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***PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVIINCES***

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The Council met at 14:00.

The Deputy Chairperson took the Chair and requested members to

observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon delegates, before we

proceed I would like to remind you of the following:

the virtual sitting constitutes a sitting of the National

Council of Provinces. the place of the sitting is deemed to be

Cape Town where the seat of the National Council of Provinces

is.

Delegates in the virtual sitting enjoy the same powers and

privileges that apply in a sitting of the National Council of

Provinces. And for the purpose of the quorum, all delegates

who are logged on to the virtual platform shall be considered

present.



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Delegates must switch on their videos if they want to speak

and they should ensure that the microphones and their gadgets

are muted and must always remain muted unless they are

speaking.

The interpretation facility is active.

Members of the executive, permanent delegates and others are

requested to ensure that the interpretation facility on their

gadgets are properly activated to facilitate access to the

interpretation services.

Any delegate who wishes to speak must use the ‘raise hand’

function. And any delegate who wishes to raise a point of

order should, in accordance with Rule 69(3) indicate in terms

of which rule he/she is rising.

I have also been informed that there will be no notices of

motions or motions without notice.

Before we proceed to the First Order, let me take this

opportunity to welcome the Ministers and the Deputy Ministers

of Home Affairs; Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities,

MECs and all special and permanent delegates to the House.



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Hon delegates and ... I just want to, specially, welcome the

Ministry of Women with which we are working very closely, in

terms of the programmes that we are running. But also a

special welcome to hon Motswaledi and his Deputy also.

We will now proceed to the First Order.

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

(Policy debate)

Budget Vote No 5 - Home Affairs:

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Chairperson, unfortunately the

technical team in the NCOP were still helping me to try and

get the parliamentary background, I don’t have it. Can I

continue, nevertheless?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Yes. We will make sure

that next time you’ll definitely have that background. But you

may continue.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: My apologies.



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The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: I don’t think it is ... ja

[yes] ... it’s fine, it’s really fine. We want the content of

your debate. We will see it to it that you get the background

later.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Hon House Chairperson, my

colleague, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, hon Mr Njabulo

Nzuza, hon Chairperson of Select Committee on Security and

Justice, Ms Shaida Shaikh, hon members of the Select Committee

on Security and Justice and hon members of the National

Council of Provinces, the Director-General of the Department,

Mr Tommy Makhode, the Commissioner of the Border Management

Authority, Dr Mike Masiapato, and his team, the Commissioners

of the Independent Electoral Commission, IEC, led by

Commissioner Ms Janet Love and Chief Executive Officer, CEO,

Mr Sy Mamabolo, the CEO of the Government Printing Works, GPW,

Ms Alinah Fosi, and her team, members of the media, ladies and

gentlemen, good afternoon.

I have the honour of updating this House on the progress we

are making in delivering on the key priorities of the

Department of Home Affairs in serving citizens better.



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It is not rocket science to guess that after ... [Sound

overlapped.] ... the long queues in Home Affairs ... it will

be expected because it is glaring and badly affects by all the

citizens. It gives me sleepless nights but also prompts me

and the department into action. But to take action, one needs

to know, understand and analyse the causes.

While the causes are many and varied, I wish to specifically

pick up the two important ones. f these too are not resolved,

then even if the others are severally resolved, it will still

not make no dent. These two most important ones are system’s

downtime and shortage of warm bodies in front offices, warm

bodies who must service the public in an efficient and timely

manner because no human being enjoys standing in a queue for a

long time.

As you will know the department consists of two main arms: The

Civic Services and Immigration. I will start with Civic

Services because this is by far the biggest arm of the

department.

As I have already mentioned, system downtime simply means the

number of times and the duration during which our Information

Technology, IT, system is down and unavailable for processing



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of documents. In my previous speech I have referred to it as

the original sin. Some members of the public simply understand

it as Home Affairs computers that fail to function and the

department that is unwilling to fix them.

I want to mention that system downtime is a failure of the

whole system network, rather than just computers that needs to

be fixed. These systems are mainly, State Information

Technology Agency, SITA, networks which provide IT services

for state departments. And, of course, Home Affairs also has

its own system which interact with SITA systems to provide the

wholeness of the IT services. Last year both SITA and the

Department of Home Affairs were summoned to appear in front of

the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs in Parliament in the

National Assembly to outline clear plans to deal with this

perennial problem once and for all.

Let me outline here the plan and the progress made up so far.

I’ll start with revamping the old network. SITA has informed

us that they are spending R400 million to revamp its entire

network; having just completed a procurement process in this

regard. This revamp will be concluded in the third quarter of

this financial year. This revamp will help to stabilise the

network.



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Secondly, implementing the Software Define Network, SDN. This

work has been concluded by SITA and will assist in increasing

our bandwidth due to the number of applications we use at

Civics. This will increase our connectivity.

Thirdly, internet capacity. I am not aware of any other

government department that consume as much internet services

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

*qua non* [an essential condition; a thing that is absolutely

necessary] of the existence of the Department of Home Affairs.

SITA has now doubled its internet capacity and introduced

three failovers located in three cities, in Tshwane, Cape Town

and eThekwini. This will ensure that if any of the network is

down, there will be two more to support the services. Members

of the portfolio committee in the National Assembly have

always asked about something called redundancy, meaning backup

connection or network, hence this failovers in the three

cities will assist in the redundancy.

Fourthly, development plan for cybersecurity. SITA has

finalised its procurement plan to address cybersecurity for

our IT infrastructure. This will be implemented during this

financial year once the law enforcement agencies have given

approval. All in all, SITA has committed to spend R1 billion



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on IT infrastructure to support the Department of Home Affairs

and others. But we all know that the Department of Home

Affairs will be one of the major beneficiaries.

Fifthly, the roll-out of switches and routers. The department,

itself, has installed new 136 routers and 150 switches in 136

offices, and we still need to install 112 routers and 68

switches, which have already been bought.

Sixth, bringing in engineers from the banks. Two weeks ago I

told the National Assembly that we have reached an agreement

with a leading bank to bring eight IT engineers to assist to

stabilise our network and help install some key IT

infrastructure. Today, I can announce that, as I am speaking

to you now, these eight IT specialists are in a meeting with

the Department of Home Affairs, the State Information

Technology Agency and SA Revenue Services, SARS, in a marathon

meeting that started at 08h30 this morning and will end at

16h30 this afternoon. This meeting will identify key

interventions on IT infrastructure and networking capability

to improve frontline system availability and delivery.

You may remember that I had announced as far back as 2019 that

we had arranged with the banks to offer some Home Affairs



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services like ID and passports in their branches. But to do

so, the banks need the Home Affairs and SITA systems to get

into the National Population Register. The banks were very

enthusiastic about this plan, but later on we noticed that the

uptake is slow. And we then discovered that the banks are

weary of our system downtime because this will cause

reputational damage to them. Hence we spoke to them and said,

look, come and ... [Sound cut off.] to stabilize our system

because then it will allow you to open your branches for Home

Affairs services, and that’s how we end up with these eight IT

experts from the bank.

Seventh, the SA Connect. This was a ... [Sound cut off.] ...

the hon Minister of Communications and ... [Sound cut off.]

... Technologies and new technologies to connect schools,

clinics, police stations and Home Affairs offices. But we

believe Home Affairs will be the major beneficiary.

Eighth, installing generators. Apart from downtime due to SITA

and Home Affairs network, we are also troubled by

loadshedding. We have installed generators in our 197

modernised offices but our remaining 215 non-modernised

offices, especially in rural areas, are not operational during



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every loadshedding episode, and further increasing the long

queues.

Then there is the national scourge which Home Affairs is

particularly vulnerable to, cable theft. On the 26th of April

this year, there was a headline in the *Daily Dispatch*, a

newspaper publication in the Eastern Cape, which simply read:

Cable theft shuts Home Affairs. While technicians from SITA

were able to resolve this, it took two days to install new

cables, leaving the entire province of the Eastern Cape unable

to access services. Again, and needless to say, members of the

public simply believe ... aah, there goes Home Affairs

computers again, and they express their anger through abusive

phone calls and e- ... [Sound overlapped.] WhatsApp messages.

When we encounter this we deploy mobile trucks to some of

these areas affected by cable theft, but the level of anger is

always high. National Joint Operational and Intelligence

Structure, NATJOINTS, is trying their best to deal with this

matter but it’s a killer punch to Home Affairs to have cables

stolen.

Ninth, purpose-built Home Affairs offices. We have long

decried the need to have purpose-built Home Affairs offices in



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the same way as police stations, clinics and schools are

serving the public and they are not hired from anybody.

Unfortunately, Home Affairs offices are hired from somebody

who has built them for another purpose, and so they are not

purpose-built. But we have started, we are spending, this

year, R181 million in constructing purpose-built offices. Last

year we completed construction and now are operating such a

modern purpose-built office in Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape.

Construction is progressing very well in Thohoyandou and

Mokopane in Limpopo, in Taung in the North West and work has

recently started in Stanger in KwaZulu-Natal. We also intend

to build similar modernised offices in Hlabisa and Harding in

KwaZulu-Natal, Randfontein in Gauteng and Mhala in Mpumalanga

in the 2023-24 financial year.

In addition, we have registered 15 offices with the

Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Council to be built

through a Private Public Partnership, PPP, for a high volume

office. In Gauteng there are two offices, namely, the Byron

Place office in Tshwane and the Harrison Street office in

Johannesburg. In the Eastern Cape we have identified Buffalo

City, Gqeberha and Mthatha. In KwaZulu-Natal it’s Pinetown and

uMgungundlovu. In Mpumalanga, eMalahleni and Mbombela. In

Limpopo it’s in Polokwane.



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Tenth, Home Affairs offices in malls. Two weeks ago I

announced that we are opening Home Affairs offices in some

malls in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. This

move will enable us to offer services in improved conditions

in that malls have ample parking spaces and can offer shelter

away from the sun and the rain. We have signed a Memorandum of

Understanding, MoU, already with the owners of the malls to

enable us to move and we are going to Menlyn Mall as early as

September this year. We’ll then rollover to the other malls

and the other cities.

Since that announcement, a number of companies that own malls

have contacted. They are very much interested in this and we

are finalizing the areas where we’ll choose these malls

together with the Council for Scientific and Industrial

Research, CSIR, which helped us to identify what we call an

access model. Meaning where to place offices in terms of

population density and service delivery imperatives.

Other malls that we are expanding to will be Cresta Mall and

Southgate Mall in Johannesburg, ... [Sound overlapped.]

Tygervalley Mall in Cape Town.



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Eleventh, the appointment booking system. The biggest

statement we are making today in embracing ways of waging the

war on queues is the rollout of the online booking system

called the Branch Appointment Booking System, BABS. This

system is used to book appointments only for Smart-ID cards

and passports. It was piloted in 29 of our busiest urban and

rural offices. The Lusikisiki office in the eastern Cape is

also part of this pilot.

The results of this pilot have given us confidence that we can

roll it out to decrease long queues. The pilot started in

December 2021 and since we started, a total of 44 307 people

have used the system between December 2021 and 31 May 2022;

that is last month. Our target is to rollout the booking

system to all our 43 large offices by the end of June and we

are on track to do so. I think the Deputy Minister is going to

expatiate more on this programme.

Twelfth, staffing the department. Some five years ago Treasury

ordered that no new posts must be filled, even if they have

been funded before. This led to havoc in Home Affairs where

the staffing in our frontline offices plummeted to a low of

39%, in terms of capacity. But this year Treasury has given us

R266 million just to make a start in dealing with this



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unsavoury state of affairs. This money will enable us to hire

764 extra employees. Unfortunately, it will only take us to

42% capacity from the present 39%.

Thirteenth, we also deploy mobile offices in the form of

trucks. They visit our communities and especially schools

because we don’t want to see learners queuing at Home Affairs.

This is one of the most effective ways of taking services to

the. Home Affairs have 100 trucks; we have bought 10 more for

R15 million. In this financial year we are going to buy 15

more for R20 million. These trucks will also increase a

footprint and we aim to increase them by 100% in the following

financial years. These trucks are the ones that helped us to

speedily provide replacement IDs and birth certificates to

people who lost their documents because of the recent floods

in KwaZulu-Natal.

Fourteenth, the issue of digitization. Chairperson, you may

remember that in the state of the nation address, the

President announced that Home Affairs is going to hire 10 000

unemployed graduates for a period of two to three years to

digitize 300 million paper records. Our paper records stretch

from 1895, and unfortunately they are all manual. They

contribute to the long queues because people have to come to



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Home Affairs many times while information is being sort from

the archives.

Fifteenth, on the issue of migration. This is another area of

concern. I don’t have to outline what is going on about it,

everybody knows it’s a crisis. However, if I were to start

analysing what’s happening in migration, it will need its own

budget speech. For the moment it will suffice to say we have

decided on a complete overhaul of the immigration system of

the country. And complete overhaul means exactly that. Very

soon I’ll be unveiling it to you. People just ought to be

patient.

You are aware, hon members, we have now implemented the Border

Management Authority, BMA, after NCOP helped us to amend it

and send it back to the National Assembly, for which we need

to thank members of the NCOP very hardly. Now, we have hired

the first cohort of Border Guards from Limpopo, Mpumalanga,

Northern KwaZulu-Natal and Free State. That means communities

around the borders and they are busy implementing.

The Border Management Authority will be a 3A Public Entity by

1st July 2023, following a processes with the National



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Assembly. Because presently it is still incubated as a branch

in Home Affairs.

We have also registered the PPP project with the Presidency

for what is called a One-Stop-Border-Post, OSBP. What is it?

It is a massive infrastructural improvement of six busiest

ports of entry, being Beit Bridge with Zimbabwe, Lebombo with

Mozambique, Kopfontein with Botswana, Oshoek with eSwatini,

Maseru with Lesotho, Ficksburg with Lesotho. These ... [Sound

overlapped.] ... continental free trade ... because at the

moment is just in words.

Hon members will recall that the One-Stop Border Post Policy

was approved by Cabinet in March this year.

Sixteenth, on the issue of counter corruption. We remain

unflinching in commitment to fight corruption. You are aware

that we have been arresting people. And since we have been

arresting people, especially the Pakistani Kingpin in our

Krugersdorp office. Members of the public have come out in

large numbers to tip us where corruption is taking place and

we arrest, we don’t stop.



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This morning, I can confirm to you that, we have just

suspended four officials working at the Maponya Mall Home

Affairs offices in Soweto who have been found to be linked to

the Pakistani Kingpin on passport fraud; the Kingpin who was

arrested on the 24th of August in our Krugersdorp offices.

In the coming weeks we will continue to arrest more people,

both foreign nationals and South Africans involved in

passports fraud and other forms of identity fraud.

The success of this unit has given members of the public a lot

of confidence. And this unit is not just reactive, it studies

our systems and identify loopholes that encourage fraud and

other acts of malfeasance and propose appropriate solutions.

For this reason, we are going to augment the 13 members of

this anticorruption unit with 12 more who, amongst them, will

be analysts, will be investigators and all sorts of skilled

people.

Chairperson, I wish to present a budget of R9,4 billion for

Budget Vote Number 5 – Department of Home Affairs, for the

consideration of this House. Thank you very much.



