.

While Foskor is supposed to be the able could use fertilizers

cheaply for the whole Southern African Development Community,

Sadc, region due to the mismanagement, the institution is

producing less than 20% of the needed fertilizers for farmers.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 39**

As parliamentarians, let’s join hands and let’s make

agriculture work in the continent. We are duty-bound to ensure

institutions such as Foskor work and that the continent

continue to produce enough fertilizers and lower costs of

production and ultimately lower the costs of Inter-African

trade in the continent.

House Chairperson, under the ANC many agricultural

institutions collapsed due to poor policy choices on

diplomatic relations, investment and food production. For

example, the Land Bank used to provide cheaper loans to

farming community. Poor policies choices have failed the bank.

The lesson learned in the continent is not to repeat the

mistakes of Zimbabwe’s government expropriation of farms.

Despite these uncertainties caused by poor policy choices ...

*Afrikaans:*

Ons weet dat boere altyd ’n plan maak. [Tussenwerpsels.]

*English*:

To strengthen resilience and sustainability in nutrition and

food security on the continent, we must accept that the

continental and global challenges affect our farmers. The

quiet diplomacy on global matters by our government, the ANC



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 40**

government, is a cause for concern. We have a duty to engage

the global community to avoid the global risk of food

production. While the potential dire consequences of Russian

war on the continent is huge, our farmers remain resilient.

They need government support not the corruption from our

colleagues on the right.

As we celebrate Africa Day’s milestone, let’s join hands and

address the looming danger of inflation on the food

production. May this Africa Day be remembered as the day when

Africa took herself a right place in the world, a day when

African legislators stood up and spoke out against attacks on

foreign sovereign countries and the threat imposed on world

food production. I thank you, Chair, and happy Africa Day ...

[Applause.] ...

Ms T P MSANE: Thank you, Chairperson. Chairperson, on this day

in 1963, 32 heads of states of newly independent African

nations met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in order to chant a new

path forward for growth and development in the continent. They

did so mindfully of the devastation brought to the people of

the continent by colonial conquest that had ravaged the

continent over three centuries at the time.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 41**

They were mindful of the fact that for a period of over four

centuries, the west had abducted over 25 million African

people and turned them into slaves, in the plantations of

America which in turn provided the basis upon which American

and the entire western capitalist economy grew. They were not

confused about the artificial nature of the borders that

colonialism installed in the continent which separated

families, clans and communities.

The emperor, Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, who hosted the

inaugural conference of the Organisation of African Unity,

outlined the purpose of the meeting in 1963 as follows, and I

quote:

We stand today on the stage of world affairs, before the

audience of world opinion. We have come together to

assert our role in the direction of the world affairs and

to discharge our duty to the great continent whose 250

million people we lead. Africa is today at mid-course, in

transition from the Africa of yesterday to the Africa of

tomorrow. Even as we stand here, we move from the past

into the future. The task of which we have embarked, the

making of Africa, will not wait. We must act to shape and



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 42**

mold the future and leave our imprint on events as they

slip past into the history ...

Today, 59 years later, Africa has not made much progress

towards freeing herself from the bondage of neocolonial

control. as the towering Pan-Africanist, Dr Kwame Nkrumah had

anticipated the failure to unite the African Continent has

given birth to clusters of client states who exists mainly for

the purpose of enabling the continued neocolonial control of

the continent by their former colonial masters.

Despite her resources today, Africa and the African people as

a whole continue to be the wretched of the earth. Africa has

about 60% of all arable land in the world, good and large

enough to wipe out poverty and famine in the continent, yet,

we are home to the world’s largest population of poor people.

Most of the land is in the hands of neocolonial masters and

locked up in unreasonable land administration systems that

prevent development. The Grand Inga hydroelectric power

project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, can produce power

that can light up the entire continent, but it is also in the

hands of neocolonial masters who will do everything to prevent

the completion in that project who will ensure that it

benefits them more than it benefits.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 43**

The continent has the largest reserves of Platinum, the

largest reserves of gold and diamonds. The Congo alone has 80%

of the world’s reserves worth of cotton, a mineral that is

used to produce advanced cellphones. The Ivory Coast and Ghana

are the world’s largest producers of cocoa and yet, the very

same producers of cocoa hardly see the product such as

chocolate made from the very same cocoa they produce. Africa

does not benefit from all these resources because we have

maintained the colonial structure of our economies.

We extract from the African soil critically important

resources and these are then shipped outside the continent as

raw products to be processed in the western countries and

imported back at a premium price of finished goods. This is a

consequence of a lack of centrally planned economy for the

continent. We need to revisit key plans such as the Abuja

Treaty, which emphasised and had timelines for the ultimate

unification of the continent. We need a bold, Pan-African

approach for African development premised on the political and

economic unity of the continent.

The new African Continental Free Trade Agreement, must

emphasise the need for manufacturing and infrastructure

development as the backdrops upon which the African continent



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 44**

can develop. The Pan-African Parliament must be given greater

legislative powers and have exclusive areas for legislation

making for the entire continent. Areas such as defence,

economic and monetary policies, must be driven from a

centralised basis to shield Africa from opportunistic and

greedy western influences.

Lastly, we call on France and all other colonialists to leave

the African continent alone. We can do well on ourselves

without the interference of former colonisers. African

liberation day will remain a hollow celebration if we do not

do what the founding fathers of the Organisation of African

Unity sought to achieve, and that, is a united continent able

to feed and develop her own people. Africa Day without full

control of African resources, without a complete withdrawal of

former colonial masters, without full eradication of poverty

and underdevelopment, it is just a hollow celebration. Thank

you very much, House Chairperson.

