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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Members of the mini-plenary session met on the virtual platform at 14:00.

House Chairperson, Mr W Horn, took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation.

VIRTUAL SITTING RULES

(Announcement)

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon members, before we proceed, I would like to remind you that the virtual mini plenary is deemed to be in the precinct of Parliament and constitutes a meeting of the National Assembly for the debating purposes only. In addition to the rules of the virtual sittings, the rules of the National Assembly, including the rules of debate apply.

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Members enjoy the same powers and privileges that apply in the sitting of the National Assembly. Members should equally note that anything said in the virtual platform is deemed to have been said to the House and might be ruled upon. All members who have locked in shall be considered to be present and are requested to mute their microphones and only unmute when recognised to speak. This is because the microphones are very sensitive and will pick up noise which might disturb the attention of other members.

When recognised to speak, please, unmute your microphone and where connectivity permits, also connect your video. Members might make use of the icons on the bar at the bottom of their screens, which is an option to allow a member to put up their hand to raise a point of order. The secretariat will assist in alerting the Chairperson to members requesting to speak.

Lastly, when using the virtual system, members are urged to refrain or desist from unnecessary points of order or interjections. Hon members, the first item on the Order Paper is a subject for discussion in the name of the hon T B Munyai, on addressing: The impact of substance abuse on individuals, families and communities. To introduce the debate I recognise the hon Munyai.

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**SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION: ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE
ON INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES**

Mr T B MUNYAI: Hon House Chair, esteemed hon members ... I'm trying to switch off my video, please. The esteemed hon House Chairperson, esteemed hon members of this House and fellow South Africans, good afternoon. I stand before you today to address a crisis that threaten the very soul of our nation, the scourge of substance abuse. It is not merely a health issue or a criminal justice issue, it is a profound socioeconomic challenge that undermine our economy, our health care system, our families and cohesion of communities.

It is a crisis that transcends race, class, gender and geography. From our blustering cities to rural areas affecting the rich and the poor, the young and the old. The scale and complexities of the challenge demands all hands on the deck so that we confront the substance abuse with clarity and urgency. The substance abuse manifests in many forms; illicit drugs, alcohol, misuse of prescription medication, behavioural addiction choices, gambling and pornography. This diversity complicates our response but makes our resolve all more critical than ever before.

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The toll on our nation is a staggering economy, substance abuse drains billions of rands annually through the loss of productivity, absenteeism at workplaces, accidents and entrenched unemployment, poverty and inequality. Our health care infrastructure systems bears the unbearable burden, treating injuries and overdoses, infectious diseases like Tuberculosis, TB, HIV and Aids, and chronic illness linked to substance use. This demand that we divert precious resources from vital health care needs.

Remember, with respect to health, substance abuse contribute to the highest mortality and morbidity. Despite this progressive National Health Insurance, we have to make sure that we stop this scourge. Socially, substance abuse fuels violent crime, gangs and gender-based violence and femicide. It shatters families and erodes the foundation of our society. Our children pay heavy price, poor academic performance, school dropouts, neglect and exposure to the abuse. They are the silent victims of the crisis we have to confront, carrying the scars that can last a lifetime.

Communities suffer the erosion of social cohesion, trust disappears, residents retreat in fear, local economies collapse, the spirit of Ubuntu and the very essence of our shared humanity is suffocated. The nature of these threats has evolved. It is no

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longer confined on illegal drugs alone, rampant alcohol abuse remains deeply entrenched with many households spending disproportionately on alcohol despite wide-spread poverty. This misuse of prescription medication and the rise of the behavioural addiction add to further complexities.

The proliferation of the cheap and new psychoactive substance and porous borders exacerbate the crisis, making it a national emergency of unprecedented scale. One of the greatest barriers we face is the stigma surrounding the addiction. This stigma isolate our people, forcing our people into shadows, fearful of judgement and rejection. The stigma prevents thousands from seeking the help they desperately need, perpetuating the cycles of addictions filled with despair.

We must confront this stigma with empathy and understanding and recognise addiction as a health care condition deserving care not condemnation. The department has brought hope to our people in practically combating the scourge of substance abuse. In this, they continue to respond through adopted comprehensive, co-ordinated and compassionate strategy guided by the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse Act and the National Drug Master Plan.

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They demand that reduction is critical. The implementation of evidence-based scientific prevention programmes are helpful to our victims. The Ke Moja [I'm fine] programme impacted over 150 000 where victims really walks free of drugs today or from substance abuse. The universal prevention curriculum start the reality of our society. With regard to supply reduction, law enforcement agency disrupts illegal drug trafficking and controls the availability of harmful substance, working tirelessly to curb the supply chain. However, the challenges remains, as you are aware.

We must, therefore, continue to work with the Central Drug Authority, which we know through them, the Provisional Substance Abuse Forums and the Local Drug Action Committees aligned with the efforts of the 21 government department and civil society. The department have also established the Inter-Ministerial Committee to tackle the interlinked crisis of substance abuse and gender-based violence, reaffirming our commitment or the ANC's commitment to integrated solution.

The government action alone is not enough. It is a national challenge that requires every South African across all political parties' spectrum commitment. We must break the stigma and replace judgement with empathy, creating safe spaces for those

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struggling to seek help. We must protect our children as families, community and as a nation yielding them from the neglect and abuse and providing the safe haven. We must reclaim our communities through reviving the spirit of Ubuntu, fostering trust and reporting crime and supporting local initiatives that often affect our youth with alternative hope as presented by government.

In closing, the fight against substance abuse is the fight against the soul of South Africa. It is a fight for economy. It is the fight for our health care, our children and our future. It is a difficult path but one we must walk together with resolve, as I said earlier, and compassion and unity. Let us build a South Africa where every individual is valued, every family is supported and we must make sure that we build safe society full of opportunities. A South Africa free from shackles of addiction. Let us get to work together. Thank you.

IsiZulu:

Nk N A MTSHWENI: Sihlalo weNdlu ngibingelela ngenhlonipho namalungu wonke ahlonophekile ale Ndlu yoMthetho. Ukuhlukumezeka ngezidakamizwa eNingizimu Afrika akuseyona inkinga yezokuhlaliseka nje kodwa sekuyisimo esiphuthumayo kuZwelonke.

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Asikhulumi lapha ngezinombolo nje emaphepheni kodwa sikhuluma ngezingane eziquleka imihla ngemihla, emagumbini okufundela.

Omama bangcwaba amadodana namadodakazi abo ngenxa yezidakamizwa. Imiphakathi iyangokuphela ngenxa yezidakamizwa. Ukufa kwabantu abasha abangamashumi amabili nanye Enyobeni, kwakungeyona ingozi nje, kodwa kukhona ubudedengu lapha bukahulumeni oshaya imithetho, abese engakwenzi ukuqiniseka akuphoke ukuthi iyagcinwa, iyalandelwa leyo mithetho leyo.

Izikole sezaphenduka izinkundla zempi, lapho abafundi bazungezwe yizidakamizwa, udlame nezibhamu, iyona into esiyibonayo leyo imihla ngemihla. Umnyango wezeMpilo unencindezi enkulu, yokusetshenziswa kwemishanguzo ngenxa yokuthi abantu abangene kuzidakamizwa bagcina sebephazamiseka nasemqondweni. Kuphinde futhi kusebenziseke kabi nemishanguzo lena yokuthiba igciwane lengculazi ngenxa yayo njalo indaba yezidakamizwa. Ngaleso sikhathi izinhlelo zokuhlunyaleliswa kwezimilo kanye nokunciphisa umonakalo, azixhaswa ngokwezimali futhi azinakiwe.

Umuntu ogcina engene kuzidakamizwa uyisisulu saloku okwenzekayo ezweni ngoba akuyena okhiqiza izidakamizwa futhi akuyena ozidayisayo. Umuntu ogcina engene kuzidakamizwa ugcine elimele ngenqondo ngenxa yezidakamizwa. Umuntu ogcina engene

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kuzidakamizwa uyahlukumezeka ngokomqondo. Alahlekelwe impilo yakhe, yizifo ezahlukahlukene emzimbeni. Bayeke nokufunda ezikolweni noma sebesezikhungweni zemfundo ephakeme. Balahlekelwa yimisebezi bangcine bahleli emigwaqeni beyinto enganakwe wumuntu kodwa labo bantu bayizisulu zokuvulwa kwamasango uhulumeni awavululileyo okungena ngawo izidakamizwa ubusuku nemini ezweni lakithi. Okwenza ukuthi bangaphephi futhi abakwazi ukuzivikela kuleyo nto leyo.

Ngokwemindeni, imindeni isihlukumezeke kakhulu ngendaba yezidakamizwa. Imindeni iyahlukumezeka ukushaywa, ukubulawa, ukudlwengulwa kwabantu besifazane kanye nezingane, kuyimiphumela yezidakamizwa. Kuningi ukulahlekelwa okwenziwe yizidakamizwa ngoba ongene kuzidakwamizwa akakwazi ukucabangela umndeni wakh. Udayisa konke abenako ngenxa yokuthi ufuna lezi zidakamizwa.

Uma siya emiphakathini, umphakathi uhlukumezeke kakhulu ngenxa yezidakamizwa. IMinyango yezamaPhoyisa kanye neyozoBulingiswa, bajaha ukubamba umuntu oyisisulu ngaleso sikhathi abakhiqizi nabadayisi bezidakamizwa banethezekile. Abanayo inkinga futhi baxhumene nabantu abayizikhulu, baxhumene nezikhulu zamaphoyisa. Baxhumene futhi nabantu abayizikhulu nabantu abakupolitiki, bahlangene kubulawa indlu ensundu.

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Isifundazwe saseKapa lapho kuphethe khona i-DA, abantu babulawa usuku nosuku, ubusuku nemini. Akunandaba ukuthi umuntu lona obulawayo, ungathi kubulawa isilwane ngenxa yezidakamizwa. Izidakamizwa zibulele isizwe. Izidakamizwa zibulele abaholi bakusa. Izidakamizwa zibulele abantu ababezohola izwe, abaholi bezwe. Izidakamizwa zibulele omongameli. Izidakamizwa zibulele ososayensi. Izidakamizwa zibulele othisha nodokotela nabahlengikazi ungabala bonke bafele lapho. Izidakamizwa zibulele abafundisi bakusasa, akekho umuntu obeshumayela eqondisa umuntu kusasa ngenxa yezidakamizwa. Izidakamizwa zisibulalela amakhosana namakhosazana emindenini yethu. Izidakamizwa zibaqedile abantwana bethu.

