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***PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES***

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The Council met at 14:09.

The House Chairperson took the Chair and requested members to

observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms W Ngwenya): Hon delegates, before we

proceed I would like to remind you of the following: That

sitting constitutes of the National Council of Provinces.

That the place of the sitting is deemed to be Cape Town where

the seat of the National Council of Provinces is.

That delegates in the virtual sitting enjoy the same powers

and privileges that apply in a sitting of the National Council

of Provinces.

That for the purposes of the quorum, all delegates who are

logged on to the virtual platform shall be considered present.



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That delegates must switch on their videos if they want to

speak. And that delegates should ensure that the microphones

on their gadgets are muted and must always remain muted.

That the interpretation facility is active. And that been

noted, that permanent delegates, members of the executive,

special delegates South African Government Local Association,

SALGA, representative are requested to ensure that the

interpretation facility on their gadgets are properly

activated to facilitate access to the interpretation services.

That any delegate who wishes to speak must use the ‘raise your

hand’ function or icon. I have been informed that there will

be no notice of motion or motion without notice except the

motion on the order paper.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Moved without notice that the

Motion on the Order Paper be postponed until further notice.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms W Ngwenya): Okay. Hon members,

before we proceed to the subject for debate I would like to

take this opportunity to welcome the Deputy Minister of

Health, the Minister and Deputy Minister of Public Works and

Infrastructure, MECs and all special delegates to the House. I



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will now call upon the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP to open

the debate.

**FROM PANDEMICS TO ENDEMICS: BUILDING AN INTEGRATED, PROSPEROUS**

**AND PEACEFUL AFRICA BEYOND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

(Debate on Africa Day)

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Ms S E Lucas): Thank you

very much, hon House Chair. Chairperson of the NCOP, House

Chairpersons, Chief Whip of the NCOP permanent and special

delegates, I have been mandated to open this very debate. And

I want to open it with the wise words of the first president

of Ghana, Dr Kwame Nkrumah, when he said and I quote:

Africa is one continent, one people and one nation. The

notion that in order to have a nation, it is necessary

for there to be a common language, common territory and a

common culture has failed to stand the test of time or

the scrutiny of objective reality. The community of

economic life is the major feature within a nation. It is

the economy which holds the people together, living in a

territory. It is on this basis that the new Africans



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potentially recognize themselves as one nation, whose

dominion is the entire African continent.

This will still read through today, providing relevant

perspective on Africa’s desired unity, which must be based on

economic unity, holding the people of Africa together as

mechanism for Dominion across the continent. As we strive to

recover and reconstruct our economies, Africa must do so being

mindful of the single most imperative of economic emancipation

and independence which is what has impeded and effective

renaissance.

Fellow South Africans and hon members, Africa Day is a day of

great significance to our continent and its people. It is

essentially an annual commemoration of the foundation of the

Organization of African Unity, OAU, which took place on the

25th of May in 1963, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The OAU existed

until it was disbanded on the 9th of July 2002, when it was

replaced by the African Union, AU.

Hon Chairperson, a prosperous, stable, secure and peaceful

Africa remains an important objective of the South African

governments international policy. For Africa to be prosperous,

it must be based on inclusive growth and sustainable



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development. We must therefore recommit ourselves to

eradicating the cyclical nature of poverty and inequality

across generations by building shared and generational

prosperity through the social and economic transformation of

our continent. It is imperative for Africa to become an

integrated continent that is politically united based on the

ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of the African

Renaissance.

The Pan Africanism, Regional Integration and Development in

Africa has to do with regional integration for the political

unification of Africa. In the main, people to people relations

should be prioritized. The proper pursuit of regional

integration in Africa has involved the mobilization of the

people of Africa to understand that the ties that bind them in

terms of the colour and history of the provision should make

them denounce artificial barriers in this harmony, which was

imposed by the imperialist.

The pandemic accelerated the unequal treatment of Africa,

driven by the rules and systems of global economic governance.

It exposed the practical implications of inequality, notably,

the differences in state capacity to limit the socio-economic

impact of lockdowns. The shifted terrain of the global



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political economy has significantly impacted Africa’s economic

standing, reversing some of the developmental gains we have

made. It is therefore imperative that Africa’s development and

transformation be anchored towards accelerating Africa’s

economic transformation. Furthermore, the low growth trap

faced by many African economies points to the need to

comprehensively restructure African economies or it leads to

the need for a robust economic transformation agenda for

Africa. This must also include the restructuring of the

African economy. Let us thus be reminded, Chairperson, today,

that they are tangible initiatives in place, which are aimed

at unifying Africa into a single political and economic

entity. Among the most recent initiatives to advance this

urgent pan Africanist ideal is the ratification by many

African countries in 2019 of the African Continental Free

Trade Area agreement. The agreement essentially enjoys African

Union member states to creating a single Continental Customs

Union through a single market in the free movement of people

in business. It also enjoins African Union member states,

opportunities for increased intra-African trade through

liberation and regional integration, as well as boosting

investment, competition and economic diplomacy. Through

economies of scale.



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The African Continental Free Trade Area holds great potential

to accelerate economic transformation, but only if well

implemented with an alternative model of co-operation, which

is principally centred on a political agenda for the effective

unification of Africa. This agreement has the potential to

increase income and welfare for its member countries, with

estimated long term income gains of up to 5% from the

reduction in trade barriers in the context of the African

Continental Free Trade Area agreement. This is indeed an

ambitious straight path to form the world’s largest free trade

area by connecting almost all 1,3 billion people across 54

countries. the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement

also provides tangible opportunities to transform Africa from

a raw materials exporter to a producer of market competitive

value added products for the continent to integrate into

regional and global value-chain. This will also promote

vertical and horizontal diversification, anchored in value

addition, innovative approaches and local content development.

Africa must also build integrated and complementary African

value-chains to support the commitment to transform Africa.

This also ties in with key aspects of localization in South

Africa’s economic extraction and recovery plan, which calls

for an integrated approach in the implementation of the



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economic recovery strategies across all the regions of the

continent.

A key component of the African agenda is the strengthening of

continental and regional institutions. The primary importance

will be to ensure that these institutions but particularly the

European Union, EU, including its organs and the regional

economic communities, as well as Southern African Development

Community, SADC, have sufficient political, intellectual, and

technical capacity to respond quickly to the ever changing

context. In a paper titled, “Institutional Quality and

Economic Performance in the South African Development

Community region, a dynamic panel analysis Kholiswa Malindini

from the Wits School of Governance argues that and I quote:

The quality of institution is increasingly become a key

determinant of economic performance. This confirms a

paradigm shift from the conventional macroeconomic

determinants to governance. As a crucial determining

factor of economic performance particularly in developing

countries, where economic growth is stagnant or moving at

a meagre rate.



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The quality of institutions has increasingly become a key

determinant of economic performance. Issues relating to state

capability and governance related matters are highlighted is

key determinants in the economic performance and trajectory of

our economies. Hence, in order to accelerate economic

transformation and growth, there is a serious need to ensure

that the quality of state institutions is drastically improved

as a measure and marker for accelerating economic performance

and growth on the continent.

In March 2020, the Washington-based think tanks, the Brookings

Institution released a report on Africa’s trajectory for the

next decade, including a damning chapter on the continents

preparedness for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which is

also critical for accelerating Africa’s growth trajectory. The

opening remarks of the report ominously stated the following

and I quote:

So far, it does not appear that Africa has yet claimed

the 21st century it still lags behind in several

indicators, essential for a successful digital

revolution.



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This is particularly concerning when we consider that Africa

has left behind the three previous industrial revolutions

across the globe. Progress has been defined by the ability of

humanity to adapt to change. Yeah, the continent is often

missed the call. Our late arrival and slow pace of

participation in the first three industrial revolutions is led

to infrastructure gaps that still exist today.

As a continent, it therefore becomes imperative that we must

ensure that there is sufficient capacity in regional and

continental institutions to advance and accelerate our

preparedness for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. We need to

respond with urgency to illicit financial flows from Africa.

Hon members, according to the Economic Development in Africa

Report 2020, by the United Nations, UN, Conference on Trade

and Development, Africa loses about 3,7% of its gross domestic

product, GDP, annually in illicit financial flows. This flows

from miss invoicing, tax abuse, cross border corruption and

transnational financial crime are still draining resources

from sustainable development, as well as worsening

inequalities fuelling instability, undermining good governance

practices and damaging public trust.



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The UN Office on Drugs and Crime in its Strategic Vision for

Africa 2030, which was launched in February 2021 knows illicit

financial flows remain a key impediment to Africa’s attainment

of the 2030 Agenda and the African Union agenda 2063, given

the multi-dimensional and transnational nature of illicit

financial flows significant to most domestic resource

resources illicitly acquired and ... [Inaudible.] ... pose a

continental wide developmental challenge. Given the magnitude

of illicit outflows, these resources if recovered, or retained

have immense transformational potential for our continent. To

put an end to this practice require addressing the long chain

of people involved, namely lawyers, accountants, banks, you

name it. Only a global response can address this issue. As

long as there is a single tax haven left on the planet where

the illicit financial flows can transmit and prosper, no

lasting solution is possible. It means we have to invest in

building strong institutions which can effectively mitigate

and bring an end to this phenomenon.

Hon members, it is imperative that we approach knowledge

production across the continent as a pan African pursuit. It

is imperative that the African agendas in knowledge production

practices, are entered in finding African solutions for

African problems and challenges.



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More than 60-years ago, Dr Kwame Nkrumah highlighted the

importance of African centred knowledge. Similarly, in the

1980s Claude Ake, advocated for indigenous knowledge

production in Africa. However, progress has been slow

indicated the decolonization of knowledge production efforts.

In order for Africa to prosper, it is imperative that we

address the decoupling of universities in the nation socio

economic and regional development and innovate innovation

networks. Africa’s knowledge production endeavours must be

inextricably linked to the developmental needs of the

continent. Importantly, the industrialization drive must also

be inextricably linked to the continent development needs.

While leveraging the opportunities presented by the African

Continental Free Trade Area agreement to fund the

industrialization endeavours.

Through leadership, Africa must be able to produce a conscious

African citizenry that is grounded in Pan-Africanism

philosophies and driven to implement the African Renaissance

agenda. We need to marshal our communities to address the

issue of immigration in our country through principle of Pan-

Africanism and not allow ourselves and the communities we lead

to be overtaken by right wing sentiments. We must agitate for



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effective border management we must improve co-operation with

other countries in the region, so as to ensure that we put in

place a more effective system to manage migration

particularly.

New analysis released by the UN Development Programme show

that only a small proportion of COVID-19 vaccines have been

administered in developing countries, leading to a widening

gap between the rich and the poor. The studies show that if

low income countries had the same vaccination rates as high

income countries, in September of 2021, they would have

increased the GDP by 16,2 7 billion US Dollars. These are all

one of the main reasons why Africa has become fully integrated

in order to address issues as a continental bloc. Particularly

issues relating to vaccine equity for developing countries.

These continental bloc engagements should also extend to trade

issues while working on ending financial and other dependent.

As I conclude, hon Chairperson, as we embark on today’s

debate, we must appreciate the objective and subjective

factors which continue to impede Africa’s advancement. We must

appreciate that the fundamental African development challenge

has to do with historical experience of colonialism as well as

dispute global social, political, and economic order.



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Until Africa and Africans unite all efforts for the betterment

of the African condition will not gain much traction.

Regional integration must be approached within the context of

the political unification of the continent, and the unity of

Africans wherever they are.

As a parliament of South Africa, through our oversight duty,

we must ensure that SADC and the integration of its member

states must be number one priority in our international

relations oversight.

The noble aim of Agenda 2063 is to ensure that all conflicts

in Africa must be resolved by 2030. Through our role we must

demand that there has to be a clear alignment of our domestic

programme with original indicative strategic development plan.

Without this, the division of developmental regional

integration, which is expected to create developmental state

in the region and fight poverty will falter.

We must ensure that what we have spoken about happen. But it

should also include the development and the protection of

women and children. It is very important so that if we respond

to both the globalization process and changing power dynamics



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that come with it, we need to take the women of Africa with

us. I thank you, Chairperson.

Mr M NHANHA: Hon House Chair, hon members, South Africans,

good afternoon, we are gathered here today to observe Africa

Day, a day whose essence should really be to celebrate

individual nations and collective achievements as a continent.

But more so, Africa Day was created by the Organisation of

African Unity the predecessor to the African Union in order

for this body and the continent to celebrate victories against

colonialism and apartheid.

Today, elsewhere on the continent the African Development Bank

is holding its annual meeting of member states to tackle,

amongst other things, modern difficulties such as poverty,

civil strife’s, corruption, illicit cash outflows, tax

evasion, the negative impacts of climate change and Russian

invasion of Ukraine. Since its inception in 1963, the OAU saw

it fit to that on this day all Africans regardless of race,

religion, colour or creed should converge in unison to

proclaim “Free at last from the bondage of colonialism and

apartheid”.



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Hon members, previously, the OAU was clear in its mandate that

Africa can never be totally free until South Africa was free

and a democratic government was chosen based on an election by

the will of the majority. Following protracted and delicate

negotiations, finally on the 27 April 1994 a democratic

breakthrough was achieved and the people of South Africa came

out in droves to elect a government of their choice.

This event alone raised hopes and aspirations of South

Africans of a better future for all of us. One key advantage

for South Africa having been the last country in Africa to

attain its freedom was we had an opportunity to observe and

learn from the mistakes of our counterparts who had been

liberated in earlier years before us.

Indeed, our country in the earlier years of our young

democracy, we were a shining light and the epitome of a

democratic state envied by onlookers from around the world.

Needless to mention, it became apparent we fast took a wrong

turn and followed in the path of all other failed states on

the continent. What concerns me thou, we took the turn, some

of us rung alarm bells but were obviously shut down. We are

now on a downward spiral and nobody seems to remember where

did we go wrong. We are conveniently forgetting the enablers



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of former President Jacob Zuma’s reign. Today, Africa lives on

hand outs and grants from the wealthier nations. Today, Africa

is at the mercy of its former colonial masters. Today, Africa

is ravaged by civil wars and coups. Today, Africa is an

embodiment of corrupt and failing states.

Hon members, Africa is not short of fuel and gas. Africa is

not short of mineral resources. Africa is not short of land,

and we are most certainly not short of human capital and

intellectual capacity. Africa has a short supply of

trustworthy, ethical and beyond reproach leaders. Africa lacks

leaders who put the interests of those who elected them before

their own and those of their comrades and cadres. Africa is in

short supply of leaders who never vacillate on matters of

principle, leaders who have the courage to stand up for the

truth no matter how politically incorrect it is. Until we get

ourselves these crop of leaders in power, I am afraid a dream

of “building an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa”

will remain deferred.

I wish to commend the African presidents and head of states

who chose to be on the right side of history, who chose

humanity over distraction, who chose democracy over

dictatorship, who had the courage of their convictions by



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voting in the United Nations against the unlawful invasion of

Ukraine by Vladimir Putin and siding with Russia.

Finally, I wish to congratulate the Federal Leader of the DA

and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament hon John

Steenhuisen for showing bravery and courage of his convictions

in the face of a real threat to his life by visiting Ukraine

to see the destruction for himself. So sad three months into

the war the African Union has suddenly woken up. They are now

sending an envoy. Africans we are on our own, it’s us who can

truly liberate ourselves from the despots and corrupt leaders

on our continent. Thank you very much.

Mr S ZANDAMELA: House Chairperson, am I audible?

*IsiZulu*:

USIHLALO WENDLU (Nk W Ngwenya): Ngiyakuzwa mhlonishwa,

ungakhuluma.

Mnu S ZANDAMELA: Yimina ebengingakuzwa ekuqaleni. Ngiyabonga.

*English:*

The Economic Freedom Fighters stand here today to mark the

59th anniversary of the founding of the Organisation of



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African Unity, OAU, a day which is celebrated on a global

scale by various African communities as Africa Day. Africa day

is a day of great importance to the continent because on this

day, on 25th of May 1963, African leaders met in Addis Ababa,

Ethopia, to commence discussions aimed at uniting the African

continent. This day stands significant to the continent and

its people, as it provides us with a day of reflection on

Africa’s achievements, in the recent past and its celebration

of its population and culture.

We are also granted an opportunity to remember the great

historical achievements of the Pan-Africanist and founding

fathers of the continental organisation. This day therefore

stands as a celebration of Africa, a continent which is home

to three billion people and accounts for 16% of the world’s

population. The largest and second most populous continent

after Asia, standing at approximately 30,3 million square

kilometres.

The EFF joins in and celebrates great African leaders which

paved the way for this day. We salute the fighting spirit of

revolutionaries who resisted the colonial spirit and

subjugation of the black majority. We salute liberation heroes

and heroines such as Dr Kwame Nkrumah, Emperor Haile Selassie,



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Julius Nyerere and all those progressives, who met in Addis

Ababa to commence discussions aimed at uniting the African

continent.

Each year we take pause on 25th May to celebrate Africa, to

reflect on the long journey of political emancipation, the

defeat of imperialism and make an effort to understand the

challenges which we face today as a continent. And we, once

again are reminded that the celebration of Africa Day is and

should be a celebration of ourselves. A celebration of African

political, economic and social unity. It is a day for all

African countries. A day which is observed as a public holiday

in twelve African countries, Ghana, Mali, Namibia, Zambia,

Zimbabwe, Angola, Chad, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho,

Liberia and Mauritania. Where citizens of these countries take

a day off from work, school and other duties to stay home

celebrating who we are and where we come from, something which

we as South Africans are yet to have.

This day should be a public holiday so that proper reflections

are made on what it means to be an African, an exercise which

is much-needed in our current xenophobic climate. As today, we

see people from other African countries, we see enemies,



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people who threaten us, because we do not know or have an

appreciation of our history.

Chairperson, the theme for this year’s Africa Day “from

pandemics to endemics” is a great opportunity to focus and

reflect on the common challenges which we face in a global

context. We stand independent today, but we also cannot claim

our independence is complete, for we know we are still

fighting the legacy of colonialism and imperialism.

Though in our most recent past, the scourge of COVID-19 has

left the continent exposed to poverty and unemployment.

Colonialism still stands as the original pandemic of the

African continent. Most African countries spent two

generations under European colonial power and in one way or

another, almost all African countries were victims of the

colonial period. The effects of colonialism are still visible

in the continent.

