

WEDNESDAY, 02 SEPTEMBER 2015

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

The Council met at 14:04.

The Deputy Chairperson (Mr R J Tau) took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLEINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS - see col 000.

NO NOTICES OF MOTION OR MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members, I have been informed that the Whipperty has agreed that there will be no notices of motion or motions without notice. Therefore, may I take the opportunity before we proceed to welcome the Deputy President to the House ... [Applause.] ... and invite the Deputy President to answer the questions? Is that a point of order? [Interjections.] Proceed. [Interjections.]

Mr L G MOKOENA: Can I speak, Deputy Chair?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Yes, you may proceed.

Mr L G MOKOENA: Deputy Chair, yesterday, the EFF stood on a point of privilege on the use of certain individuals – bouncers, or whatever they are – who are not allowed in the NCOP because we have not adopted their use in this House. The matter was then referred to somebody and we have not received a response on that matter.

The reason we raise it now is that we think it should be dealt with now because it is an ongoing violation of NCOP Rules. If a member were to stand now and choose to exercise his or her right, the use of those hooligans can still be installed here and we feel that it should be dealt with now. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Thank you very much, hon members. The information with regard to what happened yesterday and in so far as how the matter was resolved is that there has been a ruling and there are processes that will then follow in dealing with the matter, as you have raised, hon member. It may not be an issue for this particular sitting because it was dealt with yesterday.

Mr L G MOKOENA: Deputy Chair, the reason I am raising it is that it may very well be an issue for this sitting. As I said, if a member were to stand up and exercise his or her right to make a point, or

whatever it is, the bouncers, or whatever they are, can still be called because it's a no-man's-land. There is no ruling on it at this point in time. This is why we are saying that it should be dealt with now. We will give some leeway and say that if it can't be dealt with now, can we be given assurance that those bouncers - or hooligans - will not be called into this House, which has not adopted their use?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member, I have heard you. I have made a ruling on the basis that the matter was raised yesterday. There was a ruling on the particular matter. In so far as the Rules of this House apply, if you are aggrieved by a particular ruling that has been made by a presiding officer, there are processes that can be followed in order to raise your grievance.

For the purposes of today's business, we are taking Questions to the Deputy President and I am worried, as you seem to be anticipating something that we are not sure of. May we please allow the proceedings of the House to continue?

Mr L G MOKOENA: I am not satisfied, Deputy Chair, because there was no ruling as to ... which is ... and understand my point: I stand on a point of order in terms of Rule 81, which specifically speaks on the privileges of members in this House. It speaks specifically on that. There was no ruling as to whether the use of those hooligans is allowed in this House, or not. That is the ruling that we are

hoping for today, this morning, so that all members here, including the EFF, ANC, and DA, are covered. It is a no-man's-land at this point in time.

Ms L C DLAMINI: Hon Deputy Chair, we need to be assisted because some of us don't know who the hooligans that are being used by Parliament are. We need clarity.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mokoena ...

Mr L G MOKOENA: Yes. Can I answer the question?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): No, no, no. You have raised your issue. I have heard your issue and therefore, I am appealing to you and other members to allow the business of the House to proceed.

Mr L G MOKOENA: [Inaudible.] That would be fine. We are happy with that, except that I would then suggest that we get assurance from the Chair that those hooligans that have not been adopted by this House will not be used in this sitting until a decision has been made. Can we get an assurance on that?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Deputy Chair, point number one, I don't think, according to the Rules of this House, any member here must hold proceedings to run like this. Point number two, in this House,

we have hon members. We don't have hooligans here. Until the word "hooligan" is defined, let us not entertain it in this august House, until we all know what it means. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Alright. Hon Mokoena, once more, may I appeal to you that we continue with the proceedings of the House? If there is any other matter, can you, then, meet with me in my office?

Mr L G MOKOENA: Deputy Chair, I must stress the point - and I am not trying to be disruptive here - I am dealing with a matter which is of the privilege. It affects this particular sitting and any other sitting that we are going to have after this discussion. It pertains to the security of members.

A member of the EFF here was assaulted by hooligans, who have not been adopted for use in this House. We have not said to adopt the use of those hooligans in this House. They assaulted her and I am asking that we be protected. I am saying that until there is a proper ruling on the issue, can we have word from the presiding officer that we are protected on that issue? Thank you.

Mr S G MTHIMUNYE: Hon Deputy Chair, I rise on a point of order: It is crystal clear on our part that the intention of the hon Mokoena coming into the House today is to disrupt the proceedings of this House. [Interjections.] Please can we submit to you, hon Deputy

Chair, that we continue with the proceedings and that the hon Mokoena be ordered to sit down and the proceedings of this House be commenced with? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members, may I protect the hon Mokoena in the sense that he had the right to raise whatever it was that he wanted to raise? Hon Mokoena, therefore, on the basis of that, I once more appeal to the House to allow the proceedings of the House to continue within the boundaries of the Rules that govern this House. Therefore, you do have a guarantee that, as a presiding officer, I am going to act within the boundaries of the Rules of the House. Therefore, can we continue with the proceedings of the House? Hon Mokwele?

Ms T J MOKWELE: Thank you, Deputy Chair. At least, today, you have given me a chance to speak. I am rising on the point that my hon member there rose on, a point of privilege: I, as an individual, am traumatised. Traumatised because of the ruling made in this House, and that - you must keep quiet, please! - and that, on its own, will not be a favour to me. I won't be free to speak my mind in this House because I know that when I stand up to speak my mind, somebody will order hooligans - bouncers - to come and assault me again.

So, we are appealing to you, Deputy Chair, to say that up until the matter has been dealt with, let's agree that there won't be any means of that. There won't be any calling of those hooligans into

this House. The House will proceed in order because as a House, we have never, ever adopted the Rules that govern this. So, we must be treated as such, and we must request to your kind self to give us an assurance that those hooligans won't be called into this House again. That's an appeal.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members, there is a consistent anticipation of something that not all of us know about. Consistently! I have made a ruling and I am appealing to you. We have Rules that govern the proceedings of this House, and these Rules are protected by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. As a result, there is nothing untoward that is going to happen that is outside of these Rules that govern the proceedings of this House. Therefore, I am appealing to you, once more, hon members. May we allow the proceedings of the House to continue?

Mr V E MTILENI: Deputy Chairperson, I am happy that it is your own self who talks about the Rules that are there, but last week, you happened to call those bouncers, and outside those Rules. What is being said by the hon Fana there is that this House hasn't adopted ... that ... should ... Perhaps we've each heeded that argument because always, when you've realised that the arguments are being heeded, you resort to calling hooligans. That is why he is referring to them as hooligans because we haven't adopted that law. Whenever there are problems here, we don't have to call those ones. That applies only to the National Assembly, not in the NCOP.

So, I will just say, with due respect, if we could have a replacement just for today, you don't preside over this sitting, you get a replacement yourself. [Interjections.] You recuse yourself. That's my plea because for as long as the hon Tau is here, we will be afraid to talk. We are not going to speak out our issues. I mean, the timing is not exactly good for the ruling party to bring you again, to sit before us when we are still mourning the gruesome attacks on one of the members here. I am making a plea.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members, once more, I am appealing to you, and I do not know what it is that the member is trying to insinuate because he is speaking as we are now. [Interjections.] You have been speaking. You have not been intimidated into not speaking. So, I am appealing to you, hon members. We have got Rules of the House and the very same Rules that you are referring to clearly state that if a decision of a presiding officer ... if the presiding officer arrives at a decision, and you are not happy about the decision of a presiding officer, it lays out the processes that must be followed. Therefore, I would appeal to you, hon members, that we continue with the business of the House. If at all you are aggrieved by certain things, there are processes that are clearly spelled out in the Rules that allow you to raise your grievance. Can you close it for us, hon Mokoena? [Interjections.] Can I recognise the hon Mokoena?

Mr L G MOKOENA: Deputy Chair, let me then close it by saying this: If members of the House, whichever party they belong to, decide to exercise their right to express their feelings, their thoughts, whatever it is, and the Chairperson is not happy with the manner in which they are saying it or whatever they are saying, whatever the circumstances are, do we get an assurance from the presiding officer and the Office that you will not call on bodies that are not agreed upon by this House or their use in this House? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Order, order, order, hon members!

Mr L G MOKOENA: We have looked at the Rules and we know that there is no agreement on the use of bouncers, or hooligans, here. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members ... Take your seat, hon Mokoena.

Mr L G MOKOENA: But the hon Thebe there is saying things that I don't understand.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon ... no, no! Order, hon members! [Interjections.]

Ms L MATHYS: We don't want you to preside over here!

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members ... hon members ... Can you ... Just take your seat. Can you just take your seat?

Once more, all of us, as members of this august House, have our right to freedom of speech guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa ... [Interjections.] ... and it is the very same Constitution ... [Interjections.] ... it is the very same Constitution ... Can I address you, hon members? [Interjections.] Can I address you? [Interjections.] Can I address you, hon members? [Interjections.] Can I address you, hon members, because one ... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: From the onset!

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Take your seat, hon member. [Interjections.] Can you just take your seat? Hon Mtileni, can you just take your seat? [Interjections.]

I am addressing you. I am addressing you on a very important matter that you are raising, and I am saying to you the very same Constitution that protects and guarantees everybody the right to freedom of expression, and whatsoever, allows Parliament to also set its own set of Rules that will govern how it does its business. And I am saying there is nothing outside of these Rules that we are going to act upon, not unless there is an anticipation of something

that we don't know. Can we allow the business of the House to proceed?

Mr V E MTILENI: You agreed that last week you made a mistake.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): You are all on your feet, all of you. I don't know who to listen to now.

[Interjections.] Now, you are all on your feet. [Interjections.] You are all on your feet. I don't know who to recognise. May I recognise the hon Mathys? [Interjections.] Hon Mathys, may I recognise you?

Ms L MATHYS: Deputy Chairperson, the only right thing you need to do right now is to excuse yourself. You were the one that applied unjust Rules. [Interjections.] We have opened a criminal case against you. You brought in bouncers and you have assaulted our members. We cannot continue in this way, having you preside over a matter and trying to hold the executive accountable while we feel intimidated. Let's get another presiding officer. Let's get guarantees that no bouncers are going to come into this House and forcefully remove us. This is not the National Assembly. Those Rules have not been adopted. It is very simple. We will go on. We have got a whole list of questions to ask the Deputy President. However, we can't do this while you are presiding and while you called in the bouncers.

You can't come here and tell us stories about the Rules that you failed to apply in the last sitting here. Our member was abused physically, kicked, broken ...

An HON MEMBER: A woman!

Ms L MATHYS: ... because she was asking questions holding an executive accountable - and you allowed that to happen. During Women's Month! You have no shame. You have no shame to even come back here and still preside over the matter. You should have excused yourself until this matter was ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mathys, hon Mathys, you have got freedom of expression but, equally so, that freedom of expression shouldn't go beyond, to a point where now you are going to be pointing fingers at me, as a presiding officer. May I just enjoy that respect by not being pointed at as you address me? Hon Ximbi?

Ms T J MOKWELE: Hon Deputy Chairperson ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): I'm recognising the hon Ximbi.

Ms T J MOKWELE: But you recognised me before!

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): No, I recognised the hon Mathys. [Interjections.] May I recognise the hon Ximbi?

Ms T J MOKWELE: [Inaudible.] I have been raising my hand ... that is the way you treat me, always.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member, I will recognise you after the hon Ximbi.