Ucwaningo luyakhombisa ukuthi abasemandleni abazuzayo, ongxiwankulu abazuzayo ngenxa yezidakamizwa. Umbuzo uthi: Uma uhulumeni engazuzi ngezidakamizwa, pho ababoshwa ngani abakhiqizi nabadayisi bezidakamizwa? Ngoba izwe lakithi licebile emikhakheni yokuvikela. Sinamaphoyisa ayizinhlobo ngezinhlobo, sinamaphoyisa ahamba phansi emhlabathini, sinamaphoyisa ahamba emoyeni, sinamaphoyisa asemanzini, sinamasotsha ezweni, sinezokuphepha ezinamandla ezweni esihleli kulo kodwa ababoshwa abakhiqizi nabadayisi bezidakamizwa. Umbuzo uthi: Ubayekeleni uhulumeni ukubabopha abakhiqizi nabadayisi bezidakamizwa? Izidakamizwa zingena kalula ezweni lethu. Abazilethayo bayazi nje ukuthi

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kukwampuzi edla emini zidla amahlanga. Akekho umuntu ovikele isizwe sethu. UMnyango wezokuThuthukiswa koMphakathi yiwona obekumele uxhumane, udidiyele uhlelo obelizosiza kuzidakamizwa kodwa bahlulekile ukwakha amakomidi okwenza lowo msebenzi.

Lena akuyona inkinga yezokuphatha kodwa yinkinga yokuhluleka ukubusa, ukubusa ngemithetho eyiqiniso. Imithetho ikhona, izinhlelo zikhona, imali ikhona, okushodayo ukwethembeka ngokusebenza ngeqiniso ngokwentando yeningi nonembeza. Umuntu ozoba nozwelo ukuthi naba abantu befa, nasi isizwe siphela. Uma besizohola ngeqiniso ebuholini kufanele ngabe sibanonembeza wokubona amakhosana emizi. Asazi ukuthi imizi iyophathwa ngubani uma sedlula lesi sizukulwane esikhona ngoba izingane zethu ziphakathi kuzidakamizwa. Abazukulu bethu baphakathi kuzidakamizwa.

Enye into efike ibe yinkinga ukuthi singakangeni ePhalamende njengoMkhonto weSizwe, mina nje njengomfundisi, bengisebenza ezinhlakeni eziningi ukwelekelela lezi zingane ezicindezelwe yizidakamizwa ukuthi ziphume kuzidakamizwa kodwa kulikhuni ngisho ukubafaka ezikhungweni zokuhlumelelisa izimilo laphe kuthiwa khona ama-Rehab. Kubanzima kuvaleke iminyango noma sebethanda ukuthi bakhululeke kulento kodwa iminyango ivalekile. Usizo akuyona into efinyeleleka kalula ukuze umuntu akwazi ukusizakala.

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Bekufanele kube khona umuntu ononembeza ukuthi isizwe lesi esifayo, ikusasa leli elifayo. Sebephenduke izindenda ngaphansi kwamabhulohwe, bayizinto ezincolileyo ezidabukisayo, ezizwisa ubuhlungu. Kungani bengaboshwa abakhiqizi nabadayisi bezidakamizwa bese kwelekelelwa izisulu? Angithokoze Sihlalo.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Chairperson, hon members of this House, and fellow South Africans, I thank hon comrade Tshilidzi Munyai for tabling this motion, which is a timely reminder for all of us to remain vigilant and continue combating the scourge of illicit drugs as a national priority.

Hon Chair, South Africa is becoming an attractive market for the growing global illicit ... [Interjections.] ...

Ms A M VAN ZYL: Chair, on a point of order, we cannot hear the Minister.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W HORN): Hon Van Zyl, she's audible on my side, so maybe the issue is on your side. Hon Minister, please continue. Hon members, maybe try and improve the audio quality on your side. Hon Minister, if you can, come closer to the microphone, but you're quite audible on my side. Before I

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continue, hon Van Zyl, in future, please raise your virtual hand to draw my attention. I have the participants list open.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, hon Chairperson. As I proceed, our country's strategic geographical location and well-developed international maritime and aviation trade links with Asia, Latin America, Western Europe, and North America have made it an attractive drug transit country and a growing market for illicit drugs.

The issue spans from individuals with substance use disorders to communities affected by drug trafficking and organised crime. The drug problem is deeply connected to organised crime, corruption, economic crime, and terrorism. To effectively address this challenge, it is crucial to adopt a science-based, evidence-driven approach that prioritises prevention and treatment.

Recently, South African Police Service in Mpumalanga dismantled a clandestine crystal methamphetamine laboratory worth an estimated R350 million and arrested five foreign nationals on a farm in Volksrust. Our country also faces a serious challenge with an emergence of synthetic drugs.

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In the face of this growing national challenge, our government has adopted a whole of government and societal response, combining public health initiatives, international cooperate in strengthening of public health initiative, as well as systems to ensure early detection and treatment for substance use disorders, including the new psychoactive substance.

These efforts, hon Chair, are coordinated under the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act 70 of 2008 and guided by the National Drug Master Plan, a blueprint-sized document focusing on seven priority goals. These include demand reduction to prevention and treatment, supply reduction through law enforcement, control of drugs for medical and scientific use, identifying new psychoactive substance governance and accountability, data collection and research and economic development.

These goals provide the framework for government and society to act in unison. At the national level, our response is led by Central Drug Authority, an advisory body comprising of 21 key national departments, entities and civil society organisations to ensure that our work is multi-sectoral, inter-governmental and fully coordinated across society.

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Each of the participating departments is expected to develop a mini-master drug plan in line with their co-legislative mandates. In our goal to reduce demand drugs, we have established the Provincial Substance Abuse Forums, which coordinates all key stakeholders in each of the nine provinces to ensure a multisectoral approach in the implementation of the National Drug Master Plan.

We are expanding the establishment of the Local Drug Action Committees at the municipal level to help identify and respond to their unique local illicit drug problems. This is to ensure that efforts to combat illicit drugs at local level are incorporated in the Integrated Development Plan and the District Development Model.

I must, however, hasten to add that progress in this establishment of Local Drug Action Committee is too slow. Local Drug Action Committee are the critical link in the chain ensuring that National Drug Master Plan is translated into concrete action.

I therefore take this opportunity to appeal to the South African Local Government Association to join us in ensuring that municipalities across the country are in the forefront in our

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national effort to build substance-free communities. We must join hands as a collective and act with a sense of urgency, unity, and unwavering resolve to turn against illicit drug ravaging our communities.

Hon Chair, we know that substance use does not exist in isolation. It interacts with and often fuels other social ills. Most notable is gender-based violence and femicide. In this regard, we welcome President Cyril Ramaphosa's recent decision to establish the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Gender-Based Violence and Substance Abuse, which will ensure accountability and alignment between our substance use and gender-based violence national responses.

Our first line of defence is prevention so that our young people fully understand the dangers of substance abuse. It is in this regard that we are currently rolling out prevention programmes through the Universal Prevention Curriculum, which includes a dedicated module focused on preventing substance abuse among school-going children and empowering educators and school governing bodies.

We have also partnered with civil society organisations such as SA National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Sanca and

community-based organisations to ensure that young people out of the school system are not left behind. Through our partnership with Department of Higher Education and Training, we have reached over 10 000 students in institutions of higher education and learning across the country.

We continue to implement the alcohol, smoking and substance involvement screening test and an online screening self-assessment tool. It is used for substance abuse self-screening. To date, we have reached over 3 000 students. This has been proven to be effective given that South African youth population and their online presence.

As you know, hon members and hon Chair, young people are also heavily influenced by peer influence and environment influence. In this regard, we are implementing the *Ke Moja, I'm Fine Without Drugs*, a youth-initiated and youth-led anti-substance abuse prevention programme using peer influence. This has become one of the most widely recognised anti-substance abuse campaigns in our country.

Over the years, we have progressively expanded public treatment centres to all nine provinces to assist substance users who want to turn lives around. To date, we have 13 public treatment

facilities and over 300 registered treatment centres and halfway houses that provide four levels of intervention, prevention, early intervention treatment, and after care services. We have trained over 200 professionals working in the field of substance use disorders through universal training curricula.

Chair, local service points and regional points do intake and referral services in the main. Services are also delivered in partnership with accredited inpatient and outpatient community-based structures. During the 2024-25 financial year alone, over 13 000 service users accessed treatment services from subsidiary service providers.

Hon members, once we have registered some progress in expanding the availability of public treatment centres, we are confronted with the reality of mushrooming illegal treatment centres that causes more harm than good to substance users.

These centres typically lack professional staff, adequate infrastructure, medical supervision, and evidence-based treatment programmes. Many also operate under unsafe and unhygienic conditions, which compromises recovery and mental health of substance users who desperately need treatment services.

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On the regional front, we welcome the African Union's Commission's establishment of the South African Network of Traditional Leaders in Drug Demand Reduction, of which South Africa currently serves as the chair of that structure. The network integrates traditional leaders into the broader drug control framework, enhancing community-level prevention and care intervention.

We will continue working with United Nations offices on Drug and Crime and Commission on Narcotic Drug to ensure that our interventions are evidence-based and adequately respond to the evolving illicit drugs problem at a national, regional, and international level.

Hon members, with the festive season upon us, I want to take this opportunity to urge parents and caregivers to remain vigilant against the so-called pens-down celebration that involves binge drinking and often ends in disaster for many young people, especially girls.

We need to teach all our young people that it is possible to have fun without alcohol and drugs. We also call on all liquor traders, shebeens and taverns, to always comply with the

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legislative and not put profit before people. Stop selling alcohol to underage children.

As I conclude, hon Chair, I want to say that we have stepped up our efforts to confront the scourge of drugs and associated challenges head-on, but we will need to do much more given the scale of the problems in our country. Failure to act is not an option, hon Chair, but for us to win the war against the scourge, we need all hon members of this house to play an active role in our constituencies and in the communities where they live.