Mr M HLENGWA: Hon House Chairperson, according to an April

2022 media report, the International Committee of the Red

Dross says that about 346 million people in Africa are facing

severe food insecurity, meaning that they have likely

experienced hunger. The causes are listed as conflict, climate



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 45**

change and rising food and fuel prices. It is therefore

fitting that the AU’s theme for this year is: Strengthening

resilience in nutrition and food security on the African

continent, and that we must gather today on Africa Day to

discuss this critical issue. This, particularly as South

Africa has not escaped unscathed.

According to a 2022 Statistics SA report, in 2020 almost

23,6% of South Africans were affected by moderate to severe

food insecurity while almost 14,9% experienced severe food

security. With nearly one in four South Africans forced to

skip meals and go to bed hungry on a regular basis, one could

be forgiven for focussing first on the nutrition needs of our

own people and developing our own resilience before reaching

out to the rest of the continent.

Our Constitution under section 27 states that everyone has the

right to have access to sufficient food and water. However,

instead of ensuring the provision of this most basic human

right in necessity for life, government departments lose

billions to corruption, and irregular and fruitless and

wasteful expenditure every year.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 46**

On the opposite end of the spectrum, we have civil society and

organisations like FoodForward SA that provide millions of

meals to vulnerable South Africans ... access all nine

provinces each year. Delivering one meal costs FoodForward SA

only 68 cents, which is less than R1 per meal. How many

millions could be rescued from hunger if government had a

faithful steward of the country’s ... [Inaudible.] Surely

then, we would also have sufficient resources to provide

assistance to our food-insecure brothers and sisters on the

African continent.

As the IFP, we do not sit idly by as children starve and this

is why food security has long been part of the IFP’s top

priorities where we govern, consistent with the teachings of

Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, not just on Africa Day or in

Africa Month, but every day, every month and every year. Where

the IFP governs, we support subsistence farmers by providing

materials and equipment to promote local economic development.

We develop co-operatives and assist emerging farmers, in

particular projects led by women and the youth. Farm workers

are a key component for food security and the IFP prioritises

their rights and needs.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 47**

We also need to promote the sustainable use of land and ensure

necessary access to land. All these initiatives echo the IFP’s

principles of self-help and self-reliance. As the saying goes,

give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish

and you feed him for a lifetime.

The realities of food insecurity on the continent cannot be

divorced from the raging conflicts and the instability which

we see. It therefore becomes important that a multipronged

approach not only focusses on diplomatic relations towards

democratic stability on the continent but a far more

aggressive and deliberate approach towards ensuring food

security on the continent, particularly for women and

children. The agenda of silencing the guns has to take

precedence in this regard as well.

Closer to home, we need to do more. We need to focus our

energies on ensuring that we revive the farms that used to

ensure that our people have food. We need to have a skills

transfer and an education system that is responsive to the

needs of the agricultural sector to ensure the sustainable

livelihoods of our people in so far as food security is

concerned. This is non-negotiable because without food there

is no future. Our people are hungry now and the challenges of



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 48**

malnutrition confront us today. This requires a health care

system that is also responsive and fully functional to the

daily lived realities of our people. It requires ...

[Inaudible.] ... our people about what it is that will ensure

that they live a fruitful life in so far as nutrition is

concerned.

*IsiZulu:*

Ngiyabonga kakhulu Sihlalo.

*Afrikaans:*

Me T BREEDT: Voorsitter, ’n belofte van R50 miljoen aan Kuba

om hul voedselnood aan te spreek. ’n Bedrag van R22 miljoen

vir ’n vlag om nasiebou te bevorder. Beide hierdie

aankondigings was ondeurdag en uit voeling met die realiteit

van Suid-Afrikaanse burgers. Die eerste moes deur ’n dringende

hofinterdik van ’n burgerregteorganisasie tydelik gestop word,

met die tweede wat ook nou hersien word nadat nagenoeg die

hele Suid-Afrika saamgestem het dat R22 miljoen vir ’n vlag ’n

slegte idee is. Dit, terwyl 40% van Suid-Afrikaanse burgers

honger is en aan die amptelike vereiste van honger voldoen.

Dit is ’n skreiende skande!



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 49**

Ons kollegas uit die regerende party-banke praat gereeld oor

Afrika-eenheid en die Afrika-Vryehandelsooreenkoms. Daar word

baie oor die kontinent ... hoe lande moet hande vat om mekaar

by te staan en voedselsekuriteit aangespreek moet word in die

kollektief van die kontinent ... geredeneer. Daar is Afrikadag

en Afrikamaand.

*English:*

However**,** when push comes to shove, this ANC government would

rather prioritise historical friends than the continent. Until

this is not addressed, we will not help to debate

sustainability in nutrition or food security on the African

continent. Today is a futile exercise because it will not

assist the millions of hungry Africans throughout this

continent. Talk shops do not work; action helps.

When looking at the statistics, it is quite shocking. Chronic

nutrition contributes to stunting in children under five years

of age. This means that a child is too short for his or her

age and it can have long-term negative impacts on health and

development. The prevalence of stunting is the highest in the

world in Eastern, Middle and Southern sub-regions of Africa.

In South Africa, one child in four under the age of six has

chronic malnutrition and is stunted because of that.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 50**

Acute nutrition also contributes to the wasting of children.

In 2020 globally, 45,4 million children under the age of five

wasted away; a quarter of that in sub-Saharan Africa alone.

According to the 2021 Global Hunger Index of countries that

are most affected by hunger and malnutrition, only eight out

of the 30 are not in Africa.

In 2017, conflict was the major cause of food insecurity and

hunger in 18 countries, affecting about 74 million

individuals. Eleven of those 18 countries were in Africa,

which totalled about 37 million people. More than 42% of South

Sudan’s population faced severe food insecurity and that was

in a ...