Ms T J MOKWELE: Why are you doing that to me every day? Why?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member ...

Ms T J MOKWELE: Is this thing personal, or what?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member ...

Ms T J MOKWELE: Because for me, it is like it is personal, because every time I want to speak, that's what you do ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members, order! Order! May you ...

Ms T J MOKWELE: ... I don't have to concentrate on the media. What is media ... [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Ximbi, may I recognise you?

Mr D L XIMBI: Thank you very much, Deputy Chair.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): I will recognise you, hon member.

Ms T J MOKWELE: Ah. No, It's fine.

Mr D L XIMBI: Hon Deputy Chairperson, it is clear the members of the EFF are here to disrupt this sitting today. As you said, they know the Rules and the channels. If anything is wrong, they know how to take the matter further. [Interjections.] I think ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member, I will recognise you.

Ms T J MOKWELE: You cannot say we want to disrupt the sitting. We want to know if exactly we ... how can we disrupt the House if we want to hold the executive accountable? He must withdraw those words, "to disrupt this House".

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): No. No.

Ms L MATHYS: You were unruly last week.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member ... Hon member Mokwele! Hon member Mokwele!

Ms T J MOKWELE: We need clarity and your commitment.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member Mokwele ... Hon member Mokwele ...

Ms T J MOKWELE: He cannot say we are here to disrupt the House. We are not here to disrupt the House. He must withdraw those words.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member Mokwele ...

Ms T J MOKWELE: Deputy Chair, he must withdraw those words. I'm requesting ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member Mokwele, may I protect, once more, your right to freedom of expression? Hon Ximbi, we don't have members who are going to disrupt the House. We have got members who are honourable and who are raising their issues, as is expected of them. [Interjections.] Can we address ourselves to that?

Mr D L XIMBI: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson, I understand. However, the way that they behave and the way that they are

approaching you and the way that they don't respect the Deputy President of this country, and the way that they don't respect this House, I can assure you it shows that those people are not coming here to discuss the matters - and calling the officials of this government "hooligans" shows that those people here undermine everybody here. They undermine members of South Africa here.

[Interjections.] We are here, sir, to discuss very important things of this country. Thank you very much.

Ms T J MOKWELE: Chair, on a point of order ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Point taken. Hon Mokwele, may I just remind you of the words that you used?

[Interjections.] May I address you first?

Ms T J MOKWELE: Then you will recognise me. Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Yes, I will recognise you.

Hon members, we are consistently using the words, "holding ..." - hon Mokwele! - "holding the executive to account". The Deputy President is here with us, as a member of the executive, to do exactly that. That is what we have on the agenda - to receive answers to the questions that have been put to the Deputy President.

May we therefore allow the Deputy President to then start answering questions in the House?

Your issues have been raised and have been noted. There are processes that, if you still feel that you are uncomfortable with, we can still take those matters forward. The Office of the Chairperson is open to be approached for anything that members feel that they are aggrieved about. Can we allow the Deputy President to answer questions?

Ms T J MOKWELE: Deputy Chair, thank you for that progressive statement. However, as a person who was physically assaulted, as a person - I'm speaking as myself now, not as a member of this House - who was physically assaulted by those hooligans, I don't know them. That's why I'm calling them hooligans, or bouncers, whatever word. As a person, I need to be protected. As a woman, I need to be protected. From the presiding officer or Deputy Chairperson, I need an assurance that, whenever I interact with the Deputy President concerning his accountability, I will not be assaulted again, up until the matter or the processes that you are talking about are dealt with, amicably so. However, for now, I feel threatened and I'm still traumatised. It's a fact. I am still ... [Interjections.]

You can laugh. It is fine. It's a joke to you because this thing has never happened to you. You can laugh and you can make whatever comments. It's fine, but as a person, as a mother, as a wife, as a

sister, as an aunt to someone, and as a child to someone, I am traumatised. I'm not disrespecting anyone. Talking about or voicing my views is not a sign of disrespect. [Interjections.] I don't care if it's your wife. I don't care. However, I need to be protected.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mokwele, yes. I've heard you.

Ms T J MOKWELE: Please, Deputy Chair, I need that commitment from you, as a presiding officer today, that I will be protected. My rights will be protected in this House. Then, after that, we are here to work, as you know. We are here to work. We can still be here up until 23:00, or whatever time, as long as I am free in this House. Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mokwele, your rights, according to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, are protected. Your rights to speak, in terms of the Rules that govern the proceedings of this House, are protected. For that one, you have a guarantee in so far as these important documents are concerned. Therefore, hon members, may I allow the Deputy President to answer questions? Hon Mokoena?

Mr L G MOKOENA: Deputy Chair, I think this is why the issue of a conflict of interest was raised, because you, as a presiding officer, personally, are the one who ordered what we call hooligans,

because they have not been adopted in this House. Now, I suggested to you earlier, and I needed just for you to say, yes or no ... Will we be protected by elements that are not ... You keep referring to the Rules and the Constitution. Will we be protected against these bodies and individuals that are not agreed to in this House? Their use is illegal in this House. Are we protected from such illegal entities? This is the question that we just need your answer on, and then, we can move on. We are here to speak to the Deputy President, please.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mokoena, there is not any other point of reference that I can use to guarantee the rights of members in so far as freedom of expression and participation in this House is concerned, outside of these fundamental documents. Therefore, I'm saying that, based on these, every member's right to participate and to make a follow-up question, and whatsoever, is guaranteed. Therefore, may we continue with the business of the day?

Ms T J MOKWELE: Before we continue, Deputy Chair, you know, last week, you never referred to any Rule when you instructed those guys and ladies to remove me here. You never referred to any Rule. Like now, you just say it.

We know we are protected. That is why, last week, I stood up on a point of order for you to recognise me, but what you did after that

was contrary to what the Constitution and the Rules of this House state.

So, how will I know, now, if there is no commitment from your side? How will I know that I will be protected, now? How will I know? How will another member from the EFF know that he or she will be protected? Because you are just generalising it. You never pointed to any Rule last week because there is no Rule in the NCOP that says you must call those hooligans inside the House. There is no Rule that says that. We have never adopted our Rules as a House.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members, may I take the opportunity to call on the Deputy President to respond to the first question? Hon Deputy President, may you proceed?

[Applause.]

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT:

Gender parity political decision-making

13. Ms P C Samka (ANC) asked the Deputy President:

- (1) Whether, as the 2015 deadline for achieving the 28 targets of the SADC Gender Protocol is drawing near

(details furnished), the Government is engaging political parties and civil society organisations on their role in ensuring that the nation achieves gender parity political decision-making; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

- (2) whether, in preparation for the 2016 Local Government Election, the Government has identified any (a) actions and (b) programmes to encourage political parties to ensure equal representation of men and women when sending their public representatives to the local government; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Deputy Chairperson, hon members, since the achievement of democracy in 1994, South Africa, our beloved country, has made great strides in advancing the participation of women in various political decision-making structures all across the board. As South Africa, our approach, as a country, to this is informed by the founding principles that are enshrined in our Constitution. It is also in line with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

In addition, South Africa has, itself, enacted legislation and undertaken measures to promote gender equality in the political process. For example, the Electoral Act requires that every registered party and candidate should facilitate the full and equal

participation of women in the activities of political parties. They must ensure free access of women to all public political meetings, marches, demonstrations, and rallies. More directly, the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act requires that every party must seek to ensure that 50% of the candidates on the lists are women and that female and male candidates are evenly distributed through the lists.

Such measures have achieved positive results. The proportion of women represented in our National Assembly increased from a mere 3%, before 1994, to the current 41%. That is a phenomenal achievement. According to the Independent Electoral Commission, IEC, the proportion of women candidates standing for national and provincial elections increased from 27%, in 1999, to 31%, in 2004; to 39%, in 2009, and 40%, in 2019. That too, is a great achievement.

Despite this progress, not all political parties in South Africa demonstrate a similar commitment to gender equality in political representation. There are still gaps and shortages and weaknesses, in this regard. According to a 2011 report by the Commission for Gender Equality and the IEC, only two parties had committed themselves to implementing a 50/50 gender quota system in election lists. On these, the policies of the ruling party, the ANC, in particular, have had a profound impact on the gender composition of this House, the National Council of Provinces, the National

Assembly, provincial legislatures, local councils, and the national executive, that is, Cabinet.

As we prepare for the 2016 local government election, we would like to urge all parties to demonstrate political will and political commitment, and take decisive measures to ensure equal representation of men and women in the selection of candidates. This is a golden opportunity that we all have, as political parties, to ensure that we make the representation of women in political decision-making structures of our county a true reality. We should move beyond lip service and make sure that it happens. It is clear that the achievement of gender parity will not be achieved merely through the enactment of legislation. All social partners need to work together to achieve real gender equality in the political process.

At the same time, we need to ensure that the progress we make in the political sphere is matched by progress in such areas as education, health, the economy, and indeed, in all spheres of South African life. I thank you, Deputy Chairperson. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Thank you very much, Deputy President. I am informed that the hon Wana will pose the follow-up question on behalf of the hon Samka.

Ms T WANÀ: Hon Deputy Chairperson, Deputy President, my follow-up question is: Much as we appreciate the legal framework that was established in 1994 to ensure gender transformation in South Africa, what is government going to do to persuade other political parties to consider this framework of 50/50? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, as I said in my initial input, we call upon all social partners, all political formations in our country, to emulate what other forward-looking political parties are doing and have done. We have good examples in this regard. The ANC leads the pack. [Applause.] It has shown the way and it is up to other political parties to follow suit and to see that, by the ANC having taken great strides to empower women, great strides to continue empowering women, it has changed the gender landscape in our country and intends to continue doing so.

The government, on its part, calls upon all political formations, all social partners in various institutions in our country. It is important that women be empowered in all aspects and facets of South African life. This is a commitment we must make and we must never turn back from making this commitment and acting on it. Follow the way the ANC has shown leadership in this regard. [Applause.]

Mr M KHAWULA: Hon Deputy Chairperson, Your Excellency, the Deputy President, you have been singing so many praises of your party,

which is no surprise anyway. It is your party, the ruling party. However, you have been selective, sir.

South Africa has nine provinces. Of the nine provinces, one, which is ruled by the DA, has a female premier, and the remaining eight are controlled by the ANC. Out of those eight, there is only one female premier. Perhaps you have mistakenly forgotten about this one issue. Can you say something about it? [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, yes, yes. I am happy to say something. [Interjections.] It is no spin. The question of the representation of women in the leadership of the ANC is beyond question. If we look at the provinces, we have got one province where we have a female premier and we have had more, in the past. As political processes move on and develop, we are going to continue to have more women as leaders of our provinces.

Women play a critical role in the leadership structures of the ANC. If you look at the representation of women in the executives of the provinces that the ANC is in charge of, you will find that women are well represented. In some cases, they are even in the majority. Now, that is an important aspect that should never be forgotten.

We are going to continue empowering our women. We are going to continue making sure that women do play a critical role in the life of the ANC. All we are saying is we would like to see this repeated

and emulated throughout the country by other political parties. They must stop hiding behind excuses that have run their day. It is time that the women of our country should be empowered. You go ahead and do so in your own party so that we can copy from you, as well.

[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr L G MOKOENA: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson. Deputy President, it does sound like a bit of a spin there. You were asked about the premiers and you related to other issues. As a comment, just look at the EFF in this House. There are three women and three men. That is leadership right there. [Interjections.] However, I think a more important issue is ... [Interjections.] ... Deputy Chair, can I be protected? I think the more important question is the issue of ... because we keep on talking about numbers in this country - 50%/50%, but we are not saying ...