The current political instability, social disorder and

economic crisis experienced in Africa has their roots in the

colonial period. Neo-colonial masters continue to ruthlessly

extract and exploit natural resources from the African

continent without paying taxes and at the expense of our



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people. Neo-colonial masters continue to sponsor civil

conflict and terrorism in the African continent because

instability in the continent gives them space to extract and

steal our natural resources without any consequences. France

still maintains a significant military presence in the

continent and has been behind each and every conflict in the

so-called francophone Africa.

There will therefore never be progress in any of these

countries until all relations with France are discontinued.

That is why earlier this morning as the EFF, we held a picket

at the French embassy, in Tshwane, to demand the withdrawal of

France from the continent. As we celebrate Africa Day, may we

be reminded of our Africaness and realise that we, as a

people, are interdependent and interconnected.

As the EFF, we reaffirm the principles contained in our

Founding Manifesto which state that, “the development of the

African continent is inextricably linked with the development

of South Africa”. For no amount of sustainable socioeconomic

development and stability will be realised in South Africa

unless the state plays an active role in the economic

development of the continent.



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We therefore need to strengthen the ability of our country and

economy to absorb the labour force. For no country can have

sustained economic development without industrialisation. We

know this to be true, as most advanced societies are currently

enjoying great economic gains through investing in their own

people. House Chair, as EFF we therefor say forward to the

Unity of the African Continent and forward to the economic

emancipation. Thank you, House Chair.

Ms S SHAIKH: Thank you, House Chairperson, greeting to

yourself, to the Deputy Chairperson, Ministers and Deputy

Ministers on the platform, all delegates of the NCOP and all

South Africans, today we join the rest of Africa in

commemorating and celebrating Africa Day. It was on this day,

59 years ago, that the great leaders of our continent gathered

in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to form the Organisation of African

Unity, to define and shape the Africa of the future.

It is perhaps prudent that on this occasion of the

commemoration and celebration of Africa Day, we take a step

back into history in order for us to move forward. On this day

in 1963, the Emperor of Ethiopia, His Imperial Majesty Haile

Selassie I, said:



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Africa is today at midcourse, 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, on which we have embarked, the making of Africa,

will not wait. We must act, to shape and mould the future

and leave our imprint on events as they slip past into

history.

For his part, the then president of the Republic of Ghana, His

Excellency Kwame Nkrumah said:

On this continent it has not taken us long to discover

that the struggle against colonialism does not end with

the attainment of national independence. Independence is

only the prelude to a new and more involved struggle for

the right to conduct our own economic and social affairs;

to construct our society ... [Inaudible.]

Former President Thabo Mbeki ... [Inaudible.] ... to launch

the African Union. ... [Inaudible.] ... to be Africa of

tomorrow, as Emperor Selassie alluded to in 1963.

At the launch of the AU, President Mbeki pointed out that ...

[Inaudible.]



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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms W Ngwenya): Hon Shaikh, we can’t

hear you. Can you please switch off your video maybe the sound

will be better than this?

Ms S SHAIKH: Can you hear me now, Chair?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms W Ngwenya): Yes, I can hear you now.

Continue

Ms S SHAIKH: Thirty-nine years later in 2002, former President

Thabo Mbeki with the leaders of Africa, gathered in the city

of Durban, South Africa, to launch the African Union. In doing

that, Africa was ‘transitioning from the Africa of yesterday

to the Africa of tomorrow, as Emperor Selassie alluded to in

1963. At the launch of the AU, President Mbeki pointed out

that:

As Africans, we have come to understand that there can be

no sustainable development without peace, without

security and without stability. That the Constitutive Act

of the African Union provided for mechanisms to address

this change which stood between the people of Africa and

their ability and capacity to defeat poverty, disease and

ignorance.



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President Mbeki further said:

We must work together for peace, security and stability

for the people of this continent and we must end the

senseless conflicts and wars on our continent as these

had caused so much pain and suffering to our people and

turned many of them into refugees, being displaced or

forced into exile.

The Constitutive Act of the African Union also provides for

mechanisms for dialogue and peaceful resolution of conflicts

to guarantee enduring peace and stability for our people. Our

forebears have correctly asserted that the economic

integration and social wellbeing of the continent can only

happen in an environment of peace and stability. The AU Agenda

2063 has amongst others, envisaged silencing the guns on the

continent by 2020. The reality is that the guns on the

continent have not been silenced. While the deadline has been

extended to 2030, as Africans we should act in an

extraordinary and unified manner to resolve the conflicts

which continue to afflict our continent and hamper our

development.



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Africa continues to face incidences of unconstitutional

overthrow of governments carried through coup de tat. In this

regard, we commend the AUs condemnation and suspension of

membership of countries where the unconstitutional overthrow

of governments has occurred. In addition to the condemnation,

there is a need to conduct a thorough analysis of the cause of

the coups and what is behind the coups. The President of

Liberia George Weah posed a question that we should not rule

out as Africans when we grapple with the resurgence of coups

on the continent. President Weah indicated that:

While we are condemning these military coups, we must also

muster the courage to look into what is triggering these

unconstitutional takeovers. And the questioned he asked is;

could it be that we are not honouring our political

commitments to respect the term limits of our various

Constitutions?

The other challenge facing the continent is terrorism. The

Mail and Guardian newspaper reported in March 2022 that Sub-

Saharan Africa accounted for almost half of global terrorism

deaths in 2021, and according to the latest Global Terrorism

Index report, the Sahel region is home to the world’s fastest-

growing and deadliest terrorist groups. The report findings



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indicate that violent conflict remains a primary driver of

terrorism, with more than 97% of terrorist attacks in 2021

taking place in countries that are in conflict.

The report found that 48% of all terrorism deaths globally

occurred in the four sub-Saharan African countries of Burkina

Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Niger.

The Southern African Development Community, SADC region is

also facing instability related to terrorism and insurgency,

especially on the eastern coastal side of the Region,

including Cabo Delgado in Mozambique. In this regard, we

commend the role played by South Africa as part of the SADC

intervention in Mozambique to bring stability.

The President of South Africa, President Ramaphosa continues

to lead the SADC Troika to assist Mozambique to face up to the

challenges that the country confronts. Progress in this regard

has been registered, but more ground still need to be covered.

SADC has been able to make a meaningful contribution to

securing a peaceful situation in Mozambique. This is carried

through the SADC Standby Force in which our Defence Force

plays a critical role. SADC has committed and is determined



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that Mozambique does not walk alone in the fight against this

insurgency.

The concerning situation in Eswatini requires our utmost

support. We remain hopeful that the proposed national dialogue

to resolve the political situation in Eswatini will lead to

bringing peace and stability in the Kingdom. We are also

hopeful that the mediation processes in the Kingdom of Lesotho

will bear fruits. We stand in support to the SADC efforts to

bring stability in Lesotho. Generally, the region of SADC is

relatively stable, however, these developments if not averted

can destabilise the entire region.

Early this year, the world witnessed the conflict in the

eastern part of Europe. The war in Ukraine has in a way

brought to the world, the unresolved issues of the Cold War

period. The expansion of NATO to Eastern Europe is a matter

which defies the advice given for many years to NATO not to

expand in that direction. The war has brought more stress to

global supply and the economy. This impacts largely on the

import and export of agricultural produce from Africa to the

eastern part of Europe. The war also impacts on our energy

demand as a country.



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In this regard, we firmly support the position of our

government on the call for negotiations to bring peace in

Eastern Europe. Our principle position is that we should

resort to diplomacy to end the war, without taking side. This

is in keeping with principles derived from our foundational

values and guided by our commitment to human rights,

international law and equality of nations.

Some countries, especially from the West, are tacitly coercing

Africa to take an adversarial position in the face of the war

in Ukraine. We have to reiterate that the historic approach

taken by our forebears in the context of the cold war, that

Africa adhere to a policy of positive neutralism and non-

alignment is still a relevant approach for Africa in this

regard.

Africa continues to face instability as a result of socio-

economic challenges. We are a continent rich in natural

resources, yet our children go to bed hungry. The 2021 United

Nations Conference on Trade and Development reported that:

While in 2019, 478 million people lived in extreme poverty, it

is estimated that in 2021, 490 million people in Africa live

under the poverty line of 1,90 Purchasing Power Parity per



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dollar a day, and this is 37 million people more than what was

projected without the pandemic. This points to the need for

Africa to collectively intensify its efforts to reduce poverty

and eliminate hunger on the continent in line with the

Sustainable Development Goals.

The socio-economic challenges of unemployment, poverty and

inequality continue to confront Africa and Africans. This was

further brought to the fore by the COVID-19 pandemic. Member

States of the African Union should ensure that they address

these challenges, domestically and on the continent. Many

African people, pushed by unbearable socio-economic realities

in their countries, risks their lives on a daily basis to

cross rough terrain and at rough seas to enter Europe.

The Africa we want should be enjoyed by all citizens of

Africa. Without addressing these socio-economic challenges,

Africa will forever remain fragile in the attainment of peace

and stability. The fight against corruption and criminality

should, be our collective responsibility as Africans. We need

to strengthen the institutions of democracy in our countries

as well as the continental bodies such as the AU and SADC.



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In conclusion, as President Kwame Nkrumah said fifty-nine

years ago that:

Independence is only the prelude to a new and more

involved struggle for the right to conduct our own

economic and social affairs, to construct our society

according to our aspirations, unhampered by crushing and

humiliating neo-colonialist controls and interference.

Allow me House Chair, to convey a happy Africa Day to all. I

thank you very, House Chair.

Ms F NKOMONYE (Eastern Cape): Chairperson of the NCOP, hon

Chief Whip, hon Deputy Ministers present, Permanent and

Special Delegates to the NCOP, fellow MECs, distinguished

guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Once again hon

Chairperson, it is always a pleasure to make a contribution on

matters before the NCOP. Today, marks the 59th anniversary of

the founding of the Organization of African Unity, OAU in

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1963, and also marks 20 years since

the establishment of the African Union, AU in Durban in 2002.

We are therefore called upon today members of the House to

remember who we are. It is befitting that we look back in



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order to look forward. Julius Nyerere, the former President of

Tanzania in 1997 said:

What the founding fathers – certainly a hard-core of them –

had in mind was a genuine desire to move Africa towards

greater unity. We loathed balkanisation of the continent into

small unviable states, most of which had borders which did not

make ethnic or geographical sense.

So, the aim of these formations was to promote unity and

solidarity of African states but also spur economic

development, and promote international co-operation.

Unfortunately, hon members of the House to date Africa is

still divided by unmarked boundaries. Boundaries of

unnecessary competition amongst states and most unfortunately

hatred towards each other as Africans that results into Afro-

phobia. The primary objectives of these initiatives were to

rid the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonization

and apartheid. Another objective was to promote unity and

solidarity among African States, co-ordinate and intensify co-

operation for development, safeguard the sovereignty and

territorial integrity of member states.



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South Africa is a member of the AU and participates actively

to ensure these noble objectives are achieved. Africa Day,

formerly known as African Freedom Day and African Liberation

Day, thus provides us with a platform to celebrate and

acknowledge the successes of our united effort in the fight

against colonialism and apartheid, as well as progress that

has been made over the last 59 years, while at the same time

reflecting upon the common challenges that the entire

continent is currently faced with.

Hon Chairperson, I want to acknowledge that this month is very

significant to us as the nation at large as an icon of our

liberation struggle Tata Walter Sisulu was born 110 years ago

Engcobo on 18 May 1912. We are paying homage to Xhamela and

recognise that his fight for freedom was not in vain.

Yesterday we commemorated the Bulhoek massacre that took place

101 years ago when more than 180 people were killed in a

battle between the police and the Israelites who had gathered

to celebrate Passover at the holy village of Ntabelanga,

Bulhoek in Komani. May their souls rest in eternal peace and

rise in glory.

These martyrs and many others who fought for liberation in our

country and in the continent at large should serve as the



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broad shoulders we stand on as the leaders of today to

liberate our continent. Attainment of our freedom and

democracy was aided by active participation and support from

our fellow African brothers and sisters on the continent and

in the Diaspora. Our diversity as African states and

similarities in our cultures, language clan names should unite

us in the understanding that we are Africans not because we

come from Africa but because Africa comes from us.

The AU’s theme for 2022 is: Strengthening Resilience in

Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent:

Strengthening agro-food systems, health, and social protection

systems for the acceleration of human, social and economic

capital development. This is a very important topic because no

continent can develop without first being able to feed its

people. Over the last decades, Africa has grown more dependent

on imported agricultural goods instead of developing its own.

We can reverse this trend through management of the food value

chain that enhances professional job opportunities for people

that offer them a decent living and career. It would be

rewarding to contribute to feeding our own population and

making our nation resilient against external shocks. I can

assure you hon Chair, that the Eastern Cape has the best beef



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product, mutton, the best coastline and is very rich in

agriculture.

The food crises that have been triggered by the Covid-19

pandemic, droughts, and the war in Ukraine are a stark

reminder that Africans must take responsibility for feeding

their populations. Africa imports agricultural products worth

US$60 billion every year. If Africa were self-sufficient, it

could finance long-term development investments.

We need to trigger political action to produce the necessary

change. Covid-19 has been a wake-up call, it demonstrated the

need for Africans to develop resiliency in the health and

social protection sectors. The main factors that favour and

influence agricultural activity in South Africa are our

climate, the land we have, soil and vegetation. We also need

to start changing the misperception that agriculture is not a

good career path and lacks opportunities for youth. We must

make agriculture fashionable. Agriculture is central to

fostering economic growth. It also reduces poverty, and

improving food security. More than 70% of the rural population

depends on agriculture for their livelihoods, and regional

economic growth has been constrained by poor performance in

the agriculture sector.



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The media and our lived experiences have exposed us to

incidents of crime against fellow African nationals. We need

to rise up and raise our voices when fellow African brothers

and sisters are harassed, injured, killed and their properties

burgled into and looted on our soil on the pretext that they

are undocumented and thus illegal citizens in South Africa.

We understand the frustration of our compatriots who are

victims of daily reported crimes that are allegedly committed

by South Africans and foreign nationals. The SA Police Service

are dealing with these cases; hence we are making a clarion

call to our fellow South Africans to stop campaigns such as

Operation Dudula that have criminal elements in them.

South Africa is a member of the global village, and we need to

think out of the box and find creative and innovating ways and

means to solve our socio-economic challenges. Research

suggests that domestic investment, net official development

assistance inflows, education, government effectiveness, urban

population, and metal prices positively and significantly

affect Africa’s economic growth.

In conclusion, whatever a country’s specific history and

circumstances, a number of measures have proven especially



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fruitful in reducing inequalities across the region. We must

increase productivity amongst small-scale farmers and ensure

that women have access to land. We must also reverse urban

favouritism in services and economic opportunities.

Furthermore, greater effort has been focused on enhancing

social services, ensuring access to social protection,

facilitating safe migration and mobility, and tackling

irregular migration. We have excelled in improving the lives

of our people including those of our siblings from other

African countries, and we can do more to make Africa a better

continent to work and live in. Thank you very much, House

Chairperson.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH: House Chairperson; the

leadership of the NCOP; members of the NCOP; members of the

executive council, MECs, logged in; Ministers and Deputy

Ministers, pandemics are widespread rapid spread of diseases

with exponential rise in pieces of over large areas. For a

pandemic to reach an endemic phase, it would need to be a

situation where you have a controlled level of a disease. This

means that while some people would still get infected, it

would not be an unbearable number of devastating consequences



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that overwhelms the public hospitals, the health systems and

the providers.

There is no hard and fast rule for when a pandemic becomes

endemic. South Africa has an opportunity to move from COVID-19

from being a pandemic to an endemic. Which means that the

disease will still be around and will remain, but the level

would not be causing significant disruptions in our lives and

the whole country. House Chairperson, vaccination acceptance

and the programs of government that have been put in place

will remain the key going forward. Currently South Africans

administered at least over 35 million doses of COVID-19 with a

population of over 49% at least with a single dose of the

adult population and 45% of our people actually are fully

vaccinated.

We also note that this program, while OMICRON variant of

COVID-19 leads to an enormous surge in positive cases around

South Africa, there were encouraging signs connected to the

endemicity for the most part, people who were vaccinated and

then tested positive had mild symptoms or were not symptomatic

at all. The more people who are vaccinated, the better for us.

We can conclude that in a way the disease is much milder, at



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least so far for vaccination-based immunity appears to provide

very broadly the immunity against multiple variants.

As much as it is important to keep track of the percentage of

test positivity, we need among other things to really make

sure we come forward and vaccinate. Going forward, governments

... [Inaudible.] ... should be actually given that space and

be allowed to really run these campaigns in transforming our

programs. Some of the attempts were implemented through social

programs by government and those actually demonstrated that

there was desirability to improve the lives of our people.

House Chairperson, there are principles that we can all

embrace public and private, locally and globally, that human

resources for health are key for preparedness and response.

They are crucial for health services and their key components

of health services and health systems up to at least 60%.

Therefore, House Chairperson, investment in human resources

for health is strategic investment. Coincidentally, the

African Unity, AU, envoy make such investments. It takes many

years to develop a person’s skill, but you get many more years

of service back on that investment. The World Health

Organisation, WHO, global target is to support every country

to vaccinate, at least 40% of its population by the end of the



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year and 70% of the world population by the middle of next

year. According to the World Health organisation, by March,

the Continent Africa had fully vaccinated just 15% of the

adult population.

Fifteen countries were yet to vaccinate at least 10% of their

population, while 21 African countries had vaccinated between

10 and 19% of their populations. Only five countries in Africa

had vaccinated between 40 to 69% of their adult population, of

which Mauritius and Seychelles had surpassed the 70%

vaccination coverage. House Chair, I’ve just returned from

Cuba, the People’s Republic of Cuba, the population of

11,5 million is vaccinated up to 93%. That which is also

significant is that Cuba did not depend on anyone in the world

to manufacture vaccines for them. They did not purchase any

COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccines were manufactured in the Cuban

government under the Cuban researchers and scientists.

The message to us in African to wake up Africa, you can do

this. More than 5,7 billion doses have been administered

globally, but a pitiful portion of those have been

administered in Africa. The longer vaccines inequality

persists, the more the virus will keep circulating and

changing because the pool of people who do not have immunity



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is too large to prevent virus mutation. Furthermore, the

longer the social and economic discipline will continue, the

impact would be higher chances than more variance than emerge

and give us challenges. By May this year, Covax has delivered

at 1,49 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to 145 countries.

Nevertheless, as you know, Covax has also faced several

challenges with manufacturers prioritising bilateral deals and

many high income countries tying up the global supply of

vaccines. The African Union established the African COVID-19

Vaccination Acquisition Task Team, a compliment to Covax to

purchase vaccines for the African Union, AU, Member States

only. For a sustainable supply of vaccines and to ensure

reduced vulnerability, but Africa must also produce vaccines,

diagnostics and therapeutics and dramatically reduce

dependency on imports from the rest of the world.