*Afrikaans*:

... oorlogsone. Suid-Afrika staan op 40%, buite ’n oorlogsone**.**

*English*:

The history of hunger and famine in Africa reads like a horror

novel.

*Afrikaans*:

Sedert die 1960s is dit of droogte of oorlog of vloede wat

voedselsekuriteit in Afrika bedreig. Miljoene is al dood as



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 51**

gevolg daarvan. Terug op eie bodem, die mees onlangse is die

vloed in KwaZulu-Natal.

*English*:

If KwaZulu-Natal has taught us one thing, it is that South

Africa does not yet have a structured system to deal with food

security and disasters such as drought or floods.

*Afrikaans*:

Voorsitter, ek sluit af. Te midde hierdie faktore**,** natuurlike

rampe en oorloë, is daar nog een bydraende faktor wat

voedselsekuriteit in Afrika en spesifiek in Suid-Afrika

kniehalter en bedreig. Dit is die ANC en die ANC se ideologie**.**

Solank as wat die ANC regeer, sal daar nie voedselsekuriteit

in Afrika of in Suid-Afrika wees nie. Ek dank u.

*English*:

Rev K R J MESHOE: Chairperson, our country has proven in a

number of ways that it has the capacity to recover quickly

from a period of serious challenges and difficulties. To

strengthen resilience in this nation, we need to build strong

relationships with our families, neighbours and friends to

enable us to build support systems that will sustain us during

difficult times and stormy days.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 52**

Africa has not done well in the area of sustainability. A

number of positive things that were inherited after

independence have been lost because of the lack of

sustainability. In most cases, African countries inherited

excellent road and rail infrastructure that could not be

sustained because of the lack of proper maintenance by

subsequent governments.

During my primary school days, children were taught proper

hygiene, good nutrition and how to plant and grow vegetables,

but those good practices were abandoned years later. We now

see how governments are failing to teach society, particularly

school children, how to balance individual rights with

personal responsibility for our actions and future.

We cannot strengthen sustainability in nutrition that our

children and the broader society know nothing about. As

threats of food insecurity increases by the day, governments

must start programmes to encourage members of the public to

start growing their own food. Families should be encouraged to

start their food gardens and to train their children and

friends to do likewise.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 53**

The continent of Africa cannot continue complaining when we

can do things for ourselves. We need leaders in Africa that

tackle human rights abuses, stop the increasing incidents of

gender-based violence on the continent and create environments

that will be safe for all those living and visiting their

countries.

Africa needs to silence the guns, and start using their vast

land to produce food for their people and start planning to

export food to those countries that don’t have the spacious

tracks of land that we are blessed with. We have the

potential. We have the means. Africa should start looking

inside as to what is holding us back and see the potential of

feeding not only the continent but parts of the world. Thank

you.

*Setswana:*

Rre N L S KWANKWA: Ke a leboga, Modulasetilo. Dumelang

bagaetsho.

*English:*

Ladies and gentlemen, I think the point we should make here,

perhaps less eloquently ... they’re making it less eloquently

than other speakers, is the fact that Africa is not short or



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 54**

does not lack ... is not short of plans. If you were to study

in 1900 the first Pan-African Conference, which was organized

by Henry Sylvester Williams, an advocate from Trinidad &

Tobago, and then another one in 1919, which was organized in

Paris. You look at, especially, the most important one, the

1945 one, the Manchester conference, where leaders were trying

to outline the vision of an African they sought to become.

The speakers that came before us also cited the important The

Summit of the Heads of State in 1963 in Addis Ababa, where

Haile Selassie was an important host. Even then, the plan was

to try and outline an African renaissance programme which

sought to cover a number of aspects, included in them is one

of food security.

I want to also remind this sitting that in 1979, many will

remember that there was a Monrovia Declaration, which sought

to deal with this aspect in particular. It talks about food

supply and food security.

Fast forward to the 1980 Lagos Plan, same thing is contained

there.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 55**

Fast forward to New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Nepad, New Partnership for Africa’s Development, the same

issue is contained in there and many other issues.

What lacks, is perhaps commitment on the part of leaders on

the African continent, in particular, to make sure that these

goals and dreams and plan are indeed realized.

If you were to even look at the Agenda 2063, it’s the same

thing that we talk about. We are very good and eloquent at

identifying problems and even writing fancy and glossy problem

statements, and even come up with fancy and creative

proposals, but the problem with the African continent is the

lack of implementation.

I want to give an example. I grew up in one of the Bantustans

in the former Ciskei area where people were encouraged to do

subsistence farming. The point that was made here by Rev

Meshoe, Ntate Moruti, is very true that, that is what used to

happen in the past. But it can’t happen in Africa where there

are serious and gross human rights violations, where we are

failing to silence guns on the continent, where we tolerate

despotic regimes on the continent. But not only that, look at

the influence of the former colonial masters on the rest of



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 56**

the African continent, especially when you talking about the

Francophone region, and what is happening there.

The issue that we want to put forward is that institutional

bodies such as the African Union, AU, and the institutional

framework that we make possible to the Constitutive Act of the

AU, if you remember the one which was adopted in 2000, are the

ones that should be helping us to drive these programmes

forward because if we don’t do that we are not going to have a

coordinated programme and plan for the future. Amandla!

[Power!] [Applause.]

Mr B N HERRON: House Chair, South Africa, collectively,

produces more food than it can eat ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Your attention, hon

members. Give a member a chance, please, your attention. Thank

you.

Mr B N HERRON: House Chair, South Africa, collectively,

produces more food than it can eat. In approximately a quarter

of our population experiences food shortages. With

approximately a quarter of our suffering from hunger, how can

we expect to build a sustainable and stable society?