I thank you very much, hon Chairperson.

Ms B S MASANGO: Hon House Chairperson, hon members, good afternoon. The issue before us today continues to demand our urgent attention. Its impact on ordinary South Africans deepens daily - compounded, and compounding, the many social ills that confront our nation.

Research from across disciplines, socio-economic, health, education, points in one direction: the situation is worsening, and the human cost is devastating.

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In preparing for this debate, I revisited the Department of Social Development's own work in this area. What I found was concerning: long-standing challenges within the Central Drug Authority, the very body established to coordinate government's response to the scourge of substance and illicit drug abuse. The CDA plays a key role in the fight against substance abuse but is still stuck in a sub directorate while the committee has called for its urgent freeing from this kind of constraining environment.

The department's posture towards implementing the National Drug Master Plan has been lacklustre at best and negligent, even criminal, at worst.

As a long-serving member of this portfolio committee, representing the DA over several administrations, I stand here once again, embarrassed that we are debating this issue without evidence of a robust, effective government response.

We continue to talk about substance abuse, yet the statistics speak clearly: the department is failing South Africans.

When hon Minister Tolashe assumed office last year, there was a glimmer of hope, that she would resource the authority adequately

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and restore its constitutional mandate to lead this fight. But today, on 12 November, the Central Drug Authority has not yet submitted its Annual Report. There has been no explanation from the department. No accountability.

Meanwhile, South Africans are struggling to overcome their addictions.

The country is fighting a vicious war with no statistics on prevalence of substance abuse - how is this allowed to continue?

Perhaps the title of today's debate should read: "The lack of addressing the impact of substance abuse on individuals, families and communities."

Research tells us, poverty and unemployment can be both a cause and consequence of substance abuse. If we are serious about breaking this cycle, we need less talk and more action, across all sectors, with the Department of Social Development firmly leading the way.

The Department itself recently stated during the National Anti-Drug Awareness Week through the hon Minister, in June 2025:

Drug abuse is a complex problem at the centre of public health, safety, and social issues, claiming more than half a million lives per year. It burdens families and communities, while poverty, inequality, and unemployment remain key drivers.

Those words are true, but where is the evidence of progress? Where are the success stories to inspire a public that is overwhelmed by the consequences of addiction and despair?

Not a day passes without a report of another life lost where substance abuse was an underlying cause. This is not a statistic. These are our people, our communities, and our future.

To combat this, collaboration across government departments, civil society, and communities is non-negotiable. Yet, the country's response does not seem to be on a crisis fighting mode given the fragmented programmes across sectors and provinces. No one must be left behind in the fight against substance abuse.

But the statistics tell a sobering story: The age of first-time drug users is getting younger. According to the South African Anxiety and Depression Group, SADAG, 12 years is now the average age for drug dependency. Numbers are increasing. A 2024 study

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showed that drug illicit drug used rose from less than 2% in 2002 to 10% in 2017 and the numbers are getting upward.

Drug abuse is one of the leading reasons for the 33% school dropout rate. And as hopelessness grows among unemployed youth, drugs become an escape, a false comfort that destroys their future before it even begins.

Substance abuse in South Africa is a national crisis. And a crisis cannot be addressed with "business as usual" strategies, with limited resources, or without urgency.

This country has faced crises before and when we have faced them with focus and courage, we have prevailed. Substance abuse must be treated with that same urgency, that same national resolve.

We therefore urge Honourable Minister Tolashe at the Department of Social Development:

To leave no resource, no partnership, and no idea unexplored. To empower the Central Drug Authority. To restore faith in government's ability to lead this fight.

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There can't be any doubt that while we explore all tried and tested solution to this challenge, we need to ensure that we grow our economy, as key among substance abuse triggers, is the loss of hope as a result of lack of job opportunities for especially young people.

The DA is unwavering in ensuring that economic growth is at the centre of all efforts to change the trajectory of all South African's futures.

Otherwise, hon members, we will find ourselves here again, not to rescue our people from addiction's grip, but simply to tick another box. Let us remember behind every statistic is a son, a daughter, a parent, a neighbour, a life once was filled with promise.

We owe it to them and to generations yet to come, to rebuild hope where addiction has stolen it. South Africans deserve more than sympathy. They deserve a government that acts, protects, and restores dignity. Let this be the moment. We choose courage over complacency and commitment over conversation. Thank you, hon House Chair.

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Ms P MARAIS: House Chairperson, all the debates scheduled for today address in one form or another the deepening crisis of criminality in this country. At the centre of this crisis are powerful gangs who fight over territory for dealing with drugs. Drugs are therefore at the centre of many of the crimes we are suffering from in this country.

What may initially look like a protection fee racket is at the core of fighting over who has the right to spread drugs in our communities. If we address the drug problem, we will be able to address broader criminality problems in society.

Just over 23 years ago, in 2002, we had fewer than 2% of the population who had some form of addiction to illicit drugs, such as marijuana, cocaine, and mephitine, inhalants, seductive, hallucinations, and opiates. In 2018, this number has risen to 10%. And today, roughly around 15% of the population had some form of addictions to one form of drugs or another.

This increase in drugs used and addiction is the result of a number of factors. Principal amongst which is the weakened security cluster in the country, which has been wholly captured by criminal cartels who transport drugs freely into the country and into clubs and residential areas.

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The impact of this on a society is insane. Parents are no longer able to control their children who are lured into flashy lifestyle drug dealings promised ... [Inaudible.] These children who became child soldiers at the behest of drug lords are provided with heavy machine guns and spread terror in the township.

In return, it is also young black, largely black, who fall victim to the use of these drugs. They too cause havoc in their own households and communities, and the increase in the rates of petty crimes is as a result of this urge to feed the addiction.

The effects of this on our criminal justice system and our health system is immense. Our correctional centres are full of young offenders who are arrested for the possessing drugs for use and who are unable to pay meagre bail amounts required by the courts.

This, while the big players in the industry are roaming freely, sowing seeds of destruction in our communities. The impact on health facilities too is massive. As we do not have the sufficient facilities to handle the amount of people addicted to drugs and the health impacts this addiction has.

We are under siege, honourable members. This required a vigilant state. We must start with working actively to stop the entry of

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drugs into South Africa. We know that this entry is facilitated by corrupt law enforcement officials. So, work must be intensified to value added tax, VAT, law enforcement at the ports of entry into the countries.

Family needs accessible treatment. They need rapid intervention. They need counselling to rebuild the trust that addiction destroy. They need policies that protect them from harm while still offering compassion to the person who is struggling. They need a system that does not leave them waiting while their loved ones slip further into crisis.

This required a multi-pronged approach, including state players and community-based organizations. Parliament must play its role in tightening laws to provide oversight to addictive executive action.

What we cannot do is to sit by and do nothing. Our children are dying on a daily basis. Mothers are crying. They are hopeless. They don't know what to do anymore. Our jails are full, and we cannot do this to our children. We have failed our children and our youth.

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And this Parliament must come up with a proper law and action on how we're going to curb this abuse of drugs, because as you can see it is big cartels, drug cartels that is ruining our communities and our children. Thank you, House Chairperson.

Mr S L NGCOBO: Hon House Chairperson, substance abuse has quietly become one of the most destructive forces in our country. In every township, village and city corner, there are people trapped in addiction, families torn apart and communities living in fear. The problem transcends beyond people taking drugs or drinking too much. It is about what happens around them, the broken homes, the lost jobs, and the young people whose dreams are stolen before they even begin. Many families are watching helplessly as addiction turns their sons and daughters into strangers. We are seeing more school dropout, more petty crimes and domestic violence cases rising daily. This is the true cause of this crisis. The Department of Social Development's report in 2024, shows that more than 70% of patients in state rehabilitation centres are under the age of 35. This highlights that the youth is the most affected.

Young people are turning into drugs because they see no other way to cope. Addiction becomes an escape from trauma and the reality of unemployment. Our public rehabilitation centres are

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overstretched. Families often wait months for repair, and in some areas there are no facilities at all. Some travel long distances just to get their loved ones help and when they turn home, they find that there is no support to keep that recovery going. We also cannot ignore how alcohol abuse affects families. It fuels violence, deepens poverty and drains little income many households have.

In August 2025, poll found that 60% of reported gender-based violence, GBV, cases involved a male partner who had been drinking. This evidence strongly supports alcohol use as a risk ... [Inaudible.] ... the impact is felt most by children. Children who go to bed hungry, who drop out of school or who grow up without stability because a parent is caught in addiction.

Hon House Chairperson, we must respond to this crisis with decisive action, not just policy on paper. We must treat substance abuse as both a health and security crisis, flags are red already. Firstly, we must take prevention seriously. We need consistent and well-funded awareness and early intervention programmes, especially in schools. Young people should not only be told to avoid drugs but must also be exposed to healthier alternatives.

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Secondly, rehabilitation must be accessible, especially in townships and rural areas, not everyone can afford private treatment. We must expand community-based rehabilitation centres and organisations that are already operating on the ground.

Thirdly, law enforcement must act consistently against drug dealers and illegal liquor outlets that operate openly in the communities. The law must protect people, not criminal networks.

Fourthly and lastly, we must strengthen family support. Recovery doesn't end at rehab, it continues at home. Families need training and counselling to help their loved ones stay clean and rebuild their lives. Hon House Chair, substance abuse is a national challenge, but more resilient communities ...

Isizulu:

... sethembe.

English:

Thank you very much, House Chair.

Ms S M PETERS: House Chair, may I leave my video off due to connectivity?

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yes, you're welcome, hon member.

Ms S M PETERS: Hon House Chair and hon members, substance abuse has been plaguing our communities for decades, and as the years go by, the problem only seems to worsen. The number of young people using these substances continues to grow at an alarming rate. More of our children are dropping out of school because they see no hope for their future. They watch those who have completed matric and even those with qualifications, still sitting at home with no jobs and no opportunities.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Peters, my apologies, but will you just pause for a moment. Hon members, please remain on mute unless you are recognised to speak. It is interfering with the speech. Hon Peters, my apologies, please continue.