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Ms S SHAIKH: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson, can I

request that I turn off my video if I am allowed. We are

currently in the Eastern Cape doing oversight work with the

Joint Ad Hoc Committee, and I am a bit concerned about the

bandwidth on this side if you allow me?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: You are allowed, hon

Shaikh, you may continue.

Ms S SHAIKH: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson,

greetings to yourself, to the Minister of Home Affairs Dr

Motsoaledi, the Deputy Minister Njabulo Nzuza, the Minister

for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, members of the

executive council, MECs, delegates of the National Council of

Provinces, compatriots, comrades and friends. Hon Chair, as we

debate Budget Vote 5 of the Department of Home Affairs, we do

so during the youth month. We remember the selflessness,

courage and resilience of the youth of 1976. Central to their

fight was the restoration of human dignity and justice. We pay

tribute to the endless heroism of the youth. In the words of

President Mandela:



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Young people are capable, when aroused, of bringing down

the towers of oppression and raising the banners of

freedom.

Indeed, the South Africa we have today is a far cry from what

we had then.

The department’s strategic outcomes are linked with a major

focus of the National Development Plan, NDP, which is to

confront the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and

unemployment by enabling a higher economic growth rate. The

department plays a significant role in the inclusion of all

citizens in democracy and development is enabled by providing

them with a status and an identity that gives them access to

rights and services. The department further facilitates the

acquisition of the critical skills needed for economic growth.

The department continues to drive integrated and co-ordinated

border management to ensure our borders are effectively

protected, secured and well-managed. The department plays a

key role in enabling regional development by working with SADC

countries through the Department of International Relations

and Co-operation to establish efficient, secure and managed

migration. The Department of Home Affairs is central to

harnessing the 4th Industrial Revolution and building a



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capable state. The modernisation programme of the department

can reduce fraud and the cost of doing business by enabling e-

government which will attract more investment into the

country.

In order to contribute to job creation and fighting the

unemployment crisis facing the country, the President

announced during his state of nation address that as part of

his Presidential Employment Stimulus Package, the department

will recruit 10 000 unemployed graduates to digitize over

300 million documents dating back from 1895 over the next

three years. This is part of the department’s strategy to curb

corruption and fraud because it would be easier to trace the

original documents such as birth certificates, identity cards,

passports, and other civic documents.

All South Africans are dependent on the Department of Home

Affairs because of its sole mandate to secure and manage

official identity and status. The Department of Home Affairs’

services are divided into two broad categories: Civic services

and immigration services.

The Department of Home Affairs’ vision is that of a South

Africa where identity, status and citizenship are key enablers



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of citizen empowerment and inclusivity, economic development

and national security. The Department of Home Affairs’ mission

is to: Being an efficient and secure custodian of citizenship

and civil registration; securely and strategically managing

the international migration; efficiently managing

asylumseekers and refugees; and efficiently determining and

safeguarding the official identity and status of persons.

It is a fact that South Africa has a problem of porous

borders. The historical fragmented border management approach

has not assisted. The many problems associated with porous

borders are trafficking of women and children, the smuggling

of drugs, stolen goods, counterfeit goods and contraband.

Counterfeit and the illicit goods trade cause immeasurable

harm to our already strained economy and the local economy

suffers the most. The consequence of porous borders is the

undermining of the security of a nation and its economic

development. Furthermore, no economy can flourish in an

insecure environment.

In 2013, Cabinet agreed on the establishment of the Border

Management Authority, BMA. Guided by the National Development

Plan 2030, the ANC’s 54th national conference reaffirmed the

thrust of the mandate as outlined in the NDP that South



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Africa’s borders are effectively safeguarded, secured and

well-managed. The conference accepted the security assessment

which identified four categories of threats facing South

Africa which are: Threats to the territorial integrity of the

Republic; threats to the authority of the state; threats to

the safety and wellbeing of South Africans; and threats to the

country’s economic development.

The ANC believes that in order to address the question of

irregular migration and border management, the BMA be

expedited and implemented. The ANC government took a decision

to establish a Border Management Authority to take

responsibility for all functions related to the management of

our borders in an integrated manner.

The President signed into law the Border Management Authority

Act of 2020 and the Act became effective 1 January 2021. This

was a critical step towards the establishment of the BMA,

which will enable the implementation of an integrated border

management approach in South Africa. The BMA will have

jurisdiction for implementing border law enforcement mandates

such as facilitation and management of the legitimate movement

of persons and goods within the border law enforcement areas

and at ports of entry.



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We appreciate the appointments of the BMA Commissioner and

Deputy Commissioner. It has been reported that the BMA is

continuing with its recruitment process to fill critical

vacant posts. We are confident that the BMA will be fully

operationalised within the targeted period and it will play a

critical role in addressing our vulnerabilities and challenges

of porous borders.

We are aware that the BMA is still a branch incubated in the

department of Home Affairs and they are hard at work to ensure

that the BMA will be a stand-alone, listed as a Schedule 3A

public entity BY July 2023. The BMA Act provides for 9

Ministers to be part of an interministerial committee selected

by the President. The BMA Interministerial Consultative

Committee and BMA Border Technical Committee have been

established.

As aforementioned, the department of Home Affairs serves all

citizens and migrants who enter the country legally. The issue

of long queues at the department is a huge challenge. Long

queues and system downtime affects everyone. In response to

long queues at the Home Affairs offices, the Minister

indicated that there are short, medium and long-term solutions

to this problem. Amongst some of the measures to address this,



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the department has rolled out 100 mobile trucks and procured

an additional 10 mobile trucks to expand its footprint. It

approved 350 posts which are allocated to civic services to

capacitate front offices, introduce and rollout the Branch

Application Booking System to eliminate long queues in the

front offices. A memorandum of understanding, MOU, has been

finalised to conclude public-private partnership with banks.

Once stable connectivity is achieved, the department will

focus on online booking systems as this seems to be working

well. This will obviate the need for people to buy space in

queues and counter corruption which is difficult to deal with.

We urge the department to continue working on addressing this

issue of long queues and ensuring better service delivery.

The war waged against the bodies of women and children is

relentless and is at such a heightened level. Last year, the

President declared gender-based violence as the second

pandemic. Gender-based violence goes against the ethos of the

Bill of Rights. It is a serious human ... [Interjections.] ...

rights violation with major social and developmental impacts

for survivors of violence, as well as their families,

communities and society at large ...



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The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon members, can you

please mute those that are not on the platform. I am sorry,

hon Shaikh, but there is some kind of disturbance. You may

continue. I am sorry for that.

The department reported that there is a gender-based violence

and femicide, GBVF, plan and indicated that their sexual

harassment policy needed to be revisited. The department

indicated that the policy has been improved and that the

implementation plan includes awareness sessions talking to

both men and women within the department and providing

information on what needs to be done and mechanisms that are

in place to ensure proper reporting to address matters

quickly. The department is working with other stakeholders.

The department offers support to officials in cases where GBVF

has been reported and they are putting together communication

material so that clients also know the steps they should take

when experiencing such incidents. We urge the department to

continue its awareness raising initiatives in respect of GBVF

and ensure that officials receive the necessary information as

well as support.

The ANC is committed to fighting corruption. Minister

Motsoaledi established a ministerial committee headed by the



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former Director-General in The Presidency, Dr Cassius Lubisi,

to review all the permits issued since 2004. This is the year

in which immigration came into effect. The committee will

review various permits including all the Permanent Residence

Permits; business and study visas, identity documents,

passports and birth certificates. They have high value and the

DHA is under constant attack by local and international

criminal syndicates. Cybercrime is also on the rise.

The department has, over the years committed to strengthening

the work of the Counter Corruption Unit, of uprooting fraud,

bribery and corruption inside and outside the system. We have

seen some results.

In March this year, as the Minister indicated, a Pakistan

kingpin was nabbed in a midnight sting operation in the

department’s Krugersdorp office. The department reported that

it vowed that it would follow up all the members of the

passport fraud syndicate, whether foreign nationals or South

Africans.

A senior Home Affairs official in the White River office in

Mpumalanga was arrested together with four South African

citizens who are part of the passport fraud syndicates. The



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four citizens were transported from Eldorado Park in Gauteng

to the Home Affairs office in White River, to give up their

identities for passport fraud for a measly R500 per person.

This treasonous act of facilitating identity transfer directly

attacks the values and ethos of our Constitution.

The successful operation was carried out by the Home Affairs

Counter Corruption Branch, working with other law enforcement

agencies including the SA Police Service, the Hawks and Crime

Intelligence. There are many other reports of the department’s

efforts in cleaning the decay. We appreciate these efforts and

encourage the department to keep doing the good work it does

without fear or favour.

Regarding convictions, the department works closely with the

Hawks. It has been reported that there is a lot of work going

on in terms of disciplinary action, however some cases go to

the labour courts three times through the appeals system,

which are lengthy and creates further delays. The Minister has

indicated that the Counter Corruption Unit intends filling 12

posts to strengthen the Counter Corruption Unit.

We urge the department to maximize its efforts to address

fraud and corruption and work closely with the relevant law



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enforcement agencies to ensure that arrests are made speedily.

Through its collaborative work with law enforcement agencies

and communities, the department should also continue to curb

illegal migration.

The department should work towards digitization of all its

manual documents and address the challenges it has in respect

of IT capacity which will further contribute towards efficient

service delivery in all provinces.

The department should find lasting solutions to the filling of

vacancies and continue to collaborate with institutions of

higher learning and to use interns to fill posts. The

department should address this as a matter of urgency,

particularly in respect of the filling of vacancies of

frontline staff.

The department should continue to rollout more mobile units as

this will increase the reach of the department especially in

rural areas and ultimately improve service delivery. The ANC

supports the Budget Vote of Home Affairs. I thank you very

much.



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Ms C VISSER: Thank you, Deputy Chair; hon members; hon

Minister; the Deputy Ministers and all protocols observed. Hon

Minister, in July 2019, you stated that simple interactions

with Home Affairs might become a nightmare for South African

citizens. Here, I can agree with you, hon Minister, turning

Home Affairs into hell affairs being held hostage by an

information technology, IT, system.

There is literally not one section of Home Affairs hell

affairs that is not understaffed, under capacitated, under

resourced in noncompliance to deliver services to such an

extent that South Africans are now also forced to utilise the

fraudulent war on queuing services allowed to by the

department to openly run their business as being part of the

system, further contributing to the complete failure of

service and the dissatisfaction of extremely trusted citizens.

Fragile, aged and disabled citizens who are not being able to

fight the wars on long queueing hell affairs nightmare

experiences repetitively without receiving the documents

required from the department equals inhumanity.

Recently it was published how intellectually disabled learners

from the Itumeleng School in Gauteng have been struggling to

get their identification document from Home Affairs for years.



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An 18-year-old student of this school ... [Inaudible.] ... an

inter-house athletics competition but is unable to compete

provincially or nationally because she cannot present the

needed documents. Home Affairs turned their lives into hell

affairs. Although Home Affairs website provides a list of 12

banks where smart identification cards can be processed, this

service is only available from one bank in Cape Town. Phoning

the other banks to establish its port ID cards can be obtained

from them, it was confirmed that the plan could not be

successfully implemented by the department.

Hon Minister, recently I had to assist South African parents

working on a fixed contract in Zambia, who tried for 15 months

to register their baby boy at the South African Embassy in

Lusaka without success. The Department of Home Affairs

officials operating within the embassy were dragging their

feet for 15 months, sending them from pillar to post, not

following the processes as appears for birth registrations on

your website. Most of the time these officials were not even

at office for a set appointment. Instead, the officials

referred them to the Zambian offices of birth registrations

whilst Zambian legislation only allows birth registrations

with babies born in Zambia from Zambian citizens.



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On their return to South Africa, the Zambian authorities

refused to let the child return with the parents and

threatened to place the child in an orphanage. This was a hell

affairs nightmare, where Member of Parliament, Khanyile, and I

had to resolve this inhumane issue of incompetence. Mr Thomas

Sigama, the deputy director-general at Home Affairs, stated in

the media that parents should register their children within

30 days of birth, of which most parents proudly want to comply

with, but listening to the hell parents go through to get a

birth registration done is impossible and boils down to

incompetence of management.

Queries submitted to the department spokesperson are only that

the department is working on it, but no further response is

received to any follow ups thereafter. Georgina Strydom was

adopted by her biological father after her about her

biological mother signed her off at the court judgment in

2018. Despite the court order, all relevant documents driving

up and down from Bloemhof to Wolmaransstad in the North West,

then sent to offices in Bloemfontein in the Free State, then

to Jan Kempdorp in the Northern Cape fighting your war on

queuing closed offices, system failures, officials eating,

drinking and watching videos on their smartphones resulted to

noncompliance of her service.



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A hell affairs nightmares may still ongoing leading this young

girl in an identity crisis with legal implications explaining

why her surname differs from that of her parents because she

is not entitled to receive the services of Home Affairs, hell

affairs. Hon Minister, the department has a constitutional and

statutory mandate to provide services to the public, including

birth registration, identity documentation, immigration

status, citizenship, death certificates and much more. This is

the department’s job. Citizens approach Home Affairs offices

not requesting a favor from them, but exercising their rights

and complying within the set legislation of the land, citizens

of South Africa are entitled to efficient and transparent

services at Home Affairs.

Sadly, we must concede that the Department of Home Affairs is

failing the citizens of South Africa within every service and

in every office truly creating anger in frustrated citizens.

We must acknowledge the collapse of the Department of Home

Affairs as much as we do the collapse of ANC-run

municipalities in South Africa. I thank you.

Mr M S MOLETSANE: Thank you, Chairperson. Let me apologise for

not switching on my video as I am standing in for hon

Zandamela. Chairperson, the Economic Freedom Fighters reject



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the proposed Budget Vote for the Department of Home Affairs.

One of the major responsibilities of the public sector is to

ensure that all citizens have access to and receive services.

Yet, despite its numerous regional offices spread across the

country, this department has not been effective in the

performance of functions such as the regulation of migration,

registration of births, marriages and deaths, the issuing of

identity documents and passports.

The department stands as one of the most dysfunctional

departments in government, which is concerning to note as the

services of the Department of Home Affairs are central to the

everyday life of South Africans and immigrants in the country.

We reject the Budget Vote for a department which is headed by

a Minister which has on numerous occasions, displayed

Afrophobic tendencies towards African nationals, blaming

African immigrants on several occasions for clogging up

service delivery in this country without a shred of evidence.

The solution to migration is the development of the African

Continent and the creation of massive industries that will

create sustainable jobs not the criminalisation of Africans

who were born on this continent. The Minister has also failed

to deal decisively with the deadlock of asylumseekers who have



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been waiting for many years for a decision of their

application for asylum. We reject the Budget Vote of the

department which is known for nothing but its disheartening

queues which often starts at the early hours of the morning

beyond entrances of the majority of the branches of Home

Affairs.