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 57**

We cannot make progress while young and old are going to bed

with empty stomachs.

Environmentalism, sustainability and climate change, are all

issues that are no longer up for debate. They are matters of

national, continental, international and even planetary

concern.

There are borders, politics and discussions with mother

nature. So, we need to understand that as matter of

generational justice, for sake of future generations, we need

to make serious change and implement preventative measures.

While other nations struggle to deal with tsunamis,

earthquakes and tornados, which wreak havoc in urban

environments, we face a completely different type of killer,

floods, fanons and drought impact one of the most basic needs,

being the access to food. An issue that the entire African

continent has been battling with for decades.

KwaZulu-Natal’s flooding disaster is the living evidence that

there is need for rapid change in our attitudes. That we are

not only to combat climate change, but safeguard our people

against the fallout after the disaster has taken place.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 58**

Food security should be what grounds our ‘we building’

project. We have lost critical crops for both domestic

consumption and exports. Our task now is to reduce our impact

on the climate and build back with the clear understanding of

how our consumption of our natural resources, including land,

has contributed to the devastation we’ve seen.

We can also take inspiration from the incredible projects

being created by African organizations to combat this.

Projects such as the Eastern Cape’s Sibusiso Ready Food

Supplement, which provides a taste similar to peanut butter,

has been a major success and a major form of aid to children

battling malnutrition.

We must support sustainable fishing solutions such as the Zini

Fishing Farms in KwaZulu-Natal. These farms should not be

forced to close their doors due to a lack of funding and

investment. Rather they should be protected and supported, as

the future of sustainable fishing in South Africa.

Initiatives and companies such as these have the potential to

feed and employ families, communities and eventually towns,

with the correct support.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 59**

Education plays a vital role in understanding the idea of

sustainability. But when our citizens don’t have the necessary

... to survive or support a family, how can we expect them to

care about the future rather than the empty plates of the

crescent?

We have the South African means, we have the South African

innovators, but what we lack is the support of policy in

government.

Let this Africa Day be the first seat counted in our journey

into a sustainable South Africa. Thank you.

Ms B S MASANGO: Hon Chairperson, as we join our sister

countries on the African continent to celebrate Africa Day,

despite the challenges the continent continues to face, we

echo the pledge made on the 25th of May 1963 by the Emperor

Haile Selassie when he said “May this convention of union last

a thousand years.”

If there was a time when the continent of Africa needed strong

resilience and sustainability in nutrition and food security,

that time was now. But a question has to be asked, what really

weakened the resilience and sustainability in nutrition and



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 60**

food security in Africa? The answers are complex and lie in

the factors that are way beyond the continent’s control and

many can be put at the door of different governments and their

leadership. That is where the strengthening will find its

origin.

There have been events unique to Africa, both self-inflicted

and inevitable, that have to be evaluated. Among those beyond

her control, one can include climate change, pandemics

including the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, drought and the

most recent floods in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. The

need for resilience against these disasters is justified.

However, resilience against conflict, corruption and greed is

asking too much from the battered citizens of Africa, given

the fact that resilience, according to Oxford dictionary means

“The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties.”

Africa’s difficulties have been ongoing, unrelenting, unending

and hard-hitting, and they have not given the continent or her

citizens time and space to recover quickly.

The statistics of food insecurity in Africa are staggering and

are testing the resilience, courage and fortitude of millions

of Africans on a daily basis. The resulting assault forced



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 61**

many, against their will, to flee their home countries just to

survive.

Let us focus, for example, on South Africa’s shocking food

insecurity statistics. According Stats SA, in 2020 almost

23,6% of South Africans were affected by moderate to severe

food insecurity, while almost 14,9% experienced severe food

insecurity.

We have confirmed statistics of 3 886 children under the age

of five years dying in South Africa’s medical facilities form

acute malnutrition in the past five years. These figures are

children who die in medical facilities, this means the picture

is far bleaker when one considers the number of children dying

at home. But it is hardly surprising, given the runaway food

prices that so many unemployed can ill afford.

According to the Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice and Dignity

Group’s household affordability index in April 2022, a

household food basket increased by 2,1% from R4 450,09 in

March, to R4 542,93 in April.

It is deeply concerning that government uses none of these

readily available data to make decisions that affect millions



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 62**

of South Africans. For example, what is the SRD grant of R350

based on? What scientific evidence was this based on?

This picture is mirrored against an estimated 346 million

people in Africa who are facing severe food insecurity. It

gets even tougher to strengthen resilience when reports say

that Africa’s numbers of under-nourished people is growing

faster than in any region of the world.

Hon Chairperson, I submit to you that although Africa’s people

might be experiencing the most difficult time in recent

history, all is not lost. The men and women sitting in this

and many other chambers throughout the continent, enabled by

their constitutions can play a meaningful role in ensuring

that the theme of today’s Africa Day is realized in

foreseeable future.

We owe it to the pioneers who fought gallantly for us to

celebrate Africa Day today. We also owe it to the future

generations to bequeath to them a continent worth celebrating.

Hon Chair, I dare politicians to take personal and collective

responsibility to reflect on the state of the continent.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 63**

May the words I kept seeing during my research on Africa Day

for this debate, which are: extreme hunger, drought, conflict

and corruption be replaced by abundance, high employment,

harvest, peace and justice.

And lastly, may God bless Africa and her people. [Applause.]

*Setswana*:

Moh M M E TLHAPE: Modulasetulo wa Ntlo, maloko a Ntlo a a

tlotlegang, Maaforika ke a dumedisa. Ke boitumelo go tsaya

karolo mo kgothakgotheng ya go keteka letsatsi la Aforika.