Right now there’s a process of building partnership in vaccine

manufacturing in the country, like we know of Aspen and also

we are very much delighted on those. Now we need to create

sustainable capacity to manufacture all these biological,

among other things that have shown us that we are capable of

doing this and we also do have a very important institution in

our country, Denel, which could be repurposed to manufacturer



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health technology for the continent and transition may not

also be very difficult. Now, we also want to say this is

actually very much important to our country.

The African Union Commission, specifically the African Centres

for Disease Control, CDC, believe that Africa needs a new

public health order to safeguard the health and economic

security of the continent as it strives to meet the

aspirations of the agenda 2063 and react to the future disease

threats. It is envisaged at the new public health order would

enable cross continental and global collaboration, co-

operation and co-ordination. It is also believed that the

following four pillars would make it more comprehensive than

ever, and these are; one, strengthening public health

institutions; two, strengthening public health workforce,

three expanded and strengthening African manufacturing of

vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics and lastly, respectful

action oriented partnership.

Now, if you don’t have these processing African manufacturing

of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics it is clear that the

issue around international property rights and vaccines in

Africa is an issue that we need to take head on with the World

Health Organisation to waiver some of the international



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property rights on vaccines and medicines as well as some key

issues around pharmaceuticals in Africa. We are closely

monitoring this and we need not to actually move our head out

of it. The international property rights are some of the main

hindrances for Africa to move faster in manufacturing vaccines

for the people of Africa, as well as much needed medicines and

medicinal equipment.

The international property transfer and waiver of some of

these rights on vaccines and medicines are some of the

essential requirements to assist most of the vaccine

manufacturing in Africa to attain the required permission to

use existing licenses to produce vaccines safely for our

continent. It has to be considered that there are advantages

to partner based on international property transfer between

large vaccine manufacturers and smaller ones so they could

actually ensure that the entry into the market is easy,

increasing volumes of vaccines that are produced and regional

expansions is actually key.

So, House Chairperson, we would need to continue to really

fight this and support the struggles of largely India and

South Africa that are leading in their efforts to remove the

international property limitations on local vaccine



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production, in particular, the COVID-19 pandemic accentuated

the desire for countries to produce their own vaccines for the

public health security of their citizens prior to the COVID-19

pandemic. It is important to note that while we are having all

these efforts, the European Union continues to oppose the

movement to remove monopolies and international property

protections for COVID-19 medical tools.

Brazil has actually developed proper policies that have

allowed the local vaccine production and we need to support

them on that one. On the issues of food security and health

outcomes, House Chair, we would like to indicate that Africa

was estimated to have a population of 1,2 billion people in

2018, and the fastest urbanising continent with a growth rate

of more than 2,7%. Large youth population presents the

potential demographic dividend that is adequately leveraged

with the right investments. According to the findings of the

continental accountability scoreboard that was launched by the

African Union, AU, and the African leaders for nutrition in

2019, the data showed that more than 150 million children

under five years of age in Africa are stunted, sorry, in the

world are stunted, but 57,8 million of those who are stunted

of the 150 almost a third are in Africa.



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Only seven member states have stunting raised below 19%.

Fifteen member states have children wasting prevalence below

5%. So, you could therefore see, hon House Chair, that food

security and nutrition remains the most challenging health

threat to the population of Africa at large. Each year one in

ten people in the world fall ill from contaminated food. In

Africa alone, 137 000 people die every year due to consumption

of unsafe food. It has been estimated that the public health

burden of foodborne diseases is comparable to the malaria,

human immunodeficiency virus, HIV, acquired immunodeficiency

syndrome, AIDS, apart from his public health impact, unsafe

food has serious implications for food security nutrition. ...

[Time expired.] ...

As I conclude, hon House Chairperson, we would like to say, as

we celebrate the Africa Day, we need to look inwardly, look

into Africa and see what can we do. So, partnership

strengthening of African strides is the key so that we one day

could say could say just like Cuba, when everybody is having

embargoes on us, we will not be able to look up to them for

support, but we can support ourselves and move on as a

continent, we need one another in Africa. Thank you very much,

hon House Chair.



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Mr D R RYDER: House Chair, when one considers the lofty

position of respect, the moral high ground that South Africa

enjoyed in the early years of our democracy, when we were the

darlings of the world, who would have thought that we would be

standing here today, ashamed of ourselves, and the role that

we play in international affairs on our continent and in the

world.

As we stand here having lost the position of largest economy

in Africa to Nigeria, we must, in diagnosis and evaluation,

consider the symptoms of this and then determine the root

cause. Yes, the economy of South Africa under the ANC has

worsened considerably, and the economic empowerment that we

all agree needs to happen, has failed.

South Africa is the most unequal country in the world – this

is a cry that is often repeated in this House, a cry used for

the justification of race-based schemes. But the cold hard

truth is that under the ANC’s model of Black Economic

Empowerment, BEE, the Gini co-efficient, and that’s the

measure of inequality, has worsened. Unemployment is fast

approaching 50% — reportedly the worst in the world. So, here

we are, the ANC continuing Verwoerd’s work, entrenching

poverty and dependence.



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The average gross domestic product, GDP, per capita has been

declining since 2014. This means that on average South

Africans are poorer now than we were then. Now when we need

it, when the price of fuel, food and most goods is soaring.

Why do you think we have fringe groups forming to demand the

ejection of our African brothers and sisters from our country?

It is nothing more than a fight for resources amongst people

desperate to fill their stomachs.

What else can we talk about in a speech on Africa Day, other

than the xenophobic calls from some of our fellow South

Africans? Next will be calls for jobs in each province to be

given to only those born in that province. Then down to towns,

wards and neighbourhoods. Already we see calls for contracts

to be given only to people living in a certain place. And

don’t throw the issue of illegal immigrants back at me. This

government has made it almost impossible for people to enter

this country legally. Home Affairs is absolutely dysfunctional

and the staff there see immigrants as an ATM to use as easy

targets for bribery. If you hear the words “illegal immigrant”

come from your lips, stop and check your privilege. Go and

talk to the hundreds of foreigners who queue for hours at

“horrid affairs” every day trying to comply with our

nonsensical regulations designed to give petty officials a



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chance to demand bribes. Yes, the symptoms all point to one

disease. The African National Congress, through their

policies, are the root cause of our fall from our hegemonic

position as a regional and continental leader.

Black Economic Empowerment has failed to redress the apartheid

legacy of inequality. The various policies of RDP, GEAR, New

Growth Path, the NDP have all failed and been abandoned,

leaving us all a little poorer. Yes, the names of the super-

rich have changed a little, but the majority still languish in

poverty. Investors from around the world decry the policy

uncertainty playing out under a weak president, following on

from the “everybody grab what you can while you can”

president.

Our international relations are so bad that we have become

complicit in human rights abuses in our region and beyond. I

think of silent diplomacy in Zimbabwe while people are

tortured and killed. Our assistance with the harbouring of

Omar Al-Bashir when we should have arrested him. The deafening

silence on Myanmar, and of course the ANC’s recent support of

Eastern Imperialism as Russia invaded the Ukraine. In Amnesty

International’s 2019 article on Human Rights abuses, South

Africa was the fourth country mentioned as a bad example.



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Don’t dare lecture us, Mr Dango on Africa while your poverty

Cabinet continues to create a perfect environment for the rise

of Operation Dudula and the popular politicians who support

their cause.

In conclusion House Chair, as we gather to discuss an

integrated, prosperous and peaceful post-COVID Africa in an

environment of increasing distrust, declining prosperity, and

xenophobic mutterings, the treatment that South Africa needs

is clear. I therefore prescribe an extended dose of Democratic

Alliance government because only the DA can help South Africa

take back its rightful place as the economic powerhouse of

Africa where our people enjoy the fruits of our substantial

resources. I thank you.

Ms H G S MAVIMBELA (KwaZulu-Natal): Hon House Chair, greetings

to the Chief Whip of the NCOP, the hon members and the guests.

It is an honour and privilege to join millions across the

world as we celebrate Africa Day. This Africa month comes at a

time when KwaZulu-Natal is still recovering from the

devastating floods which have displaced thousands from their

homes, with some families still searching for their loved

ones. It is important now, more than ever, for us to reach out



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to those in need in our communities, to lend a hand and

practice what our ancestors have taught us, ubuntu.

As we celebrate Africa Day, I’m reminded of the speech

delivered by Ghana’s first President, Kwame Nkrumah during the

founding of the AU in Addis Ababa, on 24 May 1963. He said and

I quote:

Our objective is African union now. There is no time to

waste. We must unite now or perish. I am confident that

by our concerted effort and determination, we shall lay

here the foundations for a continental Union of African

states.

A foundation which was laid 59 years ago is still what bind us

as the African continent. The theme for this year’s Africa Day

is “From the pandemics to the endemics, buiding an integrated,

prosperous and peaceful Africa beyond the Covid-19 pandemic.”

The aim for this year’s theme is to maintain a strong

political momentum on nutrition across the African continent.

It is a unique opportunity to strengthen continental

commitment to end malnutrition in all its forms and to further

improve food and security in the African continent.



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Triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality

remains the worst enemy for our democratic state as many our

people remain below the poverty line. The outbreak of COVID-19

pandemic and the civic-unrest we faced in July last year also

played a part in many households losing income, putting a

strain in our economy. With this year’s theme, it gives us an

opportunity as the African countries to come together as we

rebuild communities. In order for this to succeed, we need to

be tolerant of each other and embrace our brothers and sisters

from other African countries.

This Africa Month, let us promote the clarion call for an end

to xenophobic attitudes, expressions and behaviour as these

are contrary to the Pan-Africanism and African Cultural

Renaissance mandate. We can do this by articulating the

importance of Africa Month in driving the united efforts for

decolonisation and regeneration of the African continent.

It is our duty to lead by example and educate youth to take

pride in their culture and heritage. It is up to us to ensure

that we educate them about tolerance and acceptance of those

that come from different cultural, linguistic and religious

backgrounds. Let Africa month be a month where we showcase

different cultures from the continent and learn different



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cuisines which are enjoyed in different parts of the

continent.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture that I am leading

will continue to deliver programmes that are aimed at

fostering national pride and social cohesion. For the African

continent to thrive it is important for us to teach our young

people about their culture, what it means to be their

decolonised history and what it means to be a South African

and African. We need to teach them how families in Africa were

self-reliant, how they could utilise land to ensure food

security and wealth. We need to foster these values at a young

age. Hence, we are excited that we have concluded the

framework on implementation of school sport, arts and culture

programmes at all KwaZulu-Natal schools.

*IsiZulu*:

Lapha silandela isisho sesiZulu esithi, ligotshwa libunjwe

liseva. Lokhu kukhombisa ukubaluleka kokufundisa izingane

zethu zisezincane ukubaluleka kwempilo yaseAfrika. Kanti lokho

sizokwenza ngokusebenzisa ezemidlalo, ezobuciko nezamasiko.

*English:*



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The African pride can only be realised and fostered when we

are able to take our people out of poverty and ensure that

they become self-sustain and reliance. We need to ensure that

our young people are trained to take advantage of the Fourth

Industrial Revolution and become creators of job

opportunities. We need to revive what former President Thabo

Mbeki echoed when he was giving an address in 1996 in passing

of the Constitution of South Africa. He said, and I quote:

I am an African. I owe my being to the hills and the

valleys, the mountains and the glades, the rivers, the

deserts, the trees, the flowers, the seas and the ever-

changing seasons that define the face of our native land.

My body has frozen in our frosts and in our latter-day

snows. It has thawed in the warmth of our sunshine and

melted in the heat of the midday sun. The crack and the

rumble of the summer thunders, lashed by startling

lightening, have been a cause both of trembling and of

hope. The fragrances of nature have been as pleasant to

us as the sight of the wild blooms of the citizens of the

veld. A human presence among all these, a feature on the

face of our native land thus defined, I know that none

dare challenge me when I say - I am an African!



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As proud Africans, let us stand together and unite and ensure

that the vision that our forebears had when the African Union

was founded is achieved. Let our actions show unity that

President Kwame Nkrumah envisioned to grow Africa to be

prosperous for generations to come.

Hon House Chairperson, I would not be proud if I cannot

respond to hon member who is talking about the weak president

because we are where we are as South Africa because of the

apartheid government that removed our pride and dignity. So,

we are fighting as the current government in terms of bringing

back the pride of the African people. Thank you, hon House

Chair.

Ms M C MAHASELA (Limpopo): Hon Chair of the House, hon

Ngwenya, Deputy Ministers who are with us, members of the

National Council of Provinces, hon MECs, guests, ladies and

gentlemen, I greet you. Allow me, members of this august House

to extend my sincere appreciation to the hon Chair of the

House for having invited me to say a few words on the occasion

of Africa Day celebrations which is being marked today.

We are proud to be in Africa today. We are also products of

the soil and the blood, the sweat, and the tears of Africa our



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common mother continent. We also commit ourselves to work with

other Africans in our region and the rest of our continent to

promote the achievement of the goal of African unity. That

unity also means that in our own country, South Africa, we

must continue to live together with our brothers and sisters

from other African countries as good neighbours. Hello? Hon

Chair?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms W Ngwenya): Yes, hon member.

Ms M C MAHASELA (Limpopo): Am I audible?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms W Ngwenya): Yes, you are.

*IsiZulu*:

Qhuba! Qhuba ntombo.

*English*:

Ms M C MAHASELA (Limpopo): Thank you very much. Ladies and

gentlemen, as a continent and the world, it is barely a few

months since we emerged from the notorious COVID-19 pandemic

that has created a universal impact on mental health, uh,

depression and other conditions such as financial instability,



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isolation, gender-based violence, and other factors generated

by this crisis.

As countries in Africa and elsewhere, roll back strict

measures against COVID-19 and aim to soon declare the pandemic

over, South Africa and public health stakeholders are also

starting to receive their attention. Vaccination continues to

remain important, but the focus is moving on to longer-term

testing and surveillance approaches that can be integrated

into and will strengthen the national health systems. Let us

all note that countries will not enter an endemic phase at the

same time because of variables in environmental factors,

various factors including the vaccination rates, the

availability and roll-out of booster vaccine shots each year

or seasons will also shape this path. Poor vaccine coverage

could allow the virus to continue at an epidemic level for

longer in locations where immunity wanes quickly and there are

no longer booster shots available, COVID-19 could go from ...

[Inaudible.]

In Africa, less than 13% of the population had been fully

vaccinated as of March 2022. In a continent of 1,4 billion

people, only about 693 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have

been received with nearly 40% of these doses not yet



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administered back to ... epidemic. Members, today it has been

reported that the Africa Centres for Disease Control and

Prevention, Africa CDC, has expressed confidence that the

continent is now better prepared to deal with any likely

pandemic and disease outbreak, including Monkey Pox, noting

that new disease outbreaks will continue to occur anywhere, as

seen with the Monkey Pox and Wild Polio. The Africa CDC, which

is a Commonwealth Development Corporation and the AU member

states should be encouraged to mobilise public health assets

that are required to do a good diagnosis, to identify,

respond, and contain hotspots.

As Africans, we have reasons to be chuffed and a round of

applause for our collective achievement will surely not be

amiss. Today, Africans on the continent and indeed the

diaspora must join together in celebrating Africa Day, the

most auspicious event on the continent’s calendar. On behalf

of the Limpopo provincial government, I take this opportunity

to convey our best wishes to all Africans in every way. We

also recommit ourselves as the provincial government to work

with the government at large to promote the achievement of the

goal of African unity.



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Africa is giving so much to us and the world. Africa

relentlessly with us against apartheid. And as South Africans,

we will forever be indebted to the continent and its people.

The Africa of which I speak of has been generally acknowledged

as the cradle of humanity. With the high levels of

unemployment and vulnerable employment on the rise, the world

of work in Africa is still facing tremendous challenges in

terms of job creation and sustainability. Unemployment appears

to be on a downward trend in Africa but major market distress

remains pervasive, particularly among women and the youth.

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey results reveal that in the

second quarter, the number of employed people fell by 54 000

to 14,9 million, while the number of unemployed individuals

increased by 584 000. As it stands, 7,8 million South Africans

between the ages of 21 and 64 are unemployed. All other

measures will be taken to avoid the recurrence of criminal

violence which has besmirched the good image of South Africa.

on this day, Africa Day, let us pause to reflect on what it

means to be a human being, a South African and an African.

Thus we shall be able to answer questions on whether we are on

the right path towards the dawn of a new day for Africa and

her people. Therefore, lobbying all African countries, we need

to strengthen the ability of economies to absorb the labour



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force. History has shown that countries cannot sustain

economic development without industrialisation, and without

the best entrepreneurial energy.

This is particularly true in many East Asian countries where

the demographic transition has been especially rapid. Picking

China as an example, it has enjoyed significant gains where

the demographic dividend contributed to nearly one-quarter of

the economic growth in the past three decades and was also

spurred by an emergence of a strong private sector and better

entrepreneurship. We are worried about the rise of xenophobia

and particularly Afrophobia, racism and disrespect for black

African lives, which has now become a defining future

vigilantes’ mindset and we must unequivocally condemn it in

totality.

I am saying this and pointing out that Operation Dudula and we

must all assist one another to understand the phenomenon of

migration, its global nature, its causes and how others

elsewhere in the world managed and avoid its mismanagement.

Civic education is vital. Part of what we need to do to deal

with the events of the last two weeks wherein a white student

urinated on Babalo Ndwayana’s desk. This is the time for

unity. And we do not need that in our beautiful continent. It



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is a time to speak with one voice against something which if

it takes root will take us back to a past of violent conflict,

which no one among us can afford. All our communities should

remain ever vigilant making it forever impossible for anyone

to manipulate their concerns and aspirations for criminal

purposes.

Let me remind you, as a continent, we have emerged to

independence at different stages. With imperialism growing

stronger, more ruthless and experienced, and more dangerous in

its international association. Our economic advancement

demands the end of colonialist and neocolonialist domination

in Africa. But just as we understood that the shaping of our

national destinies required of each of us our political

independence and bank all our strength to this attainment. So

we must recognise that our economic independence resides in

our African Union and requires the same concentration upon the

political achievement. The unity of our continent, not less

than our separate independence, will be delayed if indeed we

do not lose it by hobnobbing with colonialists. African unity

is above all, a political kingdom which can only be gained by

political means. There is the social and economic development

of Africa will come only ... Ladies and gentlemen, I conclude

my address. Let us heed Kwame Nkrumah’s reminder when he said,



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“I am not African because I was born in Africa but because

Africa was born in me.” I wish you a successful Africa Day

celebration in 2022. May God bless Africa and its people. I

thank you, hon Chairperson.