Long queues have become a permanent feature outside Home

Affairs offices across all provinces from Johannesburg, to

East London and Cape Town. Despite a war on queues campaign

having been initiated with the majority of the offices across

all provinces suffering from the chronic problem of having

their systems offline almost all the time, Johannesburg and

King Williams town offices are forever offline, so much so

that no one actually knows what the staff of Home Affairs are

doing at these offices. When offices are operational, the

service received from staff is often appalling. The situation

is worse for those areas which are in the outskirts of town

and rural areas which simply do not have access and as a

result, our people have to travel long distance to start

queuing at 4h00 at Home Affairs offices, only to be assisted

at 10h00 and then told to return the following day because the

systems are offline.



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It has been almost two months since floods hit KwaZulu-Natal

and some parts of the Eastern Cape, yet our people cannot get

social assistance because they are still without identity

documents. The Department of Home Affairs emergency operation

functions like any other Home Affairs office in the country.

In the past five years, committee budgets and recommendation

reports have all amended the shambolic state of Home Affairs

offices. Yet to date, none of the issues have been resolved

instead the Minister comes here every day to ridicule Members

of Parliament giving an impression that he knows it all and he

is doing something when on the ground Home Affairs workers are

suffering and our people are stranded every day at Home

Affairs offices.

There exists a lack of leadership at Home Affairs, and Mr

Motsoaledi has no capacity to lead a department such as Home

Affairs. As the EFF, we therefore, reject the budget of a

department which offers such poor services, lack of

information, lack of guidance, unprofessional staff and never

ending technical problems. We reject the budget of a

department which has outdated offices located in areas which

are not accessible to our people. We reject the budget of a

department which lacks backup network and works with outdated

equipment leading to its branches going offline.



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The continued reliance on State Information Technology Agency,

Sita, and the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure

without a solution inside is a sign of the collective

incompetence of the ruling party. The State Information

Technology Agency prides itself on being the government's

biggest consumer of information technology, IT, goods and

services because it relies on contractors who inflate prices

and do poor work. Chairperson, we reject the budget of the

hopeless state of department which year after year remains the

laughingstock of civil service.

*Setswana*:

Ke a leboga, Modulasetilo.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Hon Chairperson, Minister

of Home Affairs, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Ministers and Deputy

Ministers present, and Chairperson of the Select Committee on

Security and Justice, members of the Select Committee on

Security and Justice, the Director-General of the Department

of Home Affairs, the management team, BMA Commissioners and

fellow South Africans, it gives us great pleasure and honour

to join the policy debate for Budget Vote 5, Home Affairs.

Chair, these debates are crucial for us as a department to

share what the resources allocated the Department of Home



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Affairs are able to make in improving the lives of the people.

It is through such debates where we get a platform on what we

intend to do with the resources and what we were able to do

with the resources allocated to us in the previous years.

The Department of Home Affairs carries the responsibility to

ensure that no South African under any circumstances suffers

the scandal of invisibility. This, we do by managing

citizenship and civil registration. Chairperson, our

commitment, resolve and ability to respond even in times of

crisis were put to the test during the floods that ravaged

KZN, Eastern Cape and other parts of our country.

The Department of Home Affairs responded to this crisis by

deploying nine mobile units which have serviced 41 sites. We

have serviced 2 224 citizens for ID smart card applications

and issued 349 birth certificates on the spot. The reissue of

both ID smart cards and birth certificates were at no cost to

citizens understanding that this was a disaster situation. The

disastrous situation also displayed the capabilities of our

mobile units to service people in areas in which they live

taking both application and issuing of enabling documents.



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We are currently operating a fleet of 100 mobile units, which

also provide support to high volume offices and offices under

distress. In the past financial year, the budget allowed us to

conduct visits to 2 056 sites. This fleet has also been able

to service 131 164 clients and school learners with ID smart

card applications in the 2021-22 financial year. This resulted

into citizens saving thousands of rands in travel costs that

would have been incurred had they gone to our offices.

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

units which are ready for deployment. We will be procuring a

further 15 of these mobile units in the 2022-23 financial

year. Through the mobile units, we are better placed to reach

out to areas where there is little or no Home Affairs

footprint, especially in rural and remote areas. The mobile

units are also the backbone of our school Smart ID Campaign,

which has benefited both urban and rural schools.

Using mobile units, we have been able to target learners

ensuring that South African learners doing Grade 12 sit for

their examinations already in possession of a Smart ID Card.

We have now also placed a focus to Grade 11 which saw the

number of learners starting their Grade 12 without identity

documents reduced from 8 186 in 2020 to only 2 560 in 2021



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academic year. In the period, we visited 1011 schools working

in partnership with the Department of Basic Education. The

additional mobile units purchased and the ones to be purchased

in the new financial year will extend our reach and greatly

enhance our school ID campaigns. Those who reject the budget

are therefore rejecting our ability to go further and advance

in servicing children in schools.

Chairperson, the 2021-2022 budget allowed us to issue a total

of 2 369 172 smart ID cards. This would not have been able to

do if we are forever offline. The figures are more accurate

than was perception. This surpassing the targeted of 1,6

Million, despite the limitations imposed on operations by the

COVID-19 pandemic and its management and preventative

measures. Of the smart ID cards issued, 966 068 were for

first-time applicants comprising mainly of the youth. It is a

significant improvement compared to the 622 000 issued to

first time applicants in the previous financial year. It is

indicative of the impact and the improvements we are making in

the lives of young people of our country. This we can never

do, Chairperson, without the resources and the budget that we

are deliberating upon today.



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The budget allocation for the financial year 2022-23 has

allowed us to increase the planned issue of Smart ID cards

with 37,5%, which is 600 000 more than the previous financial

year, which means that in the 2022-23 financial year we will

issue 2,2 million Smart ID Cards to citizens attaining the age

of 16 years and above. We continue to make steady progress

towards universal birth registration. We strive to build a

credible, accurate and secure National Population Register,

NPR, with a single point of entry, within the first 30

calendar days of birth.

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

within 30 days. However, surpassed this target by registering

a total of 1 018 718 births, of which 800 057 accounting for

78,5% were registered within 30 calendar days. This percentage

is up from 73,7% of the previous financial year. We intend to

normalise early birth registration at above 90% by the year

2024. That is why we promote parents to make sure that they

register the birth of their children within 30 days. Part of

the strategy in this regard, to make it easier, is to expand

our office footprint in health facilities, in order to bring

Home Affairs services closer to the people. In this way,

parents can register their children before leaving the

hospital or health facilities – a service which is more



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convenient than planning a visit to Home Affairs at a later

stage. This service is rendered in partnership with the

Department of Health.

The number of registration sites where births were registered

during the review period was 803, consisting of 412 Home

Affairs front offices and across 391 health facilities, which

we intend to increase over the coming years. The positive

impact of the health facilities is demonstrated by the 42,3%

of births registered in 2021-22 which were done at health

facilities, which is an increase from 33,4% in 2020-21

financial year. We anticipate that the amount of birth

registration in health facilities will increase in the current

financial year.

Our clients need customised and personalised services due to

the unique nature of their needs, hence our technology must

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

have special characters, fingerprints that are damaged by

years of physical labour, amputees due to medical or accidents

and many other challenges. It is our duty to ensure that our

systems respond to such individuals irrespective of their

challenges; hence we continue to enhance our technology to

have multimodal biometrics like facial recognition.



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

service citizens. We will procure kiosks that will allow

clients to self-service for passports and smart ID

applications and reprint birth, marriage and death

certificates making it easier to access our services. The

kiosk will be designed in the manner that will require

authentication through biometrics and will be located in

strategic areas to allow access even after office hours or

weekends. The self-service kiosk will usher a new era in the

manner in which we service our clients.

The recently piloted Branch appointment booking system has

proven to be the solution in as far as dealing with the

management of queues. The Branch appointment booking system

can be accessed by clients through the Home Affairs website

and is web based. It provides citizens with the ability to

book the dates and time slot of their choice and is linked to

the national population register for additional security. The

rollout of the system will follow a phased approach and 43

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

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

small offices by November 2022 and the remaining offices will

continue as walk-in-services.



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Chairperson, we have the responsibility to ensure that the

budget is managed in a responsible manner that is free of

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

value for money. We are pleased that the department achieved

an unqualified audit result in respect of the 2020-21

financial year. This was the fifth consecutive successive

unqualified audit opinion for the department. Matters

preventing the department from achieving a clean audit outcome

are the impairment of receivables and accrued departmental

revenue.

We do acknowledge that there is still more to be done in

improving the department audit outcomes, but our ability to

maintain an unqualified audit opinion means we are taking

correct steps in the right direction. Through our collective

commitment and resilience, I believe that the vision of a

modern, secure Department of Home Affairs that strategically

delivers its full constitutional mandate is within reach.

I would like to further thank the Chairperson and members of

the select committee for the work they continue to do with us

and for the guidance on key strategic issue. Through your

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

Affairs Department. I thank You, Chair.



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Ms B M BARTLETT: Hon Deputy Chairperson, Ministers and Deputy

Ministers, Members of Parliament and fellow South Africa,

dignity has come to display three elements in constitutional

adjudication post Second World War. The ontological element

which entails that human beings have equal inherent human

dignity that cannot be waived or diminished. The second

element being the claim that inherent human dignity has to be

recognised and respected; and the limited-state claim as the

third element which entails that states have a positive

obligation to progressively realise human dignity through the

mechanism of socioeconomic rights.

Section 10 of the Constitution entails that:

Everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their

dignity respected and protected.

Human dignity is a central value of the objective, normative

value system established by the Constitution. A person’s

identity is inextricably linked to the right to human dignity.

The core mandate of the department ensures the realisation of

this right, which is to secure and confirm our identity and

citizenship. Securing the identity and status of every citizen

is part of our journey towards socioeconomic transformation



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and the restoration of the dignity of citizens in line with

the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

The Department of Home Affairs touches the lives of citizens

from the cradle to the grave, starting with the registration

of infants within 30 days of birth. After Birth Certificates,

the department issues Identity Documents which enable citizens

to do various transactions, like opening an account, applying

for a business licence or registering for a course. Secured

documents, like passports, also ensure our people are treated

with respect even when they travel outside the country.

When people enter into marriages or civil unions, the

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

are registered. The civic arm of Home Affairs is the biggest

and the most active. For any individual to live a stable,

productive, trouble-free and beneficial life within the

confines of the laws of the country, such an individual needs

the services of Home Affairs at least three times within their

lifetime.

Hon Chairperson, one of the priorities of the ANC-led

government is to build a capable and developmental state. A

capable state is necessary for effective service delivery and



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guides economic development. A developmental state must be

capable of leading, guiding and mobilising all social partners

towards achieving national objectives and goals.

The Citizen Affairs branch is responsible for providing

secure, efficient and accessible services and documents to

citizens and lawful residents. It ensures that entry to the

population register happens within 30 days of a child’s birth.

It maintains the number of smart identity cards, and it has a

target of 3 million per year. It also targets to issue 90% of

machine-readable adult passports through the new live capture

process within 13 working days.

One of the long standing priorities has been to clean up the

National Population Register, the NPR, which continues, for

historical reasons, to contain significant inaccuracies. One

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

all parents to register their children within 30 days of

birth. To optimise birth registration, the department

continues to improve connectivity at health centres through

its increased footprint plan. The committee has recommended

that the department connect more hospitals to ensure that more

births are registered at the hospitals. This will assist with

cutting long queues at the Department of Home Affairs offices.



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During his state of the nation address, our hon President

Cyril Ramaphosa announced that 10 000 unemployed youth will be

hired to take on the enormous task of inputting the records

onto the department’s digital system. This is part of the

Presidential Employment Stimulus. With 10 000 people working

on this, the department believes that it will have digitized

records within two to three years. It has been reported that

there are more than 300 million paper records dating back to

the 1800s. This is an indication that the Department of Home

Affairs is ripe for digitisation. This recruitment drive will

enhance the skills of those who are recruited and contribute

to the modernisation of citizen services. Addressing

unemployment is critical in rebuilding the economy.

More than R222 billion has been requested from Treasury for

this project, to cover equipment and salaries. The Minister

has indicated that this is not an internship programme, but

rather a recruitment drive opened to all unemployed young

people with IT qualifications. We look forward to seeing this.

The triple challenge of inequality, poverty and unemployment

must be addressed with urgency.

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

country. This is a highly efficient self-funded organisation



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that produces, amongst others, secure passports and smart ID

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

printer of official documents and contributes to security and

credibility of government. The GPW has expanded and is

expanding its footprint in the SADC region. For instance, the

Namibian Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration visited GPW

on 14 and 15 of March 2022. The targeted products were Birth

Certificates, Marriage Certificates and Death Certificates. A

new product, Refugee Permit has been included in the

portfolio. About 60 000 copies of Namibian Birth Certificates

have been produced and were delivered to Namibia in April

2022.

The GPW works with Eswatini University, the Examinations

Council of Eswatini, Somalia, Kenya Government Press, DRC,

Ethiopia and Lesotho. This must be applauded.

Chairperson, the natural disaster which befell the people of

KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape could not have come at a worse

time. The ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic and impact of the

July unrest still affect many people. Deputy Minister Nzuza

and KwaZulu-Natal Premier Zikalala handed over enabling

documents to people who were affected by the floods in the

province. The rationale was to ensure that those affected by



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the floods are able to access basic services such as banking

and social services. This was to ensure that the communities

reclaim their lives and return to normality. The Department of

Home Affairs also deployed mobile units in order to receive

applications for enabling documents, such as IDs and Birth

Certificates, which were lost as a result of the disaster.

The reissuing of Birth and Death Certificates came at no cost

to the affected communities. This must be applauded. Regarding

the challenge of long queues, it has been reported that Sita

has informed the department that they are spending

R400 million revamping its entire network, having just

completed a procurement process in that regard. This revamp

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

It has also been reported that Sita has doubled its internet

capacity and introduced three failovers located in three

cities, namely: Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, City of

Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality and eThekwini Metropolitan

Municipality. This will ensure that if any of the network is

down, there will be two to support our services. Minister has

also indicated that the department would be bringing in eight

IT Engineers from the Bank sector. We will be monitoring this

and other developments. Creating a better life for all is a



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priority of the ANC. Hon Chairperson, the ANC supports the

budget vote.

Mr I M SILEKU: Hon Deputy Chairperson, hon members, and hon

Minister and Deputy Minister, ...

*Afrikaans*:

... as ek aan mnr Malusi Gigaba, voormalige Minister van

Binnelandse Sake dink, kom die gesigte van die Gupta broers by

my op.

*English*:

There was a special link between the Minister and the Guptas,

but for a long time, the Minister could not remember whom of

the brothers received South African citizenship when he was

the Minister of Home Affairs.

However, I am extremely glad for the former Minister that at

least two of the Gupta brothers are apparently returning home.

I hope that they will find each other in orange and get

consensus about the citizenship issue.

Home Affairs has a new Minister, hon Aaron Motsoaledi, and in

less than two years, this Minister will find out that the



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people had, amongst others, enough of him and his

dysfunctional Department of Home Affairs.

Home Affairs is an important department that affects the lives

of all South Africans. In the Sona 2022, the state President,

Mr Phala Phala, promised that 10 000 new positions will be

recruited from youth graduates. I hope these youngsters, if

the plan succeeds, of course, will apply the principle of the

people first.