Ms S M PETERS: Thank you, House Chair. This hopelessness drives them into the arms of drugs and gangs, a cycle that is destroying our youth and tearing apart our communities. Hon members, the abuse of these substances does not exist in isolation. Poverty and social ills are directly linked to the rise in GBV and gangsterism, where our children are being recruited, manipulated

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and turned against one another. They are killing each other over territory, while innocent lives are caught in the crossfire.

We are losing our sons and daughters in places like Reiger Park, Mitchells Plain, Manenberg, Khayelitsha and Langa, and so many other areas across our nation. Our communities have become dark, not only because of the violence, but because of our municipalities that have failed to make proper provision for us in their budgets. There are no safe spaces for our youth, no effective rehabilitation programmes and no meaningful investment in prevention. Even the police officers deployed in our communities are often not from the area. They are unfamiliar with the plight of our people in our streets and our challenges. There is little to no police visibility. As a result, our people are forced to live in fear, trapped in a state of lawlessness, where criminal acts with impunity and justice feel far out of reach for our young people.

Hon House Chairperson, it is time for government at all levels to act decisively. We must prioritise funding for community safety, for youth employment and for substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation. Our people cannot continue to live like this. Our children deserve a future that is free from fear, free from drugs and full of opportunity. Thank you, hon House Chair.

Afrikaans:

Mnr P A VAN STADEN: Voorsitter, vandag kom ons voor 'n groot vraagstuk te staan en dit is: Wat gaan ons doen om onwettige dwelmgebruik, die misbruik van voorskriftelike of oor-die-toonbank-medikasie en alkohol wat misbruik word, behoorlik te bekamp.

Daar is verskeie maniere hoe hierdie middels mense se geestesgesondheid kan aantast. Vir sommige mense wat dwelms gebruik kan dit ook lei tot geestesgesondheidsprobleme oor 'n lang termyn.

Die gebruik van onwettige dwelms en die beskikbaarheid daarvan vernietig nie net die lewe van die gebruiker of misbruiker hiervan nie; dit vernietig ook families, gemeenskappe, die samelewing en Suid-Afrika. Dit lei ook tot die verspreiding van siektes soos HIV en Vigs.

Alhoewel welgestelde, welvaarde en middelstand mense nie hiervan uitgesluit word nie, is dwelmkartelle baie lief daarvoor om in arm gemeenskappe in te beweeg en hulle kloue behoorlik in hierdie gemeenskappe in te slaan. Ons het die afgelope paar jaar gesien hoe gemeenskappe en families totaal en al hierdeur vernietig word.

Die slagoffers, gewoonlik jong kinders, word gelok om hierdie middels te gebruik, kamstig om hulle te help om uit hulle omstandighede te ontsnap. Volwassenes word vir dieselfde redes gelok, maar ook met die vooruitskouing dat hulle baie geld met die verkoop van dwelms kan verdien. Ongelukkig raak hierdie kinders en volwassenes so afhanklik van hierdie dwelms, dat hulle nie sonder dit kan funksioneer nie en dan al hoe meer en meer daarvan begin gebruik.

Dit gaan voort totdat die stadium bereik word waar hierdie mense hulle moet wend tot misdaad om vir hierdie dwelms te moet betaal, anders sal hulle deur hierdie kartelle vermoor word. Ongelukkig word hierdie mense so vasgevang in hierdie web van die dwelmonderwêreld dat dit nie meer saak maak of hulle hierdie kartelle kan betaal of nie, vir die eenvoudige rede dat so 'n persoon tog op die einde gaan sterf, weens die gebruik van hierdie dwelms.

Die misbruik van alkohol lei tot geweld in huishoudings, waar kinders gewoonlik die hoogste prys hiervoor moet betaal, deur onnodig aangerand te word of selfs verkrag te word. Vrouens in gewelddadige verhoudings moet vlug en word seksueel misbruik om aan die lewe te bly.

Dit lei ook tot afleggings, wat veroorsaak dat mense en families selfs op straat beland en dit lei ook tot die sluiting van familiebesighede en sakeondernemings.

Suid-Afrika sal sy wetstoepassing teenoor hierdie tipe probleme moet verskerp, maar dan moet ons ook die probleme rondom die Central Drug Authority dringend oplos. Verskerpte optrede sluit in verskerpte grensbeheer, verskerpte polisiëring op straat, asook die verskerping in die regulering en die polisiëring van onwettige produkte.

Ons skole en opvoedkundige instellings sal ook hulle veldtogte en bewusmaking hiervan onder leerders en studente moet verskerp. Die staat se rehabilitasie fasiliteite sal ook drasties opgeskerp moet word. Ouers het ook 'n plig in die huishoudings om kinders teen die gevare van dwelms en drankmisbruik op te voed.

Dwelmkartelle sal totaal en al uit Suid-Afrika uitgedryf moet word. Hierdie kartelle is die oorsake van verslawing, siektes, verarming, geweld, ontvoerings, verkragtings en op die einde van die dag, moord op onskuldige lewens.

Gedurende 1996 het plus minus 13 000 mense op straat gewoon. In 2022 het hierdie syfer tot 55 000 mense toegeneem, waarvan 2 500

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kinders onder die ouderdom van 14 jaar oud was. 'n Totaal van 11,7% van hierdie haweloses het die verslawing aan drank en dwelms as 'n rede vir hulle haweloosheid uitgewys. Dit is tyd vir die herstel van wet en orde in Suid-Afrika. Ek dank u.

Ms D E JAMES: Hon Speaker, the scourge of drugs continues to destroy families and communities in every corner of our country. It is the agony of thousands of mothers and children who have watched their loved ones disappear into addiction. I know this agony, because my own son was a victim of the scourge. Like countless mothers across South Africa, I have had to live with the trauma and the heartbreak of what drugs have done to my family and many other families.

In 2013, I wrote a letter to the then President on behalf of the hundreds of mothers from Eldorado Park, pleading for help, pleading for interventions, pleading for the children's lives. The President came, the Ministers came, dozens of officials and police descended on our community. Sweeping promises were made, but more than a decade later, nothing has changed. This is the same story for every other intervention in South Africa.

Drugs continue to destroy our communities. We have heard this over and over again. A child kills his grandmother with a shovel.

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Baby Nikita was thrown around like an object by her dad that was addicted to drugs. Only 2 weeks ago, over 40 people were murdered on the Cape Flats. This morning, three were people laying on the streets of the Cape Flats.

We must not forget, drugs do not magically appear in our communities. They are as a result of a chain of human failure - a failure at our borders, where a single broken SAPS scanner is used to inspect thousands of drugs, while drug cartels roam freely; a failure to properly fund and equip the South African Police Service to combat the criminal networks profiting from our pain; a failure in an economy that leaves nearly 70% of our young people without jobs, without dignity, and hope for a better future; a failure of an education system that no longer equips our children with the skills to build a better life.

What is the common denominator in all of these failures? Let me tell you. It is the successive ANC government, who are now enabled by the DA, who failed our people time and time again.

We must sweep clean these failures, and for that, Action SA does have a plan. I handed a letter to the President on behalf of Action SA, calling for a state of emergency in the Cape Flats to

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unlock immediate relief and resources for our most affected communities. But we must do more.

First, stop treating drug addiction as a crime and start treating it as a public health crisis that it is. Second, fund the National Drug Master Plan, so that it can actually work. Third, train, equip and staff our police properly. Fourth, empower the Border Management Authority to secure our borders. Fifth, create real jobs and an opportunity for our youth to reclaim hope.

This will take a political will, which, at present, there is none. We need action, and we need action right now, not continued failure, because while government drags its feet, every minute, every second, a child is dying in the Cape Flats and the rest of South Africa. Our families are broken, torn apart because of this government's failure to act. I thank you. Time for promise is over.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Hon House Chair, the scourge of alcohol and drug abuse knows no bounds in our country. It cuts across race, class and geography, tearing apart families, destroying communities and leaving lasting scars on our children. Its consequences ripple through society, fuelling violence, gender-based violence and femicide. According to the South African

Medical Research Council, structural factors, especially in poor communities, including the over-availability of alcohol, are directly linked to the rising levels of gender-based violence and violent crimes in general.

In many communities, there are more taverns than there are schools and churches, and some of these taverns become hubs for drugs, for the sale of drugs, in particular to young people.

Alcohol foreflows freely day and night, while families are torn apart. The World Health Organisation reports that 44% of all violent incidents in South Africa are linked in some or other form to alcohol intoxication and substance abuse.

As we stand in solidarity with the upcoming GBV shutdown organised by Women for Change, we must confront the root of this crisis. Substance abuse does not only destroy adults, but it also devastates children. One in 10 children living in a household are affected. They are affected directly. These children face neglect, abuse, and long-term trauma. Many grow up angry, aggressive, and desensitised to violence. It is no surprise, therefore, that over 5 000 young people are currently held in juvenile correctional centres, who are victims of ...

[Interjections.]

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Afrikaans:

Voorsitter, wat gaan nou aan?

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Neale-May, please, remain muted until you are recognised. My apologies, hon Kwankwa.

Afrikaans:

Ek weet ook nie wat aan gaan nie.

English:

Mr N L S KWANKWA: ... in juvenile correctional centres, victims of a system that failed to intervene early.

While government's response remains inadequate, we must acknowledge some of the initiatives taken by the Department of Social Development through the National Drug Master Plan 2019-2024 and the department's Local Drug Action Committees to strengthen community-level responses, as well as the Ke Moja, I am Fine Without Drugs, in schools and the rehabilitation centres across the country. These are important steps, but their reach and impact remain limited, especially in rural areas and townships.

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The UDM therefore calls for decisive action; stricter regulation of alcohol advertising, to end the glamorisation of drinking; nationwide awareness campaigns and enforcement of prevention of and treatment of substance use disorders; investment in community centres, after-school programmes, to keep our youth engaged; deployment of trained therapists in local clinics to address trauma and mental health, resulting particularly from the effects of substance abuse.

We are proposing this, because this is not merely about policy, it's about saving lives, protecting children and restoring the dignity of our communities. I thank you.

Ms T L MARAWU: House Chair, the ATM rises today to engage on a matter that has become one of the greatest threats to our nation's moral fibre, social stability and future prosperity - the scourge of substance abuse. This crisis is not only a health concern. It is a societal emergency that is tearing through our families, destroying the potential of our youth, fuelling violent crimes and deepening the cycle of poverty and hopelessness that continues to plague many of our communities.