*Afrikaans*:

Mnr S F DU TOIT: Agb Voorsitter, ...

*English*:

May 25 is a day used specifically to celebrate Africa’s

independence, freedom and liberation strife from colonial

powers. The event commemorates the Organisation of African

Unity, which is commonly known as the African Union – 25 May

1963. The move was originally inspired by Ghana’s

independence. Ghana was the first country in the South of the

Sahara gaining its independence on March 6, 1957.

*Afrikaans*:

Ek is trots om ’n nasaad van ’n groepering te wees wat die

hoogste prys betaal het wat hierdie land, Suid-Afrika, my

land, teen ’n imperialistiese regering verdedig het! Ek is

trots om as deel van ’n groepering geassosieer te word met

helde soos De La Rey en Louis Botha. Danie Theron is ’n man

wat twee liefdes gehad het – sy nooi en sy vaderland, ’n



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stryder wat heldhaftig, alleen, sy man teen die gevreesde

Britse leër gestaan het en op die einde met kannonvuur

verpletter moes word, om sy geregverdigde veglus, trots,

oorlewingsdrang en vaderlandsliefde te demp. Sy legende leef

steeds voort in ons wese.

*English*:

General Christiaan Rudolph de Wet is a great boer general,

whose name is inextricably woven into the epic struggle of

Afrikaners for the independence from British Rule in South

Africa.

*Afrikaans*:

Suid-Afrika, staan stil, hier kom ’n man verby.

*English*:

I am not like some that claim independence, the thousands that

allowed themselves to be used by the imperial forces to raid

Afrikaner farms.

*Afrikaans*:

Kolonialiste het die rykdom en potensiaal van verskillende

lande regoor die wêreld gesien en dit ontgin, infrastruktuur

gevestig en op ’n soms verwronge wyse, vooruitgang, kundigheid



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en potensiaal gevestig, voordat dit weer Afrika en Indië se

oewers verlaat het. Dit het uit niks, iets gemaak en almal het

’n prys betaal.

*English*:

Some celebrate independence after being given the keys to the

kingdom in 1994, long after the imperialists sailed from our

shores.

*Afrikaans*:

Wat het die ANC-regering met die onafhanklikheid gedoen wat in

1994 aan hul oorhandig is? Het hul enigsins voortgebou op die

onafhanklikheid wat Suid-Afrika in 1961 ontvang het? Indië het

in 1947 onafhanklikheid verkry en is vandag ’n toonaangewende

rolspeler in die internasionale arena, sonder rasbehepte

wetgewing.

*English*:

Singapoer and Malysia were under colonial rule. After

independence they did not blame their past, they prospered and

used their past as the foundation to build successful

economies, prosperous nations without measure, world

destinations!



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*Afrikaans*:

Suid-Afrika het die imperialistiese heerskappy, tenspyte van

konsentrasiekampe en moordkommando’s oorleef. Suid-Afrika het

die verwoesting, die nalatenskap van die Engelse verskroeiede-

aardebeleid ook dit oorleef en weer opgestaan. Suid-Afrika het

die Spaanse griep en die Groot Depressie oorleef.

*English*:

We survived the 1918 Spanish flue pandemic, to which about

2,5% of Africa’s population succumbed, - about 130 million

people. South Africa survived the 1994 elections, the 2008-09

recession, the 2009 to 2018 Zuma reign, the ANC Covid-19

lockdown regulations and 28 years of race-based legislation,

protecting and furthering the rights of a majority.

South Africa will never become truly independent or

prosperous, if it continues to rely on outdated ideologies

like socialism, racism or race-based approaches. Are we really

independent, does this government really want an integrated

and prosperous, peaceful South Africa?

*Afrikaans*:

Ons het tot nou toe en sal met ons inherente veerkragtigheid

in die toekoms, die ANC oorleef. Laat ons soos Japie Greyling,



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die kinderheld van Hoopstad, nie swig onder die geblaf van die

vyand nie. Ons sal oorwin! Dankie.

Mr I MEYER (Western Cape: MEC – Agriculture): Hon Chairperson,

on 27 July 2020, the World Bank published a report on the

African Continental Free Trade Agreement. This report

highlighted that the African Continental Free Trade Agreement

presents significant opportunities for the African countries

to bring 30 million people out of extreme poverty. With the

implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement,

trade facilitation measures that cut red tape and simplify

customs procedures will drive US$292 billion of the US$450

billion potential in income. Talking about Africa brings us

nowhere; doing in Africa is more rewarding and more impactful.

Today, on 25 May, I am celebrating Africa Day, as I am proud

to announce that, today, I have received a research report on

the Western Cape Government’s Agricultural Africa Strategy.

Today signals hope for Africa and the Western Cape for

agriculture. Today signals hope for Africa on the continent.

Africa is a place of hope and we intend to translate hope into

outcomes, clear deliverables, trade and investment and

prosperity. This is our message of hope, because Africa is a



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continent with abundant possibilities and resources. The

objective is to unlock agricultural opportunities in Africa

and in the Western Cape agricultural sector.

In doing so, the Western Cape government seeks to achieve the

following outcomes on Africa Day: firstly, to increase

economic growth through the agricultural sector in the Western

Cape and in Africa, and the Western Cape is already

responsible for 53% of all South Africa’s agricultural

exports; secondly, to increase our employment in the

agricultural sector in the Western Cape, but also on the

African continent; thirdly, to increase provincial and

household food security in Africa and in the Western Cape

rural communities; fourthly, resilient trade and business

relationships in the Western Cape, using the Western Cape as a

gateway into Africa.

To attain these outcomes, the Western Cape Department of

Agriculture will take the following necessary steps: we will

create an enabling environment for economic growth; we will

pull our PPPs, knowledge, skills and efforts by sharing and

understanding the co-creation of solutions, to enhance

economic growth; we will increase productivity, food security

through precision agriculture, but also through learning from



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our colleagues on the African continent, particularly, our

neighbouring states; we will seek reduced protection in

respect of the outward trade regime market access and

integration; we will also realise that it important to

facilitate this through a sharper focus on intergovernmental

collaboration and problem-solving, as well as the

establishment.

This is unique. We will establish an Africa agribusiness

innovative centre here in the Western Cape. We will establish,

in celebrating Africa, not talking, but doing, an agro-

innovation hub and provide policy and regulatory support to

all our farmers. We are beyond political rhetoric in Africa.

We are putting our dream for Africa in action, with our

friends from the continent.

Seven out of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world are

on the African continent. That is the hope we have for Africa.

Hope means higher opportunities for people to excel on the

continent of Africa, because seven out of the 10 fasters

growing economies are on the African continent, although from

a low base.



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South Africa is lagging behind, because we have a failing

state in South Africa. The ANC is a failed state. the ANC does

not care for Africa. Former President Zuma insulted Africa at

a public meeting when he said: “This country is not like a

highway in Malawi.” What an insult to our colleagues on the

African continent! It was Shakespeare, Hamlet, who said, as he

contemplated suicide, and I quote: “Here lies the rod.” The

ANC government has a disastrous track record, as hon member

Dennis Rider indicated, when it comes to dealing with issues

of border post inefficiencies, harbour inefficiencies, high

transactional costs, corruption and administrative burdens and

the provision of infrastructure.

Today, I call on President Ramaphosa to begin displaying

leadership qualities of President Hakainde Hichilema of

Zambia. He governs with humility ... [Interjections.] ... and

is determine to root out corruption. [Interjections.] His tone

in Zambia is firm, resolute, yet, with great passion and

compassion for the people of Africa. He governs with humility.

He is a true example of servant leadership from Africa for

Africa.



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Doing so will significantly enhance the chances and the

promise of the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade

Agreement accruing to all South Africans.

The Western Cape Department of Agriculture will concretise the

African Continental Free Trade Agreement in the interim and I

will soon embark on a study visit to take advantage of the

benefits both for Africa, South Africa and the people of the

Western Cape, because we are an exporter of agricultural

products.

Let us adopt a resolution today on Africa Day. Let this House

declare poverty a pandemic and let us start a revolution and

invest in food security, sustainability, wellbeing and

dignity. Let us first kick out the corrupt ANC, because they

keep people poor. By keeping people poor, they sustain the

ANC. I am so glad that the ANC has this past weekend realised

and confirmed in public that they will be out of government in

2024 and that Africa and South Africa can prosper without the

ANC. Let us safe South Africa and kick out the ANC in 2024.

Let us safe South Africa.

*Afrikaans*:



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Ek is trots op Afrika, maar die ANC het Afrika vertrap soos

die koloniale heersers.

*English*:

Thank you.

Mr N M HADEBE: Thank you, hon Chairperson. Hon members, this

year theme for African Day “Strengthening Resilience in

Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent:

Strengthening Agri-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection

Systems for Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital

Development.” It is drawn from the African Union theme for

2022.

According to statistics SA the effects of the Covid-19

pandemic denied many South Africans their right to adequate

food as enshrined in the South African Constitution and the

population classified severely food secure was 17,3%, which is

10,1 million in South Africa in 2019.

As South Africans and in the light of the extreme weather

conditions that we have of late rated to KwaZulu-Natal and the

Eastern Cape and other parts of our beautiful country, we



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cannot have a discussion about food security without

mentioning climate change.

This is why as the IFP even before the devastating floods the

green economy in all its multiple faces was and remain an apex

priority. Solutions for agriculture need to reduce

environmental risk not contributing towards that. Where we

govern and in all far away we have a voice. We will continue

to push sustainable development as a solution to ensure food

and job security.

Moreover, the IFP in turns to reposition agriculture in South

Africa to compete favourable and supply regionally and

internationally. We want to remind government that as a

country we do not stand alone. As a member of the African

Union, South Africa can draw on the expertise of, for example,

the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, which is mandated

to provide knowledge based advisory services and technical

services assistance.

We need to take full advantage of all opportunities available

to us. As the IFP, we welcome African Union Development Agency

programmes such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture



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Development Programme first implemented in 2011 and

recommitted to in 2017. Thanks to programmes such as these.

South Africa can access evidence-based solutions and

successful climate smart agricultural practices that have been

rolled out in other parts of the continent. We can also share

our own successes stories. Let’s work together to ensure that

as we rebuild and restore farms and other agricultural

infrastructure destroyed by the impact of climate change in

regions in KwaZulu-Natal that we build better to avoid a

repeat of devastation. I thank you, hon Chairperson.

Mr J J LONDT Thank you, hon Chair and hon MECs who are

participating and the one Minister that we have here today,

Alan Winde, from the Western Cape and hon members, one thing

that I did pick up from every speaker today is in somewhere or

another, we are truly blessed to live in this beautiful

planet. Our continent is blessed with richness. Firstly, in

its people, the diversity in every possible way and the

tremendous potential we have bubbling just under the surface.

Hon Lucas, one of the parts I applauded when you say and you

referred to that we need competent government as the key to

unlocking Africa’s potential.



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*Afrikaans*:

My vraag is egter: Hoe sal enige persooon wat krities na Suid-

Afrika kyk ons kan ernstig neem, as ons eie regering so

ongelooflik swak doen om na ons inwoners te kyk?

*English:*

Across Africa we have liberation movements who did a

tremendous job fighting for independence unfortunately across

these beautiful continent liberation movements have struggled

a lot to become effective government. In South Africa we

started off brilliantly as hon Lindi Nana stated and that is

100% true but today 100% because of the fault of the ANC we

have lost infrastructure. We have lost credibility. We have

lost the moral authority as a government.

Today, same as in every proceeding here, we heard beautiful

stories of the potential we have but in ever aging leadership

in South Africans who live in the past wants to talk about the

future and only pay leap service to what we must do they never

really deliver on it.

We have people that blame past and present. Hon Dangor’s

favourite face 1652 and the other colleagues all blaming

Covid. Its utter rubbish. We are in this situation we are here



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today because this ANC government is terrible in delivering.

They are incapable of taking policy and implementing it into

looking after the citizens.

When we hear year in and year out now that foreigners are

stealing our jobs there are people coming into the country

that is taking away opportunities from South Africa, that’s

not true. We have a schooling system delivered by this ANC

government that fails to equip our students to fight in the

market place. When our colleagues and our northern brothers in

Zimbabwe, when they are in the election voted to vote out

their liberation movement and voters will be bitten up and

elections stolen.

This government apply silent democracy. And now look where

they are. It is not colleagues’ African leaders in general.

They follow the same hymn sheet as the ANC. They speak about

the past, stealing the present and they just throw away our

future. A perfect example of this is hon Nkomonye, the ANC,

MEC, from the Eastern Cape who proudly stated they have the

beef, the best mutton the best land and the best coastline.

I have travelled extensively in the Eastern Cape and I can

support you. You have a province of abundance. But you what



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failed to mentioned is that you have one of the worse regional

government. With all that resources you failed to look after

the citizens in your province.

Hon Mavimbela, the MEC from KwaZulu-Natal proudly pretends

that current ANC leaders are bringing back the pride for our

people. But, hon Mavimbela, please help us to understand how

you bring back pride when people have to line in hospital

corridors to get treated. People want to work, cannot find job

opportunities because you ensure that our economy is tanking.

Please, tell me how do you bring back pride when the ANC steal

billions of billions that they had to go to the most

vulnerable. This is after you allowed billions more to be

stolen by your handlers the Guptas.

When I listened to you how can your friends, family and

children even have pride in you defending the indefensible.

Colleagues from the ANC you were on the right side of history

but you are not anymore. One thing is certain, if you don’t

change your ways and I suspect that you will not, you will be

consigning to history as the generation that should have as

the generation that could have but the generation that

didn’t do anything to build on the one hard freedoms of the

past.



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We cannot continue this way. We have a beautiful country. We

have a beautiful continent. We have weak, weak leadership that

cannot keep into that massive potential. And as Dr Ivan Meyer,

the MEC in the Western Cape stated, come 2024, you will be

sitting in opposition benches and you will regret missing an

opportunity. You will regret years back, years upon years upon

years. And your children and their children will be

embarrassed to share your surname because you had the

opportunity and you didn’t take it.

Let’s us celebrate this beautiful continent we live on. Let’s

celebrate the wonderful diversity and the wonderful people.

But let us also be honest with one another, that is the

leaders that’s currently failing this continent and that can

and must change. I thank you.

Mr A J NYAMBI: House Chairperson, Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr

A Masondo, Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, Ms S E Lucas,

Deputy Minister, special delegates, fellow members, ladies and

gentlemen. I am not going to waste much time and spoil this

important day. To all of you happy Africa Day. One day I will

sponsor a debate where we will try to deal with the legacy of

apartheid and colonialism, and the impact it has had in our

beautiful country. Of course I agree with you, hon Londt, we



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have got a beautiful continent and a beautiful country. But

other things you said, the least I focus on them the better

for me. One day we will have ample time to do justice to what

you have raised today.

The debate on Africa Day takes place at the time when the

countries of the world in our country, are emerging from a

global pandemic that is disrupted the social and economic

activities. The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed economic growth

across the world and thus leading to massive job losses, and

loss of income for the many people of the world. As South

Africa, we are also affected by the global slowdown of the

economy. The triple challenges of employment, inequality and

poverty are worsened by the pandemic and global lockdown. As

such, Africa has also not been spared.

We commemorate and celebrate Africa Day when our country has

outlined a plan of recovery from economic downturn. We are

referring here to the government Economic Reconstruction and

Recovery Plan, ERRP. The ERRP is aimed at stimulating

equitable and inclusive growth. This plan is located within

the broader agenda of the ... [Inaudible] ... of contributing

to the integration of the economy of our beautiful continent,

Africa.



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Twenty years ago, the representatives of the people of Africa

gathered in Abuja, Nigeria and agreed on the treaty to

establish the African economic community. This is commonly

known as the Abuja Treaty of 1991. Hon House Chair, since then

the people of Africa and their leaders committed themselves to

the practical realisation of the establishment of the economic

community.

In line with the Abuja Treaty, the African Union agreed on the

framework roadmap and architecture, for the fast-tracking the

establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area and

the action plan for boosting intra African trade. It is common

cause that the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, the

AfCFTA was ... [Inaudible] ... January 2021.

The general objectives of the African Continental Free Trade

Agreement among other things, are to create a single market

for goods services facilitated by movement position of persons

in order to deepen the economic integration of the African

Continent, in accordance with the Pan African vision of an

integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa enshrined in Agenda

2063 Hon Nhanha. To create a liberalised market for goods and

services through successive rounds, and contribute to the

movement of capital and natural persons and facilitate



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investment building on the initiatives and developments, in

the state parties and regional economic communities. As well

as to promote industrial development through diversification

and regional value chain development, agricultural development

and food security.

The significance of the African Continental Free Trade

Agreement cannot be overemphasised. The African Continental

Free Trade Agreement will go a long way in changing the

economic structure of the continent, which was designed to the

colonial interest of exporting new material for further

processing and value addition in developed countries. This in

essence means that, Africa is exporting employment creation

potential to the West. I don’t know how you don’t comprehend

something as simple as this hon Londt.

Through the implementation of the African Continental Free

Trade Agreement, Africa and its people are moving forward to

change the architecture of the economy of our continent. We

need to aggressively move in the value addition, and that

requires building internal African capacity led through

manufacturing. The Trade Law Centre reported that intra-

African trade accounted for 15% of Africa’s total trade in

2019, the same as for 2018. Over the last 10 years, Intra-



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Africa trade has remained low. The highest was recorded in

2015 and 2016 with 19% and 20% of total trade.

The implementation of the African Continental Free Trade

Agreement will depend on some enabling factors which will be

in place. These include strong institution for regulation, the

desired infrastructure and connectivity, the human capacity as

well as environment of stability. The success of the African

Continental Free Trade agreement should include inclusive

growth, which will create space for participation of women and

youth in the African economy, as well as participation of

small micro enterprises.

House Chair, contrary to the held view that, lack of

entrepreneurship is responsible for lack of economic growth in

the developing world as explained by hon Londt, the reality is

that, developing countries including Africa has a significant

number of entrepreneurs who survive by selling goods and

services along our streets, such as barbershops operators,

street vendors, etc. What is missing House Chair is the

support and formalisation of these entrepreneurs, to enable

them to participate in the mainstream economy, and thus

benefit from the economic integration initiative, such as the

African Continental Free Trade Agreement.