It is unfortunate that the poorest of the poor have to

experience the lack of respect from a department, which is

vital to them. Every year, we debate the inabilities of this

department and every year, matters get worse. We hear about

lazy officials that cannot or do not want to do the work and

one would think they are being forced to work there.

We hear of people who stand in long queues for hours and when

they get into the facilities, they hear that they must come

back, as the system is off.

*Afrikaans*:

Dit, Voorsitter, is ’n infame skande!



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*English*:

Often, the service is so humiliating that the Human Rights

Commission has to intervene. However, not even this has an

effect and the victims still have to go from pillar to post.

We hear of almost systemic corruption, and just recently, I

read about directors that were suspended.

The problem is that corrupt officials simply follow the

actions of more corrupt politicians. We hear of people that

pay to jump the queue. We hear of people sitting in those

queues without anything to eat or to drink. We hear of elderly

people who cannot get Sassa money because they do not have

IDs.

*Afrikaans*:

’n Artikel wat Oupa Nkosi onlangs in die City Press geskryf

het, illustreer die redes vir gemeenskappe se woede oor die

Binnelandse Sake se power diens en ongevoeligheid.

*English*:

Nkosi writes that only 184 of the 411 frontline staff have

access to the system that issues Smart IDs and passports. This

article illustrates why Home Affairs is a failed organ of

state. Typically, Home Affairs does not admit their failures



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and instead they blame misinformation, a lack of floor

management and inadequate infrastructure for the chaos at

their regional offices.

In the offices more than 200 000 smart ID cards and 70 000

green barcoded ID books are ready for collection.

*Afrikaans*:

Laat ek vir u ’n werklike scenario skets van wat met ons mense

by Binnelandse Sake se kantore gebeur.

*English*:

On a morning in Roodepoort, Gauteng, people wrapped in

blankets are prepared for a long day of waiting. When the sun

starts to rise, more people arrive and find their places in

the respective queues for birth certificates, temporary IDs,

IDs and passport.

Some, who needs to attend to physical needs, pay car guards to

keep their places in the queue. Inside the building, the

security guards are waiting cozily for 8:00, before they start

to book appointments. After three hours in the line, a person

has to return home because he could not show confirmation for

an appointment.



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*Afrikaans*:

Wat het geword van die beginsels van Batho Pele en die mense

eerste?

*English*:

I read about a woman who went to Home Affairs in 2020 to

upgrade her child’s birth certificate. She needed an

unabridged version, as she wanted the father to have the legal

power to step in, if something happened to her. No one wanted

to assist her.

The funding budgeted for Home Affairs is insufficient, but so

is their effectiveness and abilities to render services. I use

this opportunity to plead to the Minister to increase the

mobile offices and to take Home Affairs to the people. At

least that way, the people will not have to travel far for

IDs. I thank you.

Mr N M HADEBE: Hon Deputy Chairperson, hon Minister, hon

Deputy Minister, it is undeniable that the Department of Home

Affairs has been dysfunctional for years and has been

functioning in a perpetual crisis mode. The tragic reality is

that the people of South Africa, hardworking people, bear the

brunt of this broken system.



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This broken system sees our people rising at the crack of dawn

to queue at a Home Affairs office, desperately waiting for

some, if any assistance. This broken system is aggravated by

corrupt officials, a shortage of critical staff and

dilapidated offices.

In its annual performance plan, the department emphasises that

the department is, and I quote, “central to harnessing the

Fourth Industrial Revolution and building a capable state”.

However, all we see and all the people of South Africa see,

are endless queues, unanswered calls, dilapidated offices and

a system that always seems to be offline.

On a daily basis, Members Parliament are being inundated with

calls from citizens in desperate need of help with their

passports, IDs, birth certificates and permits. We have become

the administration officers of this department and we continue

to see this department further falling apart.

The IFP, however, believes that the biggest crisis the

department faces, is an immigration crisis. The current manual

asylum-seeker system has been abused and riddled with

corruption and fraud. It seems that corruption is endemic and

the Border Management Authority, being hailed as the so-called



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solution, will not only cost us millions to implement, but it

will also take years to become fully operational.

This immigration crisis, and our government’s deep failure to

manage our borders in a co-operative manner, have seen

citizens being pitted against noncitizens, the rise of

xenophobia and has destabilised communities. This is all

directly due to a dysfunctional department and failing

government.

It is time for our government to table to the nation a plan of

action to fix our immigration system to ease the legitimate

concerns South Africans are raising. The IFP believes that

such a plan must include a commitment for additional

immigration inspectors and resources for deportations from

Treasury.

Urgent action is needed to restore the credibility of the

department. The public has a right to be treated with dignity

and to be served with efficiency and competence at the offices

of Home Affairs. Above all, the public desperately needs to

have faith that corruption and fraud within Home Affairs will

be fought on all levels. This we need to physically see to



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restore any faith in the department’s ability to fulfil its

legislative mandate. The IFP accepts the Budget Vote.

Mr D R RYDER: Thank you very much, hon Chairperson. Home

Affairs; the department where service delivery is incredibly

erratic. There are stories of people applying for their

passports and ID Documents, and receiving them within a week.

No bribery. No corruption. Just an apparent alignment of the

planets for them. Amazing work. Well done. It just proves what

is possible.

Sadly, by far, the majority of stories are not so positive. It

all starts in the queue. We see those queues forming from

around 5 or 6am in the morning or even before, snaking around

buildings, and managed by the security guards who know nothing

of Home Affairs intricacies, and less about customer

relations, and yet are tasked with sorting out the queues,

advising people on process and where to stand and generally

running the show at the door. And what a show it is.

I asked a question on this Minister, and your dismissive reply

came back to me on 10 February 2022. It showed no

understanding of what actually goes on in your branches. Take

a leaf from the DA Leaders book. He was on the ground doing



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oversight at your branches in April. What he found there was

already known, the chilling nonetheless.

I urge you, Minister, to pick up yesterday’s Sowetan Newspaper

which covers the story of a man who tried to get service from

Home Affairs in his home town in East London and received no

assistance. He travelled with his wife to Pretoria where they

hoped to get better service. Instead the man, who is a priest,

was met with aggression from the security guard manning the

door. He explained that he had applied and paid the

appropriate fees, and yet he had not received the document

that he needed. He was not helped and when he attempted to get

to see a staff member he was assaulted. There is a picture of

him on the ground being dragged by his feet through a Home

Affairs branch. Is this the dignity with which our own

citizens are treated, Minister Motsoaledi? The people who

elected you? Is no wonder that the many foreigners who have to

visit Home Affairs just give up and take their chances as so-

called illegal immigrants. Your staff see them as nothing more

than an ATM, and they are treated despicably.

If you want to look at the root cause of xenophobia just

listen to the Minister of Home Affairs circumcision when



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naming the nationality of the people being arrested as if the

nationality itself is a determinant of their criminality.

There has been an outcry about the Irish Airline who asked

people to prove themselves to be valid South Africans by

talking Afrikaans. We should not be castigating the airline,

however misguided you may think they are. We should be asking

ourselves why was this even necessary. The answer is plain.

Home Affairs has been internationally recognised as a joke,

and the validity of South African Passports questionable due

to the rampant corruption in this department.

The Minister spoke this afternoon about connectivity and

information technology and yet he neglected to comment on the

protractive down time of the Government Printing Works which

its website has a massive impact on the communication of laws,

regulations and other gazetted items potentially making news

open to dispute. Where are all the skills, Minister? Your

department’s Wage Bill indicates judiciary has a top IT expert

in the country working free.

I just want to make the point, Deputy Minister, that having a

mobile office is only we have bragging about if people who are

supposed to serve them know where and when those mobile units



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will be. Irregularity of visits combined with the continuous

availability of drivers has turned this service into a game of

chance with us start again and that your government has put it

in the street.

Programme 2 of this budget is called citizen’s affairs to draw

houses attention to the fact that the budget shrinks by an

average of 5,5% per year over the next three years. The

message to South Africans is clear. The ANC government is not

servicing your needs now and they are providing less money

going forward so that the service levels even get worse. Hon

Bartlett know that a capable state is quite clear than we

currently don’t have one.

So, whatever way you look at it, any funding given to this

department should be condemned, until there is a strong

political will to step in and fix the mess that the ANC has

created. As the DA, prepares to take government in South

Africa, we have been developing a set of former policies. So,

once again I draw the attention of voters to the DA has

recently released Migration Policy. It’s a clear path to

fixing this mess. We’ll start doing this come 2024. Thank you,

Deputy Chair.



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The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you very much, hon

Nkosi, you may continue with the debate. I hope you’re right.

I haven’t seen ... [Interjections.]

Mr T S C DODOVU: Hon Deputy Chairperson, this is hon Dodovu.

I’m going to take the position of hon Nkosi.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: it’s very clear, it’s not

hon Nkosi. Okay, hon Dodovu, you may continue.

Mr T S C DODOVU: Hon Deputy Chairperson, I am in the rural

parts of the Eastern Cape. Therefore, I am not going to use my

camera, so that I am able to address this house in a properly

way. Deputy Chairperson, members of the NCOP, the Minister and

Deputy Minister here this afternoon, I rise on behalf of the

ANC in the first instance to support the budget. This is a

budget that seeks to ensure that at the end of the day, the

department really becomes a custodian, a protector and a

verifier of identity and the status of the South African

citizens.

This is quite important to say this because of a mammoth task

that the department must accomplish. But today, this

afternoon, I fully understand why this castigation against the



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department, I fully understand why everything that is led by

hon Motsoaledi is being challenged, criticised and being

castigated, it is because hon Ryder from the DA has confirmed

this afternoon that, the DA seeks the votes, they seek to

become a government and therefore, anything and everything

that the department is doing, is going to be challenged,

because in that way, for me, he seeks votes like a predator

at5 a smell of blood.

They want to attract the voters because they use this trumpet

of attacking everything that the department is doing, despite

acknowledging the fact that there are serious challenges that

the department is confronting, and that the department is

doing quite well to ameliorate the situation that we find

ourselves in. Now, at this time, hon Deputy Chairperson, under

the leadership and guidance of hon Motsoaledi, I think that

the department is resolute, I think that the department is

positioned, I think that the department is ready to address

all the challenges and the problems that are affecting us, be

it the long queues that are experienced in our Offices of Home

Affairs, be it the issue of illegal immigrants that we have in

our country, be it corruption.



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For the very fact that, there are senior officials who are

being arrested in the department, it is precisely because of

the work that the Minister is doing to ensure that we uproot

corruption and all of its manifestation, and this is very,

very good. Therefore, we are saying that, the Minister must

stand up and address the important issue of overcrowding and

long queues in the offices. This is an important matter, and

this budget seeks to attend to that. I also want to sincerely

implore on this department to ensure that, we truly, in a very

genuine way, address this issue of long queues in our offices.

At the same time, the Minister has carried a bull by its

horns, by ensuring that he speaks openly, in a very articulate

way about the problems of illegal immigrants. Some of these

illegal immigrants, hon Deputy Chair, we must say it, they

commit crime in our country, some of them open businesses

illegally, some of them perpetuate the issue of drugs that we

see in our society. Not all of them, not all of them I must

say, hon Deputy Chairperson, like some members has inclined us

to believe. Some of them are doing these things, and the hon

Minister is at the forefront of the campaigns and at the

forefront of ensuring that everybody who lives in South Africa

is recorded, registered and known. For me, this is quite

important.



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It is a process that is going to take some time as a country

to deal with, but having a Minister like hon Motsoaledi, we

are quite confident that he is going to make an indelible

contribution that is going to make an impact in terms of

addressing this particular issue. Also, I am surprised to hear

hon Sileku speaking in the way that he’s speaking. I think

that he has developed a functional blindness on his own

defects, for him to stand up and criticise without bringing

solutions to the problems that he and me and the Minister are

seeing as south Africans.

I think that he’s going down. Our view is that, we need to

continue to attend to this particular issue, hon Deputy

Chairperson. Hon Deputy Chair, the ANC in its January 8

Statement, has set out clear priorities for all ANC members

and South Africans in terms of what needs to be done this

year. Among those priorities, is to defend our democratic

gains against attempts to undermine our Constitution, as well

as the order that we find ourselves in, to build a capable

state, as hon Bartlett has already said it, to ensure that we

are ethical, and that drives the implementation of

transformative agenda.



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That is the way that is going to inspire confidence, and when

you compare the situation that is obtained today, hon Deputy

Chair, and the situation that has been obtained in the past,

you can see that there are lot of changes that have been

effected over a period of time in the Department of Home

Affairs. I hear hon Hadebe from the IFP repeatedly saying

that, there are problems, and I wonder at a time that his

leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, was the Minister of Home

Affairs, were these problems not obtained, because most of

these problems started at that particular time.

But because we are not here for a blame game, hon Hadebe, we

are her to give solutions to the many challenges that are

facing us. We will not be deterred, we will not be defocused,

we shall be resolute in our conviction to ensure that we

attend to these particular issues. Now, this afternoon, I

implore the Minister, and as the ANC, that we need to go out

and resolve all the problems that are facing the department

itself. The issues of administration, the issues of filling

key positions in the administration are very much fundamental.

The department must also go and attend to all the financial

situations that are obtained, develop a very clear cut

corruption plan within the department, because it is that



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problem that demean and defocuses the department, whenever it

is corruption relating to the ID documents, whether it is

corruption in relation to allowing illegal immigrants in our

country, whether it is corruption in relation to bribery or

any other form of corruption, it must be attended to.

Our respective view as the ANC, is that the Minister, with the

little budget that he has, he must focus the attention of the

department in the realisation of that particular goal. We are

also happy, as the ANC, hon Deputy Chairperson that, we have

ultimately finalised the legislation on border management.

This border management will help to ensure that the work of

government is done in a co-ordinated way, it is done in an

interdepartmental way and it is done in an intergovernmental

way because, that is what is important, that all stakeholders

in unison and in one direction, must focus in ensuring that we

protect our borders.

All our stakeholders ... [Inaudible.] ... and irrespective, to

ensure the curb of illegal immigrants which is a problem in

this country. We are quite happy that all the systems are

being put in place, and that all structures are being put in

place, and that all processes are being put in place, and at

the end of the day, we are going to see the rollout and the



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implementation of the Border Management Authority, BMA, which

is quite important, and in our respective view, given how we

have adopted and passed this law, that is going to solve many

of the problems that are facing us.

But in addition to that, I will sincerely encourage the

Minister to ensure that, while that authority is being put in

place, it must be staffed by competent, experienced, qualified

people to ensure that they do their work in a very patriotic

spirit, they do their work in a way that inspires confidence,

but most importantly, they do it because we must preserve and

reserve our South Africanisms in a way that will ensure that

at the end of the day, we achieve the objectives that have

been set before us.

With that, hon Deputy Chairperson, as I’ve indicated from the

beginning, as the ANC, we fully support this budget ...