Aforika e re ipelang ka yona. Ya dimela, diphologolo,

dimimerale, dithabamawatle a a ikgethileng. Re le Maaforika,

rele batho ba yona ka ditso tse di farologaneng. Rotlhe re

dumela gore temothuo e botlhokwa mo kontinenteng ya Aforika.

Le fa e sa tsewe tsia mo manaaneng a di politiki le ya mebuso,

seo se fokotsa kgonagalo ya peeletso mo temothuong mme ebile

se tsenya ditshireletso ya dijo mo pitlaganong.

*English:*

House Chairperson, from the very root of its foundation, the

ANC has always been Pan African in outlook and orientation.

Today we celebrate Africa Day, the day on which the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 64**

organisation of African unity was established in Addis Ababa,

Ethiopia in 1963.

This is a very historic day in liberation of all Africans from

oppressive, colonial and apartheid rule.

*Setswana*:

Gompieno batshwari ba rona ba etlatlarietsa fa re keteka. Ba

batla gore re dumele gore mathata a ba re a diretseng ka

dingwaga ngwaga, ba re tseela lefatshe, tshwana le go tlhoka

tiro le go bolawa ke tlala, re ka a dirilola mo nakong e

khutshwane. Mme ba re bolelela ka bobodu, ba re bolelela le ka

go ruga madi. Fela re a itse ka Seaforika gore motho fa are

dipodi di a sisa, a be a bone ka tsa kwa gaabo.

*English:*

Hon members, climate change and subsequent depletion of

resources have left mutilations to the bulk of African

communities, in particular the disadvantaged members of our

communities.

In celebrating and supporting Africa Day, I will therefore

speak on climate change issues in Africa with regard to



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 65**

preservation of environment for sustainable nutrition and food

security.

Fellow Africans, the increasingly unpredictable and erratic

nature of weather systems around the continent have placed an

extra burden on food security and rural livelihoods,

widespread destruction of farms and homes by floods previously

in Burkina Faso, recent floods in parts of KwaZulu-Natal,

Deelpan in the North West Province and some parts of the

Eastern Cape here in South Africa as well as the prolonged

drought in Ethiopia demonstrate the extend of the threat posed

by Africa’s changing climate.

Other adverse impacts of climate change are also manifesting

themselves on the continent and this includes heatwaves,

increasing crop airs and diseases. We have experienced as

South Africa a fair share of crop air such as fall army worm

brown locust infestation even veld fires.

Hon members, the major concerns for Africa’s key economic

sectors include a heightened threat to foot security. In

adequate water resource availability, generation in natural

resource productivity, diminish biodiversity and increasing

land degradation. All these affect both crops and livestock.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 66**

Of late, there has been a great appreciation of the

interdependencies between water, energy and food security and

this came to known by some academics as water energy food

energy nexus approach. It is argued that water of at the core

of sustainable development and has strongly changes that all

sustainable development goals and that climate change will add

measurable stress to water resources in many regions of the

African continent.

Fisheries will particularly be affected due to changes in sea

temperatures, declining incomes and rising unemployment are

expected to hit agriculture zones. It is evident that small

agricultural towns and dorpies economies are collapsing.

However, we are hopeful as South Africa is moving towards

addressing through the district development model approach.

House Chairperson, the commemoration of Africa Day therefore

should remind us of the provisions of the AU Master Plan, that

is Agenda 2063, the Africa we Want. Of particular importance

are the goals that suggest programmes such as ending hunger,

achieving food security and improving nutrition as well as

promoting sustainable agriculture.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 67**

Implementing climate smart agriculture for increased

productivity and production, promoting biodiversity,

conservation and sustainable resource management including

water security, developing environmentally sustainable and

climate resilient economies and communities including natural

disaster preparedness.

Hon members, the African Union has a number of continental

frameworks and declarations essential for combating Africa’s

food and agricultural programme and this includes

comprehensive agricultural development programme, the Maputo

Declaration, the Abuja Food Security Summit Declaration and

Malawi Declaration on accelerated agricultural growth and

transformation.

In order to guarantee Africa’s food security, there needs to

be increased agricultural trade among African states. The

African Continental Free Trade agreement is a historical

realisation of the OAU for an increased trade cooperation

among African states and African diaspora.

One of the purposes for this agreement is to work towards

promotion of industrial development through diversification of



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 68**

regional value chain development, agricultural development and

food security.

Hon members, much work must go to local level with regard to

understanding the impacts and communities’ capacity to adapt.

Our continent must prioritise addressing the challenges of

climate change with national development plans adopting

pathways that are climate resilient and less carbon intensive.

They must promote clean, efficient energy technologies and

sustainable management of natural resources such as land,

water and forest. Such development pathways would help reduce

exposure of vulnerable communities in Africa to the adverse

impact of climate change. While at the same time contribute to

the global greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts.

We must promote agro forestry with trees that improve soil,

fast growing trees for fuel, indigenous fruit trees, to

provide added nutrition and income as well as trees that can

provide medicinal plant products.

We need to create food banks and discourage food waste. There

efforts to limit emissions in South Africa. Hon members, we



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 69**

must agree that climate change is now part of our daily lives,

we have to learn to limit and adapt its impact.

The Bill or Rights in our Constitution is the backbone of our

democracy and in it, we have section 24 that deals with

promotion and the protection of everyone’s rights for an

environment that is not harmful to their health and wellbeing.

National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, processing

Climate Change Bill and Presidential Climate Change Commission

are some of the issues we must focus on to mitigate and adapt

to climate change and meet South Africa’s international

obligations.

Above all, we must promote our indigenous food, promote our

national bread and produced cultivars by the Agricultural

Research Council to fight food insecurity.