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For our part in South Africa, we urge Small Enterprise

Development agency, Seda and Small Enterprise Finance Agency,

Sefa, the National Empowerment Fund add and other development

finance institutions to provide more support to SMMEs, to

enable them to take advantage the African Continental Free

Trade Agreement which provides for a market of over 1 billion

people. The benefits of the African Continental Free Trade

Agreement could also be maximized through aggressive

implementation of localization policies, which are intended to

ensure that the material inputs upstream in the manufacturing

sector are derived from local supply.

There are also issues that if not dealt with, will negatively

affect the full implementation of the Africa Continental Free

Trade Agreement. Amongst these is the issue of migration. This

is a thorny issue House Chair, that requires level-headed

approach. The starting point is that the African Union, AU

protocol on free movement of people emphasizes that movement

of people including goods, should be done within the legal

framework of each member state. Member states are allowed to

craft their own migration legal framework, guided by their

domestic interest, including security consideration. When that

is done, it will further enhance the integration of the

continent.



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Migration laws should not be seen as actions against foreign

guests. There is no country in the world that can survive

without people visiting the country or visiting another

country. The world is interconnected and internet dependent

and so is Africa hon Londt. South Africa has over centuries

welcome people from other parts of the world to our shores. We

are very hospitable people. That explains why many people

prefer to visit our beautiful country as you correctly

explained.

The truth is that, there are many people in South Africa from

all over the world, and largely from our continent of Africa,

and majority of them came in our country through proper

channels. They were processed through our ports of entry.

Those who are in our beautiful country illegally, should sort

their status with the Department of Home Affairs. The

implementation of migration laws knows no colour or

nationality. Everyone whether from Europe, Asia, America, and

Africa should ensure that when they come to South Africa or go

anywhere in the world, they must ensure that they follow

proper channels.

Even South Africans when they visit anywhere in the world must

follow proper channels and the port of entry of these



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countries, and respect the laws of such countries. Any form of

vigilantism against undocumented migrants has no place in our

beautiful South Africa. No one must go around asking people

about their nationality or documentation. That is the role of

Department of Home Affairs and the police. Reporting crime is

not the same as taking the law into one’s hands.

We condemn the officials in the Department of Home Affairs who

are part of a syndicate that issues our identity documents

fraudulently. These criminals deserve to be locked in prison

for a very long time, for they tamper with our national

security. Many South Africans has lost their status as these

criminals exchange the citizenship of South Africa for other

illegal foreigners. The Minister of Home Affairs is on the

right path of implementing the laws of our land, and enjoys

our undivided support. Africa can only develop in an

environment ... [Inaudible] ... me to quote the son of the

African soil, a true revolutionary, a visionary, the late

President Kwame Nkrumah, open quote:

I am not African, because I was born in Africa, but because

Africa was born in me.

Thank you House Chairperson.



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The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Ms S E Lucas): House

Chairperson, hon Ngwenya. First of all, let me express my

appreciation to everyone that participated in the debate. It

doesn’t mean if we have different opinions, we don’t agree

that we can have common solutions.

First of all, let me say, I want us to celebrate what binds us

together as Africans. And want us to work hard to overcome

what divide us. I want to repeat what hon Nyambi just said

now:

We are not Africans because we are born in Africa but

because Africa is born in us.

I want to come... just because I have little time, let just

express few ideas. It is as if when we are speaking about

failures of Africa, we forget that there was scramble of

Africa once even if it was in the former centuries. Where

Western European countries sat down and divided Africa between

themselves because of the abundant resources that was there in

Africa. They also made sure that they never took time out to

develop capacity and capability in an African people because

Africans remained a reserve for cheap labour. That is what

happened.



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And if I come to hon Du Toit, yes you speak about the issues

that happened before 1961, you spoke about the time that South

Africa became republic, but from there you tend to forget that

there was an extended period that South Africans were

suffering under apartheid rule.

From 1902, there was colonialism of a special type, where

Africans and the British colonial rulers together suppressed

and oppressed the South African people. Likewise, that

happened in the rest of Africa. That those that decided that

Africa’s resources not the African people belong to them had

decided to make sure that they oppressed and suppress the

capacity of Africa.

If we begin to have short memories, we will begin to forget

that opportunities were there and when I’m saying this I am

not defending any wrong doing or anything. I am stating the

history where Africans are coming from.

Today we all acknowledge that Africa was a cradle of human

kinds, where first and foremost there was civilization. But if

we speak as those that support colonialism of special type, we

speak as it never happened.



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Africa became a reserve for cheap labour, and it became a

place from which the treasures of Africa is being exported to

build the wealth of the rest of the world. I really just want

to bring perspective. That kind of perspective, we can do

better, we agree, we are the first ones to agree that we can

do better, but we must never speak as if there was no history,

that brought us where we are.

Because, if you really listen to hon Du Toit, you will think

as if we jumped from becoming a republic and to democracy

without the time of apartheid and oppression, that happened

and it happened. Let us just be honest about it.

I just want really to express appreciation to everyone that

make the contributions, because this is a very necessary

debate. Because, Africa without economic growth will not be

able to respond to the inequality and the poverty that is

existing.

Last but not least, I want to say to hon Nhanha, even if

Steenhuisen went to Ukraine, what difference did it make? Who

benefited from it? What did Ukraine benefit from his visit?

So, because if you go without a mandate to any place, you are

just another tourist and he went on a tour to Ukraine,



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achieving nothing, bringing nothing home. So when we speak, we

must speak about things that will benefit us, as a nation and

as a country.

Hon House Chair, let me express my appreciation for this

debate, it was really, in spite of the differences, in spite

of the negative, sometimes you can speak about things that are

not correct without be negative or be condescending. And that

is what sometimes is happening with some of our opposition

colleagues. They actually without saying it, telling us that

there’s nothing good that can from our black government. But,

I can assure you, if we didn’t, stuck from a point of zero, we

would have been very far. Because if you need nothing hon

Londt, you will never see the difference.

Those that were in need, they will say at least there was a

difference, in what was happening to me as a person. But, I

will still want to say, I appreciate all the inputs. It is

actually very enriching to listen to people negative or

positive. Because, it makes you to get a different perspective

of who you are dealing, what you are dealing with, and what

you can do to extract the best of everything. Thank you very

much, Hon House Chair.



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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms W Ngwenya): Thanks very much Deputy

Chair. Hon members, that concludes the debate. I wish to thank

the Deputy Minister of Health for availing himself. Hon

members, I would like to invite our Chairperson, hon Baba

Masondo to proceed to the order of the day, our second order,

Bab’ uMasondo.

Debate concluded

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

(Policy debate)

Vote No 13: Public Works and Infrastructure:

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Good

afternoon hon Chairperson Amos Masondo, Deputy Chairperson

Sylvia Lucas, chairperson of the select committee and members

of the NCOP.

Chairperson, this year has seen us slowly emerge from the

devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic and as the Department of

Public Works and Infrastructure we remain as determined as

ever to align our work to the rebuilding of our economy and



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assisting our most vulnerable communities. It will take a

collective effort, and my call to action to the department on

a daily basis is to work with urgency. We have a lot of work

to do and the patience of our people is running out.

Today we celebrate Africa Day and it is incumbent on us to

work harder for our people by investing in infrastructure that

brings us closer to our continent as we link to our neighbours

with new ports of entry, bridges and roads, and increasing

trade and deepening our links with the continent.

Sadly, as we rebuild, four of our provinces have been

devastated by the impacts of climate change, with severe

flooding. In KwaZulu-Natal and also in the Eastern Cape, the

department has been involved in workstreams and interventions

to assist in the reconstruction of KwaZulu-Natal and the

Eastern Cape, to mitigate the effects of the disaster. We have

provided a database of over 300 build professionals to the

Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs

to help assess, scope, cost, design and implement critical

reconstruction and the building of damaged infrastructure.

Our department’s resources will focus on the current

53 government-owned buildings in KwaZulu-Natal and



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12 government-owned buildings in the Eastern Cape to make them

usable. Some repairs to the buildings in KwaZulu-Natal are

between 20% and 75% complete, while in the Eastern Cape we are

nearing to 95% complete.

The department has also identified 258 land parcels, while the

KwaZulu-Natal Department of Human Settlements and Public

Works’ MEC Sibiya has identified a further 25 land parcels

which are being assessed for suitability by the ... Human

Settlement Development Agency.

With regard to rural bridges, in KwaZulu-Natal to date the

need that we are looking at is 52 bridges. The construction of

the first 18 bridges in KwaZulu-Natal is to commence on 1 June

and the province has identified five additional sites which

have already been assessed and added to the list, making it

23 prioritised bridges within KwaZulu-Natal.

So far in the Eastern Cape, 18 bridge sites have been

identified and technical assessments have been done. So, my

department has also reassigned more capacity to the KwaZulu-

Natal and Eastern Cape Transport departments and also affected

municipalities, to help with the skills shortage.



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In terms of the rural bridges, we all know that in the 2022

state of the nation address, President Ramaphosa announced the

construction of 96 bridges in the 2022-23 financial year. The

number of bridges that will be constructed in terms of the

96 are: eighteen bridges in the Eastern Cape, 18 in KwaZulu-

Natal, 11 in Mpumalanga, 11 in Limpopo, 10 in the Free State

and 10 in the North West. Earlier this month, together with

the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and MEC Sibiya,

we handed over three of the bridges to communities in deep

rural KwaZulu-Natal.

If I can speak about the Infrastructure Investment Plan that

is central to the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan of

government, it is aimed at creating jobs and has started

bringing the construction industry back to life.

Infrastructure SA, ISA, was also established following

approval by Cabinet in 2020. They have been hard at work to

drive the Infrastructure Investment Plan by assisting with

project blockages, unlocking funding to ensure ... and

monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the

prioritised strategic infrastructure projects.



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Through you, hon Chairperson, I will just briefly give the

NCOP ... some of the projects that we have been working on.

The transport sector has gazetted projects and it’s well

underway, with five of them completed, five of them in

construction and another five of them in the procurement

process.

Some of the completed transport projects are in Winburg in the

Free State, in Polokwane’s Eastern Ring range, in Ventersburg

to Kroonstad in the Free State and in Mtunzini Toll Plaza to

Empangeni in KwaZulu-Natal.

Then we have some of the transport projects that are in

construction, and that is the Musina Ring Road in Limpopo, the

N3 in KwaZulu-Natal and the N3 Ashburton Interchange also in

KwaZulu-Natal.

Just briefly with regard to the Human Settlements programmes,

the sector is making good progress with three projects

completed, two in construction and two projects in

procurement, while the rest are in the planning stages.

So, just with regard to Human Settlements in KwaZulu-Natal,

it’s the Greater Cornubia and then also phase 2 of



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12 000 residential units, in Vista Park in the Free State,

bulk services to Vista Park 2, and then also bulk services

installation to Vista Park phase 3. The upgrades to

Vereeniging Road is also in progress.

In Gauteng, 3 412 housing units have been completed in the

Lufhereng housing project and Malibongwe Ridge Road in Gauteng

has been completed.

The N2 Nodal Development in the Eastern Cape, phase 2, the

Catalytic Land Development Preparation is 53% done and phase 3

of the implementation is at 14% done.

Also in Gauteng, we have Greencreek with 3 623 work

opportunities, and to date 421 units are completed, with about

360 already being handed over.

Then we also have the Mooikloof Mega residential City in

Gauteng that has so far created over 1 335 ...

As we all know, we are also monitoring the Lesotho Highlands

Water Project between Gauteng and Lesotho. Advanced work is

under construction and the design is complete. We are now in

the process of finalising the loan agreements.



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With regard to the small harbours development on the

13 gazetted small harbours in the Western Cape, the

R501 million project of the repair and maintenance programme

to 13 proclaimed harbours in the Western Cape has been

completed. That includes the removal of sunken vessels,

repairs to slipways, shore crane replacements, security, and

civil and electrical infrastructure upgrades.

The project also included upgrades to the Saldanha slipway.

The capacity has now been increased from 600 tons to

1 200 tons. This will also service the surrounding small

harbours on the West Coast. Here we have created just over

952 jobs and we made sure that 500 of the jobs have been

allocated to young people. We have also empowered 142 small,

medium and micro enterprises, SMMEs, to the value of over

R116 million, of which 73 of those companies were broad-based

black economic empowerment, BBBEE-1, compliant.

Briefly on the National Infrastructure Plan, NIP, since last

year’s budget, we have completed the approval and gazetting of

the National Infrastructure Plan 2050, NIP2050. This plan is a

long-term infrastructure development across the country, which

aims to ensure that there is the necessary long-term view

regarding infrastructure to drive economic and social



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transformation to achieve the goals of the National

Development Plan, NDP. We have started to implement the first

three years of the NIP2050. The NIP2050 spells out

government’s intentions to build, manage and maintain

infrastructure to address inequality and unemployment.

Let me briefly turn to the budget main Vote. In terms of the

Appropriation Bill, Public Works has been allocated

R8,5 billion. A total of R7,4 billion of this budget is

allocated to transfers and subsidies for our entities and also

the Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP. Of the

R7,4 billion, an amount of R4,5 billion is allocated to the

Property Management Trading Entity, PMTE. The balance is

allocated for the compensation of employees, and goods and

services.

Just a quick rundown of the R23,5 billion ... [Interjections.]

Just a quick rundown of R23,5 billion in the PMTE, of which

R19 billion comes from user departments. The breakdown of that

is that the Eastern Cape will get R2,2 billion, the Free State

R871 million, Gauteng R11,2 billion, KwaZulu-Natal

R2,2 billion, Limpopo R896,8 million, Mpumalanga R992 million,

the North West R1 billion, the Northern Cape R73,1 million and

the Western Cape R3,1 billion. I will come later to all the



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information with regard to what we are going to spend on

projects.

Just briefly with regard to land reform progress, one of the

key drivers towards addressing spatial injustices and

socioeconomic imbalances in our country continues to be

confronted. Our progress on land restitution ... since 2019 we

have released 214 parcels of land ... about 30 000 hectares of

land for restitution. We have exceeded our target of

10 000 hectares.

The progress on land redistribution ... since May 2019 we have

released 25 000 hectares and 125 parcels to Human Settlements

for redistribution ... [Inaudible.] Then, we have also

identified another 50 parcels of land that we can release for

the agricultural programme.

With regard to Human Settlements, since 2019 we have released

73 parcels of land ... just over 416 ... and we’ve also

released about ... for socioeconomic purposes in support of

infrastructure development ... we have released 11 parcels of

land ... about 15 hectares.



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For the new financial year, the department plans to release

7 100 hectares for human settlements, another 180 hectares for

socioeconomic purposes and 1 400 ... 745 hectares under land

reform for restitution and also land tenure. So, our total

that we are planning for this year is about 162 hectares.

Just a quick breakdown on some of the hectares. In KwaZulu-

Natal ... 346 hectares, another 15 900 in Mpumalanga,

128 000 hectares in the Northern Cape and 10 200 hectares in

Limpopo.

Under the programme of Human Settlements, we plan to release

7 100 hectares. The breakdown per province will be

502 hectares for the Eastern Cape, 5 160 for KwaZulu-Natal,

0,6 hectares for the Northern Cape, 50 hectares in Limpopo,

another 1 144 hectares in the Western Cape, 21 hectares in

Mpumalanga and 258 hectares in the Free State.

So, it must be noted that the above planned release of land is

based on what is requested by provinces in a specific

province, and how far the land release programme is that will

enable us to release the land.



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On construction project management in our department, last

year approximately 127 infrastructure projects were completed

and 107 sites were handed over to contractors. Some of the

projects that have been concluded and finished in various

provinces are the Walmer Police Complex in the Eastern Cape

which has been completed, in Nelson Mandela Bay, Boksburg

prison in the Gauteng province, Mount Ayliff Police Station in

the Eastern Cape province, the Simon’s Town Naval Base, the

maritime reaction squadron in the Western Cape and the

Lebowakgomo Police Station.

Briefly on the EPWP, we have achieved our targets for the

previous financial year. Then, we are also working on a

programme together with Social Development to release

buildings for ... gender-based violence, GBV, and femicide.

Last year we released 12 buildings — six in the Western Cape

and six in the Gauteng province. This year we have identified

83 properties of which Social Development has selected 47.

However, we are also calling on provinces and municipalities

to help us to identify more houses ... as shelters for ...

GBV.

Also in terms of GBV, last year we rolled out a number of

billboards at police stations all over the country. We



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installed billboards with the antigender-based violence

message at police stations in Gauteng, the Western Cape,

Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and in the Northern Cape.

The regional offices of the Department of Public Works and

Infrastructure also have a number of projects. I will just

mention some of them to illustrate to the various provinces.

In the Western Cape we have a project ... The total that has

been allocated to the Western Cape is R63,3 million. This

includes the refurbishment of the Cape Town Parow forensic

laboratory.

In the Mpumalanga region, there is an allocation for the

Standerton Labour Centre with a budget of R34,7 million.

In the Northern Cape’s Kimberley region, the department is

busy with the Postmasburg - Lohatla Combat Training Centre to

the value of R45 million. Another one in the Northern Cape is

in the small rural town of Jan Kempdorp. Another project in

the Northern Cape is in Keimoes in the Kai !Garib Local

Municipality.

In the Eastern Cape, a total of 10 construction projects were

completed last year. Currently under construction is the



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Forest Hill Military Base Health Centre construction, the

Hankey SA Police Service construction, Grahamstown SAPS’

headquarters, the Burgersdorp prison construction and at the

Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in Johannesburg

we also have the 85 Anderson Street ... where we are going to

accommodate the Department of Rural Development and Land

Reform.

Also in the Johannesburg is the Randfontein Military Base that

we need to complete ... [Inaudible.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: As you conclude, Minister.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Yes, I was

... [Inaudible.] Chairperson, I will conclude. Can I just say

to the members that the details of all the provinces are

available on request. I will conclude with that by providing

them with that information. Our work continues in earnest and

we are committed to bringing more urgency so that our

communities can feel the impact of infrastructure delivery and

public works. I thank you, Chairperson.

Mr K M MMOIEMANG: Hon Chairperson, Masondo, greetings to my

colleagues and special legates, let me rise on behalf of the



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ANC to express my gratitude for the platform I am given to

take part in the debate of Vote No 13. This budget debate

takes place at a very critical time in the development of our

country as low economic growth coupled with the effects COVID-

19 is continuing to have a negative impact in terms of our

hardships, particularly in many provinces. This reality was

further worsened by the recent devastating floods that we have

seen in many parts of our provinces, particularly KwaZulu-

Natal, Eastern Cape and also North West.