[Inaudible.] ... and we think that the new models that are

characterised by the bit budget that we have and we believe as

the ANC that, with this budget, and the annual performance

plan of the department, the Minister, as part of leading the

department, will make an indelible contribution in terms of

attaining those particular issues. Under the circumstances,



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hon Deputy Chair, as the ANC, as I have indicated, we support

this Budget Vote. Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Hon Deputy Chairperson, thank

you very much. Hon Visser from the DA, most of the problems

you mentioned in your debate, I have already given solutions

in the Budget Speech. I will really humbly request you to go

and read the Budget Speech again. You will find the solutions

there.

However, together with other members of the DA, you kept on

mentioning the phrase, “collapsed department.” I want to give

you statistics because figures do not lie.

From the 1st of January to the 31st of March, in a three-month

period, 269 732 babies were born in South Africa. The 204 108

of them got their birth certificates within 30 days. The

remainder got their birth certificates even though it was

after 30 days. That was the first three months of the year.

A total of 902 014 people received their smart cards, IDs. We

issued 26 864 passports for young people and 136 803 passports

for adults. All this work was done in the first three months

by a department that is supposed to have collapsed.



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Now, there is a story of KwaZulu-Natal floods which keeps on

being repeated from the EFF desks. I am saying so because

there was a claim during my Budget Speech which is two weeks

ago in the National Assembly, that the flood victims are

unable to obtain social services because the Department of

Home Affairs did not play its role.

I am challenging you to go to Hansard, to find answers there

in figures, but because this is being repeated, I would like

to repeat it again. This is for the third time. The Deputy

Minister gave the figures today again because he was running

the programme. I am also giving it for the third time so that

there are three sources.

The Department of Home Affairs in KwaZulu-Natal visited 38

sides in eThekwini, physically going there to the people not

waiting for them to come to home affairs. Three sides in Ugu,

four sides in iLembe. In total 2 394 people who lost their

documents were helped. Sadly, 334 death certificates were

issued without which people would not been buried. These were

free services, all-in-all. So, please, to keep on repeating

the same story again and again and hoping that one day it will

be the truth that does not cut it.



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Home affairs went there with our mobile trucks. Actually, the

premier of KwaZulu-Natal was shown with the Deputy Minister,

going around and giving people the IDs and documents they

applied for.

Hon Sileku, you mentioned the issue of mobile trucks and I

have said it in my speech that we are increasing them. We have

already bought 10 and we are going to buy 15 more this

financial year. We have taken a decision that we would like to

double a number of trucks that we have, because one of the

things we do not want to see, is school kids going to queue at

home affairs in uniforms. So, this is a school programme, but

also help communities in outlying areas. However, also helping

communities in distress and emergencies like we did in

KwaZulu-Natal.

The last issue hon Ryder, the story you see in newspapers

about the assault, I am sure by now as an hon Member of

Parliament, you do know that every story has two sides. Yes,

we saw somebody being dragged is definitely criminal and the

Police and officials are going to deal with that. However, I

want to tell you to wait, because there is another side to

this story, of what happened. I am not justifying a man being

dragged to the ground.



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However, there is an another horrible story which is an

alternative story that has not been recorded on video, but

being told from our investigation. Please wait for the

investigation then see the two sides of the story. There are

two cases opened by opposing groups in what has been shown in

the newspaper, but you are mentioning only one story. Wait for

the other story and hear what the Police are saying about it.

Thank you very much.

Debate concluded.

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

(Policy debate)

Vote No 20 — Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities:

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Hon Deputy Chairperson Madam Sylvia Lucas, hon Mmoiemang of

the NCOP and chairperson of the Select Committee on Health hon

Gillion, it is our honour to present to you and this august

House the Budget Vote for the Department of Women, Youth and

Persons with Disabilities.



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The Budget Vote demonstrates the commitment by our department

to empower and advance the interests of the most vulnerable

groups in our society. This must be achieved through

socioeconomic acceleration to overcome the persistent scourge

of gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, the economic

exclusion and marginalisation of women, youth and persons with

disabilities, as well as the lack of representation of

vulnerable groups in decision-making processes.

In accordance with our mandate, the department continues to

advocate, monitor, evaluate and regulate for the rights and

empowerment of women, youth and persons with disabilities, as

enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

The recent fourth quarter statistics released by the Minister

of Police hon Bheki Cele, reveal a horrific picture on the

state of our nation. In this regard, the mounting

socioeconomic pressures that millions of South African

households are subjected to become the breeding ground for

social instability, criminality and violence. The unfortunate

reality is that women, youth and persons with disabilities

bear the brunt of the crisis of crime in our country. We must

therefore intensify our interventions aimed at addressing this

second pandemic in our country.



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The National Strategic Plan, NSP, on GBVF is currently in its

second year of implementation. I am pleased to inform this

august House that the interministerial committee, which I

chair, continues to do its work of co-ordinating the

implementation of the NSP. This is supported by the

department’s role in providing strategic leadership to

advocate, co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation

of the NSP. To date, several strides have been made, including

the following:

Firstly, the National Council On Gender-Based Violence and

Femicide draft Bill is currently being consulted with the

National Economic Development and Labour Council, Nedlac, and

will be tabled in Parliament later this month;

Secondly, the multisectoral GBVF rapid response teams are in

the process of being established in all provinces, districts

and local levels because our women die in their localities ...

some in their own houses;

Thirdly, we are working closely with municipalities and sector

departments to ensure integration of the priorities of the NSP

on GBVF into the District Development Model, DDM;



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Fourthly, technical monitors and data capturers have been

placed in three pilot provinces, including KwaZulu-Natal, the

Eastern Cape and Gauteng, to enhance the capacity of provinces

to implement the NSP and the gender budgeting framework,

thanks to the EU’s funding. We will roll out this support in

the remaining six provinces during the 2022-23 financial year;

Fifthly, through funding from the German Agency for

International Co-operation, the department is developing the

national prevention strategy on GBVF;

Sixth, we have ensured that national departments integrate the

GBVF priorities into their strategic and annual performance

plans;

Seventh, the department co-ordinates and consolidates the

submission of monthly progress reports on the implementation

of the NSP to the President; and

Eighth, we have, in partnership with the SA National Taxi

Council, Santaco, initiated the training of taxi drivers and

owners on GBVF.



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The success and impact of the NSP on GBVF must be rooted in

collaboration across all sectors of our society. Most

importantly, it must be localised to respond to the unique

needs of our provinces and localities. Therefore, the NCOP

plays a critical role in ensuring that the NSP on GBVF finds

expression and is incorporated as a priority across our

provincial governments.

On 4 May 2022, we launched the South African gender assessment

report in partnership with the World Bank. The report

highlights the overall progress South Africa has made towards

gender equality since 1994, including the following areas:

Firstly, South Africa is among the top 10 countries globally

to have successfully implemented reforms to improve women’s

legal rights; and

Secondly, in the Southern African Development Community, SADC,

we are number two ... the second country in the SADC,

according to the World Economic fund gender gap index of 2021;

Notwithstanding these strides, we can no longer ignore the

economic marginalisation of women, youth and persons with

disabilities. I therefore call on our provincial leadership to



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ensure that economic interventions proposed at national level,

including the economic recovery and reconstruction plan, must

be intentional about the integration of vulnerable groups at a

provincial and local level.

To ensure that our provinces are able to reach their economic

potential, it is important that economic interventions are

inclusive in nature. Failure to do so, threatens the

livelihoods of the vast majority and further reinforces

unequal socioeconomic development across our provinces.

In this regard, we must always remember that this is going to

require each and every one of us because those vulnerable

people feel the pain at the most vulnerable level. In this

regard, we must continue to promote interprovincial trade to

accelerate economic transformation, support labour-intensive

growth and create competitive economies at a provincial and

local level. All these good measures contained in the NSP are

commendable. We call on our people to refuse to treat GBV as a

private matter. Take someone with you. It is ... If you do not

respond to ...

*Sepedi*:

... mokgosi wa sebatakgomo **...**



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*English***:**

... everyone must get involved. Leave no-one behind. For its

part, the government is tightening its efforts to eradicate

this pandemic.

With regard to youth development, we had the honour on 2 June

to launch Youth Month with the National Youth Development

Agency, NYDA, under the theme, Promoting sustainable

livelihoods and resilience of young people for a better

tomorrow, at Morris Isaacson High School next to the Hector

Pieterson monument. We also visited the monument with the

NYDA.

During the month of June, we will have various activities to

address the pressing challenges of our youth and what they

face, particularly unemployment. Unemployed, educated but

feeling the need to be creating jobs for themselves or being

assisted. I’m having a meeting tomorrow with the hon Minister

of Higher Education to continue skilling our youth to ... that

by the time we arrive in the Eastern Cape on the 16th, we ...

have that which we could also be saying ... these are our

plans. The official June 16 commemoration will be addressed by

His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa.



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Beyond Youth Month, I am excited to inform the House that the

NYDA Amendment Bill was tabled in Parliament on 26 April 2022.

Furthermore, the Integrated Youth Development Strategy, as

well as the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the

National Youth Policy 2030 will soon be submitted to Cabinet

for approval. This will enable us to monitor the

implementation of the national youth ... across all sectors.

In addition, the NYDA continues to support the Presidential

Youth Employment Intervention, PYEI, by providing the

following: the SA Youth mobi**,** the Youth Explorer and the youth

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

following programmes:

Firstly, the training of more than 25 000 young people to be

youth entrepreneurs ... to be self-employed;

Secondly, 2 000 youth-owned enterprises will receive financial

assistance from the NYDA through the NYDA grant programme;

Thirdly, 5 000 young people will be provided with skills

development programmes to enable them to enter the economy;

Fourthly, 10 000 young people will be placed in jobs through

the National Pathway Management Network**;** and



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Fifthly, 50 000 young people will be recruited in the

structured National Youth Service.

We must harness the potential of our provinces in addressing

inequalities by accelerating economic development. It is for

this reason that it is in our hands ... that we can work

together through the DDM of the Department of Co-operative

Governance and Traditional Affairs to make sure that we leave

no-one behind.

In March 2022, the department procured an exhibition space at

the Africa Energy Indaba in Cape Town. We utilise every

opportunity that we find.

The department held three dialogues on renewable energy, but

also everywhere else, including the imbizo on the eastern

seaboard. We have participated both in KwaZulu-Natal and the

Eastern Cape, and we will be there in Alfred Nzo.

In October 2021, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa

launched the Women Economic Assembly, Wecona, that seeks to

unlock a minimum of 40% of all procurement opportunities for

women-owned businesses across sectoral value chains. In this



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regard, Wecona has developed a strategy to roll out to other

provinces. The second Wecona will be convened in October 2022.

We must ensure that the full implementation of the threshold

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

7% for persons with disabilities across provincial

governments, happens. It is our responsibility. As the

department, we will continue to work with the NCOP to ensure

the effective monitoring of women, youth and persons with

disabilities where public procurement takes place.

As the department, we will continue adhering to all

international commitments, be it at the international level of

the UN, the AU, the SADC, to make sure that even the African

Continental Free Trade Area ... that we developed also

benefits these vulnerable people that we are working with.

To strengthen disability inclusion in line with the UN

convention and AU protocol we have signed, the department has

developed and gazetted two frameworks on universal access and

design and reasonable accommodation.

We welcome Cabinet’s approval of the National Strategic

Framework on Disability Rights Awareness ... Campaigns ...



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awareness. One of the barriers to participation in the economy

for persons with disabilities is access to education. Last

year, the department in partnership with the department of

education held a summit on this framework.

The disaggregated data collected by the Department of Public

Service and Administration, DPSA, on the employment of persons

with disabilities in the Public Service, show that the Public

Service is at 1% while our goal remains 7%.

Also, the research report published by the department on the

impact of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities highlights

recommendations towards upholding the rights of people with

disabilities ... living conditions of persons that need our

attention. Parliament is also in the right process of

ratifying the AU’s protocol on the rights of persons with

disabilities. Later this year, the department will convene the

economic empowerment summit for persons with disabilities.

With regard to the implementation of the Gender Responsive

Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing

Framework, we are continuing with this across all three

spheres and we will continue ... Similarly, there are plans to

roll out this framework at the local government level in



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collaboration with the SA Local Government Association, Salga.

The Department of Co-operative Governance has co-operated with

us in making sure that the new councillors are also steeped

into this ... that which makes all South Africans feel needed

and part of the freedom we fought for.

We are happy to say to this House that there will be the roll-

out of phase one of the project over the coming months by the

National Treasury on how we partner with Treasury, the

Department of Monitoring and Evaluation and the International

Monetary Fund in making sure that all these vulnberable groups

find us on the platform.

In fulfilling the mandate of socioeconomic empowerment, we

will continue working together with all the spheres of

government. We continue to participate in the AU specialised

technical committee. We are also never found wanting on the

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

Against Women, Cedaw, commitments and committees. We had the

pleasure of chairing the Cedaw committee meeting this year and

the members all sang praises with regard to the progress that

South Africa is making.



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I am happy to report that South Africa met all its

international obligations relating to women, youth and persons

with disabilities. In our commitment to strengthen diplomatic

relations across the continent, in July we will be hosting the

Nelson Mandela Youth Dialogue and Ethical Leadership Programme

in partnership with the NYDA, the Nelson Mandela Foundation

and others. This will involve all our youth on the continent,

who will also participate in the upcoming UN Conference of

State Parties on ... disability and the Commonwealth meeting

of Ministers of gender in Kigali.

The appropriation of the department increases from the 2022

financial year to the 2023 financial year from R763,5 million

to R987,2 million. It includes an amount of R100,7 million and

R681,3 million earmarked for transfers to the Commission for

Gender Equality, CGE**,** and the NYDA.

This appropriation includes a baseline increase amounting to

R6,9 million for the CGE and R200 million for the NYDA. The

additional allocation for the NYDA is earmarked for the

implementation of the PYEI that we spoke about earlier.

Regrettably, only R5 million is allocated for the co-

ordination of the strategic plan on GBV.



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In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge and thank the hon Chair

and hon members of the NCOP for their contributions and

guidance, the development partners for their continued

support, senior officials of the department and all those,

particularly the Director-General Mikateko Maluleke and her

team.

We must remain grounded and loyal to the mandate of improving

the livelihoods of the most vulnerable in our society. No

contribution is small in the quest for an ethical and

developmental state. We all have the collective responsibility

to address the challenges that continue to be a breeding

ground for social instability, unemployment, criminality based

on violence and poverty.

Finally, as we continue to commemorate Youth Month, our youth

must be the catalyst in ensuring that we develop solutions to

the challenges of our nation. They are the present. They are

our future. In the words of Tata Nelson Mandela:

let me say this and say this with the utmost conviction:

the nation owes you a clear policy and practical measures

to ensure that the youth contributes to, and benefits

from, our new democracy.



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The Mandelas and ma Shopes of this world fought for freedom.

What shall we be remembered for ... to open pathways for our

young people to participate in finding solutions for the

present and the future?

*Sepedi*:

Ke a leboga.

*IsiZulu*:

Malibongwe!

Ms M N GILLION: Hon Chairperson, hon House Chairperson, hon

Minister, hon Chief Whip, hon members and all delegates

present, our former statesman, Nelson Mandela once said, “As

long as women are bound by poverty, and as long as they are

looked down upon, human rights will lack substance*.*”

Our aims and objectives as the ANC have always been to include

the support and advance of the cause for women’s emancipation.