There is a Department of Women in the Presidency. My question is: What is the qualitative contribution that this department is assisting women with? We are still in a situation in which, in the corporate world, women are still receiving lower salaries, they are still not being respected by the people who work under them, and we still have women abuse, which has increased in society, today. What is the qualitative contribution that these numbers are going to bring to society? Thank you, Deputy Chair.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, you would have noticed that the Minister of Women in The Presidency had, through her department, been involved in the process of preparing a report which deals with the situation of women in the economy. That report was launched by the President on 9 August, on national Women's Day, and was quite revealing in a number of ways. It dealt with issues that still stand out as challenges to the women of our country, not only in political organisations or other organisations, but in the economy, as well.

In the workplace, where they work and eke out a living for their families and their children, women are still at the lower level of the ladder when it comes to income. Women still continue to suffer the triple levels of disadvantage because they are women and because they are black. That is something that still needs to be addressed.

That report highlighted the key challenges that we still need to confront and address, where we should be able to make quantitative moves or strides forward to fully empower women, particularly as they are the majority part of the population of our country, and particularly because they carry a heavier burden of having to look after households. Many of the households we have are women-headed, and they need more empowerment because they have got to earn better, they've got to get into much better positions, and they've even got to get better education and better skills so that they can bear this burden with greater ease.

In responding to the challenges that women face in our country, the government set up this Ministry in the Presidency. This Ministry is dealing with all of those challenges and it has taken off in quite an impressive way, because the Minister of Women in the Presidency is already going throughout the country embarking on various campaigns and programmes that are going to lead to the empowerment of women.

The focus on the issue of women has never been greater, in our country. It has never been greater in the way that we are going to embark on really effective campaigns, going forward. It has never been greater also in the way that a number of government departments, in everything that they do, infuse the women empowerment element. Women have got to be empowered as they embark on programmes and campaigns, and everything that they do.

So, we are serious about empowering the women in our country. It is not only putting them in various structures, it is also making sure that there is qualitative empowerment of women in many ways in terms of ensuring that we do comply with what we have set out in our Constitution. Thank you, Deputy Chairperson.

Mr J W W JULIUS: Deputy Chairperson, hon Deputy President, women deserve better - or even the best. It is always the ambition of a Deputy President to become the President one day or in his next

term, and I am sure you have the ambition to become President of South Africa. [Interjections.]

The ANC Women's League expressed their desire for a woman President from the ANC's side next time, which puts you in a difficult position, I would say. [Interjections.] Nevertheless, from your previous answer, can we now say that the ANC is ready for a female president?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member ...

Mr J W W JULIUS: Will you support a female president for the next presidential candidate of the ANC?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member ...

Mr J W W JULIUS: Hon Deputy President ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member Julius, may we avoid - hon members, order! - may we avoid a situation of making references to people and structures that would not be able to answer for themselves in this House? Let us just focus on the supplementary question, as provided for.

Mr J W W JULIUS: Yes, Deputy Chairperson. I started asking my question ... I asked the hon Deputy President.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members, order! I cannot hear. I can only imagine.

Mr J W W JULIUS: I did not ask the ANC a question. I did not ask the structure. I am asking the Deputy President a question.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): With reference to a structure that is not directly represented here!

Mr J W W JULIUS: I did not make reference to structures, the ANC, or whatever. [Interjections.] It is all over there that the ANC Women's League expressed ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Can you focus on the question, hon member?

Mr J W W JULIUS: Yes, Deputy Chairperson, I focused on my question: Is the ANC now ready for a female president, based on your previous answers, Deputy President? Would you support it? I am not referring to the ANC. I am referring to the Deputy President of South Africa. Would you support a female candidate for the presidential elections? [Laughter.] I am not done, hon Deputy President. [Interjections.] I like your answers thus far. They were straightforward and to the point. Could we please stick to honest answers? Thank you, Deputy Chair.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, I am fortunate enough to belong to this glorious organisation called the ANC. [Applause.] Ever since its formation, this glorious organisation has always expressed its own ambition about who should lead the ANC, and it has always acted on it. Over a 103-year period, it has had 12 presidents. In these 103 years, it has always expressed an organisational ambition by saying, This is the person we would like to have lead the ANC, and it has never failed. It has never failed to choose a person that it believes will take the agenda of the ANC forward. [Applause.]

As I said at another place, over these years, the ANC, having not failed to choose who should lead the organisation, will continue to do so. When it chooses who should lead the ANC, it has a wide choice - a wide choice. [Applause.] In the end, this time around, so you know, it has 1,5 million members to choose from. [Applause.] It will survey the whole landscape. It will go through the length and breadth of the country and say that I have 1,5 million members and I am now going to finger one of them to become the president of the ANC, as it was for everyone else.

This is how we are schooled in the ANC. We are schooled to say the membership of the ANC will decide. [Applause.] They will decide. It is not up to you, fortunately, because you are not a member, and it is not up to me even though I am a member. It is up to the membership of the ANC at branch level. That is how democratic this

glorious organisation is. It has always done the right thing. So, watch this space. It is going to do the right thing, once again. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members, I just wish to caution members that to heckle does not mean and is not equal to drown out. I thought that I must caution members as you engage with the Deputy President.

Challenges of state-owned enterprises

14. Ms E C van Lingen (DA) asked the Deputy President:

Whether he has put any measures in place to address the challenges associated with the failing state-owned enterprises such as the SA Airways, Eskom and the SA Post Office since his appointment to oversee their turnaround strategies; if not, why not; if so, (a) what measures and (b) what are the further relevant details?

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, given the critical role that is played in our economy by state-owned enterprises, SOEs, and recognising the challenges that are faced by some of those state-owned enterprises, the Deputy President was tasked by the President to oversee the turnaround of some of these enterprises that are

facing challenges, they being SA Airways, SAA, the SA Post Office, and Eskom.

It should be acknowledged that these entities all operate in very challenging and complex industries. This is even more so now that the world economy is facing great difficulties. As you survey sectors of the economy in which companies or enterprises operate, those that operate in post office-related businesses, all over the world, are facing great challenges and difficulties. Many of those that are operating in the airline business - bar just a few - are facing headwinds, both literally and figuratively. Those that operate in utilities are also facing their own challenges.

It is also worth noting that South Africa has well over 700 state-owned entities, at national, provincial, and local level. Many of these are fulfilling their mandates, I would say, quite effectively and efficiently. You never get to hear about them because they are operating in sectors that are quite profitable and stable and they are not facing the same type of challenges that the three are facing.

Notable progress has been made in implementing the turnaround of Eskom, SAA, and the SA Post Office. Valuable work has been done to stabilise Eskom and also to improve its financial position. Governance and leadership challenges that the utility has faced are being addressed, and quite effectively. With the support of the war

room located in the Presidency, progress has been made in the implementation of government's five-point plan to address the country's electricity constraints.

As we might all have heard, an important milestone was reached this past weekend when President Jacob Zuma opened the first unit at the Medupi Power Station. That unit is adding 600 megawatts to the national grid.

With regard to our national carrier, as a result of a focused ... I think it is something to be proud of. It really is something to be proud of. [Applause.] [Interjections.] We need to remember that Medupi is going to be the third largest power station in the whole world. That power station is going to be in no other country than the Republic of South Africa, that is being governed by the ANC. We should not forget that. It is an important milestone.

With regard to our national carrier, as a result of a focused effort by the board and management and National Treasury, as the executive authority, the going-concern status of SAA has been restored. When you hear me raise my voice inordinately high, it is to try to drown out the noise that I am picking up from here. So, don't be alarmed when you hear me raise my voice, because I do want to hear myself. I am being drowned out.

Anyway, operating costs are consistently being reduced and operating efficiency is improving. In short, the 90-day action plan has been successfully implemented. A long-term turnaround strategy has been developed and, as we speak, is being implemented.

A strategic turnaround plan for the SA Post Office is also being considered by Cabinet. A thorough diagnostic review of the challenges at the Post Office was undertaken and a business model has now been developed. A new Post Office board has been appointed. The board comprises people with the requisite skills and experience to implement the turnaround strategy.

While we address the challenges of these entities, we are also undertaking what I would call broader transformation of the state-owned enterprise sector. This is being co-ordinated by an interministerial committee charged with the implementation of the recommendations that came from the Presidential Review Committee on State-Owned Entities.

We are certain that the strategies that have been developed are pursued with focus and determination, and I have no doubt that they will achieve the desired results. We are already beginning to see those results as we move on, and those with eyes can see and those with ears can hear. Thank you, Deputy Chairperson. [Applause.]

Ms E C VAN LINGEN: Hon Deputy Chairperson, all the state-owned enterprises that the Deputy President is referring to have monopolies and they are in a difficult position, in spite of excessive state funding. We are experiencing a number of frustrating challenges associated with the functioning of post offices in the Eastern Cape, particularly in the Kareedouw and Joubertina Post Offices and all the others in the surrounds in that municipality, where the mail is not being sorted. The rent for these buildings is not paid. They are three to four months in arrears and various other creditors are not being paid.

So, I would like to ask the hon Deputy President: With the crippling effect this has on business, including the Koukamma Local Municipality and the community, in general, would the hon Deputy President agree that his appointment to oversee the turnaround strategies of the SA Post Office and other state-owned enterprises is indicative of government's ultimate acknowledgement that they are failing to appoint competent authorities to run state-owned enterprises and that it is a desperate attempt to save face by the current administration before the local election next year?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, firstly, let me say from the outset that the work being done at state-owned enterprises has nothing to do with the local government election, nothing whatsoever. What the government is doing is to do its job and to make sure that the state-owned enterprises function effectively and

efficiently. Anybody who really thinks that this is all being done to win votes, I think, has got the wrong end of the stick, politically, I must say.

Secondly, if these enterprises had the type of monopoly that you are talking about, they would probably be doing much better. SA Airways does not have a monopoly. There is fierce competition in our market when it comes to airline activity, economic activity. The SA Post Office is having its lunch eaten, if you like, by a number of courier companies that courier parcels around the country. So, the SA Post Office plays a critical role in fulfilling a social mandate of delivering mail to our people and also of having banking services to our people, particularly in the deep rural areas.

We have never shied away from admitting that the SA Post Office is facing challenges. It is facing challenges and those challenges are being addressed. As I was saying earlier, a clear, strategic model has been put in place and that model is now being implemented. We have appointed a board, which has people with expertise and knowledge who are going to participate together to turn the SA Post Office around.

Eskom is another utility that has faced challenges, as I was saying. Even Eskom is being turned around. We all know the challenges that Eskom faces. We have never hidden them. Indeed, it so happens that many other countries have a similar situation to ours, where their

utilities either have old-aged generators or power stations that now have to be revamped and modernised. We are already ahead of the curve, because we are already building power stations and a unit of one of them has already gone live. In another 18 months to two years, you will have forgotten that the challenges we have had with relation to power or energy and Eskom ever existed. Be patient. This problem is going to be resolved. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Ms Z V NCITHA: Chairperson of the session and Your Excellency Deputy President, good afternoon. Let me first express appreciation for the strategy that the government has put together. We can really see that it is beginning to yield fruit, as we have not seen load shedding for days, which means that you are doing something right. [Interjections.] Congratulations on Medupi.

Deputy President, let me, again, note the fact that you said we have about 700 SOEs in South Africa. It's interesting that you rarely hear people talking about Denel, which is a typical example of SOEs that are performing very well in South Africa. They are also helping globally, yet no-one mentions that. Also, Transnet is one of the best performing SOEs of this country. [Interjections.]