We cannot continue to speak about substance abuse as if it is only a matter of personal choice or weak willpower. Behind every

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addict lies a system, a network of cartels, criminal syndicates and illicit traders, deliberately flooding our townships, rural villages and urban centres with narcotics and dangerous substances.

Even the Kwazulu-Natal Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, has raised the alarm of the existence of powerful cartels operating within our borders - cartels that work with precision, resources, and co-ordination that outmatch our state's response. These cartels operate with impunity because too often, those entrusted with power and authority to combat these anomalies look away, or worse, benefit from the very trade that is destroying our communities.

Hon members, substance abuse thrives where lawlessness and neglect coexist. In almost every township or inner-city precincts, we see hijacked buildings turned into havens of crime, shelters for drug dealers, illegal traders and human traffickers. These are not hidden places. They exist in plain sight. Yet, our municipalities, our law enforcement agencies, and sometimes, even our municipalities and councillors have allowed these centres of decay to persist for years.

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Such inaction has turned once-thriving communities into crime-infested zones, where fear replaces trust and despair replaces hope. These substances are not manufactured in isolation. They form part of larger networks of illicit trade. The same networks that smuggle counterfeit goods, firearms and stolen vehicles across our borders with ease. This porousness of our border management system has allowed an economy of criminality to thrive - an underground economy that undermines legitimate business, weakens the rule of law and destroy families.

The impact on our families is devastating. Mothers are left to raise children alone after fathers are consumed by addiction. Young women, desperate for survival, fall prey to exploitation. Children grow up in homes where additions and violence are the daily norm. The ATM calls for a multi-layered community centres' national response that tackles the root causes of this crisis.

First, we must strengthen border control and customs enforcement to cut off the inflow of contraband and illegal substances.

Secondly, government must dismantle the networks of corruption that protects the cartels, including those in uniform and government offices in business circles. Thirdly, the state must reclaim hijacked buildings, repurpose them into youth centres, skills hubs or treatment facilities, to be places of recovery

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instead of ruin. Lastly, to address the economy ... [Time expired.] Thank you, Chair.

Ms K C TLHONG: Hon Chairperson, hon members, I rise to address a crisis that threatens the foundation of our democratic project: The systematic destruction of our youth through substance abuse. This matter demands urgent attention as it undermines our constitutional commitment to building a society based on equality, dignity and the advancement of human rights.

The nyaope epidemic ravaging townships and informal settlements represents one of the most devastating social crises facing our communities. This highly addictive concoction combining heroin, antiretroviral medication, rat poison and various cutting agents that has become endemic among young people in disadvantaged areas.

The desperation driving youth to inject, smoke or consume this deadly substance reflects a profound systemic failure in our social fabric. Young people in townships, like Soshanguve, Soweto, Khayelitsha and countless informal settlements watch their peers deteriorate into skeletal shadows of themselves. Families are traumatised as children still prostitute themselves and commit crimes to fund their addiction.

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The availability and affordability of nyaope have created a generation of addicted youth whose potential contribution to our society is being systematically erased. Hon Chairperson, our schools and institutions meant to nurture learning, critical thinking and citizenship have become contested space where drug dealers operate with alarming impunity. These criminals deliberately target learners within school premises, recognising the vulnerability of students facing peer pressure, identity formation challenges and adolescent curiosity.

Drug peddlers position themselves at schools' gates, in nearby tuckshops and even infiltrate school grounds, offering free samples to hook young users. They exploit break times, after-school periods and the journey to and from school. Their recruitment tactics are sophisticated, using older students as distributors, creating dependencies through free initial supplies and leveraging social networks to expand their market.

The inadequate security infrastructure at many schools, particular in under-resourced communities, enables this infiltration. Law enforcement response remains inconsistent and reactive rather than preventive. We cannot allow educational institutions to become marketplaces for substances that destroy young minds.

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Hon members, youth unemployment remains one of South Africa's most pressing challenges, with rates exiting 60% among those aged 15 to 24. This economic marginalisation creates fertile grounds for substance abuse. When young people face persistent joblessness, limited educational opportunities and a future devoid of hope, substances become coping mechanisms of unbearable despair.

The connection between economic exclusion and substance abuse is undeniable. Youth without access to the formal economy, without decent work, entrepreneurial opportunities or pathways to economic participation experience profound alienation. Substance use provides temporary escape from pain of feeling surplus to society's requirements. Our youth development programs must address both immediate substance abuse challenges and underlying economic conditions that makes addiction an attractive escape.

When we examine the impact of social media, we see it as destructive normalisation. Digital platforms have become powerful vehicles for normalising substance abuse. Social media influencers portray drug use as glamorous, recreational and consequence-free entertainment. Young people scrolling through *Instagram*, *TikTok*, and other platforms encounter constant

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imaginary of substance consumptions portrayed as sophisticated, adventurous or rebellious self-expression.

This digital peer pleasure operates 24 hours, creating environments where refusal to participate in substance use appears as boring or unsophisticated. The algorithm amplifies this content, creating echo chambers that undermine prevention messaging and parental guidance. Young people receive thousands of micro messages daily, suggesting that substance use is normal, desirable and without serious consequences.

We must develop comprehensive digital literacy programs and regulatory frameworks that protect young people from predatory marketing and addictive substances through social media platforms. Above all, hon members, we need to investigate positive alternatives. The inadequate investment in youth sports, recreation, cultural programs and community facilities leaves young people without constructive activities, positive peer groups or structured engagement opportunities.

The Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture must prioritise creating accessible quality programs in townships and in informal settlement. Sport clubs, arts programs, cultural activities and recreational facilities provide protective factors against

substance abuse. They build discipline, teamwork, leadership skills and belonging. They give young people something to aspire to, communities to belong to and identities beyond unemployment and marginalisation.

The ANC's commitment to social cohesion requires investment in these programs as essential infrastructure for youth development. It is very important to note as well as how gangs exploit substance distribution as recruitment mechanisms, offering young people income, status, protection and belonging to what society has failed to provide. This creates dual crisis: Addiction and gang violence become intertwined pathologies destroying communities.

Young people drawn into gang structures for economic survival become both distributors and consumers of addictive substances. The gang provides identity, protection and purpose that should come from employment, education and community participation. It is important to be aware that, at times, young people facing depression, anxiety, trauma and identity challenges often tend substance abuse as self-medication strategies in the absence of adequate mental health services.

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The correlation between mental health challenges and substance abuse is well documented, yet our school and community-based mental health infrastructure has remained grossly inadequate. We must integrate mental health services into primary health care schools and community centres, making support accessible, destigmatised and culturally appropriate. We need to build youth leadership and resilience, while structured youth leadership programs, civic engagement opportunities and empowerment initiatives build resilience and provide protective factors against substance abuse.

When young people participate meaningfully in governance, community development and social transformation, they develop purpose, agency and hope. Hon Chairperson, we must act decisively. Our youth deserve nothing less than our full commitment to the deliberation of their burdens of economic exclusion and substance dependency. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: House Chair, hon Minister, substance abuse is at an all-time high, with an estimate of 15% of the South African population having a substance abuse problem. Many factors, such as genetics and environmental factors influence an individual's likelihood to abuse substances. However, studies show that substance abuse remains an increasing problem, affecting

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individuals and impacting families in all communities across South Africa.

The Al Jama-ah highlights the ripple effects caused by the negative impact of substance abuse on the individual, which extends to their families, the wider community and ultimately negatively impacting society as a whole. The Al Jama-ah notes the increasing strain on the health care system caused by the physical and mental impact of substance abuse, domestic violence, gender-based violence, neglect of children and road fatalities, together with operating specialised rehabilitation management centres.

The growth of this enriching drug trade, crime, gangsterism, violence and killings put strain on police and security, with 60% of crime being related to substance abuse. That is a huge amount! Furthermore, the economic implications caused by substance abuse, and the financial burdens placed on families and communities, create an even higher demand for social development and welfare services.

We are also seeing a rise in cases of children using violence with their own family members and vulnerable parents who are mostly receiving Sassa grants, enforcing them to hand over the

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grant monies to support their addictions. The leader of Al Jama-ah, the Deputy Minister of Department of Social Development, Hon Mohamed Hanif Hendricks, said the five-year Master Drug Plan will have to focus on prevention and stronger oversight, and that there must be a new generation free of drugs because of these prevention strategies.

The Al Jama-ah stands firmly for a drug-free and substance abuse-free South Africa. Government must pressurise municipalities to effectively shut down drug dens and close down shebeens, eradicating the drug trade. Government must also ensure that the allocated budget is spent on preventative strategies based on scientific evidence to effectively address the negative impact of substance abuse in South Africa.

Let us ensure that these enriching drug cartels are eradicated. Let us end the scourge of drugs within our societies. Let us muscle up to eradicate the scourge that is looming in our midst. Thank you so much.

Ms T A KHANYILE: Hon Chair, today I'm raising my voice not only as a member of this House, but I am also raising my voice here as a fellow parent, as a concerned citizen as well. I raise my voice in this august House to speak on a very sensitive issue, an issue

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that has torn entire families apart, divided community members and left many with lifeless bodies.

An issue which has made it impossible for some within our communities to go to their homes because of the fear of what some members of their families have become. It is an issue that has turned innocent young men and women who had a very bright future into someone unrecognisable by their family and friends.

Ellen Burstyn once said, "She goes from one addiction to another. All are ways for her not to feel her feelings." Hon Chair, substance abuse does not discriminate. It is crucial to understand that drug abuse is often a cry for help, as a result of deeper issues like stress, depression and trauma.

Drugs are threatening our values, undercutting our institutions and killing our children, the future of our nation. Drug abuse is more than just an individual struggling; it is a question that gets to the heart of how our communities function and the challenges we face. The issue of drugs is also not about drug users and dealers, it is about families, communities and the integrity of law enforcement and justice systems. Our country is faced with serious challenges, widespread use of illicit drugs, and weak harm reduction efforts. According to estimates, there

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are around 400 000 people who use heroin, 350 000 cocaine users, and 290 000 people who use methamphetamine in the country.