We have put women at the centre of the struggle to alleviate

poverty and inequality. Over the years, the government has

worked tirelessly to eliminate the feminisation of poverty

through strengthening women empowerment mechanisms across the

government and society.



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As the ANC, we understand the significance of women’s

empowerment and the impact it has on our society and economy.

Women's empowerment equips and allows women to make life-

determining decisions through various challenges in society.

Empowering women provides women with their right to agency,

and to be more independent to determine their life choices.

Empowering women has the potential to improve the lives of

millions of people, not only women and girls, but also men and

boys who are impacted by the women in their lives being

empowered. When women are empowered, they are better able to

provide for themselves and their families, which has a direct

impact on the well-being of those in their lives.

Women empowerment does not only aim to improve the rights of

women but also other people that have been marginalised

because of their genders, such as members of the LGBTQIA+

community and persons living with disabilities. Women

empowerment also includes efforts to expand girls' and women's

access to education and health care, increase their economic

power and reduce their risks of physical and sexual violence.

It also includes efforts to reduce gender stereotypes and

discrimination which can limit girls’ and women's

opportunities and increase their risks of harm, and to promote

girls' and women's leadership and agency. We are also



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continuing to put forward women’s economic empowerment

because, as the government, we understand and acknowledge the

value of including women in various sectors of the economy

through mainstreaming. Much has been done to promote women’s

economic empowerment and the mainstreaming of women into the

economy. The promotion of women’s rights and women empowerment

is imperative if we are true to realise the nonsexist and

equal society that we envision. The government launched the

Charlotte Maxeke African Women's Economic Justice and Rights

initiative which aims to give practical effect to the

country's commitment to the economic and financial inclusion

of women.

Moreover, The Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy also

launched the Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy,

which is aimed at ensuring that women become active

participants in the energy sector in September last year. In a

bid to tackle inequality in key sectors of the economy,

President Cyril Ramaphosa launched the Women Economic

Assembly, WECONA, in October 2021, which put major sectors

under the spotlight to evaluate the level of participation of

women-owned businesses. The assembly was launched during a

hybrid event attended by businesswomen, government leaders and



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officials, private companies, civil society organisations and

other stakeholders.

The private sector, civil society, women’s organisations,

businesswomen and the government have partnered to form the

WECONA, an initiative to facilitate the participation of

women-owned businesses in core areas of the economy. We have

made drastic steps to include women in all sectors of the

economy, not forgetting the providing support for women in the

informal economy such as the rural and township economy. The

government also continues to support women-owned businesses

and entrepreneurship by resolving that 40% of public

procurement be reserved for women-owned businesses. We also

have progressive strides toward achieving gender equality.

Through South Africa’s progressive laws, we are seeing more

women serving in high-ranking positions than ever before. The

Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan indicated that

small, medium and micro-enterprises owned by women will play a

part in the delivery of infrastructure delivery. Women are

being encouraged and supported to form co-operatives in key

economic sectors such as retail, agriculture and agro-

processing, financial services and manufacturing and will be

prioritised in access to funding. Noting that we are a country



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engulfed by high levels of unemployment, the Presidential

Employment Stimulus has benefited 60% of women. We are glad to

hear that provinces have also emphasised the creation of jobs

and economic opportunities aimed at women and youth. This is

in response to the challenges of unemployment and poverty that

have been exacerbated by COVID-19 and the lockdown. As the

government, we will continue to work tirelessly to mitigate

these challenges. Although more still needs to be done in the

labour market, since statistics reveal that the labour market

is more favourable to men than to women. Continuous upskilling

of women, and women empowerment awareness programmes in the

private sector are significant to mitigate the gap, we hope

that provinces will continue to prioritise women in their

planning. However, we have also made strides in the private

sector in the protection of women in the workplace on the

development and the roll-out of sexual harassment policies.

Understanding that gender-based violence is cancer rooted in

patriarchy that all members of our society ought to come

together and uproot it in all of its manifestations. We have

to bring dignity to the vulnerable in our society such as

children, particularly girls and persons with disabilities. We

hope that the provinces will be able to reach out to more

schools while conducting their Sanitary Dignity Programme,



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this time the programme should also incorporate issues that

are affecting adolescence including boys, such as bullying,

substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, human trafficking and

programmes aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of

social media and rather focus on how adolescence can use

social media positively. The Sanitary Dignity Programme should

also target schools catering for children with disabilities

and also conduct outreach programmes for children in those

schools. When we speak of persons with disabilities, we have

to include all persons in the disability spectrum. Chapter 2

of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the Republic

recognises the rights and freedoms of all persons in the

Republic, this includes the right to human dignity and

equality. Persons living with disabilities are no different,

they deserve to enjoy the same rights as all citizens in the

Republic. They too are reserved the right to no

discrimination.

Noting that persons with disabilities often feel excluded from

society through mobility and accessibility, be it to services

or infrastructure and an environment that is enabling to their

needs. Persons with disabilities are considered to be one of

the vulnerable groups as often some are ostracized from their

families and communities. It is through this understanding



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that the ANC is and will consistently champion and promote the

rights of persons with disabilities to restore and bring

dignity to persons living with disabilities. The Africa Union

Charter Protocol Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of

Persons with Disabilities promotes and recognises the rights

of persons living with disabilities, including the rights to

equality, security, free from unfair discrimination, human

dignity, accessibility and social inclusion to name a few. It

is in line with our Constitution and our social transformation

agenda of building a better life for all and a South Africa

that belongs to all who live in it. That is why, as the ANC,

we will continue to promote the rights of persons with

disability through legislation such as the Disability Act

which is underway and continue to assist persons living with

disabilities through the provision of the disability grant to

assist them the necessary support or mobility required to make

their lives better.

Representation and inclusion of persons living with

disabilities are significant to social inclusion, the

government is leading this. Our transformation agenda is to

create a society where everyone feels safe and is able to walk

freely. A society that is free of violence and discrimination.

We have to fight for a society in which all are able to enjoy



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the freedoms that this country offers. The ANC supports Budget

Vote 20. Chairperson, I thank You.

Ms S MANI-LUSITHI (Eastern Cape): Thank you, hon Acting House

Chair. Greetings to yourself, the hon members and all

delegates and all on the various platforms. Hon Acting House

Chair, well firstly, I think we want to start the debate by

appreciating the agency of the discussion on this Budget Vote,

particularly as we are facing a post-global pandemic that has

heavily affected the lives of people living with disabilities,

women and our youth. As the Department of Social Development

as we lead with the mandate of providing services and

programmes to victims of crime and violence including the

abuse of persons with disabilities, we understand abuse as

really about power and control and people with disabilities

face unique challenges and barriers to accessing the support

and services and our disability rights ... [Inaudible.] ...

positioned to help this achieve this access.

Building on the foundations of the National Youth Development

policy 2021, as the Eastern Cape government we are determined

to force a relationships and this calls for the development

and inclusion of young people into the mainstream of economy

in order to improve their wealth and social wellbeing. During



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the new financial year, we will optimise the outcomes of the

current ... [Inaudible.] development programmes for young

people by partnering with other agencies to ensure that our

young people are provided with income opportunities post

training that are accredited. In addition, as the department

to increase the number of youth benefiting from the skills

chain programme inclusive of 40 young people in our child and

youth care centres who will receive driver licence training.

In addition, 17 youth initiatives which include poultry,

piggery, crop production and car wash projects will be funded

to benefit young people across the province.

As part of our practical intervention in implementing an ...

[Inaudible.] ... and social behavioural change programmes to

address risky behaviour and the harmful social norms that

negatively affect morals and values within families and

communities. This programme seeks to create a safe an enabling

environment in which people can have meaningful engagements

about social issues and ills including human immunodeficiency

virus, HIV, and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, Aids,

prevention, teenage pregnancy and parental behaviour. A total

number of 3 000 young people between the ages of 10 and 24 are

targeted through these programmes.



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Now, in our efforts to uplift these services during 2022-23

financial year, the department has accelerated efforts towards

victim empowerment, gender-based violence and substance abuse

reaching 219 422 people. The department in collaboration with

other stakeholders successfully implemented the drive

masterplan through substance abuse prevention programmes and

our social behavioural change programme which seeks to reduce

these risky behaviours in our young people.

Hon members, our provincial outlook on teenage pregnancy

records 17,1% of teenage girls between 10 to 19 years who fall

pregnant. In responding to this prevailing challenge the

department will collaborate in implementing sexual

reproductive health programme with the United Nations

Population Fund, UNFPA, the Department of Health, the

Department of Education and House of Traditional Leaders. The

programme will be implemented in a Nelson Mandela Metro, O R

Tambo and Alfred Nzo Districts, as these areas have the

highest incidents of youth teenage pregnancy and we are

targeting 30 000 young girls both in and out of school.

Hon Acting Chair, we are also aware of the urgent need of

strategically placing women at the centre of development.

Therefore, in relation to contributing towards economic



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empowerment of women we are prioritising interventions that

promote the rights of women to achieve gender equality through

the implementation of skills development advocacy and social

reproductive health and rights programme benefiting 7 874

women and 21 ... [Inaudible.] initiatives. The department is

again partnering with UNFPA which provides the technical

support to the development of provincial women development

policy and the implementation plan. Now, in advancing women

empowerment and economic development we have provided skills

development and supported 13 184 women.

Hon members, as we are advance the struggle for women

emancipation we must also face head on the pandemic of gender-

based violence. The issue of gender-based violence whether

physical, sexual, economical or emotional is recognised

globally as one of the most widespread and persistent

violations of the rights of women and girls. It is a universal

problem, it cut across geography, class and culture. It is

certainly not unique to South Africa. It is really my

considered view that the fight against poverty and ill justice

will only bear fruits if we invest in addressing the root

cause of gender inequality and gender-based violence in our

families, societies and nation, and that is the distraction of

the patriarchal economy.



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Hon members, it is also true to people living with

disabilities the reality is that it is people who are living

with disabilities who experience the highest rates of domestic

violence, sexual assault and abuse. Abuse against a person

living with a disability often take a non-traditional forms

and person ... [Inaudible.] disability facing additional

barrier where seeking help inhabits them from accessing

services. This means that we need to build them more

integrated and inclusive society. In marking the importance of

the mainstreaming of services for people living with

disabilities across all spheres of our society, the department

remains committed to play the leading role in this regard. The

department through its programme provides integrated services

that facilitates the promotion of the wellbeing and

socioeconomic empowerment of persons with disabilities.

This encompasses a range of intervention in servicing

including protective workshops capacity building support.

Critical in this programme is implementation of the community-

based rehabilitation services and advocacy utilising the

rights-based approach that contribute positively to enhancing

the mainstreaming of persons with disabilities within their

communities. This, of course, is not enough which is why we

are calling on our social partners and private sector to work



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with this in mobilising resources to promote the rights of

people who are differently able. It was also critical to note

that disability does not only affect the persons with the

disability, but also the family and the immediate community.

Hence we must also create programmes that seek to creating

enabling environment for the provisioning of appropriate

support programmes for the families, caregivers as they are or

should be the primary support system. In many instances often

the immediate families carry the financial, medical, physical

and emotional burdens of ... [Inaudible.]

There is, therefore, a great need for support programmes which

will enhance the quality of life for people who are

differently able and their families throughout their lifespan.

The Department of Social Development is committed to working

towards the mainstreaming and integration of programmes and

that creating a better life for persons with disabilities.

Therefore, we realised that legislation alone, however, will

not ensure that person with disabilities can enjoy their human

rights. We, therefore, applaud initiatives such as the

departmental disability month which serves to create awareness

with regards to employees living with disabilities.



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Hon Acting House Chair, we need to do more when ensuring that

the national government fully complies with the legal

framework policies, strategic framework mandates directive and

prescripts relating to disability management. This means that

we need to ensure that disability form for employees who are

differently able by establishing function so as to ensure

proper representation of people living with disabilities in

the work place. More needs to be done to raise awareness to

ensure that we change our mind-set with regards to persons who

are differently able. We should, therefore, continue to fight

the stigma attached to our differently gifted brothers and

sisters which still exist in our communities. As government we

should, therefore, continue in the fore-fighting leading and

advancing the rights of people living with disabilities. Hon

Acting House Chair, as the Eastern Cape we support the Budget

Vote. Thank you, Acting House Chair.

Ms H S BOSHOFF: Thank you very much, House Chair, all protocol

observed. This is one of so many government departments that

have dismally failed in all aspects to deliver on their

mandate to the broader South African community. It is rather

an embarrassment to mention that it even exists, it’s all talk

and no action. In today’s context, this is the department that



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should be the cornerstone of the fight in the current pandemic

facing women, youth and people with disabilities.

South Africa’s gender-based violence statistics are equal to a

country at war and that is no hyperbole. South Africa is

ranked as the world’s capital of crime against women, with

10 818 rapes taking place in the first three months of this

year, and more than 2 695 women murdered every year. In South

Africa, one woman is killed every three hours.

It is therefore critical to note that there are many layers of

gender-based violence, GBV, and socioeconomic issues such as

teenage pregnancy and economic inequalities which are linked

to GBV. Addressing such cases would entail tackling these

issues as well. Women, youth and people with disabilities are

faced with these issues on a daily basis and therefore

government needs a comprehensive approach that will address

them. Regardless of which angle look at this from, it is

imperative that all factors are addressed to fight the scourge

of GBV

This department needs to start being implementers on the

ground and not in boardrooms, department summits and izimbizo.

South Africans need to see more action and less talks.



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According to a Statistics SA report, nearly 50% of GBV

assaults are committed by someone close, 22% of assaults are

committed by a friend or an acquaintance, 15% by a spouse or

intimate partner, and 29% are committed by a complete

stranger. Government needs to create and maintain an

environment that is safe and conducive for victims to report

incidents of violence and abuse, and this environment must be

one of empathy and care and must be free of judgement.

What is concerning is that as yet, the National Council on

Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, NCGBVF, has not been

established. Treasury had allocated R15m for the establishment

of NCGBVF over a 3-year period with R5 million being allocated

in each financial year starting in 2020. However, there is no

movement on the NCGBVF and this has a massive impact on the

implementation of the national strategic plan which is there

to combat GBVF. With these delays we are seeing, women and

girls continue to suffer from violence on a daily basis.

Hon Minister, it is your department’s responsibility to ensure

that the national strategic plan is implemented, monitored and

budgeted for. Why has nothing transpired?



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Hon Minister, we need action that will empower women and

youth, these are the real issues that can unlock the scourge

of inequality and give women the weapon against GBVF. We need

programs that will equip them with skills to match the male

dominated world. Young women are succumbing to the pressures

of falling pregnant to gain access to child support grant as a

means to an end to support their needs as women. Women need

real freedom to be able to fight the scourge of these

inequalities.

Youth unemployment has a negative effect on the individual and

the family, but also on the broader community in the form of

serious economic and social consequences. This includes

economic welfare, production, erosion of human capital, social

exclusion, and crime and social instability. Substance abuse

has become the haven for young people, and there is a need to

address this with a remedial method before it affects their

ability to be competent in the employment sector.