Over the past weekend KwaZulu-Natal has again received

torrential rains which have further caused more destruction of

homes and infrastructure. But of course we are appreciative of

the leadership provided by the Minister and the Deputy

Minister through positive interventions that were made in

partnership with the province to sort of mitigate the

devastating nature of the floods. What we have seen and also

appreciate from the leadership by the department was also to

avail professional expertise both in the built environment

sphere which is integrated with the work of the regional and

local municipalities to assist with the assessment, scope,

costing, design and implementation of reconstructing of

critical infrastructure in relation to bridges, roads, storm



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water pipes and other infrastructure as indicated by the hon

Minister.

While we applaud the intervention of the ANC-led government,

it is important that the department and other spheres of

government are able to restore the infrastructure in the

shortest space of time with a view to ensure that our

communities are also resettled in environments that will not

make them to further risks in the future. Our heartfelt

condolences to the families who have lost members of their

families due to these devastating floods.

It is critical that the government’s co-ordinated efforts at

the redevelopment of the infrastructure must ensure that the

normalisation of economic activity takes place, moreso in the

affected areas. It is equally significant to bear in mind that

the economies of the different inland provinces are

inextricably linked to that of KwaZulu-Natal. The Durban port

road and rail provides for the delivery of goods and freight

imported from the inland market and also ensures that these

imports from various countries also reach the inland market.

Therefore, the economic impact of what is happening in

KwaZulu-Natal and other provinces is indeed real. It is also



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critical to appreciate the fact that the entities of the

department as we have noted during the engagement with the

department are facing a number of challenges, amongst them is

the level of vacancies in the department which negatively

impacts on the department’s ability to effectively deliver on

its programmes. We are looking forward to have stability in

the directors-general offices. Indeed, this must be dealt with

in this financial year with the department to ensure that

capable and skilled people are employed to fill vacancies and

effect department programmes with deliverable outputs and

outcomes.

However, it is clear that the department under the current

leadership is making steady progress towards attempting to

meet its strategic objectives and mandate. The department is

mandated to be the custodian of government’s immovable

property. We therefore appreciate the update that the Minister

has given in today’s debate around the work of the property

sector. It is also mandated to ensure that it transforms the

construction and property sectors, given the importance and

significance of transformation in the property sector. More

Moreover, the department is expected to mitigate the level of

high unemployment rate through co-ordinating the Expanded

Public Works Programme, EPWP, which is a very critical



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programme to creates employment for those hailing from

communities in different provinces which will not otherwise be

able to find employment.

Therefore, the department is mandated to support service

delivery in a proactive and efficient manner. It must also

build state capacity in the built environment profession,

Council for the Built Environment, CBE, and also Construction

Industry Development Board’s, CIDB. Implementing the mandate

of government, the work of the department contributes

positively to the creation of a capable and ethical

developmental state. Following the operationalisation of the

Property Management and Trading Entity, PMTE, the departments

mandate also includes the portfolio management and

optimisation of all government property, as alluded to by the

Minister. This forms a critical part of creating value from

the property portfolio of government. The department has also

created Infrastructure SA, as indicated by the Minister, to

deliver on strategic infrastructure projects which forms a

critical part of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery

Plan.

For this financial year and in order to effect its mandate and

improve on the delivery of its programmes, the department has



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developed a focussed plan to improve 10 areas of business

development which will enable the department to deliver on its

mandate. Among these 10 areas, which are aligned with the

annual performance plan of the department and is in line with

government’s Medium-Term Strategic Framework, is the change

management programme to ensure that the culture of service

delivery of the department is streamlined.

In preparation to ensure that the department is able to

achieve its mandate and implement its programmes, the

department has adopted the Service Delivery Improvement

Programme which is going to be based on improved service

standards and charters with beneficiaries that are

characterised by customer responsiveness and orientation

throughout the value chain of Batho Pele principles.

The Business Process Management Programme is designed to deal

with the co-ordination of property management and

infrastructure delivery which will be based on an

infrastructure delivery management system and the sustainable

infrastructure development system methodology.

The department, as part of this programme will be implementing

the enterprise resource planning to fast-track the business



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process management programme by ensuring it moves away from

manual systems to appropriate and relevant IT systems,

particularly with regard to asset management. This will also

enable a review of the macro business and delivery model of

the department and associated revision of the structural model

of the department. This programme will also be extended to the

regional offices and head office models, and associated

governance and accountability arrangements will be cascaded

down.

It is also important that we note that the department, because

it has been battling against state capture and corruption and

as part of containing this, it will be establishing the Ethics

and Compliance, Infrastructure and Consequence Management Unit

to guide and enforce expected standards of conduct. The

improvement of business process and automation will enable the

department to radically improve contract management and

monitoring capability to mitigate contract delivery risk

throughout the department.

The implementation of an organisationwide skills assessment to

determine the current skills set and to ensure capacitation of

the current skills set and acquire further skills when filling

vacancies will enable more efficient service delivery from the



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department. This will be done in partnership with the National

School of Government. The aim of these 10 areas of improvement

is to ensure that the department is able to efficiently

deliver its projects.

In order for the entities that reports to the department to

function optimally and deliver on their respective mandates,

it is critical that all of them have functional and skilled

boards to effect proper corporate governance. Moreover, to

ensure financial control and financial accountability, it is

imperative that none of the entities have vacancies in senior

management positions. These entities have an important role to

play in the built environment sector in all provinces as

apartheid spatial planning has not as yet been reversed.

Transformation must occur in spatial planning. New human

settlements will occur in all provinces in the country and

these settlements need to be integrated developments. The

advice from the department will come in handy.

The department will be required to fast-track the Public Works

Act so that we are able to ensure that the legislation which

plays a critical role in co-ordination of major infrastructure

projects and employment projects has a framework. This Act

must define the closer working relationship between the three



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spheres of government. Also, the issue of poverty and

unemployment requires focussed programmes such as the EPWP of

the Department of Public Work and Infrastructure as well as

the mass employment stimulus package of the Presidency.

This is important so that we are able to monitor the ability

of the department to play its critical role in the Economic

Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. The idea is to ensure that

the country is successful in reversing the devastating nature

of the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and

unemployment through inclusive economic development and also

the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. This plan is

intended to reverse the effects of slow economic growth and

the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is largely

driven by infrastructure development to ensure inclusive

economic growth and job creation.

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has created

Infrastructure SA for the implementation of strategic

infrastructure projects, as alluded to by the Minister.

Therefore, we will be paying much more attention in terms of

ensuring that the Welisizwe Programme unfolds, and also as the

small harbours development programme unfolds, job creation

will take place.



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In conclusion, there is much work to be done and much to be

achieved in terms of the programmes of the department. It is

important that the department and its entities are capacitated

to embark on the programmes and that there are deliverable

outcomes in all provinces and municipalities. The select

committee will engage in rigorous oversight to ensure that

budgets for the programmes achieve value for the money

allocated. Much more needs to be achieved with less financial

resources. The ANC supports the Budget Vote No 13 of the

Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. Thank you,

Chair.

Mr T J BRAUTESETH: Thank you, hon Chairperson, hon Minister,

hon members, and fellow South Africans, today we debate the

Budget of the largest landlord in South Africa. In feudal

times, a lord was a noble who held land, a vassal was a person

who was granted possession of the land by the lord, and the

land was known as a fief. In exchange for the use of the fief

and protection by the lord, the vassal would provide some sort

of service to the lord.

This fiefdom was granted to the Department of Public Works and

Infrastructure on the basis that this department would do the

inverse of the definition above. The department’s job, in



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simple terms, is to look after and develop state property

which is entrusted to it.

Well, dear members, that is the theory. The reality is akin to

the cook with too many pots on the stove. Add to that, the

general hustle and bustle of a kitchen – orders arriving,

orders going out – the cat stealing the mince and the staff

generally slacking or hiding away. It is inevitable that

something will spoil or be burnt.

So what does the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure

deal with? The department is supposed to provide strategic

leadership to the SA Construction and Property Industries,

ensure compliance in management of state-owned and leased-in

immovable assets, provide strategic direction on the

integration of public works priorities and contribute to job

creation and poverty alleviation through Public Works

Programmes.

Running through all of this is the concept of transformation,

an idea that justifies the replacement of qualified personnel

with cadres and pals. If you survey the landscape that is

state-owned property in South Africa, the department has

transformed in one sense. They have transformed once



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functioning properties into dilapidated wrecks. Not exactly

what was intended.

A perfect example is the parliamentary precinct. For those of

us who have served her for a while, this place was always a

beacon of pride. I often commented to visitors that this was

what the whole of South Africa should look like, if only we

got our priorities right. If only we were obsessive about

making sure that we employed qualified people. If only we

stopped using broad-based black economic empowerment, BBBEE,

as an excuse for rent-seeking.

All of that pride literally went up in smoke as we started

this year. It became painfully evident that this department

had failed in its duties and had failed to follow simple

recommendations to secure the infrastructure. And yet the

Minister has taken no action against any officials for this

negligence. It can only be a patronage deal with her party and

the governing party that keeps her Cabinet seat. Other

Ministers have been fired for less.

All members in this House today, have conducted oversight at

police stations, schools, hospitals or any other government

building and have reflected on the decay of those buildings.



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It is nothing new. The Minister has even said that it is a

mess. But instead of addressing those issues, the department

busies itself with pursuing the lofty ideals of Infrastructure

South Africa to build shiny, new grandiose projects to bolster

the image of the government while the basic infrastructure of

our country collapses.

The priority, Minister, should be to focus all the resources

and human capital that the department has at its disposal to

renovate existing infrastructure and make it functional again.

This would also allow the department to leverage its assets

and bring in much-needed revenue from the private sector.

Recent reports reveal that the department has over 2 000

properties that are not in use, basically abandoned. If these

properties were fixed up, they could be leased to the private

sector and create millions, if not billions of rands in

revenue for the department to reinvest in further renovations

and maintenance. It is within the power of the department to

create this virtuous cycle.

Instead, these properties are currently illegally occupied by

tenants involved in various criminal or antisocial activities

that make neighbours living next to those properties despair.



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To add insult to injury, the department does not spend all the

funds allocated to it averaging between 82% to 93% over the

last five years.

And then we have the perennial and frankly ludicrous situation

of client departments not having budget to fix minor issues.

If offices need light bulbs or a repaint, public works must do

the work. And only after a veritable mountain of paperwork has

been completed and waiting months for a contractor to be

appointed. Instead, the bulk of the PMTE budget should be

divided up amongst the client departments and the PMTE should

play an advisory role, when required. But then the Council for

the Built Environment, CBE, must start spending its budget

properly and urgently skill up professionals in this space to

play an advisory role and also potentially be engaged in

contract work. The CBE woefully underspends in this area and

it is no wonder that a flood of resignations is the result.

The only area where the spending is at an optimum level is pay

staff to run this entity on a suboptimal level.

In closing, we should take note of the advice of Peter F.

Drucker, the father of modern management. The pillars of

Drucker’s theory of management are decentralization,

prioritization of knowledge work, management by objectives,



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and SMART goals. Decentralization means that managers should

empower client departments by delegating functions that they

cannot handle. Knowledge work means utilizing the best there

are judged by competence, not affiliation.

Management by objectives involves working together to set

common goals, identify areas of expertise and define

measurable expected results.

The SMART method means that those goals need to be specific,

measurable, achievable, relevant, time-specific and recorded.

Minister, the public perception, a small portion of which are

your voters, is not good at all. The principles above must be

implemented urgently if you want to satisfy the people of

South Africa that you are doing a competent job and worthy of

their trust. If you cannot do so, be prepared to vacate your

seat in 2024 when the DA takes over and gets things done. I

thank you.

Mr J MAMABOLO (Gauteng): Hon Chairperson of the NCOP – let me

take this opportunity – I hope you will allow me not to show

my face because the network is not well. That could affect the

quality of my inputs. I need your pardon not to show my face,



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because of network problems. Hoping that I have your

permission, hon Chairperson.

The CHAIRPERTSON OF THE NCOP: Yes. Please proceed. You are

audible and let us see how far we can go.

Mr J MAMABOLO (Gauteng): Let me also greet the hon Deputy

Chairperson, the President of SA Local Government Association,

Salga, our hon Minister and of course all the Ministers and

Deputy Ministers, all committee chairpersons, all MECs, all

hon members and of course the guests for this very important

debate, I just want to start by saying that on behalf of

Gauteng province, we fully support the Budget Vote and we are

firmly behind it as presented by the hon Minister. We appeal

to this House to support this budget.

Before I go to the issues I want to raise, I just want as part

of our support to the – want to say to the hon members and you

Chairperson that it is an honour and privilege as acting MEC

to deliver the Budget Speech in our province on behalf of the

hon MEC Motara who is on leave and we are wishing her very

well.



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It is just unfortunate that I am speaking before a member who

has just trivialised a very important issue of infrastructure

development and delivery. I listened to him very careful

trying to ridicule the strategic work that government is doing

to consolidate this delivery of infrastructure by simply

trivialising the work that is consolidated in the Department

of Public Works and Infrastructure, also led by Comrade

Kgosientso David “Sputla” Ramokgopa working with the Minister.

I think in the entire world; this is the first person that I

had an opportunity to listen to, trivialising the importance

of infrastructure.

I would not want to respond much because the hon member and

his party have clearly demonstrated that they have no grasp of

how the whole world appreciate the strategic importance of

infrastructure, not only to provide stimulus package to the

economic growth in the short term or short run, but also to

crowd in investment in the long-run. I think that is the world

established principle. I will expect every member in the

infrastructure space to extol and appreciate the role that

infrastructure development plays.

Hon Chairperson and hon members, for us in Gauteng, we want to

present to you our strategic intervention in the Central



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Business District, CBD, of the City of Johannesburg which is a

multibillion project of Kopanong Precinct. I want to say that

the Kopanong Precinct is a triple P project which has reached

a critical stage. Where we are now is that we will be

finalising and appointing a consortium to build, rehabilitate

and of course, to improve the current seat of the provincial

government in the CBD of the City of Johannesburg.

This is very important to us because, as you no hon

Chairperson – and I think you can speak quite eloquently on

this issue – is that with the history of mining in the Gauteng

province, in the City of Johannesburg, when they finally left

for Sandton, Rosebank and the area of the Eastern side of

Johannesburg, the City of Johannesburg interior gradually

deteriorated. We saw big corporations leaving the CBD and

government together with the City of Johannesburg are the only

key players that are still remaining in the City of

Johannesburg.

Kopanong Precinct is going to revitalise and revamp the City

of Johannesburg in the CBD which is the face of South Africa

in the global world particularly in the commercial space.



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So, we are quite confident that resuscitating, improving and

rehabilitating the CBD of the City of Johannesburg is going to

be a major injection of money into the economy, but it will

revitalise, preserve and protect a very important

intervention, the City of Johannesburg.

Hon Chairperson, we also just want to put forward that our

Expanded Publics Work Programme is doing very well. We will be

convening an important meeting with the municipalities in the

province. We are deeply concerned that the big metros are not

reporting as they are supposed to on the targets and the

achievements with respect to the Expanded Public Works

Programme which is very critical to create jobs and make sure

that we improve the living conditions of the people.

I would like to assure hon members that the province and the

Department of Infrastructure Development is quite focused on

making sure that we improve occupational health and safety of

all our facilities, most importantly, the hospitals. To this

extent we are providing good support to the Department of

Health in the province, but also we welcome the relationship

we have with the national Department of Health which the

Minister of Health has taken a lead in ensuring that we reopen

some parts of Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital.



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On that we are very much pleased with the decision that we

have made as the provincial to work with national government.

Hon Chairperson and hon members, we are also on track in

providing support to the Department of Basic Education to make

sure that we roll out the smart schools which are the pride of

the province in which we are making sure that we leverage

smart technologies to support learning and teaching. To that

extent, we are very much satisfied with the quality of work to

support and roll out smart classrooms that we believe

constitute the core of the future of our education system in

the province.

We also continue to provide support in rolling out

infrastructure to other departments in the province. We are

quite satisfied with the work that we are doing, as almost the

landlord of the provincial government providing strategic

infrastructure to support service delivery.

I just want to conclude by assuring the members that there

have been challenges in the province, relating to unethical

conduct. We are dealing with issues of corruption working with

the Special Investigating Unit, SIU, and to this extent hon

Chairperson and hon members, I want to assure you that the



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provincial government is hands on and is doing an excellent

job to deal with matters of corruption, unethical conduct

maleficent and maladministration. Thank you very much, hon

Chairperson and hon members. Thank you.

Mr T APLENI: Thank you very much, Chairperson. The EFF rejects

the Budget Vote 13 on Public Works and Infrastructure ...

[Lost connectivity.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Apleni ... [Inaudible.] ...

speak on the microphone ... [Interjections.] ... louder closer

to the microphone.

Mr T APLENI: Sorry, Chairperson, I really apologise. Thank you

very much, Chairperson. I will do so I don’t know why am I

audible enough, but let me start, Chairperson. Chairperson,

the EFF rejects the Budget Vote 13 of Public Works and

Infrastructure. Public Works is the biggest property owner on

behalf of the state in this country, as almost all the

government departments are renting the buildings they are

working in. It has mandate from Parliament to provide

accommodation, buildings and other infrastructure to some

public works departments. Although it is the responsibility of

the government to provide land for the development of



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necessary infrastructure, in South Africa, we still find that

the bulk of the land proximate to municipal services, lies in

the custody of private holdings.

The government stands as the main custodian of land in this

country, but our government can’t even construct a mere road

without begging private individuals who own the land. Today,

most of this land is still lying fallow, and the department

has done absolutely nothing to ensure that the land gets

released for productive purposes to black people who need it.

Just on agricultural land alone, in 2019 the department

reported that there were 3 653 agricultural state land parcels

which were available for redistribution, and the extent of

these land parcels was approximately 2,9 million hectares.

The department still leases over millions every month for ...

[Inaudible.] own. Amongst these leased properties are police

stations and other strategic key points for the state. All of

these are happening under this department. Last year, the

Minister reported that there were about 1 300 government

properties that had been hijacked. She has not done anything

to date to reclaim those properties, and to ensure that they

are redistributed back to those who need them.



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Lastly, the department is the custodian of expropriation

legislation in this country. Even though the Expropriation

Bill is not passed into law yet, and despite is many

weaknesses, there is nothing stopping the department from

expropriating land and building today, even if at a price.

There are literally thousands of derelict buildings across the

country that could be expropriated and refurbished for student

accommodation and to be used as houses for the homeless.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Apleni, speak closer to the

microphone. Don’t ... [Inaudible.] to the microphone.

Mr T APLENI: Alright, Chairperson, I don’t know what is

happening maybe it’s network problem today.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Just stay there.