The impact on health is severe. There are also drug users who use and share needles, which may exacerbate the spread of HIV to users who may be exposed to the virus. Hon Chair, let me paint a picture of what kind of conditions ordinary citizens within our country live under, whose children are addicted to drugs; In the Lekwa Local Municipality, in a section called Esimendeni, there is an elderly woman, a pensioner who lives with her sister's daughter who happens to be in her late twenties, this young woman is a mother to three children, and she is using drugs. This young lady takes the child grant cards for all three of her kids and uses the money meant for her kids to buy drugs. She doesn't look after her kids, nor does she ensure they have basic needs. As a result, the elderly woman is expected to use her social grant money to maintain the little kids, ensure they have food and clothing. When she tries to reach out to her, asking for her assistance with food and clothes for the kids, she physically attacks her. The woman in question came to report her living conditions to us with bruises on her body as evidence that she had been beaten up by her niece. The matter was reported to the Department of Social Development and the SAPS and is receiving

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attention. These are lived experiences by South African citizens affected by drugs.

Hon Chair, community members live in fear because some are being victimised by the drug users when they're under the influence. We have family members who have abandoned their homes because they're being attacked when the drug users need another fix; families have been torn apart. The drug trade fuels crime, violence, gangs, steals resources and erodes cohesion. The illegal economy undermines legitimate livelihoods and places an extra burden on law enforcement and social services. Hon members, it was so heartbreaking to learn about the recent drive-by shooting that took place in Reiger Park in Boksburg, where six people lost their lives. Some of the people who lost their lives in that incident were mothers, and reports indicate that when they heard the gunshots, they ran outside to fetch their little kids who were playing in the streets; instead, they were shot and killed. We wish to express our heartfelt condolences to all family members who lost their loved ones. Hon Chair, on 6 July 2025, General Mkhwanazi, the Provincial head of the SA Police Service in KwaZulu-Natal, made explosive allegations in a media briefing which amongst others included: Claims that a sophisticated drug cartel-supported criminal syndicate is operating in South Africa, based in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal,

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with links to senior police officers, politicians, businesspeople, prosecutors and the judiciary. He alleged interference in the investigation by the Minister of Police of Police, Senzo Mchunu, and top SAPS officials, including disbanding a highly effective Political Killings Task Team and transferring critical dockets away.

This has triggered the establishment of the Madlanga Commission and the parliamentary ad-hoc committee to investigate these serious allegations. Though we have listened to damning testimonies by a number of witnesses who have appeared in either or both structures established, it is concerning to observe that there isn't much action on the ground to ensure drug dealers are put behind bars. Drug users know the drug dealers, and there are high chances that the SAPS, in various municipalities, know who the drug dealers within their areas are, but are reluctant to make arrests. Hon members, sadly, on 18 October, Mr Raymond Khoza, who was a police officer, was shot and killed by an alleged drug dealer after he warned him to stop selling drugs. This is a clear demonstration that drug dealers have taken over our communities, and they now think they are untouchable because they have been allowed to get away with crime for far too long. Hon Chair, to address the issue of drug use within our communities, we will need to allocate more resources into

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community-based prevention programmes, youth education, and provide fully funded rehabilitation centres. Ensure police and prosecution services operate within maximum independence and transparency.

Allegations of cartel infiltrations must be fully investigated. Lifestyle audits are conducted on senior SAPS members. Protection of whistleblowers must be enforced. Hon Chair, we have observed that children from parents who are using drugs and alcohol are more likely to face neglect or abuse. We have learnt with shock about the disappearance of Joshlin Smith, who to date has not been found, and various reports and investigations associated her disappearance with her parents' use of drugs. We call on the SAPS to ensure they rid our streets of drugs and protect our young people and our country. I thank you.

Mr T B MUNYAI: House Chair, I refuse to turn this debate into an ad hoc committee or the Madlanga Commission. Let me firstly address the demystification of the myth by some of the hon members about accountability because they claim that there's no accountability, but they are members of the Department of Social Development Portfolio Committee. Unless the hon members don't know their legislative mandate, their responsibilities or roles as enshrined in the Constitution.

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Hon members claim that there's no legislative policy to deal with the prevention and treatment of substance abuse. I can refer members to the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act 70 of 2008, relating to the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, which mandates the Department of Social Development to develop programmes and support initiatives aiming at the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

Hon House Chair, I must say that the issue of substance and drug abuse requires all of us, all of the government as a whole, and society as a whole, to work together to move forward with resolve to make sure that we address the scourge of substance abuse.

IsiZulu:

Mphathisihlalo, umphakathi usikhethe ngokusethemba, yingakhoke, kusifundazwe nesifundazwe sinezikhungo zokuhlunyeleliswa kwezimilo kanye nezimpilo eziyishumi nanthathu. Lokho kubonakalisa umsebenzi omkhulu wokuzikhandla woHulumeni oholwa uKhongolose ulekelela umphakathi kuzidakamizwa.

Ngalokho, Sihlalo, abantu bakithi bayabazi abantu abathembekile kubona. Umsebenzi wethu uyazikhulumela. Yingakho ngithi, okhethweni oluzayo nikhethe uKhongolose ngoba wona uthembekile. Abantu bayakhalaza bathi ...

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English:

... there are porous borders, but the ANC government intervened with the Border Management Control to fight that effort, and to address those challenges. People are crying about drug trafficking and so forth, but we can see that it's the police that put people in jail, who are engaged in drug trafficking and also trafficking of humans, of our children. So, people of South Africa have hope in the government and the Ministry led by the ANC, because it can resolve all their challenges. I thank you, hon Chairperson.

Debate concluded.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W HORN): The last item on the Order Paper is a motion in the name of the hon Ntlangwini. I recognise her to introduce the motion.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF AD HOC COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS CRISIS OF VIOLENCE,
CRIMES AND MURDER IN CAPE TOWN**

(Draft Resolution)

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: Chairperson, just between Monday and Wednesday this week, over 30 people were killed in the townships

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of Cape Town. That's 30 lives lost in a space of 70 hours. These are merely cases of those who died from gunshots in the Cape Flats. There are many others which were heinous levels of violence in the same period.

At around 11:00 yesterday morning, 12 November, eight people were shot in Nyanga taxi rank and two people died. At around 6:00 on the same day, three bodies were found in a silver VW Polo on the corner of Hillcrest Road and Parkway, Montclair, in Lentegeur. All three had gunshot wounds and all of them were young people in their twenties.

On Sunday, at the BM section in Site B Khayelitsha, the body of 22-year-old Asiphe was discovered stuffed in a communal toilet facility, raped and murdered. The community, in turn, searched for and found the boys who murdered Asiphe, and burnt the three of them to death.

On Monday, Zainab and Gouwa were shot and killed by their brother outside Portland Primary School in broad daylight. Every single weekend and every single month-end marks a killing frenzy in Cape Town, leaving 10s of people dead.

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Chairperson, these incidences and names that I have just read out in this House are only tiny fragments of hundreds of more cases in Cape Town, all of which are an indication of a complete failure of the state to provide citizens with safety.

Six of the top ten police stations for contact crimes in South Africa are in the City of Cape Town. They are in Mfuleni, Delft, Nyanga, Mitchells Plain, Cape Town Central and Khayelitsha. Collectively, these stations accounted for 5 576 reported cases of contact crimes just between January and March this year alone.

According to the SA Police Service, SAPS, crime stats, six of the top ten police stations in which cases of murder are reported are in the City of Cape Town, for the period of January and March 2025. These stations are Delft, Mfuleni, Nyanga, Philippi East, Kraaifontein and Gugulethu.

Children as young as 14 years are supplied with high-calibre arms by gangs to terrorise communities and businesses, demanding protection fees from people struggling to make ends meet. The protection rackets are at the centre of the crisis we are facing in Cape Town today. Behind these protection rackets are rich gang leaders who make themselves stinking rich by spreading terror amongst black and coloured communities in Cape Town.

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All of these, Chairperson, demonstrate clearly that our communities in the Cape Flats are under siege. There seems to be very little that government at the national, provincial and local level is able to do to fight these senseless killings in Cape Town. In certain instances, the very police who are supposed to protect our people are working with gangs to foment the spread of terror in these communities.

Parliament cannot sit and do nothing. The severity of the crisis in Cape Town demands that a special purpose vehicle be established by Parliament to dive deep in, to look at the origins of this crisis in Cape Town. To this, hon members, we plead with you to support the establishment of an ad hoc committee as per the terms of our draft resolution.

This ad hoc committee must consult with all stakeholders and all communities affected by these endless murders and come up with a tangible solution to the problems and the murderous crimes in Cape Town. Enough is enough!

Afrikaans:

Kom ons staan saam.

English:

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Thank you, Chair.

Mr E A CLOETE: Hon Chair, the ANC rises firmly ... [Inaudible.] ... establishment of yet another ad hoc committee to deal with violence and murder in our country, not because we dismiss the gravity of the problem, far from it, but because Parliament has already acted decisively to address this very matter.

We agree that the levels of violent crime, murder and gender-based violence remain a deep scar on our democracy. Communities live in fear, and our people deserve safety and justice. However, leadership requires coherence, not duplications. It demands strengthening the existing mechanisms, not creating parallel ones for political theatre.

This House has already established an ad hoc committee investigating the allegations made by Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi, whose mandate goes far beyond a single compliance. This committee is comprehensively reviewing policies, systems, our side structures, accountability in the SAPS leadership, and the performance of the justice and security clusters. It is already ... [Inaudible.] ... with the underlying causes of violence, breakdowns in policing, big community policing forums and a lack of operational co-ordination. To now create another ad

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hoc committee to do precisely the same thing would be a wasteful duplication of parliamentary effort and resources.

Parliamentary Rules caution against duplication of mandates. The ad hoc committees are temporary, task-specific bodies meant to fill a gap, not to compete with existing ones. The ongoing ad hoc committee has already begun hearing evidence from the SAPS leadership oversight bodies like the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid, and the community structures. Its findings will directly inform both the legislative reform and the executive accountability.

Hon Chair, creating another committee on violence and murder in Cape Town would fragment our stride, produce conflicting findings and delay the implementation of the recommendation already under development.

Hon Chair, we understand that there might be a general excitement and buzz around the communities and commissions at the moment, and every aspiring leader wants to be seen taking a bite at the cherry. Let us not use the pain of our people as a platform for political populism.