Lastly, Chairperson of the session ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): What is your point of order, hon member? Hon Ncitha, just hold on.

Mr V E MTILENI: Is she singing praises or is she ... [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): No, that's not a point of order, hon member. Take your seat.

Mr V E MTILENI: No, no, I think you are being unfair.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member Mtileni ...

Mr V E MTILENI: No, no, no, Deputy Chairperson. We are not here to sing praises. We are here to pose questions to the Deputy President. She's dilly-dallying and wasting our time ... [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mtileni, can you take your seat? The question is not directed to you but to the Deputy President. The member has two minutes ... [Interjections.]

Mr V E MTILENI: But that is not ... [Inaudible.] She's singing praises. We are not here to listen to that. We are here for Questions.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mtileni, the member has got two minutes to ask a supplementary question. Can you allow the member to conclude her question? [Interjections.] Hon member, can you conclude your question?

Ms Z V NCITHA: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson. The question is the following: Besides the three ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): What is your point of order, hon Mathys?

Ms L MATHYS: Deputy Chairperson, firstly, that you are always dismissive when we rise on points of order here.

Secondly, the member has been going on for over two minutes. [Interjections.] I remember the very first time I raised a follow-up question, I was interrupted ... [Inaudible.] ... get to my point. It's over two minutes.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mathys, according to the clock that I have here, the member has 30 seconds remaining.

Ms L MATHYS: It's like a very long preamble. I'm still talking. I'm still talking and you're not letting me finish. It's a very long preamble. I was advised by the Chairperson of this House not to give a long preamble when I'm asking follow-up questions. Here, an ANC Member of Parliament starts and she is allowed to give a two-minute preamble. You must be consistent.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mathys ... hon Mathys, can you please take your seat?

Ms L MATHYS: No, you must be consistent when applying the Rules in this House. It never happens.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mathys, please take your seat.

Ms L MATHYS: I'm still talking. I'm not finished. You are not consistent in applying the Rules all the time.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mathys, can you please take your seat? Can you please take your seat, hon Mathys?

Ms L MATHYS: So, you must be consistent. That's what I'm asking for. Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member, can you conclude your question?

Ms Z B NCITHA: Thank you very much, Deputy Chair. Besides the three ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Let me recognise the hon Nyambi.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr A J Nyambi): Deputy Chair, I'm rising in terms of Rule 53, which deals with the rights of a member to speak. I request your own self, sir, to make a ruling about it. A member may speak in the Council when called upon by the officer presiding. That is why I stood up. I never just start speaking. So, I'm asking your good self, Deputy Chairperson, to make a ruling about that, because that is what has been giving us problems since we started.

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members, on that point, can I rule that we should adhere to the Rule of speaking in the House? Hon Mokoena?

Mr L G MOKOENA: That rule will be adhered to ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Thank you very much.

Mr L G MOKOENA: ... only if the Deputy Chair himself can assure us that members will be recognised, because this is not happening.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mokoena, you are on the list.

Mr L G MOKOENA: On the list of?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Of follow-ups.

Mr L G MOKOENA: No, when members of the EFF rise ... I just raised my hand here now for a follow-up question, yet you recognised somebody else who raised their hand two hours later.

[Interjections.] It happens all the time.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mokoena ... Hon Mokoena ...

Mr L G MOKOENA: So, all I'm saying is that I'm appealing to your conscience and saying we agree with you that the Rules must be adhered to but can you also just recognise members? That is all. Thank you, Deputy Chair.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members, my conscience is very clear.

Ms L MATHYS: It shouldn't be!

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): I'm going to recognise members as and when they raise their hands to bring matters to my attention. I will definitely recognise them. Can I allow the member to conclude her question?

Ms Z V NCITHA: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Chair. My question is the following: Of the 700 that the Deputy President mentioned, I would like to know, apart from the three ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member, can you take your seat? Let me recognise the hon Labuschagne.

Ms C LABUSCHAGNE: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson. Firstly, on a point of privilege: You must sometimes look to the left. [Interjections.]

Secondly, on a point of order: In terms of Rule 40, if this House is going to be disrupted again in the way it is, I would ask the Deputy Chairperson to request the Deputy President to intervene and negotiate between the ANC and the EFF, to resolve their difficulties outside the House. Thank you. [Laughter.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): No, hon member. No, no, no, that's not a point of order. [Laughter.] Can you conclude, hon member?

Ms Z V NCITHA: The question is the following: What is happening about the 700 SOEs that are not mentioned, apart from the three? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I didn't quite follow. There was a bit of noise. What is it about the 700?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Can you repeat the last part of your question, with regard to the 700, in particular?

Ms Z V NCITHA: The question is the following: What is the Deputy President's general feeling about the 700 SOEs that we have? Thank you.

Mr V E MTILENI: [Inaudible.] [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Can you take your seat, hon Mteleni? Deputy President?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson ...

Mr C F B SMIT: My apologies, hon Deputy President. Hon Deputy Chairperson, in my mind, I have a problem with the question that is being asked, because that is asking for the Deputy President's opinion. That is not in line with ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): No, hon member, that is not a point of order. May we allow the Deputy President to answer the question if he feels that he wants to?

Mr C F B SMIT: Hon Deputy Chair, can I finish my statement, please? Can I please finish my statement because I had not finished saying what I wanted to? I said that the Rules state that we are not allowed to ask for an opinion in a question. That is asking for an opinion and that is against the Rules, hon Deputy Chair. I'm asking you to rule specifically on that.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member, the way I understood the question that was asked as a follow-up question is that it is relevant to the state of SOEs. She kept repeating "the state of SOEs", which is a relevant subsequent question to the principal question. Hon Deputy President, can you continue?

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson. I referred to the fact that we have more than 700 SOEs in our country and I'm able to state that I will go beyond just stating my feelings or opinions.

[Laughter.]

Ms C LABUSCHAGNE: Hon Deputy Chair, if I read this question correctly, it refers to three specific state-owned enterprises. So, with all due respect, the questions that you allowed that continue to all 700 other state-owned enterprises are actually new questions. In previous sittings, we were not allowed to do so. Thank you.

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): The question states, "such as" ... [Interjections.] ... as an example, hon members. However, the broad, principal question is around the state of SOEs. Hon Deputy President?

Mr S G MTHIMUNYE: Hon Deputy Chair, can you request the hon Maimane to recuse himself from the public gallery because now we are impressing the leader in here? [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): That is not a point of order. Hon Deputy President, will you continue with the question?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, I was saying that I will go beyond stating my feelings or opinions, and state reality. When it comes to these state-owned enterprises that are facing challenges, they will continue fulfilling a very useful purpose in the life of our economy.

Eskom has more than performed well. It has rolled out electricity to millions of South Africans who were neglected by the past misrulers of this country. Eskom has made sure that it connects millions of households in our country to the grid. That is something that is often ignored in terms of what Eskom has been able to do, and indeed, the Post Office continues to play a critical role.

If I were to talk in general terms, I would say that one of the greatest joys I have had at a personal level is being asked to chair a state-owned enterprise called the SA Special Risk Insurance Association, Sasria, which is the reinsurance company that is owned by the state. It has been able to declare dividends well over R15 billion to the fiscus since the time that I have been involved

with Sasria. [Applause.] However, it has done more. It has done much more. It has acted as a very efficient reinsurance entity in our country - but where I want to go is the empowerment type of process in which it has been involved.

It is the only entity that has developed black actuaries in our country. Through Sasria, we have been able to develop tens of young black people as actuaries - fully qualified, professional actuaries. [Applause.] And this has been due to the work of a state-owned enterprise, a state-owned enterprise that executed the government's mandate to make sure that black people do get skilled in our economy. High-level skills have been delivered by a state-owned enterprise.

So, we have many state-owned enterprises that are doing a really good job. Transnet is one of those and a number of others are doing an excellent job in our economy. So, we should never look down on state-owned enterprises and write them off because three state-owned enterprises are not doing so well. They are not doing so well because they are in difficult sectors of our economy. Others are doing well. Have respect for our state-owned enterprises, please. [Applause.]

Ms T J MOKWELE: Deputy Chairperson, is the government going to consider moving state-owned entities which currently sit with the Department of Public Enterprises to the line-function Ministries -

SAA to Transport, Denel to Defence, and similarly, all other entities - to ensure better alignment with government's policy objectives; or will it follow China's model of creating a central administration of all SOEs which focus only on investment but leave policy matters to line-function Ministries? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, I did say, on another forum, that when we went to China, one of our purposes was to go and learn how they manage their state-owned enterprises. Recently, on a trip to Japan, we also started finding out how they have, in their own history, managed such, and we are gaining valuable lessons.

The President set up the Presidential Review Committee on State-Owned Enterprises, which issued a report. The President also set up an interministerial committee that is looking at how we should reconfigure our state-owned enterprises. That work is under way and it is going to deal with a whole range of matters. That will include questions like, Should we have state-owned enterprises being aligned to line Ministries; or they should be in one co-ordinating body, like they have in China? So, all those issues are going to be given serious consideration, and when the interministerial committee finally issues its report to the Cabinet, then there will be light at the end of this tunnel.

As it is now, we are seriously engaged in a process of looking at how best our state-owned enterprises can function when it comes to

governance, operations, their finances, and everything else. So, everything is open to be looked at more closely with a view to making sure that our state-owned enterprises operate more effectively and more efficiently.

China, for instance, has been able to list some portions of their state-owned enterprises. They own the largest bank in the world and they have floated a portion of their equity on the New York Stock Exchange. They own the largest mobile company in the world and they have been able to float a portion of that on the London Stock Exchange - or is it the New York Stock Exchange? So, there are important lessons that we can learn from them.

Many people dismiss our journeys to China. They dismiss the lessons that we are learning from China, as if they know best. The Chinese have done a great deal and we can learn from them. We can also learn from other countries, as well. So, as we learn from our friends, as we learn from those who can teach us certain things, we welcome that. We are open to lessons that can make us get better. That is the journey we have embarked upon. [Applause.]

Mr L G MOKOENA: Deputy Chair, Deputy President, I think, once again, with spin in the situation, it kind of reminds me of the President making a public statement here that the economy is growing and that there are predictions of a 3% increase in the GDP, while Treasury was speaking of depreciation. You are here telling us about Medupi

and how well it is doing, and so on, and so forth, while Eskom, at the same time, is bemoaning the costs of Medupi, which have quadrupled.

I think we should not mince words here, however. What is at the core of especially these SOEs that we are speaking of here? At the core is corruption. We have heard about the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa, Prasa, of late. We are even hearing praises about Denel, and then Eskom. You were a Chair of the National Energy Regulator of South Africa, Nersa, for instance, and Shanduka is in the middle of a controversy regarding coal supply which is double that of state-owned companies supplying coal to Eskom.

[Interjections.]

Can I ask my own question? What is it that - because we always hear, especially in the state of the nation address by the President, we always talk about corruption, and it is at the core of the depreciation of these SOEs - what is it that we are qualitatively doing to curb corruption in these entities? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I was never Chairperson of Nersa.

[Interjections.] No, never. I was never chairperson of Eskom, never! Get your information right. [Interjections.] I am no longer a shareholder of Shanduka. I know nothing about what they are doing. They have been carrying on with what they do since I was elected here. I cut my links with Shanduka and publicly declared that.