Mr T APLENI: Thank you very much, Chairperson. And today this

department asks us to approve a budget without even owning a

state construction company. This department asks us to approve

a budget ... [Lost connectivity.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: ... switch off your camera and

let’s see what happens. Please speak to the microphone, you



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are not audible enough. You are getting worse. Please speak

closer to the microphone.

Mr T APLENI: What is the role of its own workers to fix the

roads ... [Lost connectivity.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Try again. There seems to be a

bit of a problem there. Hon Apleni, maybe what we should do is

to get hold of your speech and make it available to the

participants. Thank you very much. Just a comment, hon

members, that I’ve noted that, of course, hon Mamabolo did not

use his picture which is just fine. However, instead I think

he has used the picture of Charlotte Maxeke which is a bit of

a problem. I will really be asking you, hon members, that we

are really trying to advise our own participants, political

speaking, political party members to avoid doing what

happened. Therefore, please the presiding officers assist to

the extent that you can so that we limit what had just

happened. Hon Mamabolo, not showing your picture it’s fine,

but showing Mama Maxeke’s photograph exposes us to other

practices which may be negative. We are asking all presiding

officers to pay attention to this matter. Therefore, I will

proceed to hon Boshoff.



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Ms C LABUSCHAGNE: Hon Chair, this is hon Labuschagne. I was

just informed that they need totally assistance because they

have a load shedding two hours ahead of schedule the ...

[Inaudible.] is off. With your permission can I do a speech?

Thank you very much. Hon Chairperson, hon members, and hon

Minister, today we debate the Public Works and Infrastructure

Budget Policy Vote and I would like to concentrate on the

Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP. The EPWP is currently

on its 4th phase, with the 1st phase being launched on 18 May

2004. Despite this programme, which has been referred to as

the flagship programme of the governing party, geared towards

providing a measure of respite for the unemployed and at the

same time providing training and the developing of skills. In

spite of this programme, skill shortages remain predominant in

our country. Together with these shortages the rate of

unemployment is still increasing at a high rate and the

country is stricken with poverty.

Hon Minister, the programme has not had the desired effect

that the governing party was relying on. Interaction with

these workers during some of the hon Boshoff’s oversight

visits have indicated that they are faced with many challenges

of which the largest is the low wages and the fact that

employment is of a temporary nature which does address or



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alleviate their positions in the long term. They also shared

with her that they would like to see more relevant training,

the offering of bursaries to improve their educational levels,

to be provided with proper communication channels and to see

more monitoring and evaluation as they are invariably placed

in the field with no guidance which impacts discipline amongst

many of the workers.

The governing party must, if they want to see any improvement

within this programme, establish a survey amongst all of the

EPWP workers to determine what the challenges are that they

encounter. This programme is after all financed with

taxpayers’ money and not through ANC funding and the taxpayer

would like to see whether their hard-earned tax payments are

being beneficial in assisting the unemployed. Another

worrisome aspect is that in many cases these workers are being

exploited to the benefit of the governing party as they are

invariably appointed by ANC ward councillors who request to

see their membership cards before any appointment may take

place. This is a practice that must be stopped as the money

generated for these workers is not ANC money, but taxpayers’

money and everyone should benefit equally.



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During the run up to the 2021 local elections, we again

witnessed how some ward councillors were, without shame,

rewarding loyalists to a certain party with jobs. They were

threatened with the message of “Vote for us or remain in

poverty”.

Hon Chair, what has happened to the EPWP Code of Good Practice

framework, why is this not used when determining who should be

appointed in a temporary position on a project in a certain

ward, or on a project on both a national and provincial level?

Is it not time that a policy review be initiated to ensure

that cadre deployment and the manipulation of opportunities

are not misused? The goal of the EPWP is to ultimately provide

equal opportunities for all who find themselves in the

unfortunate position of being unemployed. Another huge bone of

contention is that this programme should work on a rotational

basis, whereby the majority of unemployed are given the

opportunity to have, even for a short period, a form of income

and to furthermore ensure work experience is created.

However, participants of this programme remain the same with

practically every project. Is there no mechanism in place

whereby reports are to be submitted to ensure that policy

regulations are followed? It is quite clear that this



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programme has no consequence management in place and therefore

it is used to benefit only those that can produce a green

card. Hon Minister, I call upon you to engage on this matter

to ensure your department has policy programmes in place that

will see a programme equally available to all citizens of

South Africa which will enable a temporary solution to the

unemployed to also share in the financial gains this programme

has to offer. I thank you.

Ms M L MOSHODI: The Budget Policy Vote of the Department of

Public Works & Infrastructure this year highlights the

necessity for continued improvement of performance on

programmes and projects. It necessitates the improvement in

coordination between different spheres of Government to ensure

optimisation of budget and outcomes of programmes.

The necessity for the department to operate at a much higher

level is largely due to the economic challenges which face the

country of low economic growth which was worsened by the

effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hom Chairperson, this has increased poverty and unemployment

in the country. In response to the current economic situation

government has introduced the Economic Reconstruction and



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Recovery Plan. The plan is based on driving inclusive economic

growth through infrastructure development. Moreover, the plan

seeks to intensify job creation including labour intensive

jobs. The Department of Public Works & Infrastructure has a

critical role to play both in the delivery of strategic

infrastructure projects and job creation.

Hon members, in the Sona of 2022 the State President focussed

on job creation, infrastructure development and maintenance of

government immovable assets. The Government with its social

partners at Nedlac are finalising plans to grow the economy

and create jobs. This is part of the drive by the ANC

Government to struggle against the triple challenge in South

Africa of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Hon Chairperson, within the Economic Reconstruction and

Recovery Plan there are a number of plans and projects which

are for the focus of the Department of Public Works and

Infrastructure as announced in the Sona of 2022.

Hon member the government has embarked on measures to enable

the development and growth of businesses to enable job

creation alongside the expanded public works programme and

social protection. Through the infrastructure fund with a



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R100 billion allocation from the fiscus over a 10-year period

requires state entities to engage in infrastructure projects

with an investment value of R96 billion in student housing,

social housing, telecommunications, water and sanitation and

transport.

Hon members, this requires PMTE, Property Management and

Trading Entity, to optimise the government property portfolio

and the completion of the immovable property asset register.

This means that the department must earnestly begin its

maintenance programme of government buildings and commence the

development for student housing.

This should also enable the development of small and medium

enterprises to enable maintenance work in electrical, painting

and plumbing as well as construction work.

Hon Chairperson, it is anticipated that over the next three

years the rural roads programme will utilise labour intensive

methods to construct or upgrade 685 kilometres of rural roads.

This will bring employment to rural areas and will be funded

through the Extended Public Works Programme.



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The Department has already embarked upon a programme to ensure

youth internships which enable the interns to have a job track

record and seek permanent employment as most employers are not

employing youth graduates without work experience.

Hon Chairperson, the Department of Public Works and

Infrastructure participating in these projects will certainly

make a fundamental contribution to inclusive economic

development and job creation. These programmes do make a

substantive contribution to the transformation of the country.

Hon Chairperson, Infrastructure SA was created in the

Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to implement

strategic infrastructure projects. The department has already

engaged with the Development Bank of Southern Africa and

National Treasury on the financing of the projects and

agreement has been signed on the role of the parties.

The Department has been assigned five strategic integrated

projects which are the small harbours, development nationally,

the building of rural bridges which is known as the Welisizwe

Programme, PV and water savings on Government Buildings

Programme, Comprehensive Urban Management Programme and the

Salvokop precinct.



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Hon Chairperson, these are critical infrastructure programmes

assigned to the department and have a critical role to play in

economic development and job creation. The small harbours

programme has commenced and is a national programme which

benefits communities in all provinces along the coast.

This project requires to be viewed in conjunction with issuing

of fishing permits by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries

and the environment to small fisherman based in coastal

communities. The small harbour development in the country will

benefit communities which depend on the ocean economy for a

living. This will ensure that communities located around small

harbours are able to make living and not remain in perpetual

poverty.

In addition, this project has to date in terms of the repair

and maintenance programme created a total of 894 jobs and

empowered local SMMEs, Small Micro-Medium Enterprises, to the

value of over R114 billion. The development of new fishing

harbours in Eastern Cape, KZN and Northern Cape is progressing

slowly and requires attention as this opens up economic

opportunities for local communities which are based around the

small harbours.



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Hon Chairperson, the Welisizwe programme has developed a total

of 23 rural bridges which have been completed from 2019 to

date. Accumulatively, 420 work opportunities have been created

during this period. This will certainly improve the lives of

people in rural communities. This infrastructure must be

viewed in relation to the land reform programme and the small

scale farming programme by the Department of Agriculture to

ensure food security.

This programme creates enabling infrastructure to get produce

to markets which creates real livelihoods for people in rural

areas. The department is in the process of recruiting 360

qualified artisans, 300 artisan trainees and engineering

trainees from the participating provinces for Welisizwe

Programme pending programme funding from National Treasury.

Furthermore, plans and inspections completed for the 96

bridges to be constructed in 2022/23 financial year and

awaiting budget allocation from National Treasury. It is

expected that 8266 jobs opportunities will be created when the

96 bridges are completed. It is important that National

Treasury funds this programme as it is integrated with land

reform and will contribute to inclusive economic development

in all provinces and strengthen food security.



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Hon Chair, this programme seeks to create decent work

opportunities and provide training opportunities for

unskilled, marginalised communities and unemployed people in

South Africa. The budget allocation for this programme in this

financial year is R307 billion. This is to ensure that 69

public bodies are provided coordination support with a further

290 public bodies are provided with technical support.

The expanded public works programme is designed to ensure that

those who are historically disadvantaged and cannot be

employed in the manufacturing, mining, agricultural,

technological or service sector of the economy are able to

obtain gainful employment and be simultaneously skilled.

It should be borne in mind that the Public Works programmes

are targeted at the economically poorest households in the

country in both urban and rural areas. These programmes

provide the only form of income for these households.

In conclusion hon Chairperson, the department has many

challenges to resolve, but it has certainly made steady

progress. The current programmes and projects are going a long

way into developing a capacity capability required to

implement new programmes and projects.



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The necessity support [Inaudible.]to its entity are

implementing urgently in developing its priorities. These

entities contain expertise in the built environment area for

implementation of the Department of Infrastructure project. As

the ANC we support the policy vote 13.

*Sesotho:*

Ke a leboha Modulasetulo. Ha ke sa bona ke bosiu.

Mr M A P de BRUYN: Hon Chair, last year we heard all the

promises and plans from the hon Minister and sadly, same as

every year, very little has come of all those plans and

promises.

Last year we heard of the establishment of the Infrastructure

Built Anti-Corruption Forum. And this year the Minister said:

The forum’s operations structures have been set up, this

year will see the forum place greater emphasis on awareness

and prevention activities to encourage people to come

forward with information on corruption so that we can put

perpetrators behind bars.



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Hon Minister, people have been coming forward with information

regarding corruption for years already, only to be ignored and

I seriously doubt if this forum will have any real success.

But please do prove me wrong.

In preparation of this speech I thought to myself, let’s find

some positive points to address regarding this department,

only to realise a day later that I was wasting my time.

Infrastructure in general is collapsing, public works has more

debt than it can afford and in general, this department is

failing in its mandate.

*Afrikaans*:

As gekyk word na die verval en toestand van ons skole, paaie,

polisiestasies, hospitale, ensovoorts, is dit duidelik dat

hierdie departement en die Minister nie in staat is om hul

plig te vervul nie.

Die Vrystaatse psigiatriese sentrum in Bloemfontein, wat eens

die vlagskip van psigiatriese sorg in die land was staan

vandag slegs ’n silhoeët van wat dit eens was. Die geboue is

bouvallig en die gras en onkruid staan skouerhoogte oor die

hele terrein. So is dit ook die geval by die nasionale en

Pelonomi-hospitale.



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Die Parkweg polisiestasie is sedert 2017 al ’n

konstruksieterrein, waar die derde kontrakteur hopelik nou

eers die projek sal kan afhandel. Die geraamde verlies op die

projek beloop glo meer as R48 miljoen. In dele van die

Vrystaat is die paaie so sleg dat mense eerder op die skouer

of in die veld ry.

Daarby wil ek aanheg dat hierdie departement die bloed van

honderde mense op hul hande het, wat hierdie jaar op ons paaie

verongeluk het, as gevolg van die swak toestand van ons paaie.

Hierdie paar voorbeelde van vele, tesame met die afgebrande

Parlement, staan as monumente van die ANC-regering en die

departement se onvermoë. Maar jaar na jaar moet ons luister na

dieselfde beloftes hoe die Minister hierdie land se

infrastruktuur gaan verbeter en jaar na jaar is die

teleurstelling en korrupsie net groter.

*English*:

How can we, in good conscience, approve any budget for this

department for new infrastructure when it can’t even maintain

its current infrastructure?



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No budget will solve the incompetence of this department and

throwing more money on the problem won’t solve it either, it

will only lead to more corruption.

If the Minister is truly commitment to cleaning up this

department and getting it on track to work for government and

all South Africa, as she has stated in her presentation, she

will have to start by rooting out corruption and cadre

deployment. Appoint capable staff and officials and she will

have to go back to the drawing board to first save what is

left to save before planning any new projects.

Hon Minister, I sincerely hope that one of the 96 bridges

planed for the next year will give you access to a path were

this is possible. Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon

Chairperson of the NCOP, hon Masondo, the Minister of Public

Works, the hon Chairperson of the select committee, hon

Mmoeiemang, hon permanent and special delegates, Premiers and

MECs, the representatives of SA Local Government Association,

SALGA, fellow South Africans.



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It gives me quite a great pleasure to be participating in this

debate about building our motherland on Africa Day. A day on

which leaders of our great continent met and worked out a path

to freedom and development for Africa some 59 years ago. And I

wish all of us a happy Africa Day.

We have come here to assert our role in the rebuilding and

revitalising of our economy and thereby to discharge our duty

to the great country. There is no doubt that our country has

had a fair share of socioeconomic challenges in the recent

past, including an economy that is sluggish, complicating the

triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

In his acceptance speech, having been elected first President

of the Organization of African Unity, OAU, the Emperor Haile

Selassie said:

The task on which we have embarked, the making of Africa

will not wait. We must act, to shape and mould the future

and leave our imprint on the events as they slip past into

history.

And today, for us that task is about economic recovery and

reconstruction.



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Our department, with the rest of government, has a duty and a

responsibility to help the nation to transcend the current

difficulties, in terms of the economic recovery plan and

thereby also live up to what our people expect and so deserve

of us. We dare not fail them!

The steps that we are embarking upon to realise recovery

trajectory is to ensure that all our entities have a clear

foot mark in all provinces. The golden threat in their current

mandate is the duty to transform this sector into a more

effective, responsive industry, reflective of our ambitions as

a nation, both in form and content.

Starting with the Independent Development Trust, IDT. This

entity of the department is currently embarking on various

projects in almost all our provinces. These include the

projects in Eastern Cape where the entity has partnered with

the Department of Education to build and refurbish various

schools in the province.

In Gauteng the entity is busy with the Department of

Correctional Services’ facilities.



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In Limpopo, working with the Department of Health, to build

and renovate health facilities.

As well as in the Northern Cape, the Department of Education,

working with IDT, is renovating an unutilised school in

Galeshewe, changing it into a state of the art Redirile

Combined School.

The allocation for IDT in this current financial year, as you

may be aware we are supporting them with administrative

course, is at R93 million and the department continues to

support the entity in moving forward.

With respect to the Council for the Built Environment, CBE,

the Council plans to support all our districts on the

implementation of the structured candidacy programme whilst

ensuring that the sector drives demand and increases

productivity.

Over the medium-term the CBE will continue to advocate for the

Councils for the Built Environment Professions’, CBEP,

contributions to social, economic and environmental

development.



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In Limpopo the Council is working with the Premier’s office to

coordinate all interventions pertaining to District

Development Model, DDM, implementation.

In the province of KwaZulu-Natal, besides providing assistance

in mobilizing built environment capacity to assist with the

disaster recovery, they are involved in career awareness

programme with the Construction Education and Training

Authority, CETA, and the Department of Higher Education and

Training in UMgungundlovu District Municipality, targeting at

least 2 000 leaners in that province.

Currently, the CBE allocation for the current financial year

is at R54 million compared to R53,5 million which it received

in the last financial year.

With respect to the Construction Industry Development Board,

CIDB. The CIDB concluded an organization design process in

order to be more effective in delivering on the mandate. The

Minister did speak to the CIBD Amendment Bill, which is

currently on course. The primary focus of the process is

development, transformation, industry performance improvement

and promotion of ethical conduct.



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They have a presence in every province in the country in order

to deliver on their mandate. In terms of development they

assist client departments to move from planning to

implementation stage with the aim of developing all role

players in the built environment value chain.

In KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape, the CIDB has partnered

with the City of Cape Town and the Department of Transport

respectively to deliver on projects where they assist with

contractor registrations and ensuring that contractors meet

the necessary requirements for registration. This has resulted

in the improvement of National Contractor Development

programme.

In terms of gender empowerment and transformation they focus

on women and recognize excellence amongst women in

construction industry.

More than 500 learners received workplace experiential

training during the 2020-21 financial year and the support is

continuing.

For the current year the CIDB has been allocated an amount of

almost R80 million.



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Agrément SA, ASA, has processed and issued 16 certificates for

innovative built environment products and systems in the year

2021-22. These included alternative building technologies.

We intend to continue holding the hand of this entity which is

busy with a business plan for the establishment of a

sustainability rating tool for public buildings and is

currently administering a government ready-to-be-launched eco-

labelling scheme on behalf of the department.

Having realised that many South Africans are not aware of what

this entity is working on, they are embarking on a roadshow to

showcase their service countrywide.

Agrément SA’s allocation this financial year is at

R33,9 million.

As I conclude, I must make the point that our department has

many challenges and weaknesses. We are committed to turning it

around and to ensure service delivery for the betterment of

our country.



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We need to ask the question: Didn’t Karl Marx talk about

people who have only described the world, in various ways? Our

responsibility, therefore, is to change it.

We believe success is not measured by what a person

accomplishes, but ... [Time expired.] Thank you, Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: I would have loved to hear a bit

more about Marx, but ... [Laughter.]

Mr N M HADEBE: Thank you, hon Chairperson and hon members, the

devastating floods in KwaZulu-Natal which has caused billions

of rands of damage, has undeniably exposed the dire state of

ageing infrastructure and lack of maintenance. The extensive

damage caused to state-owned buildings, providing vital public

services and damage caused to roads and bridges, serving rural

communities with little access to resources, require urgent

intervention. Although the IFP welcomes the establishment of

the joint-ad hoc committee to monitor the relief measures

implemented by government, the daunting task ahead of the

Department of Public Works and Infrastructure must be attended

to with urgency.