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The EFF's motions lack substance and co-ordination of parliamentary processes. It disregards the work already being done, not because it's inadequate, but because it doesn't serve the political spectacle. We want to appeal to the EFF to go out and mobilise the ground if they want to be popular and not bank on cheap political scoring.

Hon Chair, I want to appeal to the House: Do not fall for empty populist rhetoric. There is absolutely no need to multiply committees. Our focus instead should be to support the ongoing work of the ad hoc committee and ensure that its outcomes translate into improved policies, safer communities and more accountability in the security cluster. I thank you, hon Chair.

Ms Z S ABADER: Good afternoon, Chair. I think I'm going to switch off my camera just in case we have some issues.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): You're welcome, hon member.

Ms Z S ABADER: Thank you. Sorry, Chair. Hon Chairperson, hon members, fellow South Africans, I greet you in the universal greeting of peace.

Arabic:

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As-salaamu-alai-kum.

English:

Before we speak of committees or rules, let us speak of the people whose blood fights the real order paper of the Cape Flats. Ibrahim "Ebie" Karbary shot dead in Westridge. Ganief Tofar executed in the same attack. Keagan "Rasta" Mou murdered in the same street.

A 12-year-old girl killed by a stray bullet in Beacon Valley while playing outside her home. A 19-year-old woman, a 25-year-old woman, and two young men aged 20 and 22 murdered in Wallace Deen and Eikendal within 48 hours. And the hundreds more from Delft, Nuvavut Park, Khayelitsha, Mitchell's Plain, Manenberg, Nyanga, Philippi East, whose names never make the headlines, but whose families carry trauma for generations.

Since the start of the 7th Administration, the Western Cape has recorded over 4 400 murders in a single year. That is 12 funerals every single day. Almost one-third of those killings are driven by war against gang warfare. This is not crime. This is a war zone. And the state has abandoned its people.

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Hon Cloete has just said that we don't need another committee. These people are dying every single day. We live in Pelican Park. We hear the gunshots every single day. I cannot understand how we say that we don't need and that everything is being sorted out. This is just beneath me. I cannot get my head around this. The depth of the crisis, what our communities live through, it is not only deaths. It is a full social collapse.

The crisis in schools, gang violence has turned schools into battlegrounds. More than 130 schools were forced to close in 2024 due to nearby shootings. Dropout rates in the areas like Philippi East have more than doubled since 2022. Teachers in Manenberg start the school day with safety drills, not lessons. At least 22 teachers have sought counselling for gang-related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD. Children in Delft can identify gunshots before they can read. How is this possible? What future can grow in a classroom where children hide under desks?

The crisis in local businesses: The township economy is collapsing. Over 1 000 extortion cases were recorded in 2024 alone. More than 40% of small businesses in some Cape Flat areas have shut down because of extortion. Taxi ranks, spaza shops, construction sites, and even RDP housing projects are being run by gang structures. Business owners in Nyanga and Khayelitsha pay

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more in protection tax than the municipal rates. Every closed shop is a job lost and a victory for gangs.

The crisis in places of worship: The violence has reached even the serpent. At least eight churches in Delft, Manenberg, and Bishop Lavis were robbed or attacked during services. Pastors now teach behind locked gates. Two pastors in Hanover Park were threatened for refusing to pay protection fees.

In Bishop Lavis, bullets tore through a church wall during choir practice. Soup kitchens have shut down after repeated robberies. And after everything that we are going through in this country, a soup kitchen gets closed down because of a robbery.

When places of worship become targets, society is in free fall. The collapse of policing. Let us speak the truth. Police stations in the Cape Flats operate with broken vehicles, outdated radios, and short staff shifts.

In Delft and Manenberg, there is one police officer for every 500 residents, and I've spoken about this before. Hear that again. One police officer for 500 residents, and in the wealthy suburbs, the ratio is 1:220. Do they really need that? This is not policing. This is structural abandonment.

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Firearms, the state is arming the gangs. Thousands of SAPS issued firearms have gone missing, only to resurface in gang shootings. This is not theft. This is not incompetence. This is organized betrayal.

Naming the leaders who have failed the Cape Flats. Truth without names is just noise. The DA-run city of Cape Town, Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis. Mr. Hill-Lewis, Cape Town has two cities. A polished, marketed, global-awarded city for the privileged, and a city of violence, trauma, and funerals for the Cape Flats. The city can deploy armoured vehicles, drones, tactical units for Palestine marches, protests, and big events, but not for Hanover Park, not for Delft, and certainly not for Manenberg.

The hypocrisy is breathtaking. The DA-run Western Cape, Premier Alan Winde. Premier Alan Winde presides over a province that calls itself best run.

But our people see, and as MK Party, we see you. Schools closing from the gang warfare. Hospitals overwhelmed by gunshot wounds. Your youth development centres are closing. Extortion syndicates controlling entire communities.

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Best for who, Premier Winde? Best for which South Africans? The foreigners? The Government of National Unity, GNU? Confusion, collapse, and cowardice. The GNU promised stability. Instead, it delivered national paralysis. Suspended Minister Senzo Mchunu oversaw the collapse of anti-gang unit, firearm leakages, and allegations of criminal collusion.

Acting Minister Firoz Cachalia admitted publicly that South Africa has no national plan to fight violent crime. Minister Pieter Groenewald, Correctional Service runs prisons with gang influence, where gangs may exercise general control, extortion rackets and organise killings both within and outside the prison walls.

If correctional services are compromised, the streets are already lost. Why must we establish this ad hoc committee? This crisis cannot be solved by the national government alone, the DA province alone, the DA city alone. All three have failed spectacularly.

Only Parliament can intervene with constitutional authority. The committee must investigate the causes and drivers of violent crime, expose failures at national, provincial and municipal levels, hold public hearings across the Cape Flats, review the

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legislative framework for policing and justice, investigate the roles and failures of Mayor Hill-Lewis, Premier Alan Winde, suspended Minister Senzo Mchunu, Acting Minister Firoz Cachalia, Minister Pieter Groenewald, investigate SAPS firearm leakages into gangs, investigate coordination failures between the DA city, DA province and the GNU, produce enforceable recommendations, not suggestions. This committee must not be symbolic. It must be a turning point.

In conclusion, if this Parliament fails to act today, then let us be brutally honest with the country. Every bullet fired tomorrow, every child buried next week, every mother collapsing at a grey site, will not only be the work of criminals but it will also be the consequence of political cowardice.

Today is not a procedural vote. Today is a moral test. Either we choose the people of the Cape Flats, or we choose the comfort of our political alliances. Either we confront the GNU, confront the DA-run province, confront the DA-run city, and confront the Ministers who have failed, or we admit that this Parliament has surrendered the Cape Flats to gangs, guns and graves. Let every member choose carefully, because history will record who stood with the victims and who stood with the excuses. Let me say this clearly. This is the last warning. The people of the Cape Flats

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cannot survive another decade of empty promises, political spin and leaders who appear only for ribbon-cuttings and press conferences.

If this Parliament fails today, the people will not forget, they will not forgive and they will not be fooled again. The MK Party will not be spectators to slaughter. We will stand with the people in Parliament, in the streets and in every arena where justice demands a voice. Let it be recorded in this House, the blood of the Cape Flats is on the hands of those who choose silence over action, comfort over courage and politics over people.

The Cape Flats is bleeding, but the Cape Flats is rising. And when they rise, they will rise knowing exactly who failed them and who fought for them, to the people who fail violent crimes and murder in Cape Town. We see you.

isiXhosa:

Amandla!

English:

Thank you, Chair.

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Ms L SCHICKERLING: Hon House Chair, every day in Cape Town, lives are lost to relentless waves of violent crime. In Manenberg, children duck for cover as gangs exchange gunfire.

In Delft, Nyanga and Khayelitsha, mothers put their children to bed to the sound of bullets instead of lullabies, often having to sleep on the floor. For too many families, safety has become a privilege, no longer a right.

Today, as we debate in the safety of this House, out there the killings continue unabated. This morning alone, four people lost their lives due to gang violence and several others were seriously injured. We must have urgent and decisive action and we have no more time left to lose.

The failures of national policing and prosecutions have allowed gang violence and murder to spiral out of control. It is national policing that has failed. We must expose why gang leaders continue to operate from prison cells, why case dockets disappear and why murderers walk free because forensic evidence is hardly ever processed.

The facts are very clear. Cape Town is bleeding, not because the province has done nothing, but because the national government's

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criminal justice system has collapsed. A decade ago, the Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry laid bare the truth. It found extremely poor detective work, with many detectives then already handling over 100 dockets each without proper training or resources; a failure to investigate serious crimes properly, especially murders and sexual offences; a breakdown of trust between the SAPS and the community, driven by corruption, abuse and the lack of communication; and a complete lack of co-operation between the SAPS, the City of Cape Town and the provincial government in preventing and investigating crime.

Those findings were a blueprint for reform, yet, a decade later, nothing has changed. The same patterns of failure persist and the same communities continue to suffer.

We have a broken SAPS. It's very clear. It's crippled by corruption, mismanagement and chronic underresourcing. We have forensic laboratories with backlogs stretching months, sometimes years, leaving DNA and ballistic evidence untested while victims' families wait for justice. We have a National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, that fails to prosecute gang cases effectively, resulting in low conviction rates and dangerous criminals being released back into our communities daily.

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Yet, amid this national failure, the Western Cape government and the City of Cape Town have not stood idly by as has been said. Over the medium term, the province has committed almost 4 billion to crime prevention, including more than 1,3 billion for the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan, Leap, canine units and reaction teams.

These are not theoretical promises. They are boots on the ground. There are more than 1 200 Leap officers deployed in 13 high-murder precincts across the metro, working shoulder to shoulder with the SAPS. Since its inception, Leap officers have made more than 30 000 arrests and removed hundreds of illegal firearms from our streets.

The Western Cape Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety has further invested another 2,26 billion in safety initiatives, which include technology, evidence mapping and neighbourhood watch support. The City of Cape Town has built one of the country's most advanced metro police forces, complete with drones, data-driven deployments and specialised units that respond within minutes.