Now, coming back to your question, what are we doing about corruption? Corruption is pervasive in a number of areas. It is a social ill and an economic ill that we all need to deal with; and corruption does not only reside in public enterprises. It resides in other areas, as well - including in the private sector. Corruption resides even in political parties, in NGOs, and all over the show.

All of us have a duty to deal with corruption. We have a duty not to tolerate corruption, and to take steps and measures against corruption. Where corruption is found in state-owned enterprises, measures and action are taken to make sure that it is rooted out. Branch, root, and everything must be out of those state-owned enterprises. That is precisely where the focus is.

Our governance structures in state-owned enterprises have a clear mandate from the government - that we will not tolerate corruption. We must root out corruption. Those who are found with their fingers in the cookie jar must be dealt with. There must be consequences. How does it happen? Disciplinary measures are embarked upon. Criminal cases, where evidence is in place, are instituted against those people, and some of them are either in jail or facing jail. In fact, the other day, there was a report released which showed how many people, even in government departments, have been dealt with quite seriously and severely.

Now, the clear message from this government is that we will not tolerate corruption, under any circumstances. We will not tolerate it, and we will pursue those who seek to earn their living from corrupt activities. Thank you very much. [Interjections.]

[Applause.]

Living conditions of farm workers

15. Mr J P Parkies (ANC) asked the Deputy President:

- (1) Whether the national task team that was established to look at the living conditions of farm workers and dwellers, especially in the Western Cape has finalised its work; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether there are any specific recommendations and considerations made in respect of the concerns that were raised by farm workers and dwellers (details furnished); if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether there are any programmes and plans in place to ensure that (a) the rights of farm workers and dwellers are protected and (b) they will be able to (i) exercise their freedom of association and (ii)

choose the government of their choice without fear and intimidation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

CO496E

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, the work to address the challenges in the farming sector is progressing on many fronts. While the situation in the Western Cape has tended to receive the greatest prominence, many of these challenges are found in farming communities right across the country. We are engaging with all relevant stakeholders in the agricultural sector on a fairly comprehensive approach to address the growth and efficiency of the farming or agricultural sector.

The rights and the needs of farm workers, enforcement of labour market regulations, and adherence to the rule of law are quite important in this whole approach. As this engagement continues, the provision of services to improve the living and working conditions of farm workers and farm dwellers is being given top priority. This includes the delivery campaigns that are being led by the Ministers of Agriculture, Social Development, and Rural Development.

This work is being co-ordinated by the Vulnerable Workers Interdepartmental Forum that has been set up and which engages with farmers and farm workers on a regular basis. Government is also working to ensure the full implementation of existing laws, regulations, and sectoral determinations that are aimed at

protecting and advancing the rights of farm workers. There are other initiatives in place to build capacity and to provide support to farm workers and vulnerable households in farming communities. Further information on these programmes may be obtained from the various departments in government.

As the question raised, the issue of freedom of association and the participation of farm workers and farm dwellers in the electoral process is an important one. We keep hearing reports that some farmers are seeking to restrict the freedom of association of their workers and we take a dim view of this. This should not be allowed in a democratic South Africa. According to the Electoral Act, it is an offence to compel or unlawfully persuade any person to support or not to support any party or candidate. It is also an offence to prevent any party representative, any candidate or electoral officer from gaining reasonable access to workers.

Yes, we keep hearing reports that some farm owners actually prevent their workers from being accessed by electoral officers, by party representatives, and indeed, by candidates who are standing for elections. This cannot be tolerated in South Africa. We would like to call upon those farm owners who continue to do this to desist from participating in activities that restrict the freedom of association of other South Africans. Whether they work for them or not, they are free men and women who should participate in political activity freely, without any form of hindrance.

In addition, the Independent Electoral Commission, political parties, and the relevant government agencies regularly engage with labour and communities to address areas of concern. As work is continuing to address the specific circumstances of farming communities in the Western Cape, we are working to achieve the fundamental transformation of South Africa's agricultural sector. This is a process that government is leading but which requires the active and constructive participation of farmers, farm workers, industry bodies, communities, civil society formations, and all and sundry.

Agriculture is vital to the future of our country. In fact, the National Development Plan has identified it as one of the key drivers that are going to give us the growth of our economy, going forward, and will lead to the employment of well over 1 million people by 2030. It has significant potential to create jobs, boost exports, support economic growth, develop rural areas, and more importantly, ensure food security for our people. We have every intention of ensuring that the agricultural sector in this country realises the potential that all of us would like to see it realising. I thank you.

Mr J P PARKIES: Deputy Chair, to the Deputy President: In the same context, part of the daunting challenges that are facing the farm workers are evictions in provinces like the Free State and the Western Cape. Can you perhaps share with us what the plans are that

could assist us to circumvent and surmount such challenges? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, I have, in the past, called upon farm owners to desist from evicting farm workers, and at government level, we continue to monitor this type of activity or these incidents. What we have found is that, more and more, as this matter has been addressed through various processes, evictions have tapered off or continue to taper off. Legal and regulatory processes are now being followed to make sure that people do comply with the laws and with the regulations. So, we have got structures, processes, systems, and regulations that we have set in place to regulate the incidence of evictions.

Clearly, evictions, as we have heard, continue, and we take a very dim view of this. We would like them to stop, especially those that are being done in violation of the processes that have been put in place. We continue to watch this space, and the processes that we have embarked upon of reforming the agricultural sector are also specifically aimed at addressing this question of the illegal and unlawful eviction of farm workers. So, it is being focused on.

Ms C LABUSCHAGNE: Deputy Chair, to the hon Deputy President, during the national strategic management engagement session on the rights of farm workers and farm dwellers held in Cape Town last month, the national government quoted an International Labour Organisation's

report on farm workers' living and working conditions in South Africa. This report found that the Western Cape farms offer longer seasonal employment and higher wages than those in the rest of the country because the Western Cape farms have been subjected to regular ethical trade audits for some time. They tend to be more compliant with labour, health, and safety legislation; and the Western Cape fares better than the other provinces when it comes to the use of labour brokers to supplement its seasonal work force.

In this regard, as the leader, Deputy President, of yet another national task team established to address the specific challenges and issues raised by the farming communities, what lessons learned in the Western Cape experience can and should be implemented in the other provinces to address the living conditions of farm workers there? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, as a government, it is our task to look at processes and experiences that are unfolding throughout the country. We look at what is happening in each of our provinces and what we always try to do is to take the best examples and apply them. I happened, as Deputy President, to also be involved in a process where we bring our provinces together to see how they, as provinces, can learn from one another. The Western Cape is one of those provinces that have chosen not to participate in that type of process.

As we participated in that process last year, we found that a number of provinces all have something to offer as lessons to the other provinces. KwaZulu-Natal was found to be leading through their Operation Sukuma Sakhe campaign - and a number of other provinces, such as Gauteng and the Free State. It would be a good thing if the Western Cape province could participate in the next round that the Office of the Deputy President is going to convene so that we can learn from each other. There isn't competition for a medal or some prize when it comes to developmental work. What we have is to offer lessons that we can all learn from.

Now, if the Western Cape has done something very well, we would like them to come to this forum when I convene a meeting of all provinces, so that they can come and outline exactly what they have done, as other provinces often do. So, I look forward to the Western Cape participating in the next round that we will have with all the provinces so that we can all learn from each other. Hopefully, the Western Cape can also learn a great deal from other provinces, as well, particularly when it comes to how to treat farm workers, when it comes to race relations, and a whole number of things. I would like the Western Cape to be a candidate for learning, as well. Let them come and learn. [Applause.]

Ms T J MOKWELE: Hon Deputy Chairperson, the only way to learn is for government to expropriate the land that was taken illegally from our people. Deputy President, since Minister Gugile Nkwinti announced

his plan for a new land reform policy that would see farm workers owning up to 50% of the farms they work on, there have been massive evictions of farm workers from the farms they have been living on for generations.

Over the past 20 years, more than a million farm workers have been evicted from the farms. Have these evictions forced your government to rethink its approach to land reform and the protection of those who have stolen the land from black people for the past 400 years? If not, why not?

Another question I would like to ask is: Does the government have a legislative framework to deal with these illegal evictions? We cannot just learn, learn, and learn but not come up with a system that will force these white people, or whoever is owning land, for we know that these activities are predominantly done by white farm owners to our black farm workers. What is the government doing to address that matter? Because it is affecting us.

As the EFF, we could vote for you if you changed the Constitution to allow land expropriation. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Gee whizz, for a minute I thought you would vote for us just without any conditions! [Laughter.]
[Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Chairperson, there is a legislative framework that deals with farm evictions. That law is in place and it is being applied. It is this law that has put the brakes on wide-scale evictions of our people from the farms. It does not mean that farmers do not take chances and evict workers. It does happen, but we have remedial measures that deal with that.

On the broader issue, the ANC-led government has committed itself to a land reform approach and policy, and that is working. As we speak, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform is in the process of implementing it. They have come up with various strategies, and the one that you were referring to - which is about workers owning up to 50% of the farms on which they work or are employed on - is being looked at more closely with a view of bringing a clear proposal to government.

As we speak, though, a number of pilot projects are being played out, and there are quite a number of farm owners who have reacted very warmly to this proposition. As we speak, they are involved in processes, working on a pilot project. Once that pilot process has been completed, we will be able to see what the outcomes are and how practicable what has been tested is going to be. However, in the meantime, a proposal is being worked on and it will be coming to Cabinet. So, we are not standing still. We are working on various measures that are going to enrich and add to what we are doing in relation to land reform.

We are confident that the land reform trajectory we have chosen, as a government, is the one that will create a good balance - a good balance that will ensure equity, transformation, and empowerment of our people to make sure that they are able to gain assets in their hands that they can work with and eke out a living for their families, but at the same time, to ensure that there is food security and we continue to have a thriving and growing agricultural sector. It is important that we continue to grow our agricultural sector.

The National Development Plan, itself, has come up with a number of very progressive propositions with regard to the future of agriculture. Those propositions create a very good balance that will make sure that, in the end, we are able to create up to 1 million jobs and we are able to effectively empower our people, to ensure that they become very actively involved in agriculture, themselves.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Chairperson. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Thank you very much, Deputy President. I must really also thank the hon Mokwele for having used the entire two minutes allocated for her follow-up question. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Ms T G MPAMBO-SIBHUKWANA: Hon Deputy Chairperson and hon Deputy President, during investigation into the 2012 outbreak of farm worker protests in De Doorns, here in the Western Cape, it emerged

that the national Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries transferred an amount of R2 million to the ANC-aligned Black Association of the Wine and Spirits Industry, Bawsi, which is also aligned to the Black Agricultural Workers' Union of SA, Bawusa, shortly before it subsequently fuelled the violent protests. The department also admitted in Parliament that the union played a critical role in mobilising the striking workers towards calmness and constructive engagement with their employers.

In the light of the government's commitment to engage on the living conditions of farm workers, especially in the Western Cape, Deputy President, what amount has been budgeted in the current financial year to fund the instigation of violent protests among farm workers in the run-up to the 2016 local government election? I thank you, Deputy Chairperson.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Deputy Chairperson, I did not quite understand. What amount has been budgeted to fund what?

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mpambo-Sibhukwana, can you please repeat your question? [Interjections.]