It is estimated that the unemployment rate of persons with

disabilities in South Africa is in excess of more than 90% and

approaching 100% in rural areas. This is totally unacceptable.

Disability is more prevalent amongst females in comparison

with males. This puts an immeasurable burden on women in our



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society. Women empowerment is crucial and requires very urgent

attention. This department could be a champion department if

they were only able to deliver addressing women issues on a

broader scale.

This department to my knowledge is completely out of touch

with the realities on the ground, and had it not been for

civil society organizations, we would be faced with more

dilemmas than what we are currently facing. This department

really needs to forge working relations with other government

departments so as to provide a holistic approach to the

challenges being faced by women, youth and people with

disabilities.

The Department of Safety and Security needs to be proactive in

dealing with cases of GBVF. We need safe houses for victims of

violence, we need access to the Department of Social Services

so that women do not have to turn to selling their bodies to

make ends meet. Women are dealing with more than they can

handle and are in dire need of comprehensive support from all

spheres of society, but more especially from this department.



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The Department of Arts and Culture also needs to come on board

to help with structural interventions to mould young people

and to keep them focused and occupied.

There is a huge need for accountability, proper monitoring and

evaluation processes from all the key role-players entrusted

by government to deliver. The National Youth Development

Agency, NYDA, has to play a visible and meaningful role to

fulfil its mandate on empowering youth and fight youth

unemployment. In doing so, it will assist in seeing a decline

in crime related incidences as more young people will be able

to enter the labour market.

We note with concern the vacancies in the NYDA for regional

manager positions in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and the

Western Cape. These are critical positions in a country that

is hugely confronted by youth unemployment. Minister, we urge

you to address this matter as quickly as possible. There is no

time to waste.

In conclusion, Minister, this department needs to be more on

the ground and less in the media, this will go a long way in

contributing towards the improvement of the lives of women,

youth and people with disabilities.



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Hon Minister, we can no longer continue to live in a country

where women, youth and people with disabilities are rendered

less human and subjected to continued abuse, killings and

inequalities. This war has to end, and it must end now. The

ball is in your court, show this country that you care, it

will be to the benefit of all. I thank you.

Ms N NDONGENI: Hon House Chairperson, hon Deputy Chairperson

of the NCOP, hon Minister, hon Chief Whip, hon members,

special delegates, members of the society, good afternoon. The

young people in our country have become to one of the most

vulnerable in our society. We have to acknowledge the vast

devastations that were worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic,

which were not exclusive to South Africa alone. COVID-19

devastated economies the world over and a number of people

lost their source of income due to the implementation of

lockdowns.

Young people in South Africa face numerous challenges, the

biggest being unemployed, poverty, crime, unequal education

opportunities, and mental health matters. However, we realise

that most of these challenges that young people face stem from

the high levels of unemployment. It is easier for youth to be

drawn to toxic societal ills when there are limited



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opportunities available for them. However, as government we

believe in taking care of the vulnerable in society and

mitigate the challenges that young people face.

We acknowledge that the causes of unemployment in South Africa

can be attributed to lack of education and training, labour

demand and skills mismatch, lack of interest for

entrepreneurship.

Ours as government is to turn this around, we have to ensure

that young people, in particular, have to possess the

necessary skills that are required in the labour market, we

have to drive innovation and support with programmes that are

aimed at increasing an interest to entrepreneurship. If we are

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

realising a 6% unemployment rate and 11 million additional

jobs by 2030 we have to address the main drivers of

unemployment in our country and develop our economy.

Statistics indicate that youth graduate levels of unemployment

are less compared to youth that do not fall into this

category. That thus leaves us with the responsibility to drive

the skills revolution, and encourage young people to seek

education, skills and knowledge required by the labour sector.



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Hon House Chair, and hon members the 4th industrial revolution

is before us and technology is transforming organizations, in-

demand skills are changing rapidly**.**

If we are to mitigate the challenges of unemployment, we also

have to transform skills to be aligned to those that are in

demand in the labour market. Furthermore, in mitigating the

high levels of unemployment amongst youth, as the ANC we are

cognisant that we have to advance the socio-economic

empowerment of young people.

The onus thus rests upon the department of Women Youth and

Persons with Disabilities to review the national youth policy

and legislation such as the National Youth Development Agency

Amendment Bill and therefore report on the recommendations.

The significance of the Bill is that, it will prioritise

interventions that support skills development and foster

employment. These include the provision of support for young

entrepreneurs, learnerships programmes and the implementation

of youth programmes.

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

period, the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA, will

focus on providing interventions to support the creation of



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decent employment and the development of skills, and encourage

entrepreneurship, for all young people.

These interventions will take the form of financial and non‐

financial support to enable young people to access skills and

jobs, establish and sustain enterprises, and gain access to

markets. Financial support is provided through grants to

township and rural enterprises run by young people, whereas

non‐financial support includes accounting, website development,

business plan writing and marketing.

Notwithstanding the Presidential Employment Scheme that

continues to benefit young people which has created over

850 000 opportunities for young people. Young people also need

to be more absorbed into the public service, the employment

stimulus will also enable the Department of Home Affairs to

recruit 10 000 unemployed young people for the digitisation of

paper records, enhancing their skills and contributing to the

modernisation of citizen services.

We hope that more departments absorb young people into the

public service and not only in the form of internships but

also in the form of permanent employment resulting in



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sustainable futures. Noting that the public service has high

levels vacant posts, we hope that those post will be made

available for young people too.

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

and women that benefit from these initiatives to limit the

scourge of unemployment and poverty. We remain confident that

the Social Employment Fund will create a further 50 000 work

opportunities using the capability of organisations beyond

government, in areas such as urban agriculture, early

childhood development, public art, tackling gender-based

violence.

The most important aspect of this vote that is it will uplift

the lives and livelihoods of many youths and women at large.

A budget should always be responsive to the socio-economic

challenges that the country faces. Young people are not lazy,

young people need to be granted the necessary platforms and

opportunities for them to thrive. As the ANC we are well are

aware of the frustrations of young people and we are well

aware of the frustrations caused by the pandemic.

Further efforts to create employment opportunities for young

people have been made by government through the SAYouth.mobi



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platform for young work seekers to access opportunities and

support now has more than 2,3 million young South Africans

registered. Of these over 600 000 have been placed into

employment opportunities.

The Department of Higher Education and Training has also place

10 000 unemployed technical and vocational education and

training, TVET, graduates in workplaces from April 2022.

Noting that in his state of the nation address, the President

alluded that the private sector is responsible for job

creation, we hope that it creates job opportunities for young

people and absorb a high number of them.

Hon members, hon House Chairperson, earlier I made reference

to social ills affecting young people that can be attributed

to the frustration of unemployment. Statistics reveal that

more and more young people are experimenting with narcotics,

and many have become victims of sustainable abuse. This is an

issue that needs to be critically looked into amongst young

people as the use of drugs and narcotics can be detrimental to

the future of young people. Children as young as 12 are

reported to be experimenting with drugs.



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We therefore urge the department in partnership with various

stakeholders to drive a campaign against the use of drugs in

schools and tertiary institutions.

Drug dependency has especially hit the youth hard with the

average age now at 12 and younger and decreasing. South Africa

is also among the top 10 when looking at narcotics and alcohol

abusers worldwide. A study conducted states that between 7,5%

and 31,5% of South Africans already have a drinking problem or

are at risk of developing one.

Often driven by frustration and social challenges children and

youth turn to substance abuse to sort comfort. Therefore,

avenues and platforms that deal with bullying, depression and

mental health matters should be easily made available to young

people and all members of society to fight the now becoming

culture of committing suicide.

We hope that the department will take forward this please

working with the relevant stakeholders including the NYDA.

Substance abuse does not only affect the victim abut it also

can have a detrimental effected to those that are close to the

drug abuser, it disrupts the relations and alcohol abuse alone



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is one of the causes of gender-based violence and can even

lead to sexual violence. It is up to provinces to also see

that they have the necessary facilities such has rehab

facilities to ensure that victims of drug abuse can also

access these facilities.

There is a need to have positive role models in our society,

we need role models that do not make alcohol and drugs

fashionable. We need role models that model the kind of

society that we so envision. We need role models that do not

depict a life of crime as one of luxury.

Hon members and hon House Chair, young people are the future

of our country and it is up to us to safeguard their futures.

The ANC supports Budget Vote 20. I thank you House Chair.

Mr G P MASHEGO (Mpumalanga): Hon Chairperson, Members of the

NCOP, the Minister and the MECs present, it is indeed a great

honour for me to be accorded an opportunity to be part of this

debate. This policy debate is extremely important due to the

fact that, it seeks to ensure that we advance most of the

international and regional treaties we acceded to and some

ratified.



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The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination Against Women of 1979, Millennium Development

Goals of 2000, Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action

Fourth World Conference of 1995, African Charter on Human and

People’s Rights 1995 and a Solemn Declaration on Gender

Equality in Africa 2004.

Hon Chair, we have domesticated this commitment by ensuring an

institutional and legislative mechanism, to deal with

inequalities that exist between men and women. South Africa

ratified the 2008 SA Development Community Protocol on Gender

and Development, which requires a 50/50 representation on

women in political leadership by 2015. As the governing party

we voluntarily adopted the quota system, and the evidence

before us bears testimony that more women have assumed

political leadership roles within the ANC.

Political participation is a fundamental right for every

woman. This is further attested to by article 25 the

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ratified

by over 21 countries which provides that, every citizen shall

have the right and opportunity without any form of

discrimination, to take part in the conduct of public affairs



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directly or through freely chosen representatives, to vote and

to be elected at genuine periodic elections.

Hon Chair section 9 of South Africa’s in 1996 Constitution

provides that, discrimination on the grounds of gender is

unacceptable unless deemed to be fair discrimination by

according the previously disadvantaged. In this case, women

have equal opportunities as men. We must critically ...

[Inaudible] ...whether or not South Africa’s ... [Inaudible]

...on equality according to women equal opportunities to

participate in politics, have been and continue to be

implemented within political parties.

Another critical factor is whether or not the environment

within political parties is conducive enough for women to

participate, and whether or not such participation is based on

malicious compliance within political parties. Hon Chair,

whilst the advancement of women within political realm is

appreciated. We are still confronted with a plethora of

challenges to deal with. We have recently witnessed the brutal

killing of women and children. The recent incidents that

happened in Mpumalanga are quite shocking. The brutal murder

of Hillary Gardee and the young girl Bontle Masdhiyane is



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worrisome. We appreciate the swift move by our law enforcement

to put this heartless killers behind bars.

The issue of power dynamics, which is predicated on dominance,

still prevail in our communities. Men have for centuries been

an enemy of women and children. Abuse and ...[Inaudible] ...

at the hands of men is has been common praise through any

society you choose to observe. And in in a contemporary world

they continue to wage war against the very people who become

the backbones of families, companies and society at large. Men

tend to commit violence against women as a means to exert

dominance and control, and that this was exacerbated by social

orders relegating domestic violence to a private problem of a

family.

We must continue with our public education initiatives,

campaigns and capitalising on media platforms, to convey the

message that violence against women and children cannot be

tolerated. Hon Chair, the message must be clear that

government declares war against women and children. On the

economic landscape, we have put in place mechanisms to ensure

that women at assume previously male dominated occupations,

and government has a number of programmes dedicated to women,

such as women in construction. We have witnessed a number of



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women venturing into agriculture and the support provided by

government is quite remarkable. One of the programmes which

continues to yield positive results is the Fortune 40 Young

Farmers Incubation Programme.

Hon Chair and members, a plethora of research found that the

economic realities of women in South Africa are such that,

they are not paid at the right level for the work they do,

exposing them to a form of economic dependence to their male

counterparts. Therefore, the first emergency measure that the

government ought to table, is a legislation which outlaws

gender pay disparity by 2025. We as a country have been

brilliant at using other countries as case studies for

policymaking. Now couldn’t it not be a better time to look at

the likes of Ireland, which became the first country globally

to outlaw the existence of gender pay gaps?

Hon Chair, South Africa is party to international laws and

agreements such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights

of Persons with Disabilities of 2006, which South Africa

ratified in 2007 which means that the country accepts all the

legal obligations that are imposed by this instrument. The

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, CRPB



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seeks to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal

enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities.

Hon Chair, the CRPD defines personalities abilities to include

those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or

sensory impairments, which interaction with various barriers

may hinder their full and effective participation in society

on an equal basis. This is a clear recognition that persons

with disabilities are equal and valuable members of society

and should be recognized in all aspects of life. What is key

being whether we are doing enough to promote, protect and

ensure equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons with

disabilities.

We must continue to monitor oversight government commitments

on the 2% threshold in employing persons with disabilities. It

is also important for government to account for the positions

or level of employment for persons with disabilities and

whether their needs are catered for, such as braille and ramps

for all buildings. We must also find a way on legislation that

all constructed buildings are compliant to ensure that persons

with disabilities in joyful equal rights. It is also equally

important to ensure that persons with disabilities venture



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into businesses and that they receive the necessary support.

Our interests as Parliament must be how ... [Interjections.]

Therefore, I would like to encourage all in particular young

people to take advantage of the programmes available to uplift

your standard of living. No country in the entire world can

succeed in the realisation of socioeconomic advancements,

without placing education on top of the development agenda. In

conclusion Chair, I want to quote Tata Nelson Mandela, open

quote:

To deny people their human rights, is to challenge their

very humanity.

Mpumalanga Province supports the Budget Vote.

*Sesotho*:

Re a leboha (We thank you)

Ms S B LEHIHI: House Chairperson, the EFF rejects Budget Vote

20 on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities.

*Setswana*:



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Puso, bogolosegolo lefapha le, le paletswe ke go tsibogela

dikgwetlo tseo di lebaganeng basadi. Go gana lenaneotema le le

kgolaganang la puso go lwantsha bosetlhogo jo basadi ba

lebaganeng le bona jaaka dipolao le ditlhokofetso.

*English*:

This department has also failed to respond to the challenges

faced by people living with disabilities across all provinces

in South Africa. And despite promises of inclusion of persons

with disabilities as a priority group, women and persons

living with disabilities continue to experience a number of

challenges such as people with disabilities make up 15% of the

total population, and its estimated that eight in 10 people

living with disabilities are unemployed. The lack of equipment

and machinery for support in different institutions is

appalling.

Challenges faced by women, children and youth with

disabilities vary from discrimination, lack of support

centres, education facilities and many more. The situation is

worse for poor, black persons living with disabilities in

rural areas of the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, as they

often have to contend with issues regarding access to health

care, as they face more barriers. This despite the right to



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access to health care services being guaranteed by Section 27

of the Constitution.

*Setswana*:

Batho ba kwa Maquassi Hills ba ba tshelang ka bogwele le

bogodi, ba dutse mengwaga e feta meraro ntle le thuso tsa madi

go tswa mo Lefapha la Tlhabololo ya Loago. Botlhe, bana le

basadi ba phuagantswe fela jalo, go sena thuso ya metsi,

mantlwanaboithusetso kgotsa tsona dijo. Didikwadikwe tsa batho

botlhe ba ba tshelang ka bogole di thatafalelwa ke seemo se se

mo Aforikaborwa. Bontsi jwa dikolo mo nageng, ga di amogele

dikolo tsa bana ba ba tshelang ka bogole. Dikago tsa bone ga

di letlelele gore motho yoo tshelang ka bogole a kgone a

itsamaise. Bontsi jwa barutabana ga ba rupelelwa ka ditlhokego

tsa batho ba ba tshelang ka bogole. Se se dira gore go nne

thata go ka amogela bana ba ba tshelang ka bogole go tsena

dikolo tse di tsenwang ke bana botlhe.