We therefore support the call for agricultural intensification

and resilience of food production systems to be strengthened

through formation of key signage between mitigation and food

security.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 70**

This means Minister environment and Minister agriculture must

collaborate in successfully leveraging finance from mitigation

to support climate smart agricultural development strategies.

Fellow Africans, let us all embrace and implement our master

plan Agenda 2063, the Africa we want. I love you Africa and

I’m proud to call you home. May God bless Africa, bless her

sons and daughters. [Unknown foreign language.]

*Afrikaans:*

Baie dankie.

*Sepedi:*

Ke a leboga.

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Thank you, hon House Chair, yes, it is

correct that Africa is one of the richest continents, but it’s

got nothing. It has 30% of the world’s minerals but doesn’t

control it. It has 40% of arable land. Only 13% of the food

needs of the African continent will be able to be delivered as

a result of corruption, looting, maladministration, self-

enrichment, wanting to stay in power until the organisation is

taken to the grave, and not wanting to relinquish power,

that’s what’s happening on the African continent.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 71**

I heard somebody saying “God bless Africa”. God did bless you

with all these things. What did you do? You took it and

destroyed it. It is exactly what we have done.

Let’s look at it. The east African community, west African

community, the central African community are all sitting with

the same problem. Let me tell you one of the problems you

have. You had 811 million people in Africa in the year 2 000.

That has increased to 1,4 billion in 2021. That’s the only

thing that increased, nothing else.

Let me tell you what the experts are saying. Low quality

education is one of the root causes of why there is no

progress in Africa, and this country is one of them. Let us be

honest, poor quality education is not producing the skills

that you need in this country like the rest of Africa as well.

The next thing they are highlighting, and very important is

the poor infrastructure in the entire Africa. Exactly the same

problem we have here now. I don’t know if you saw the road – I

think it is Worcester – if you saw the road, even very

important persons, VIPs, that are taking the Members of

Parliament and the Ministers around will not be able to go

there. That I can promise you.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 72**

Let me say something to you. Africa has all the gold, diamond,

the copper, the iron ore ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Hon Emam.

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: the platinum ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Hon Emam. Hon

member.

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: ... but we have nothing. ...

[Interjections.] ... Africans are their own greatest enemies.

That is why there is no success. As long as you have selfish

leaders in Africa who do not want relinquish power, Africans

will never be better off. Thank you very much, sir.

Mr S M JAFTA: Thank you, hon Chair, Africa has 54 recognised

states. Most of these states are conflict-ridden and food

insecure.

Obasanjo, Nigeria’s former President wrote that and I quote:

“Conflict and fragility poses a major challenge to Africa’s

growth prospects”. Despite Africa boosting natural mineral

resources, there is: “Strong evidence that these has not



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 73**

resulted in inclusive economic and social transformation”.

That’s according to Obasanjo.

While many African states were bread baskets for the

continent, their economies have been affected by rigid

nationalisation policies, corruption, struggle for ownership,

management and control of natural resources, as well as

unequal distribution of these resources.

Besides infrastructure on the continent ... [Inaudible] ...

has direct bearing for products ... to produce their own food

for example, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the 11th

largest country in the world, has fewer than 1500 miles of

paved roads. For ordinary citizens, the most common options

for transportation are their feet, bicycles and dugout canoes.

We know that road infrastructure is important in the value

chain of food production and distribution.

Therefore, Africa must invest in social and road

infrastructure for its food security. It must implement

expropriation of land policies with an open eye for food

security and agricultural production. Africa must diversify

its export commodities and invest in new technologies sectors

such as the ocean economy, aquafishing and agro-processing.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 74**

We commend the investment support provided by the African

Development Bank in countries such as Côte d’Ivoire, DRC,

Liberia and Sierra Leone, who received budget support

programmes in the early stages of peace that helped those

countries to further stabilise their economies and also

support the agricultural sector and water supply, as well as

sanitation infrastructure rehabilitation. This was seen as

central to providing food security in those countries and

alleviating the plight of the poor. Thank you, hon Chair.

Mr M G E HENDRICKS: Hon House Chair, let us be committed to

the war crimes, which resonated throughout Africa during the

anticolonial struggle which is land, self-determination and

the conscience of Ubuntu.

It has been 64 years since the call for Africa day and yet

African countries are dependent on the mercy of their former

colonial masters. African countries are still being held

ransom by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund,

IMF. Ten years after this call, one of the champions for

United States of Africa was brother and leader, Muammar

Gaddafi. I would like to read something from his book, *The*

*Green Book*, when he came up with the third universal theory on

how to help Africa to become United States of Africa. On page



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 75**

140, he wrote, and we must understand that what he put in *The*

*Green Book* is what he had already implemented in his country.

There is a living example of the concept in his *Green Book*:

In this new society, land becomes of all in which each

member of the society has a right together with their

relations to carry out his cultivations without employing

others. They entitled to cultivate wheat or maize, grow

trees or raise animals. No one hampers them. This form of

ownership is invaluable and nobody is allowed to touch

it.

He goes further on page 140 to say:

Homes, clothes, food and money are vital necessities for

human beings and one’s possession for these items is

considered sacred ownership. But, when one acquires more

than one’s needs of these vital necessities, someone else

has been deprived of them. Therefore, society has the

right to expropriate what one has in excess of one’s

needs.

I hope the EFF is listening on the concept of expropriation

and compensation and understand what it really means.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 76**

Al Jama-ah wishes every African citizen and residents a happy

Africa Day - a day that should be viewed not only as notable

but that it should be memorable.