Ms T G MPAMBO-SIBHUKWANA: Hon Deputy Chairperson, if I could just recap on that one: I want to know from the Deputy President what amount has been budgeted in the current financial year to fund the

instigation of violent protests here in the Western Cape among farm workers in the run-up to the 2016 local government election? I thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Deputy President, it sounds like a ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: As I understand it, the hon member is asking how much has been budgeted to fund the instigation of violence ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Investigation of violence in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Instigation or investigation of violence? I think it's instigation of violence. She said "instigation of violence". [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: It is a new question.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Now ... [Interjections.]

Ms T G MPAMBO-SIBHUKWANA: Deputy President ...

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Clearly ... [Interjections.]

Ms T G MPAMBO-SIBHUKWANA: Hon Deputy President?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, ma'am?

Ms T G MPAMBO-SIBHUKWANA: The De Doorns protests that happened in the Western Cape had been fuelled by the ANC, and I am giving you ... [Interjections.] ... I am giving you ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member ...

Ms T G MPAMBO-SIBHUKWANA: ... the history towards it and ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member Mpambo-Sibhukwana ...

Ms T G MPAMBO-SIBHUKWANA: ... the role that you, as the governing and ruling party played ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon member Mpambo-Sibhukwana, can you ...

Ms T G MPAMBO-SIBHUKWANA: ... in terms of instigating that violence. And I want to know ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mpambo-Sibhukwana!

Ms T G MPAMBO-SIBHUKWANA: ... in the upcoming ... [Inaudible.] ... Deputy Chairperson, please.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): I am calling you to order, hon member, because now, instead of focusing on a subsidiary question, you are raising other issues and allegations.

Ms T G MPAMBO-SIBHUKWANA: Hon Deputy Chairperson, this is my follow-up question ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mpambo-Sibhukwana, can you just take your seat, ma'am? I think the first part of your question was a subsidiary question but the second part of it sounds like a new question because it is motivated by allegations that cannot be proven during the House sitting.

Therefore, may I protect the Deputy President from answering something that would not be substantiated in this House?

[Interjections.] Hon Mpambo-Sibhukwana, may you take your seat and allow the Deputy President to answer the question? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, there is a very quick, simple, and straightforward answer. She asks how much we have budgeted to support the instigation of violence. The answer is: We do not do things like that. Full stop. [Laughter.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): That brings us to the next question, from the hon Gaehler to the Deputy President.

[Interjections.] No, no, no, hon member. It was the fourth. May I allow the Deputy President to answer the next question?

Persons with fake qualifications

16. Mr L B Gaehler (UDM) asked the Deputy President:

Whether the Human Resource Development Council of South Africa and/or the Government has considered the regularly reported incidences of persons with either none and/or fake qualifications in the public and private sectors as a serious concern; if not, why not; if so, (a) what plans are in place to stop this problem and (b) what are the further relevant details?

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, government has, indeed, considered reported incidents of persons who misrepresent their qualifications or who fake their qualifications. Such incidents do great damage to the credibility of our country's education and training system.

The Minister of Higher Education and Training is preparing a proposal for Cabinet's approval on various mechanisms to address this problem. This is being done as this problem has reared its head

in such a way that it needs attention. Further details will be available once Cabinet has considered and approved the proposal. The Minister has already requested the SA Qualifications Authority to establish a national register that lists the names of individuals who have misrepresented their qualifications and who have invalid qualifications.

It is important that the rigorous verification processes that are undertaken in the Public Service at national and provincial levels are extended to other public institutions and entities. We urge all public and private entities to make every effort to verify the qualifications of all prospective employees and directors and to report any suspected fraudulent activity to the SA Police Service or the National Prosecuting Authority.

We call on members of the public to ensure that they do not jeopardise their employment prospects or face criminal charges by misrepresenting their credentials or qualifications. When it comes to qualifications, either you have them or you don't, and if you don't have them, do not misrepresent yourself. Go and study and get your qualification, and only when you are qualified can you put that qualification on your curriculum vitae, CV, or put that qualification behind your name. That is the bottom line when it comes to this.

We have got to stop being a country which has people who misrepresent what they have qualified in. That is something that we must obliterate from the face of South Africa. Let us not be fakes. Let us not be fraudulent when it comes to our qualifications, and let us be properly educated people. If you are not educated, don't claim it. Have it, or don't have it. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr L B GAEHLER: Deputy Chair, Deputy President, given the frequency of these incidents, as repeatedly reported in the media, which may point to the gravity of this problem, don't you think this should be declared a national crisis and that a mechanism be established to bring about a sustainable, lasting solution? Such a mechanism may include such approaches as were adopted during the national campaign for a gun-free society, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and what the SA Revenue Services would apply, as and when necessary, with various consequences to be faced by those who may be found on the wrong side of the law.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, that is precisely what I referred to earlier. The Minister of Higher Education and Training has already embarked on a process and is preparing a proposal that will be put before Cabinet to make sure that we root out this terrible behaviour that some South Africans have been found to be prone to. Now, what it is going to result in is to have measures that will end up with those people either being reported to the

police and being charged and the National Prosecuting Authority also preferring charges against them.

The Minister has also approached the SA Qualifications Authority to begin the process of preparing a list of those people who fraudulently claim that they have got qualifications. So, they will be on a list and named and shamed, and this time around, if they have used fake or fraudulent qualifications, they will then be subject to being charged and arrested, and criminally charged and jailed for having claimed to have a qualification which they do not have. What a shame it would be! Thank you.

Mr M J MOHAPI: Deputy Chairperson, Deputy President, let me welcome, with gratitude, your response, which is more informed, especially around this particular matter. The misrepresentation of qualifications can be an embarrassment, indeed, to South Africa, especially where we know that what you believe always manifests in how you behave.

Deputy President, we observed that, in most instances, this scourge of faking qualifications is applicable in both the public sector and the private sector. We need also to acknowledge we have a concerted effort from the government, led by President Jacob Zuma and deputised by your good self, where you work closely with the Quality Council and the SA Qualifications Authority, especially where they deal with the verification of qualifications. Recently, in 1999,

there was a labour court case between a certain Hoch and Mustek Electronics (Pty) Ltd, where an employee was dismissed for the simple reason of misrepresenting her qualifications.

Indeed, Deputy President, we know that the secret of success lies in the ability to listen. I heard what you said earlier but where you want to make more emphasis on this particular matter, what can be a call from the Presidency, especially for those that are still consistent and persistent to pursue this particular misrepresentation of qualifications. Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, the call we would make to all and sundry and indeed, to all our people in South Africa but more especially to young people, is that it is only through hard work that you will be able to reap the best results and outcomes for your lives. [Applause.] And that revolves especially around qualifications. We need to be a country that is going to promote the values of hard work, integrity, and honesty. People must desist from faking, from lying, and from being fraudulent, because such behaviour is demeaning to those South Africans who want to do things properly. It diminishes them, diminishes those who work hard to get their qualifications.

We therefore call on those who still participate in this terrible behaviour to desist from it and to focus more on getting their qualifications. In fact, if some have been tempted in the past to

fake their qualifications, we call upon them to remove those fake qualifications from their CVs, immediately. [Applause.] Remove them immediately, and having done so, then embark on a process of studying, because by putting it on your CV, it shows that you have a quest; you have a deep desire to be well qualified. What you now need to do is to roll up your sleeves, like so many of us have had to do in our lives, and work hard, day and night, to get your qualification.

Now, that is a general call that we would make to all South Africans, and we say there is still time to redeem yourself. Remove those unwarranted qualifications from your CV. That is something that we say should be done right across the board, by the way. It should be right across. It should affect all people in various formations, political parties, companies, you name it.

[Interjections.] Act immediately and become an honest person, a person with great integrity, and don't ever be found wrong footed because you will be put to shame. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr W F FABER: Deputy Chairperson, this should be an easy question as I see only the sweetheart questions get to be on the Question Paper! Yes, thank you, hon Deputy President.

Regarding public sector employees who are found to have misrepresented their qualifications, starting with people like Dr Pallo Jordan; Prasa's head engineer, Mr Mthimkhulu; and the SABC

chief operating officer, Mr Motsoeneng, for example, how many more international trips is the hon Deputy President willing to take on behalf of President Zuma to save the country's image from international embarrassment and to ensure that international community that South Africa is a safe option for job-creating investment?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Deputy President, you will guide me. [Interjections.] Names have been - hon members, order! - names have been mentioned of people who are not members of this House and who would not be able to respond to allegations that are being levelled against them. [Interjections.] Some of the names that have been mentioned here are cases that are before certain processes. Some of the issues that are being mentioned are matters that are still under investigation. [Interjections.] Now, I wish to ask the hon Faber: Hon Faber, in the light of the principal question, is it possible to rephrase your question in such a manner that it is then located within the principal question?

Mr W F FABER: Deputy Chairperson, are you asking me to withdraw these misrepresented qualifications of Dr Jordan, head engineer Mthimkhulu, and the SABC chief operating officer, Mr Motsoeneng? Are you asking me not to mention the names again as it will be before the court? Then, I won't mention it again ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Alright, fine. What is the question, in actual fact? [Interjections.]

Mr W F FABER: Deputy Chair, the question is: How many times is the Deputy President still willing to go and try to get investment for us after being embarrassed so many times? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Deputy President, I think that is totally a new question.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Well, Deputy Chairperson, I don't quite understand the question, but suffice to say that when we embark on international trips, obviously, our main and sole purpose is to promote our country.

When I was on my recent trip, I learned something that was really wonderful. In Japan, they have a process where both the ruling party and the opposition party, when they travel overseas, meet with their department of international affairs, discuss the policy thrusts of their country, and go and speak with one voice to promote their country. Then, they say they will fight when they get home, but when they are overseas, they promote their country. They will not backbite their country.

I will call on all of us, as we travel abroad, when you travel abroad go and promote South Africa Inc. Promote your country,

demonstrate your patriotism, show that you love this country so much, and you want it to win all the time. So, when we travel, what we are essentially doing is to promote our country; to show the best side of South Africa and try to attract investments to South Africa; to tell the true story about our country, the very best of our country and get people to see South Africa as the best country that it is in the whole world. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Thank you very much. Hon members, the last name I have on my list for a supplementary question is, I take it, a special delegate.

Ms M CLARKE (Gauteng): [Inaudible.] Thank you, Deputy Chairperson. My question has been covered.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Oh, are you covered? Alright, fine. [Interjections.]

Mr M KHAWULA: [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): What is that now, hon Khawula? [Laughter.] Alright. Can we then proceed to the question asked by the hon Nthebe?

HON MEMBERS: No! No! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Alright. Hon Mteleni ... [Laughter.] ... hon Mteleni! You've got two minutes to ask your supplementary question.

Mr V E MTILENI: Xandla xa Presidente, xa mina xivutiso hileswaku eka rendzo ra n'wina ro hetelela ro ya eJapan, hikokwalaho ka yini mi tirhisile xihahampfhuka xa Gupta? Hikokwalaho ka yini mi nga tirhisanga xihahampfhuka xa mfumo leswi endleke leswaku mi tirhisa R5 miliyon i ya vahakeri va xibalo? (*Translation of Xitsonga paragraph follows.*)

[Mr V E MTILENI: Deputy President, my question is: On your latest trip to Japan, why did you use the Guptas' jet? Why didn't you use a jet provided by government rather than spend R5 million of taxpayers' money?]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson ...
[Interjections.]

Mr V E MTILENI: [Inaudible.] For the trip to Japan, the Deputy President opted to use the Guptas' jet. Why did he use the Guptas' jet instead of using the jets that we have, in government?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Mteleni, order! Order, hon members! Do you see now? When we started, we said we would be guided by the Rules, and here we have a question that has

got to do with the Human Resource Development Council of South Africa in government and all those sorts of things with regard to qualifications, and so forth.