*English*:

The story of disability in South Africa, remains one of social

oppression. This department has done nothing for women living

in rural impoverished areas.

*Setswana*:



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Basadi ba setse ba sotlakakiwa ebile ele bona ba utlwang

manokonoko a tshotlego le a botlhokotsebe. Ke bona ba ba sa

boneng tekanego mo megolong go bapisiwa le megolo ya bana

botlhe.

*English*:

This department has done nothing to ensure that women feel

safe in this country, and that those who are victims are

provided with shelter and protection. This department has

failed the women of this country; it has failed young people

and it has failed the differently abled. The mess that is the

National Youth Development Agency is proof of the continuing

neglect your department has for young people in the country.

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

number of the unemployed are women and young people, with 74%

of the youth of working age unemployed in this country. The

Minister has done absolutely nothing to promote initiatives of

young people in their fight against unemployment.

*Setswana*:

Lefapha ga le dire sepe go bona gore madi a kotlo ya batho ba

ba tshelang ka bogole, e ba kgontsha go itlhokomela le go

tlamela ditlhokego tsa bone gotlhelele.



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*English*:

This budget is ignorant of the great urgency needed to deal

with the problems of young people and young women in

particular. We reject this Budget Vote. Thank you, House

Chairperson.

Mr N HADEBE: House Chairperson, hon Minister, hon members, the

Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

proudly stresses in its latest Annual Performance Plan that it

has developed three key pieces of legislation. These are the

National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Bill,

the National Youth Development Agency Amendment Bill, and the

Promotion of Women’s Rights, Empowerment and Gender Equality

Bill. However, the department fails to acknowledge its long

delay in introducing these Bills. In fact, the National

Council of Gender Based Violence and Femicide Bill, providing

for the establishment of the important multi-sectoral National

Council on GBV and Femicide, was only published in

October 2021 by the department.

This, after years and years of protest and countless promises

by the government that it is serious about eliminating Gender-

Based Violence and Femicide. One of the first steps promised

by government was the establishment of this council - yet



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years later - we still face empty promises. Policy development

and drafting of legislation mean very little, if there is no

real ambition to finalise such statutory measures and above

all, if there is no real enforcement of these tools, once

adopted.

The IFP also notes that the department’s Annual Performance

Plan fails to provide any targets relating to these critical

Bills. How is the committee to monitor any progress or

oversight over the finalisation of these Bills? It is a

critical failure hindering proper oversight by Parliament. The

IFP furthermore notes on consideration of the department’s

Annual Performance Plan, that there seems to be no uniformity

with the roll-out of the Sanitary Dignity Policy Framework.

This framework provides vital norms and standards for the

provision of sanitary products to vulnerable girls and young

women, especially in rural areas. The monitoring of this

framework should be a high priority for the department.

However, once again, we see little enforcement or proper

oversight. The sanitary dignity of vulnerable girls and young

women cannot be compromised by the failure of government to

ensure effective oversight.



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In conclusion, the IFP wishes to emphasise its concern with

the use of consultants by the department. It is highly

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

consultants to effectively do the work of the department.

There must be an effective transfer of skills from these

consultants to department officials, as we cannot allow this

expense in our current dire economic climate. The IFP –

nevertheless - accepts the Budget Vote. Thank you, House

Chairperson.

Ms D C CHRISTIANS: Thank you very much. Hon Chairperson, hon

members, and hon Minister, last Friday the South African

Police Service released its first quarter crime statistics for

2022 and appallingly it stated that 900 women were murdered in

the first three months of this year.

It seems that as a society we have become hopeless**,**

disheartened and desensitized to reports of women and children

being murdered and abused as no one bats an eyelid when

reading yet another report**,** stating, and I quote from various

media platforms;

“Man in CCTV footage captured on day of Meghan Cremer

murder could be the accused.”



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“Teen arrested for allegedly stabbing 85-year-old

neighbour to death.”

“In honour of Hillary Gardee, a mother failed by her

democratic society.”

“Three life sentences for serial rapist who tried to stab

victim in head with scissors.”

“Still no closure for Karabo Mokoena’s family five years

after her brutal murder.”

“KZN girl, 6, dead, while sister, 8, found naked with

bruises after they went missing in March.”

“Man allegedly stabs ex-girlfriend, kills her police

reservist boyfriend.”

“Ntuthuko Shoba guilty of killing pregnant Tshegofatso

Pule.”

“I could see this thing coming' principal says he told

teacher to get a gun before she was killed.”



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“Tembisa man charged with beating, raping partner while

holding her hostage for 6 months.”

“Neighbours say cop who killed ex always parked outside

her house, drunk.”

And so, hardly a day passes in South Africa without yet

another case of brutality against women is highlighted in the

media. We are losing the battle against gender based violence.

Last Sunday Barney Mthombothi wrote an article for the Sunday

Times, he wrote that he fears for the women in his life

because he fears gender-based violence, femicide and

disrespect of women. He expressed a fear that is the daily

lives of all women in South Africa, the fear of what we have

become as a society. He is right of course; Society has failed

hundreds of young women who have been murdered.

People in townships and villages across South Africa are

murdered day in and day out in their numbers by gangsters,

criminals, husbands, partners and thugs. Women and children

live in fear for their lives. Their rights are violated every

day and we must question whether the Constitution is any

protection for us at all.



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The department has regrettably not been able to respond

decisively to the plague that is gender based violence, nor

have they responded to the huge youth unemployment rate and

much less the plight of the disabled in the country.

An amount of R2,3 million will be spent on the use of

consultants to do work like writing reports and collecting

data, this begs the question; what are the current staff in

this department doing?

Additionally, 19 staff members are being paid more than

R1,2 million per annum yet the department is failing in its

core mandate. The department’s inability to work strategically

with the Department of Social Development and the South

African Police Service is of further concern as the one

department does not have a clue how to respond to the

challenges faced in the other.

Furthermore, of grave concern is the emergency response plan

on gender based violence that has now been scraped notably as

the worst performing program and not reaching their targets

for the previous financial year. Delays in reaching targets

and continuous changes in organizational structure has had a

huge impact on the department as we have seen Bills been



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delayed and the national council on gender based violence and

femicide still not established even though R15 million has

been allocated to this over three years.

The sanitary dignity of our young girls remains in jeopardy as

the department fails to provide any accurate information with

regards to the rollout of this program. According to

statistics, at least three out of every ten girls miss up to

seven days of school per month due to their period. During a

select committee meeting we raised the question of how many

schools were beneficiaries of this program and to date we have

had no response from the department, a clear indication that

they are failing our young women.

A recent study has found that there has been a decline in the

quality of police investigations of femicide cases, with many

dockets missing information or perpetrators remaining

unidentified. The report stated that there is a regular lack

of quality of police investigations when dealing with cases of

gender based violence and femicide.

The country does not need another bloated department with high

paid officials but rather a need for properly trained police

officers when dealing with gender based violence and femicide



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to ensure they are able to write proper statements and do

thorough investigations.

The criminal justice system must provide adequate feedback on

the progress of cases, perpetrators must be arrested without

delay and investigations dealt with professionally or these

perpetrators continue with their thuggery unchecked.

The ministry and the department's main priority is to ensure

that the socio-economic empowerment and rights of women, youth

and persons with disabilities are given priority in all areas

of society.

This department is failing dismally because women are

continuously subjected to gruesome killings and horrendous

gender based violence, offenders frequently walk away

unpunished, and youths and people with disabilities are

largely not catered for in the job market. We have reached a

crises point and the indifference of this department in

conjunction with the absence of a multi-sectoral plan has left

the vulnerable at the mercy of criminals. I thank you.

Mr I NTSUBE: Hon House Chairperson, the hon Minister, the

Chief Whip of the Council, the MEC present here today, it has



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become a dreadful tradition that annually we have to pay

condolences to families that have lost their loved ones, to

the obliterating pandemic of gender-based violence and

femicide, GBVF. This is a pandemic that we, as a country,

continue to grapple with without success. The fight against

gender-based violence requires every fabric of society to

confront toxic behaviours, and traditions.

The role to overcoming gender-based violence and femicide can

never rest on government alone; it requires us, our families,

our groups of friends, communities and the broader society. We

have to strengthen community structures in collaboration with

the South African Police Service, Saps, such as the Community

Police Forums to alert police of perpetrators of violence

against women and children.

We coveys our condolences to the Gardee and Mtwa families

along with the countless number of women and children brutally

killed that have not reached mainstream media. We are reminded

again as a country that the second pandemic of GBV has not

dissipated. It begs the question of why does such a vicious

pattern continue to persist in our country, why are women

continuously being obliterated in our country? We also have to

acknowledge that gender-based violence and femicide affects



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particularly those that are vulnerable in our society, women,

children and persons belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community.

The COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on every sphere of

life across the globe. However, women and girls have been

particularly impacted by this pandemic. Women have largely

borne the brunt of the pandemic, and it has been exacerbated

by already existing challenges such as inequality,

unemployment, gender-based violence and women’s economic

empowerment. It was devastating to see the number of reported

cases of gender-based violence during the lockdown, which was

a blatant reminder of the struggle that many women continue to

face daily. It was shocking to see that women and girls were

not safe in the comfort of their homes and had to resort to

centres to seek a place of safety.

Hon House Chairperson, as the ANC we have acknowledged that

gender-based violence has reached crisis proportions in our

country, and it affects every community in our country and

touches the lives of most families in one way or the other. We

note and understand that these manifestations are deeply

rooted in the patriarchal system that is embedded in the

systems and traditions of our country.



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Hon members, if we are to truly eradicate gender-based

violence in our society we have to dismantle the patriarchal

system that enable this toxic system to persist. We have to

understand that patriarchal oppression was embedded in the

economic, social, religious, cultural, family and other

relations in all communities. We have to ensure that all

manifestation of patriarchy such as the feminisation of

poverty, physical and psychological abuse and exclusion from

positions of power all need to be consciously eliminated if we

are to win the fight against gender-based violence and

femicide — through the elimination of manifestations of

patriarchy.

Recognising that a critical aspect is the creation of material

and cultural conditions that would allow the abilities of

women to prosper for women to reach their full potential. It

is through understanding and taking into account all of these

manifestations of patriarchy that the ANC aims to dismantle

the system of patriarchy. That is why we will continue to

harness economic opportunities for women and historically

disadvantaged persons such as persons with disabilities and

young people. A developmental state is known to have

interventions that improve the lives of its population. Ours

is to reverse the system that breeds many of our challenges



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such as poverty, inequality and gender-based violence and

femicide.

Acknowledging that the causes of gender-based violence are due

to toxic cultural and religious norms that promote toxic

masculinity, as a country, perhaps we should reassess certain

cultural practices and traditions and evaluate their

significance in our current time. This emanates from the

understanding that cultures, traditions and customs are

supposed to keep a people progressive by moving with the

times. We have to perhaps assess these traditions and customs

and evaluate whether they assist in solving our societal

problems or whether they worsen the conditions that we find

ourselves in at the present moment.

Hon members, gender-based violence begins in the home. It

stems from society’s patriarchal attitudes and how society

view women. We need to change our mind-set and the way we

think, the manner in which we teach our boy children to view

women. We have to ensure that in schools, from the foundation

phase, we have an intense programme that moulds the minds of

the children to think and see things in a gender neutral and

progressive manner. We have to teach them about the dangers of

psychological and physical abuse.



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Society is made up of families, and there is a need to

strengthen the family unit. We have to ensure that what is

taught in school is re-emphasised in the school and society,

and this can be done through awareness campaigns aimed at

communities and families. Government alone cannot fight

gender-based violence; it requires the participation of every

fibre in society and it begins with each and every one of us.

In building a non-sexist and nonviolent society, we have to

call each other, men and women alike, on our toxic behaviours

toward each other. We need to confront toxic behaviours within

our own spaces and need not to make abusers comfortable. We

have to be positive role models that our children can look up

to, so that we can prevent minors assaulting each other. We

have to create a culture of activism in our society, and

everyone needs to be a part of it. We have to re-install basic

fundamental principle of protecting the most vulnerable in

society. We have received numerous cases of children being

abducted, mutilated and killed. It is nauseating to imagine

that a country like ours with a progressive Constitution would

treat children in this manner.

Our Constitution enshrines a rights-based approach and

envisions a prosperous non-sexist and nonviolent democracy



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belonging to all. As the ANC we are adamant in building a non-

sexist and non-violent society, where women and children feel

safe and are free to walk the street without harm. A society

that continuously improves the lives of women, where

discrimination and patriarchal attitudes against women will be

addressed. However, we know that responding and combating

gender-based violence requires a multi sectoral approach which

led to the implementation of the National Strategic Plan, NSP,

on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

Hon members, we should always be in support on mechanisms that

aim to address matters of gender-based violence. We have to

ensure that all provincial departments incorporate the NSP in

their planning and conduct programmes partnering with civil

organisation to further drive the implementation of the plan.

Provinces should also develop their own gender-based violence

programmes and campaigns particularly working with local

government so that programmes can actively reach members of

communities.

Through legislation reform we have called from stricter bail

conditions and harsher sentences for perpetrators of violence

and sexual violence against women and children. As the ANC we

have taken the stance against gender-based violence seriously



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through the formation of the Caucus Gender-based Violence and

Femicide Task team. As the ANC-led government we will continue

the advancement gender equality through inclusive economic

growth and women empowerment.

We welcome the National Council and Femicide Bill, however, we

hope that the process of fast tracking the establishment of

the council will be put up to speed. We also welcome the fact

that government is fast tracking the implementation of the

three gender-based violence Bills.

Hon House Chairperson, gender-based violence has no place in

our society, and we all have to play our role in fighting it

because somewhere somehow each and everyone of us might know a

person that is abused. Another matter that we need to be

crucial of is gender-based violence against men, perpetrated

by women. We need not to be biased when we are addressing

gender-based violence as a concept. The culture of humiliating

a man when reporting a case of abuse has to be rejected and

cancelled. Cases of gender-based violence have to be treated

equality and when women are perpetrators of abuse, they have

to receive the same about of punishment. Our society must be

zero tolerant when it comes to all cases of abuse. The ANC



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supports this Budget Vote 20. I thank you very much, House

Chairperson.

Debate Concluded.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr K M Mmoiemang): Thank you, hon

Ntsube, for taking part in the debate on Women, Youth and

Persons with Disabilities, which is Vote 20. Hon members,

because of the Minister’s commitment, hon Ntsube was the last

speaker for the day. That concludes the debate. I wish to take

this opportunity to thank the Minister, MECs and all special

and permanent delegates for availing themselves for the

debate. Hon members, this concludes the business of the day,

the House is adjourned.

The Council rose at 17:28.