Coming back to Ubuntu, we should say that this is a key

concept in African philosophy, it is one that is in line with

the teachings of Islam. These teachings are indeed rooted in

Islam’s primary sources. Together they reinforce universal

values that includes, amongst others, honesty, humbleness,

goodness, kindness and respect. Happy Africa Day.

Ms A M M WEBER: The evolution of humanity says South Africa

reaffirms that she is continuing her rise from the ashes.

Whatever the setbacks of the moment, nothing can stop us now.

Whatever the difficulties, Africa shall be at peace. This is

Thabo Mbeki from his *I am an African* speech.

For too long climate change was seen as an issue for the

elites, environmentalists, and the academics. The South

African government never seem to realise how much climate

processes will affect ordinary South Africans.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 77**

As we stand here today, we cannot deny how the two are

interlinked. South Africans are feeling the severe impact of

climate change.

Hon Chair, 30,3 millions of South Africans are not at peace.

Their difficulty and setback is poverty and hunger. They are

desperately trying on a daily basis to rise out of the ashes,

to get employed, to fight poverty, but to no avail.

13,8 million South Africans are experiencing severe food

poverty. This is an absolute disgrace.

South Africa experienced serious consequences of climate

change. We experience heatwaves, droughts, water scarcity and

food insecurity, for example, Day-zero in Cape Town, the

Garden Route fires, the impact of Cyclone Eloise and Anna to

Mozambique, and how close this is to South Africa’s coastal

cities? The Nkweba Dam in Graaf-Reinet, the heatwave in Cape

Town, droughts all over the country impacting on crops and

being counterproductive, floods in KwaZulu-Natal, Day-zero in

Port Elizabeth.

Before COVID-19, the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale,

HFIAS, analysis indicates that South Africa already had a very

serious food insecurity problem of almost 10 million people.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 78**

The high levels of poverty across South Africa leaves many

without the resources to buffer themselves and recover from

the changing climate.

Poor people do not have access to food. They do not have money

to buy food. With the petrol price so high, they cannot afford

taxis or transport. Self-sustainable vegetable gardens can

only be effective if there is water and correct temperatures.

Children in our country are dying due to malnutrition and

hunger. We cannot turn a blind eye anymore and think that

climate change does not have an impact.

South Africa needs leadership that would effectively and

actively combat climate change to ensure that the earth

doesn’t warm with another 1,5 degrees Celsius. No strategic

plans or international signed Paris agreements will make a

difference without the political will or proper

implementation.

Government’s ineffective enforcement of the law to ensure the

prosecution of perpetrators is costly. Coal or fossil fuel

power stations keep polluting with no consequences.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 79**

The mining industries, especially illegal miners do not

rehabilitate, destroying ecosystems and water ways, which

causes temperatures to keep on rising. Industries continue as

well as there are no consequences for their behaviour. Their

contribution to climate change is disastrous.

Climate change interventions need to form an integral part of

budgets and should not be regarded as an optional. The people

of South Africa deserves more. They deserve a government that

cares, a government that will ensure that there is food

security, a government that will ensure that there are

consequences to those that jeopardise the lives and food

security of other South Africans. Then only, can we speak

about peace. I thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CO-

OPERATION (Mr A Botes): Hon House Chairperson, President of

South Africa, Mr Ramaphosa, Deputy President Mabuza, Cabinet

Ministers, fellow Members of Parliament, Chief Whip of the

Majority Party, hon Majodina and all members of the eight the

Regional Economic Communities, Recs, of the African Union, AU,

I thought ladies and gentlemen and colleagues, it is important

to take this House into confidence that Pan-Africanism is the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 80**

most pivotal and important foreign policy priority of the

South African government, coupled with global solidarity.

We do so hon House Chairperson, because we acknowledge that we

were once a people who were oppressed, subjected through

imperialism and colonialism. We acknowledge that because of

global solidarity. Countries such as Cuba, Egypt, Libya,

Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, constitute an indelible role

in our freedom.

We acknowledge that once there was the 1884 Berlin Conference

convened by King Leopold II of Belgium. So, we acknowledge

that as the rest of Africa we were once an oppressed nation.

We therefore give homage to Kwame Nkrumah, Abdel Nasser,

Samora Machel, Kenneth Kaunda, Haile Selassie, Sam Nujoma,

Jomo Kenyatta and Julius Nyerere.

We do so because we do identify ourselves as Africa.

The most important questions that Members of Parliament must

pose is that: What is the optics through which you look at

South Africa and at the rest of Africa?



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 81**

If you do identify with Africa, you will realise the true

agenda 2063 which speaks about inclusive prosperity and Africa

we want that indeed the glass is half full.

If you do not identify with the Pan-Africanism, you will

submit that the glass is half empty.

We do identify that there has been progress made hon House

Chairperson, through strengthening resilience in nutrition and

food security on the African continent in line with aspiration

one.

We do submit that the Sustainable Development Goals, SDG, is

pivotal especially, SDG 1 that speaks about ending of poverty,

and SDG 2, that speaks about zero hunger.

We do confirm adherence what former President Thabo Mbeki,

says is that as Africans to have a common and shared unity, it

requires a common and shared value system. That value system

is underpinned as it relates to acknowledging the

eestablishment of the African Task Force on Food and Nutrition

Development in 1987.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 82**

The adoption of the Maputo Declaration, the New Partnership

for Africa’s Development, Nepad, initiative in 2003, the

adoption of Malabo Declaration in 2014, the endorsement of the

African Union Nutrition Champion in 2014 under the stewardship

and the tutelage of His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom

of Lesotho and the launch of Continental Nutrition

Accountability Scorecard in 2019.

Strengthening and the Resilience in Nutrition and Food

Security on the African Continent requires Unity of Purpose

amongst all African Union states.