If you want to put a question around the achievements of the Deputy President on his trip to Japan, may you formulate that question so that the Deputy President is then able to answer that question? [Interjections.] No, no, no, not for today. Not for today, no. This is a supplementary question to the principal question, which is irrelevant. [Interjections.]

Can we proceed to the next question, from the hon Nthebe to the Deputy President?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, I'm quite happy to answer that question, and to say that we have nothing to hide. As the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans addressed the media and outlined the circumstances around which we undertook that trip to Japan, there was nothing much more than that.

When the Deputy President travels, my Office always tries to see what the best route is to travel to the next destination. Is it commercial? And if we have a plane in the Defence Force, the Defence Force will line out a plane that is appropriate for getting us to that destination safely. If not, the Defence Force will then charter.

As it turns out, in this regard, the Defence Force looked for a plane amongst the fleet of planes that they have. They then found that there was no plane that could take us to the destination in the way that would have been appropriate. They then chartered a flight. They did not know to whom that plane belonged. Nor did I. I did not know to whom that plane belonged. [Interjections.] We flew to Japan on that flight and made one stop. Now ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Order, order, hon members!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Now, the information about the ownership of the plane only came out much later. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members, order!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Now, let me say that what we always seek to do is to find the most cost-effective way of taking us to whatever destination. That we will continue to do, to make sure that taxpayers' money is saved.

In this case, it so happened that because of the commitments that we had and a number of other engagements that we had, the best way to travel was to have a plane chartered. [Interjections.] That is the reality. You can believe it, or not, but that is what we can put out

there, honestly and openly. In the end, it is the truth and the reality. Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members, no, no, no. We are done with supplementary questions. I must just make the point. Let me just make the point, hon members, we appreciate the fact that the Deputy President was able to take the question, but let it not be a precedent where new questions will then come in that are irrelevant to the principal question.

Mr W F FABER: Then you will protect the Deputy ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Yes, I will definitely try my best to protect him. [Interjections.]

SADC-led Commission of Inquiry

17. Mr B G Nthebe (ANC) asked the Deputy President:

- (1) With reference to his visit to Lesotho to brief the key stakeholders on the terms of reference for the establishment of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)-led Commission of Inquiry into the recent developments in the country, what was the response of the key role-players in relation to the
 - (a) Commission and (b) ceasing of hostilities to

achieve the maintenance of public peace;

- (2) what was the attitude of the SADC Double Troika Summit in relation to his report regarding his previous facilitation efforts in Lesotho?

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, during my visit to Lesotho on 30 and 31 July this year, I had the opportunity to brief a number of stakeholders in Lesotho on the decisions taken by the SADC Double Troika, in Pretoria, on 3 July. These included the decision to set up a commission of inquiry, primarily into the circumstances surrounding the death of Brig Mahao, previously Lieutenant-General of the Lesotho Defence Force.

I met with the government of Lesotho, the leadership of the opposition parties, and the Council of Churches, as well as the Lesotho Council of Nongovernmental Organisations, NGOs. All stakeholders have welcomed the establishment of the commission of inquiry, as they believe that it will help them in coming out with the truth of precisely what happened around a number of issues.

The commission will allow for an in-depth investigation into an incident that deeply affected the people of Lesotho. It should provide insight into the challenges facing the security forces that will be useful in determining a way forward. All stakeholders remain concerned about the long-term political and security stability of

the Kingdom. They expressed their appreciation for SADC's interventions.

In addition, I formally presented the stakeholders in Lesotho the final report of the SADC Observer Mission, of which I was the facilitator. This report had been tabled at the SADC Double Troika Summit in July and included recommendations for the Kingdom of Lesotho to consider effecting constitutional and security reforms. The summit adopted the report and urged the Kingdom of Lesotho to adopt the recommendations. The report was welcomed, as I said, by all stakeholders.

A subsequent SADC Troika Summit was held in Gaborone on 16 August. It agreed that there is still much work to be done to achieve long-term political and security stability in Lesotho. This summit discussed the terms of reference of the commission of inquiry and decided to reaffirm the terms of reference, as adopted at the summit held in July. The summit also urged all stakeholders to adhere to these terms of reference.

In addition, the summit considered a preliminary report of the commission. The summit decided to extend the commission's life by an additional 30 days to allow it to fulfil its mandate. In other words, it will have another 30 days added to its original 60 days.

As we speak, the commission has already commenced its work in Maseru. Once the commission of inquiry has finished its work, the work towards necessary constitutional reforms to be facilitated through the various structures that will be set up will proceed.

The people of the Kingdom of Lesotho are yearning for lasting peace and stability in their country. They recognise that stability is, indeed, a precondition for growth and development in their country. It is for this reason that the leadership of SADC and the government of South Africa are firmly committed to helping the stakeholders in Lesotho to chart a new path towards peace and prosperity. We believe that it is possible for the people of Lesotho to have peace and we shall help them reach out to peace and stability. Thank you, Mr Deputy Chairperson.

Mr B G NTHEBE: Thank you, Deputy President. You are leading us - including the opposition parties here - very well. [Interjections.]
[Laughter.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Mr B G NTHEBE: Thank you for your explicit leadership, including for those who are wearing overalls. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): What is your point of order, hon Mteleni?

Mr V E MTILENI: With due respect, Deputy Chair, we have not hired the hon Nthebe to speak on our behalf. [Laughter.] We can speak for ourselves. Let him speak for himself and his organisation, please. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Thank you, hon Mteleni. I didn't even take it as representing us because it was just a humorous comment. [Interjections.] Please proceed, hon Nthebe.

Mr B G NTHEBE: Surely, Deputy President, you don't need this after a long trip from Japan! This is what we are exposed to daily. [Laughter.]

Deputy President, would you agree that, flowing directly from the summit in Gaborone, there seems to be sufficient consensus and agreement on the summit that there is going to be a cessation of hostilities and the maintenance of public peace in Lesotho? The stakeholders seem to be encouraged to agreeing with the commitments. Would you agree with me if I said such would be seeking to bring about lasting peace in Lesotho and for us to be able to see that maintenance of public peace and cessation of hostilities? Thank you, Deputy Chairperson.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, I would agree that yes, flowing from the Gaborone summit, we can look forward to Lesotho

returning to a situation of normality, where the Lesotho Defence Force and the Lesotho Mounted Police Service members will work together in harmony. The elements for having a harmonious relationship are already in place. All they need to do is to go beyond the commission of inquiry which, in many ways, is going to assist them to find each other, and also to find out the truth about what happened in the past.

In a way, that should, then, possibly be their own truth and reconciliation type of process where, after finding out what the truth of those events that led to the death of Brig Mahao, and many other processes, including the reappointment of Lt-Gen Kamodi and how the Lesotho Mounted Police Service and the Defence Force are relating to each other, they will be able to embrace one another and chart a way forward in a very peaceful way.

That will lay good ground for constitutional and security reforms that must take place in Lesotho, as desired by the leadership of the government, the political parties, NGOs, and churches. They all desire reforms that are going to serve them the good purpose of embracing peace and stability. I am confident that Lesotho will finally be as peaceful as they have been in the past. Thank you.

Ms L MATHYS: Deputy Chairperson, firstly, Deputy President, the chairperson of the College of Chiefs in Lesotho has blamed you for the crisis in Lesotho.

Secondly, we have your capitalists and your vanguard of capitalism reputation coupled together. There are also the allegations of your advancing your business interests, both directly or indirectly, there in Lesotho. Now, I know you have denied those allegations and you are not interested in water, building, etc.

My question is: Why do you remain the best politician to mediate in Lesotho; and why is SADC actually insisting that South Africa must mediate in Lesotho? Is this a case of the ANC-led government imposing itself and you imposing yourself, as the Deputy President, both politically and economically, in Lesotho? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Deputy Chairperson, I am glad to hear the hon Mathys saying that all those allegations that she is making have been responded to. They have been responded to vigorously because they are denied and they are a figment of somebody's imagination and they are all not true.

When it comes to whether South Africa imposes itself, South Africa never imposes itself on any country in the world. Instead, South Africa is asked; it is chosen; it is appointed to various international tasks in the world.

As it turns out, the SADC commission was chaired by the hon president Robert Mugabe when it was decided that South Africa should field a facilitator, and I was asked to occupy that position. I

would like to believe that one did the best that one could, and when I was re-appointed, it confirmed that the leaders in the region are well experienced. They have been doing this for years and years. They are highly experienced and very mature. They have vision and everything it takes to make sure that there is stability in the region.

Out of their wisdom - the wisdom of the presidents of Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, and Malawi, who make up the troika - they decided, hon Mathys, that South Africa should play this role. South Africa never chose itself. It was asked to play this role.

[Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr A J Nyambi): Deputy Chair, as a permanent delegate from the province where the sun rises, let me be upfront and indicate to the Deputy President that we commend the role he has played to bring peace to that country. My question is: Can he elaborate on what steps and measures will be followed by SADC to ensure the credibility of the commission and its recommendation for lasting peace and its solution in that country?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, we have an outstanding judge who hails from Botswana leading the commission. Participating in that commission, hon Mathys ... [Laughter.] ... are people from a number of SADC countries, including South Africa, Namibia, and Mozambique. They were all chosen by SADC. They never appointed

themselves, so they are participating in this commission just to make the point and stress the point that people are appointed by others. [Interjections.] They are participating in this commission and the commission is expected to come out with proposals and recommendations. [Interjections.] It is also expected that those recommendations, when reported upon to SADC, are recommendations that will be accepted and implemented.

I would like to believe that those recommendations will be the type that will lead to lasting peace. This lasting peace will be a peace that will be embraced also by the people of Lesotho.

[Interjections.] So, we are looking forward ...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Deputy President, can I anticipate ... hon Mokoena?

Mr L G MOKOENA: No, Deputy Chair, I was just saying that there is a Member of Parliament here who is feeling victimised there because a question came from a member of the province where the sun shines but the whole answer is being given to this member here. [Laughter.]
[Interjections.] So, I am wondering what is happening here.
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): No, I think the Deputy President just recognised the hon Mathys. Please continue with your response, Deputy President. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Deputy Chair, we are hoping that once the commission comes out with its recommendations, those recommendations will be accepted and acted on. Once SADC gets the report, it will be able to declare its own position on those recommendations. As it is now, SADC has urged the government of Lesotho to begin the process of implementing the recommendations when it comes to constitutional and security reforms.

So, already, Lesotho, as a whole, has the task of beginning the process of embarking upon constitutional and security reforms. Hon members, SADC will be playing a supportive role. In this regard, it will be playing a supportive role because that is what SADC is expected to do. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr M KHAWULA: At last! Thank you, hon Deputy Chairperson, hon Deputy President. When the hon Deputy President visited Lesotho to mediate, arrangements, travel logistics were made, I presume, by the Department of Defence and Military Veterans and the Deputy President used the state jet on several occasions.

The Deputy President, again, has just said to us that travel arrangements to Japan were made by the same department and that same department did not know to whom the jet that the Deputy President was going to use belongs. The Deputy President boarded the jet. He, himself, says he did not know to whom it belongs.

I recall, hon Deputy President, that when the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans was asked on this, she said, "We did not know to whom it belongs. Had we known, it would have been a different story." That is what she said.

Now, what I would like to know, Deputy President, is: Why would it have been a different story? Had government known, it would have been different. Why?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Khawula, I made a ruling earlier on on this question. [Interjections.] Hon Khawula, I made a ruling on this question to say that this question has no bearing on the principal question asked.