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Above all, it is vital that the department clearly

communicates with the public on measures adopted to ensure

transparency and instil faith in the public that this task is

attended to with efficiency and competency. The department’s

latest annual performance plan instils little confidence that

the department applies the necessary urgency to ensure

longstanding matters are resolved. It is alarming that the

legislation that would empower the department to collect fees

relating to leasing, collecting and maintenance costs due by

client to departments, is still outstanding. There has been

promises of reviewing the 1997 and 1999 White Papers for years

and the Public Works Bill, the enabling legislating has been

in the pipeline for many years.

We cannot continue to tolerate the department’s excuses for

failing to review these White papers and finalising the draft

Public Works Bill. The IFP remains committed to closely

monitor the department’s performance relating to the

finalising of this critical legislation that will enable the

Property Management Trading Entity to enforce compliance. The

IFP furthermore, on consideration of the department’s budget

and latest annual performance plan, remains highly concerned

about the alarming number of unemployed built environment

professional graduates in the Council for ... [Inaudible.]



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The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Hadebe, please proceed, and

speak to your mic.

Mr N M HADEBE: Thank you, Chair. It is astonishing that 10 089

of these graduates are currently unemployed despite having a

vital skill that can and logically should be utilised by

municipalities. This reality must urgently be addressed as it

remains incomprehensible that such skills are not being

properly utilised. The IFP will closely monitor the progress

on linking these graduates to infrastructure projects and the

IFP will also closely monitor progress reports submitted by

the Council for the Built Environment on means to strengthen

their regulatory function over professional built councils.

In conclusion, hon Chairperson, it is critical that we

continue to carefully monitor and analyse the department’s

performance outcomes and demand accountability and

transparency on behalf of the people of South Africa. With

that being said, hon Chairperson, I wish to state that

nevertheless, the IFP accepts the Budget Vote. Thank you.

Mr J J LONDT: Thank you, Chairperson. Chairperson, hon

minister and hon members, on the department’s website, there’s

that, South Africa works when Public Works work. Currently,



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I’m sure that all of us are worried about the crumbling

infrastructure, the unprotected high value land that should be

used to unlock economic opportunities that is now being

targeted and occupied, and then not enough is being done to

remove illegal occupiers and thereby, tying up that land in

long costly illegal battles. If we look at what this

department is responsible for, and see how it doesn’t work at

this stage, is it no wonder that South Africa is struggling?

The continued failure of this ANC government is also starting

to hamper effective oversight. There is absolutely no arguing

that, the mess of Eskom, the continuous rolling, and it’s not

load shedding, blackouts that we have, is entirely the fault

of the ANC. This affects networks and even though we might not

always like what colleagues say in Parliament, every single

member in Parliament represents voices across the length and

the breadth of South Africa, and it is now because of this

ANC’s incompetence that voices like hon Boshoff, hon Apleni

cannot be heard, because of this ANC that cannot do the basics

well. It is an absolute tragedy that one of the Houses of

Parliament burned down, and we need to ensure that those

responsible for neglecting the maintenance and ensuring that

there are working sprinklers, and early warning systems are in

place, those people should be held accountable.



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In most other democracies in the world, Minister, de Lille,

the responsible political head would’ve long ago fell on his

or her sword if that happened under their watch. That is not

the case in South Africa, there is no culture of

accountability. However, there is a second House of

Parliament, the NCOP, that wasn’t as severely affected as the

National Assembly, and the NCOP can be used and should be

used. We should have gone to in-person meetings long ago, but

this department and the people responsible for ensuring that,

the state of democracy in our country is actually working,

they are not doing their job.

If you are not even looking at the most iconic symbols and our

buildings in our country, how can we expect you to look after

any piece that you are responsible for? I hope that, sooner or

rather not later, we will move back to in-person meetings and

that this department and the people responsible for make sure

that we go back, holding one another accountable in the House,

and making sure that we do not lose the other voices of

members. Acting MEC, Mamabolo, you definitely came across as

an acting MEC, and even in your own portfolio, last week, you

struggled to realise that you are underperforming. I mean, you

were impressed with your own performance, you are the one that

said, Minister Mbalula is a youth. That’s basically the same



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as saying that, Minister, de Lille, never knew what Melissa

Whitehead was up to.

So, I would suggest, I think for today, you are actually

blessed by putting another picture on, but I think you

actually did it a service, because you should put your face

next to the words you utter. Colleagues, South Africa can

work, and South Africa should work, and one of the most

critical drivers of the economic recovery, it’s making sure

that our Public Works department functions optimally, that we

utilise the assets we’ve got in government, and make sure that

we use that to unlock key economic opportunities.

We currently sit with policies and with an economic climate

that scares off economic investors, but if we can make sure

that we show up and clear up that policies and attract

investors, the country would be turned around. Unfortunately,

in the current trajectory, well, I don’t know whether it’s

good, but then the less good ANC alliance, this will not

happen. So, we will have to make sure that we get rid of you

at the poles in 2024, and all indications are, that you will

be sitting with a coalition government in the country, and I

do hope and pray that you get low enough support that you



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cannot form a government, and somebody else, together with the

DA ... [Interjections.] [Time expired.] Thanks.

Mr M I RAYI: Hon Chairperson, hon Deputy Chairperson, hon

Chief Whip, hon House Chairpersons, hon Minister, hon Deputy

Minister, hon MECs, hon permanent delegates, hon special

delegates and hon representatives of the South African Local

Government Association, Salga, the economic reconstruction and

recovery plan which is the current ANC government economic

policy places the Department of Public Works and

Infrastructure in an important place to positively contribute

through its different programmes and projects to ensure

infrastructure development and job creation in all provinces

and municipalities. The department is strategically poised in

its different programmes and projects to ensure that inclusive

economic development can occur and that job creation becomes

an important leg in infrastructure driven growth. This is a

crucial path towards transformation and economic liberation of

the majority of the people of this country.

Settler colonialism was based on conquest and forced seizure

of land. It excluded the majority from legitimate economic

activity and therefore the country must correct this

historical injustice through a conscious process of



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restoration and transformation. It is the fate of history that

it is not those who benefitted from the apartheid system, hon

Londt, which contribute to fixing the problem created by

apartheid, but rather the victims who have been historically

charged since the 1994 democratic elections to fix the legacy

of apartheid.

It is important that in this policy vote of the Department of

Public Works that attention is focussed on the issue of land

for urban and rural development. The department and its

entities in the built environment and construction sector will

have to play a crucial role in infrastructure development and

urban and rural settlements as part of its contribution to the

delivery of the economic reconstruction and recovery plan.

The Property Management and Trading entity must play a crucial

role in optimising Governments property portfolio and this

must commence with ensuring that there is comprehensive record

of all government immovable property. It is important that

attention be given to the optimisation of revenue generation

from government buildings as this will assist in closing the

funding gap required for the implementation of programmes of

the Department. The backlog of title deeds also requires

urgent attention. This will enable further development to



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occur. The backlog of maintenance requires to be addressed to

optimise the value of government buildings. This is a source

of job creation and enables the creation of small and medium

enterprises in the maintenance sector.

However, the state of the nation address of 2022 has focussed

on the development of infrastructure in the form of roads and

bridges as well creating student accommodation and social

housing.

The department in conjunction with the Department of Human

Settlements have made and will continue to make parcels of

land available for social housing in the different provinces.

For the development of social housing the department has thus

far released 44 land parcels measuring 2 560 hectares for

human settlements purposes and have been released to the

Housing Development Agency through special powers of attorney

to enable development planning. In relation to land

redistribution the department has has released 120 land

parcels measuring 25 549 hectares from 01 April 2019 to date.

Another 31 land parcels measuring 10 350 hectares is awaiting

supporting documentation in terms of the prefeasibility

studies and extent of planned development from the Housing



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Development Agency. This is certainly a positive measure of

progress on the side of the department to ensure the

availability of land for social housing and land

redistribution.

The Department, together with the Construction Industry

Development Board, CIDB, has developed a draft construction

industry recovery plan. The plan provides a status quo of the

construction industry and identifies areas of intervention

which will lead to an increase in the construction sectors

contributions to the gross domestic product, GDP. The

implementation of the plan for the recovery of the

construction industry be implemented as this will ensure the

implementation of development plans in the built environment

and contribute to the development of auxiliary supporting

industries which supply the construction industry with goods,

services and materials.

It is critical that the expertise in the built environment

from the entities of the department is brought to assist in

development of social housing. These areas which are being

developed for social housing must not be merely housing

projects and the department in conjunction with other

departments need to ensure that there is holistic housing



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development which is integrated with social amenities such as

health facilities, schools, sporting facilities and public

libraries. This is essential to create a community environment

which provides concrete and constructive alternatives for

community development. Efficient public transport is necessary

as people require access to job opportunities.

The development of the micro economy is critical for local job

creation and inclusive economic development. When land is

being made available for transport hubs it is imperative that

include the development of small and medium enterprises to

stimulate township economies.

It is important hon Minister that government is able to

ascertain whether land allocated for social housing by

national government is not utilised by provinces and

municipalities which sell the land to developers for

development of housing or apartments which only is geared

towards those who can afford such luxury development projects.

It has to be for the development of housing for those who are

marginalised and for those who due to their low income do not

qualify for bonds. This means that the Housing Development

Agency has a pool of skills and talent from CIDB, Council for

the Built Environment, CBE, and AgrementSA. In order to create



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an ethical and capable development state it imperative that

expertise that is available in government is optimally

utilised to ensure the success of deliverable outcomes. This

means that the entities under the department dealing with

Government land and the built environment need to be optimally

functioning in terms of governance and financial control.

The Independent Development Trust, IDT, also needs to be

positioned to be able to develop some of these projects, as

the hon Deputy Minister has explained, especially in relation

to the restoration of government buildings as well as the

conversion of some of these buildings for student

accommodation. This will enable the entity to engage in

development which is its core function and competence of the

department. Infrastructure development and social housing will

economically and socially benefit all provinces and

municipalities.

On legislation, hon Apleni, the expropriation Bill is

currently being processed by Parliament and it is an important

arena for ensuring that development in the public interest is

not stifled. It also allows for expropriation of land in the

public interest for the correction of historical injustice and

ensure land restitution in certain instances. While it is not



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legislation dealing with land redistribution in general it

will enable development in urban and rural areas which is in

the public interest. It is important that the development work

of the department in all provinces is conducted within the

framework of overarching legislation which enables the

national Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to

coordinate its work across the three spheres of Government and

ensure accountability of its entities in all provinces. This

means that it is important that the Public Works Bill is

completed and processed by Parliament within this financial

year. This will ensure greater accountability by all sectors

which deal with the programmes and projects led by the

national department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

Legislation dealing with infrastructure should also be

developed to ensure that there is an overarching legislative

and regulatory framework which guides important infrastructure

development.

In Skills Development, infrastructure development will require

skills and capability. It is important that youth graduates

with qualifications who are currently unemployed and who are

required in the built environment area be given job

opportunities in these projects. The department is also busy

through the Extended Public Works Programme with a skilling



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programme for artisans in terms of electricians, plumbers and

other related areas of maintenance and construction in all

provinces. It is important that department is able to enhance

this programme and consider how these artisans can be employed

in social housing projects and infrastructure development to

ensure that they are able to concretely gain work experience.

Job creation is critical and in this case with capability and

skills.

The department intends utilising the procurement of goods and

services to ensure the creation of small and medium

enterprises. This is a critical part of ensuring

entrepreneurship and job creation as the micro economy is a

major job creator if development occurs in local communities.

In concluding, the department must overcome its challenges of

the past and ensure that it implements its ten areas of

business improvement to enable it to deliver outcomes on the

ground in communities and not just outputs. The entities under

the department must be operational in terms of boards and

management with the correct skills and capability to ensure

proper corporate governance and financial controls and

financial accountability. It is critical that programmes and

projects are implemented and the benefits accrue to the people



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of the country who merely seek a better life for all. The

select committee will pay keen attention to the rollout of

programmes and projects. It will oversight the progress and

outcomes of the programmes and projects. A lot of work awaits

all in the sector in service of the people and the department

needs to embrace the challenge and focus on its performance

plans and implement the plans of government in the different

provinces and municipalities.

Hon Chairperson, there are some of the statements that have

been attributed to the ANC in particular. The issue regarding

the Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP was raised by the hon

Labuschagne. This statement has been going around even in the

last term. The Deputy Minister, Jeremy Cronin, explained that

the department has guidelines. As a committee we asked the

department to publish these guidelines on their website. The

department confirmed that the guidelines with regard to the

recruitment of the Expanded Public Works Programme workers are

in the website of the department. But again this accusations

and allegations are continuing.

Hon Minster, we met with the department on 20 April. The

information you said you are going to provide to us has

already been provided. It was part of the annual performance



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plan of the department. So, we have all the documents - the

information you are referring to.

Just an advice to those that were participating in the debate.

The least that you can do - in fact, in all the debates

because I have been observing - most members of the opposition

are general and sometimes they are personal. They are not

focussing on the programmes of the department and also the

budget that is being allocated. For example, the Department of

Public Works and Infrastructure has five programmes, namely,

administration, intergovernmental co-ordination, EPWP,

property and construction industry, policy and research and

prestige. None of the speakers from the opposition, except the

IFP, has been speaking about these issues.

With regard to the Property Management Trading Entity, PMTE,

it has five programmes, namely, administration, real estate

investment services, construction management services, real

estate registry services and facilities management services. I

wish that members could also talk to these programmes when

they deliver their speeches, and not just be general and

personal. Thank you very much, hon Chairperson.



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The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you,

hon Chair and thanks for your guidance, I would also like to

thank the Deputy Minister for her dedication, hard work and

turning around this department, thanks to the hon chairperson

of the portfolio committee for your guidance, and hon members.

Hon Chairperson, the target for government is to have 10%

vacancies. Public Works is currently on 11%. The action that

we have taken was to engage services of the Department of

Public Service and Administration and they have assigned a

team to help us to meet our target.

Also, with regard to the properties, we have introduced a new

innovative measure of refurbish, operate and transfer in

partnership with the private sector. They are packaging five

buildings to go out in the next month to get proof of concept

so that we can market more of the buildings for refurbishment.

We have also put out a tender to digitise our immovable asset

net register that includes the maintenance of the asset

register and that would lead us to putting the immovable asset

register onto block J.



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We have established the Infrastructure Built Anticorruption

Forum, chaired by Advocate Mothibi, led by the Special

Investigating Unit, SIU, other law enforcement agencies, the

private sector and civil society. It is well on its way.

We have reported progress to the portfolio committee in the

National Assembly this morning on the Public Works Bill. We

can certainly do the same for the NCOP.

I agree with hon Mmoiemang that we need to get value for

money. It is exactly what the Auditor-General has advised us

that all the month-to-month leases ... that we stop the

irregular expenditure, we have started renegotiating the

overcharging of leases by the private sector to government. In

the last financial year, we saved R273 million.

Hon Brauteseth, I just want to remind you again of the audit

that was done by the Department of Rural Development and Land

Reform. Fourteen percent of the land in South Africa belongs

to the state, 79% is in the hands of private people like him,

and there is 7% of land that is unaccounted for. Land is also

held by all three spheres of government. The provincial

governments have their own immovable asset register. And so

does the local municipalities and metropolitans.



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When we talk about land reform, it is not just national

government, it is all three spheres of government that must

become involved in land reform.

I am very surprised that after all these years that the hon

members in the NCOP who do not realise that in terms of the

Constitution, that Public Works AND Infrastructure is a

concurrent power. That’s why you have MECs even today speaking

in this debate. We have to look at Public Works, local

governments and provincial governments, and they must all be

held to account.

One of the members spoke about that we are doing nothing, I

don’t know which country he is living in because we have given

more than 30 title deeds to black farmers in Limpopo. We have

released over 35 000 hectares of land for up and coming black

farmers, and it is all work in progress and we are trying our

best.

I just want to say to hon De Bruyn that if there is anybody in

this country with any information on corruption, they must go

to the police. They don’t need to wait for a forum. If you

have proof that this forum, which was established in 2021,

that it has not taken any of the corruption charges or



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corruption complaints that came to us, please give me the

evidence and I will investigate. I couldn’t make sense of the

hon member’ speech because it sounded like ...

*Afrikaans*:

Klaagliedere van Jeremia in die Bybel, en ek sal maar net sê,

God seën jou.

*English*:

Also the issue of the fire at the Houses Parliament. We have

given many reports to the joint standing committees of

Parliament. We have received the final report on 20 May. We

have reported that last week, Friday. We are in the process of

processing it because it must go to the National Prosecuting

Authority, NPA, as evidence to ... That is work in progress.

I just want to assure hon Rayi that, yes, it has become normal

that provincial governments, local governments and

metropolitans especially, scream out for land from the

national Department of Public Works. When we give them the

land, they sell it off to developers. We have now put a

special clause in 2019 that says, yes, we will give you the

land, but if you ever want to sell this land, the Department

of Public Works will be the first option to take the land

back. That is how we are protecting state land now.



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Also with regard to the Budget, I agree with you. I sincerely

hope that members will take time to read the Budget. Then we

can debate what is in the Budget. After all, this Budget is

put before the elected Members of Parliament for consideration

of approval. When you have not read the Budget, and you are

just repeating the same speech that you did last year and the

year before ... It is very difficult, hon Chair, to engage.

I appeal to all members of the NCOP, especially from the

opposition, to read the Budget. You will see that there are

attempts for us to save taxpayer’s money, but we will also be

wasting taxpayer’s money that’s paying the public

representatives to read the Budget. Let’s stop wasting money

on all sites. I commit to be the first to admit that although

we have made progress in the past two and half years that

there is still a lot to be done. Together with the guidance,

the advice and the direction from the elected representatives

of Parliament, we want to be held accountable. We learn a lot

and get a lot of good advice. Let us engage. Let us read and

build our country. If you are a patriot, you’ll believe that

every single person in this country has a duty to say let us

read for our country. The emphasis is on “our”. Then I have

hope for our country if we all work together.



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I want to thank all of you for your inputs and your

contributions and thanks to those members that have supported

the Budget. Thank you very much. God bless.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you very much, Minister.

Hon members, let me take this opportunity to thank the

Minister, Deputy Ministers, MECs, and all special delegates

for availing themselves for the debate.

Debate concluded

The Council adjourned at 18:37.