It cannot be that according to the African Development Bank,

we have 65% of the uncultivated, arable land left in the world

to feed nine billion people, by 2050.

In 2017, alone House Chairperson, Africa spent 64,5 billion US

dollars on importing food. This is unsustainable and

unaffordable. It is also absolutely unnecessary. What we

require is to act with unity of purpose; is to immediately

eliminate the negative balance to start to saw, grow, process,

consume and ultimately export the food ourselves.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 83**

Hon House Chairperson, agriculture accounts for 60% of jobs

across the continent. Despite its central role, the

agricultural sector accounts for 16,5% of Africa’s gross

domestic product, GDP due to its low productivity

Implementing the Abuja Treaty in its totality, is therefore

more urgent and pressing than yesteryear, the African

Continental Free Trade Area, is a perfect vehicle for enhanced

Intra-Africa Trade.

We do so hon House Chairperson, because we are conscious that

there is a R16,3 billion, commitment from the South African

government, in terms of financing its agriculture and food

security endeavours.

I have also looked substantively at the Statistics SA report.

Unlike some of our members wants to quote the following:

In South Africa, the South African government, through its

decisive intervention have reduced multidimensional poverty

from 17,9% in 2001, to 7% in 2016. Household hunger in

South Africa has dropped from 2,7 million to 1,7 million

per household.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 84**

Hon House Chairperson, it therefore hoards that there is a

leadership of foresight, that is committed to the Maputo and

the Malabo Declarations.

We are committed as the South African government, to all seven

of the Malabo commitments. That includes the Comprehensive

Africa Agriculture Development Programme Process which amongst

others are led by Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Rwanda.

The second commitment is about the financial facilities in

agriculture, led by Zambia, Eswatini, Seychelles and Egypt.

With regard to the Malabo commitment number three of ending of

hunger by 2025, South Africa together with Kenya has through

the eyes of the AU registered remarkable progress in reducing

postharvest losses above the Malabo target of 50%. South

Africa recorded a definitive leapfrogging of 99,88% of

reducing postharvest loses. This should be music to the ears

for the farming community of South Africa.

Hon Chairperson, we are committed as the South African

government to work towards halving of poverty throughout

agriculture by 2025 working amongst others with countries such

as Ghana and Morocco.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 85**

In terms of Malabo commitment five the Boosting Intra-Africa

Trade, we know that the trade figures in South Africa have

increased remarkably. We have recorded that unlike in the

past, when South Africa, the chief trading partners to South

Africa was the regional block of European Union, EU, what I

can confirm to this House today, ladies and gentlemen, is that

exports to Africa in 2021, stood at R385 billion, against

exports to the EU which stood at R355 billion. What is says is

that the African Continental Free Trade Agreement is an

important instrument in mobilising the agricultural

communities and enhancement of food security.

On Malabo commitment six the enhancing resilience to climate

variability, South Africa is committed to work with Zimbabwe,

Namibia, Malawi, Morocco, Lesotho, Ghana, Gambia and the

Seychelles around this matter.

Good news! On Malabo commitment seven the enhancement of

accountability, South Africa is leading in this regard

together with Rwanda, Morocco, Mauritania, Tanzania, Tunisia,

Senegal and Ghana.

We therefore wish to commend the four African states -

Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, and Mali, for having met the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 86**

target of spending at least 10% of the national expenditure on

agriculture, thereby being the lodestars of the Maputo

protocol.

Hon House Chairperson, landownership, inequalities and

landlessness are growing, and in Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya,

Liberia, and Southern Africa, they are high enough to

undermine shared growth and social cohesion. We should

therefore take note and learn lessons from the successful

redistributive land reform programme undertaken by Mali.

Hon House Chairperson, South Africa appreciates substantively

that inclusive prosperity will be accelerated through good

governance and we acknowledge the stewardship role of the

African Peer Review Mechanism, APRM, in this regard. We

equally appreciate the foresight of African Union Development

Agency, AUDA-Nepad, which shapes our development dividend, and

the economic prosperities to be made possible by the urgent

implementation of the African Continental Free Trade

Agreement. We concur that Africa’s peace and security

architecture is a critical driver for development, through the

African Peace and Security Architecture, APSA.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 87**

We must therefore be proud hon House Chairperson that the

Organisation of African Unity substantively achieved its

objectives of decolonising Africa. We must be confident on the

occasion of the 20th anniversary of the African Union that an

inclusive prosperity for Africa is a real possibility.

Hon House Chairperson, as I conclude, we must frown at a South

African state on politics of brinkmanship. It says that when a

political party seeks to undermine the foreign policy

perspective of a government, it is politics of brinkmanship.

We should at all times respect territorial integrity of member

states of the United Nations.

We should at all times advance the issues of peace diplomacy

in Africa and in the rest of the world. Therefore, what is

important ladies and gentlemen, is that our bilateral trade

with both Russia and the United Kingdom, UK, stands at

approximately R16 billion. It is in the interest of the South

African government that there should be an immediate cessation

of hostilities, there should be the implementation of the 2015

Means Agreement and there should be, ladies and gentlemen the

matter of determination for the people in the Donbas region.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**Page: 88**

I wish to conclude and thank you, hon House Chairperson,

“Siyabonga”, “Enkosi kakhulu”, Baie dankie vir julle insette”,

“Ke itumetse”, “Asante sana”, “Merci beaucoup”, thank you very

much. [Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Hon members, may I

humbly request your attention.

Hon members 15 hon members, presented a very good debate

today. The rest of this House was very attentive and well-

behaved.

So, the decorum of this House was strictly observed.

Congratulations. That concludes the debate and the business

for the day. This House is adjourned. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

The House adjourned at 17:17