Mr M KHAWULA: Hon Deputy Chair, can you please leave it to the hon Deputy President to decide? [Interjections.] I just want to know the why. Why would it be different? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): No, no, hon Khawula. I know the Deputy President might be tempted, but I would encourage him not to. [Interjections.] No, no, no, let us be serious now. Let us just be serious. Hon members, let us be serious. This is not a supplementary question and out of courtesy, the Deputy President did give a response to the earlier question which is linked to what you are raising now. So, let us not allow the Deputy

President to even speculate on other Ministers, and all those sorts of things. I am appealing to you, hon Khawula, please.

Mr M KHAWULA: Hon Deputy Chairperson, all along, ever since you started, you have left the hon Deputy President to decide whether he would like to respond to the question or not. It is the first time now that it is your decision and not his. Can you please let it be his decision?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): No. I did say, earlier on, that whilst I allowed the Deputy President to respond, let it not become a precedent. I did caution us.

Ms L MATHYS: Deputy Chair, you are very inconsistent and it keeps coming up here. You allow one time and you do not allow the next time. It is very simple. Refer the matter to the Deputy President. Why are you advising him? Matters must come from the House if we are rising on points of order if there was someone who raised it, but you are always intervening when you don't need to intervene. You are always trying to protect the executive. The last time you allowed him ... I have heard our Chairperson. Sometimes she says she will allow you to answer the question if you want to answer it. Now you want to advise. Just be consistent, please, so we can move on.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Deputy President, as we proceed, may we just focus on the principal question, as put to the Presidency?

That takes us to the point of the next question by the hon Mokgosi. I am informed that hon Mokoena will take the question on behalf of Mokgosi.

Mr L G MOKOENA: No, Deputy Chair, I raised my hand and I believe I am the fourth person to ask a question to the Deputy President.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): You are the ...?

Mr L G MOKOENA: I'm the fourth person to speak.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): No, I had the hon Mathys, the hon Nyambi, and the hon Khawula.

Mr L G MOKOENA: I had raised my hand before all of them.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon members, I wouldn't want for us, really ... hon members, just hold.
[Interjections.]

If you had observed, what I have been trying to do was to ensure that all political parties get an opportunity to make supplementary

questions. I have been trying my best to say that, within these three, let us allow everybody ... I don't want to say I have allowed party X so much, or whatever. [Interjections.] May I be allowed to continue with the session by allowing the hon Deputy President to respond to the question? The hon Vawda will then come up with the supplementary question.

Finalisation of minimum wage

18. Ms N P MOKGOSI (EFF) asked the Deputy President:

Whether the National Economic Development and Labour Council task team has finalised its work regarding the minimum wage (details furnished); if not, (a) why not and (b) what are the delays; if so, what are the relevant details?

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, significant progress is being made in deliberations under the auspices of Nedlac on the modalities to introduce a national minimum wage. The Nedlac social partners adopted what we dubbed the "Ekurhuleni Declaration" in November last year, which stated there should be a report-back on progress in reaching agreement on key issues by July 2015.

The Committee of Principals, which was set up, received a progress report on the work of the task team on wage inequality and labour

stability, last month. The report outlined areas of agreement and issues that needed further deliberation. There is sufficient consensus, for example, on the broad definition of a national minimum wage for it to be referred to the process of legal drafting.

The Nedlac constituencies have agreed that the national minimum wage should form what we call a "legal floor" guaranteed by law, below which no employee may be paid in South Africa. The collective agreements, sectoral determinations, and contracts of employment may not make provision for a wage that is paid to South African working people that is lower than the national minimum wage, but may vary only upwards.

Some of the issues that require further discussion include, firstly, the scope and application of a national minimum wage; secondly, the relationship between a minimum wage and other forms of wage setting, such as sectoral determinations or wages that are set at sectoral level; thirdly, mechanisms for determining a national minimum wage - in other words, how will we go about setting the minimum wage? - and fourthly, the actual level of a minimum wage.

Work is already under way to gather evidence through research and investigation to ensure that the national minimum wage is set at a level that has a real and significant impact on inequality and poverty, while ensuring no negative effect on demand for labour. The work involved in introducing a minimum wage is quite complex, I have

found out. It is also multifaceted and requires very careful deliberation. The Committee of Principals has, nevertheless, agreed that this work should be concluded without undue delay.

Some of the things that we have done are to hold workshops where we brought together internationally placed people, or experts, from a number of countries - from Brazil, from Central African countries, such as Uganda, and so on, from Germany, the United Kingdom, and Down Under, in Australia. We have been putting together quite a lot of empirical data or evidence and we've had the International Labour Organisation, ILO, also playing a critical role because they have an aerial view of what minimum wages there are, globally.

So we've taken the trouble to make sure that when we reach a national minimum wage, we will have trawled various experiences across the globe. In addition, the social partners that are involved in this endeavour - being trade unions from various federations, NGOs, government, and business in all its formations - are all locked into a process that will finally deliver an outcome on the national minimum wage.

We will be meeting again, shortly, to determine the progress that has been made at the technical task team level. In addition, research has been commissioned with a number of institutions - universities and research institutions - and they will be coming

forward with research results, which will be evaluated. Thereafter, we will come up with clear proposals.

What is clear in our minds is that we've got to move with speed so that we can report back to the President. Thank you, Deputy Chairperson. [Applause.]

Dr Y C VAWDA: Deputy Chairperson, please allow me to greet the House and the Deputy President, with *As-salaamu-alai-kum*. [Peace be with you.] My follow-up question has, largely, already been answered, but I would like just to raise the issues and to emphasise the importance of these issues.

Hon Deputy President, you will agree with me that R2 500 is far too little. For people to budget within R2 500 is extremely difficult in this country and by today's standards of living. Also, we must understand that what we are doing is merely glorifying slave labour by giving these very, very nominal salaries to our people. It is grossly unacceptable.

Over the last 20 years, it is the glorious organisation that was largely responsible for drafting the Freedom Charter. However, the glorious organisation over the last 20 years has fallen far short of delivering on many of the issues of the Freedom Charter. Particularly with regard to minimum salaries, the silence from

government on the R12 500 minimum salary for mine workers is deafening.

Now, the question we are asking is ... yes, you have answered a lot of it already, but government has to facilitate this process as a matter of urgency. When the recommendations come out, we need assurance from the government that they will be implemented. However, we must also understand that this is not going to end here, where we say we are providing a certain amount of a minimum salary. This has to be a dynamic process and we have to be committed, as a government, to ensure that this process will ensure conducive working conditions for our workers' wellbeing.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Hon Vawda, your time has expired. Will you allow the Deputy President to respond?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The hon Vawda has credited me with having answered all his questions and I would like to thank him. Thank you, Mr Deputy Chairman.

Mr L G MOKOENA: Deputy Chair, Deputy President, the issue of a minimum wage, I think, is one that our country has trifled with for a long time - since 1994 - and what is clear is that we have set minimum wages. I think the last one was R2 500. However, what we have not done - and the EFF was in Alexandra, this weekend, to speak to domestic workers - is ensure that it is implemented, and we can

talk about domestic workers, petrol attendants, and so on and so forth. It is mainly in the lack of commitment by government. If you take a government like Brazil's, for instance, which implemented the bolsa família [family allowance], what they have done there is to show commitment, as a government, to the poorest of the poor - and in this country, those poorest of the poor are, indeed, domestic workers and petrol attendants.

I hear the hon member here saying, "But government does not employ domestic workers." How insensitive is that! Is it possible for government to show commitment to the poorest of the poor, that we will protect their wages? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Deputy Chairperson, in case the hon Vawda thought I was being a bit flippant in saying that he has acknowledged that I have answered, I was not being flippant. He has covered everything that I would have wanted to say, or rather, I covered everything that he had asked, but for greater emphasis, because the two questions are bit linked.

During our process of going through the research and engaging with international experts, one of the recurring messages that came through was that the minimum wage really finally works effectively if there is commitment on all sides, not only on the business side but also on government's side, and through regulation and enforcement. Now, that is something that we obviously are going to

be focusing on, because once a minimum wage is set, everybody in the country will be expecting that it will be applied. It will be a floor below which no worker should finally be paid.

So, in the end, it then will behove everyone to monitor its application and government will have to do it through regulation and evaluation and inspecting whether it is being applied, or not. At the same time, however, it is the people who are most affected who will then be able to have the tools and the instruments through which they will ensure that government actually takes action against those who do not apply the minimum wage. So, that is going to be one of those processes that we are going to get involved in.

Let me just say that we have not had a national minimum wage. We have had sectoral wages that are set through determinations. We are now finally dealing with an issue that was well articulated in the Freedom Charter. It was the ANC, together with its various other allies, that mooted the idea of a minimum wage, and yes, the ANC is going to deliver on the issue of the minimum wage. It is committed and determined to do precisely that. [Interjections.] It is going to show leadership. Thank you very much.

Ms L MATHYS: Deputy Chairperson, the Deputy President has just said government will deliver, because that's what it does. It has not even delivered on the Mining Charter that itself created and that is supposed to be implemented. So, what reassurances do we have that

the poorest of our poor workers, who are like slaves, will have the minimum wage implemented?

Furthermore, he can't say that, where the Mining Charter hasn't been implemented. So, the Deputy President must please withdraw that or at least explain to us that the Mining Charter has been implemented, because he says the government implements everything. Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Can I protect the Deputy President by requesting him not to withdraw anything that he said? However, if you feel like making a comment on the remarks of the commitment by government, you are free to do that.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Chairperson, I don't believe that there is anything that I can say in withdrawing the answers that I have given. They are well-considered answers and they have been put to the House, to the members of the NCOP, with great humility and respect, and I would like to stick by that.

Finally, I would like, as I digress and as I conclude, to say that today, I think we celebrate one of our leading cities winning the opportunity to host the Commonwealth Games. And I think it is important that we should applaud that. [Applause.] Durban has been given the opportunity - a rare opportunity - to be the first city and South Africa the first country on the whole continent to host the Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth represents more than a

billion people and we are going to have many nations coming to our country in 2022 to celebrate the Games. [Interjections.]

Lastly, it is with a measure of sadness that we have to pass on our condolences to the family of Justice Skweyiya, who passed away, sadly. We pass on our condolences to his family and to his friends, and I thought I should use this opportunity to do precisely that. Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson. I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Thank you very much, Deputy President. That was the last supplementary question, hon members. When we deal with supplementary questions ... [Interjections.] ... can we ... [Interjections.] ... It was for a supplementary question that we were dealing with. [Interjections.] Hon members, that ... [Interjections.]

Mr L G MOKOENA: [Inaudible.] ... of Parliament to express themselves. [Interjections.] I stood up while the Deputy President was speaking and I wanted to stand up on a point of order. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): What point of order is that?

Mr L G MOKOENA: Yes, can I please express my point of order?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): What point of order?

Mr L G MOKOENA: Deputy Chair, I wanted a point of order that the President is ... condolences, by the way. Yes, I agree with the Deputy President on the condolences.

However, on a point of order on Durban winning ... [Interjections.] ... there was no competition there, Deputy Chair, whereas the EFF won the North West University student representative council, SRC, elections against the SA Students' Congress, Sasco, and against the McDonald's and all of those things that were provided there by Supra Mahumapelo. [Interjections.] Thank you very much. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): No, no, no, hon Mokoena. That is not a point of order. You should have formulated that in a motion to the House.

The Council adjourned at 16:50.

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