These are extraordinary efforts by provincial and local government that refuses to abandon its people, and they will not

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abandon their people. However, they are not enough, because the SAPS continues to fail in the most basic of its national duties – investigation and prosecution. That is why we have been calling and are calling on the Acting Minister of Police to urgently grant the City of Cape Town expanded policing powers, especially in relation to DNA, ballistics and crime scene processing.

The city has laboratories, the technology and the political will, but they have no legal authority. If their powers were extended, we could immediately start clearing forensic backlogs, link firearms to multiple crime scenes and help build prosecutable cases that are actually going to hold gang leaders accountable.

Without swift investigative work and credible prosecutions, the cycle of violence will never end. Gang leaders will keep ordering hits from behind ... [no audio] ... bail and our communities will keep burying their children while the state hides behind bureaucracy. This is not only a Western Cape crisis. It is a national disgrace. However, it is here, in this city, that the consequences of failure are most visible and most devastating.

However, we must have answers, not into what the Western Cape government has done, but into what national SAPS, the NPA and the Ministry of Police have failed to do. We must interrogate why

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there are so few convictions in gang-related murder cases. Why do forensic backlogs persist despite budget allocations? Why are detectives forced to work with outdated equipment, impossible caseloads and a massive shortage of vehicles? The people of Cape Town cannot afford more time to be wasted while blood flows in their streets daily, almost hourly. They deserve action now.

Let Parliament take up its constitutional duty to demand accountability, to insist on immediate reforms and to ensure that every victim of violent crime receives the justice that they deserve. Let us act with urgency, not bureaucracy. Let us empower those who can do the work and let us finally restore safety, dignity and justice to the people that so desperately need it right now. I thank you.

Mr M N PAULSEN: House Chairperson, greetings to the commander-in-chief, officials, commissars and fighters. My name is Nazier Paulsen and I'm deployed by the EFF. I was born and raised on the Cape Flats.

Every day is death day in the townships of Cape Town. In a normal country, the President would already have called for a special intervention to root out the gangs and normalise life in Nyanga, Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain, Delft and many other townships.

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However, we're not a normal society and the people of the Cape Flats have to negotiate with death every single day of their lives, because this government does not view the people of the Cape Flats as human beings worthy of state effort. If the state viewed the people of the Cape Flats as human, the state would have long stamped its authority to root out and punish people who are spreading violence in our communities. This DA government doesn't care, because those statistics strengthen their proposal for the devolution of power.

Our people are mere pawns in the power struggle between the ANC and the DA, but it could only be the narrowness of the DA in thinking that crime can only be policed away while opposing economic transformation. Thousands of Leap officers and crime continues unabated.

As my colleague, commissar Paulnita Marais stated in the previous debate, drugs are an alternate economy. Gangs facilitate the drug market in our communities. I say facilitate because no drug dealer has the laboratory facilities or knowledge to produce drugs. Rival gangs are merely fighting over drug turf. The drugs are produced elsewhere. If we want to end gangsterism, find those men that are producing the drugs.

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Gangs have infiltrated the police. In 2022, Western Cape High Court Judge Thulare warned that gangs had infiltrated top police ranks, even having meetings with the police commissioner.

We are not surprised by the ANC's opposition to our proposal for an ad hoc committee to address the violence and murder. After all, it is the ANC and DA president that saw fit to appoint a Minister that glorifies his gangster past and even collapsed the gang unit. The people of Cape Town must know that the DA and the ANC oppose this motion to establish an ad hoc committee that will give them an opportunity to be part of the solution.

For the children of the Cape Flats, there's nothing glorious about gangsterism. It is not parental care, sports and recreation that define their young lives, but rather their socialisation into gang violence, the most heinous form of violence, which makes it normal for 14-year-olds to pride themselves on the number of people they have killed. No child is supposed to grow up in an environment like this, but African and coloured children are forced by circumstances to forego their childhood and embrace death so early in their lives.

Then there is the dehumanising structural design of townships.

The DA and ANC think it's okay to dump poor people in poorly

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serviced shanty towns like Blikkiesdorp and Witsand, where they are forced to fend for themselves. It is a colonial and apartheid systemic programme of othering black people, which has been sustained by the post-1994 establishment, which fundamentally locates African and coloured people outside the realm of that which is considered human.

African and coloured people are treated merely as cheap and disposable labour. We are excluded from the mainstream economy. We have to negotiate with thugs to go to school. Many of us are forced to abandon any future plans we might have, because to us, life is defined by persistent violence.

Gangs have created a parallel state in the townships and government allows that because blacks ... it is blacks who must be accountable to gangsters. In fact, the DA government here in Cape Town even awards tenders to the very gangsters that terrorise our communities.

It is black people who die because to both the DA and the ANC, black lives do not matter. The crisis on the Cape Flats demands that we address the systemic cause of the high levels of crime on the Cape Flats, where the City of Cape Town is planning further

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densification because the leafier areas are considered too good for African and coloured people. It's dehumanising.

Our townships are already bursting at the seams. This Parliament must establish the ad hoc committee to go to the people of Cape Town and allow them to tell us how we must reverse their deliberate dehumanisation.

Afrikaans:

Laastens wil ek net vir die mense van die Kaap sê, skrik wakker! Die DA en die ANC voel vere vir ons. Hulle dien nie die meerderheid van Kapenaars nie. Baie dankie, Voorsitter.

Inkosi R N CEBEKHULU: House Chairperson, ...

IsiZulu:

... ngizocela ukungayivezi ibhayisikobho yami ngenxa yendawo engikuyona.

USIHLALO (Mnu M G Mahlaule): Qhubeka, Baba.

English:

Inkosi R N CEBEKHULU: I rise on behalf of the IFP to address the devastating motion before us, regarding the establishment of an

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ad hoc committee. We recognise and validate the horrific surge in violence detailed in this resolution, where communities across the Cape Flats are under siege. The statistics are stark and unforgiven.

Our latest crime statistics show that 62 people are murdered every single day, nationally, with areas in Cape Town consistently ranking among the nation's high-risk murder zones. The people of the Cape Flats and Cape Town, whose lives are at risk every hour do not have the luxury of time. The resolution rightly observes that the South African Police Service is overwhelmed and unable to sufficiently detect, prevent and investigate the crimes. This collapse of operational efficiency is a major contributor to the continuation of the violence.

We as the IFP caution against establishing an ad hoc committee, as it would duplicate the mandate already given to the Department of Police, Justice, and Social Development. Instead, we propose a structural resource deficit, which is declaring a state of disaster, SOD, under the Disaster Management Act.

The SOD must be designed to give priority to the immediate resources, provision and capacitation of the six underresourced police stations in Cape Town. This executive mechanism must be

used to roll out emergency procurement procedures, to provide critical resources to the SANDF, SAPS and the Metro Police. This will ensure that the deployment is not merely symbolic, but a resource-effective response that goes beyond visibility expenditure.

Furthermore, and crucially so, the SANDF, SAPS and the Metro Police co-ordination must be strengthened under the SOD to establish a sustainable foundation that will prevent and solve further large-scale violence.

Furthermore, we acknowledge that the lack of recreational activities in these areas is a grave social factor contributing to this crisis. Therefore, the SOD intervention must be paired with the urgent large-scale provision of recreational services and resources to bring normality and alternative positive outlets for young people.

This will be in the name of trauma counselling and psychosocial support, reading and tutoring clubs, including organised sports, arts and entertainment facilities. This provision of recreational services and support services must be compounded with the necessary security to ensure that families and school children remain safe within these newly established spaces. This dual

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approach will address both the symptoms of a police failure and the cause, which is social decay.

Let us be clear, this crisis is rooted in a fundamental social issue, which is the sheer loss of value for human life. The SOD is a critical mechanism to resource the fight, but the ultimate victory lies in demanding that the police execute their existing mandate effectively, to resolve the value of life to every citizen in Cape Town. Thank you.

Mr E HENDRICKS: Hon House Chairperson, we rise to engage the draft resolution tabled by the EFF concerning the crisis of crime in the Cape Flats. The urgency is real. Our communities are under siege, held hostage by gang violence, drug proliferation and systematic neglect. The EFF intervention reflects the gravity of the moment.

However, the PA seeks to add to this resolution, to strengthen it, to ground it in lived experiences, and to ensure that the voice of the Cape Flats and surrounding areas are not only acknowledged but empowered. We do not speak from theory; we speak from the front lines.

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Our President, Gayton McKenzie, a man who has walked the hard road of incarceration and reform, has declared that the Cape Flats has been left to bleed, while politicians debate statistics. We echo his words and his resolve. We say that the time for platitudes is over. The people must take back their streets. We propose the following addition: the deployment of specialised antigang units guided by intelligence, accountable to communities; the establishment of rehabilitation and reintegration centres, led by reformed individuals who understand the terrain; investment in community-owned safety infrastructures; enlightening surveillance safe zones that serves the people; the expansion of trauma counselling, mentorship and vocational training to break cycle of violence and restore dignity.

We further call on the Presidency and the National Treasury to reinforce funding for community-led violent prevention and economic empowerment with direct benefit for affected families.

Let it be known, the PA stands not only for safety but for sovereignty. We will not allow our communities to be spoken for. We will speak for ourselves. We will not allow our pain to be politicised. We will turn it into power. Any resolution in the Cape Flats and its surrounding areas must reflect the leadership,

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solutions, and lived realities of those who have endured the violence and are ready to rebuild. I thank you.

Afrikaans:

Mnr W W WESSELS: Agb Voorsitter, die stryd teen geweld en bendes word nie gewen nie. Hieroor moet ons eerlik wees en die slagoffers is die gewone inwoners, die mees weerloses, kinders, die kind van die Kaapse Vlakte. Agb Paulsen is korrek. Die stryd kan nie net teen misdadigheid wees nie. Dit is 'n gegewe feit dat bendes floreer weens werkloosheid en 'n uiters geweldige tekort aan ekonomiese geleenthede, veral op die Kaapse Vlakte.

Indien jy nie 'n lid van 'n bende word nie, wat anders? Dis 'n privalente vraag wat ons nie durf met vroom gesigte antwoord sonder om werklik die omvang van armoede, en die tekort aan geleenthede te besef nie.

Dit is 'n bese kringloop waar werkloosheid lei tot bendes, ontwrigting van skole, en ook die ontwrigting van die sosio-ekonomiese orde van die samelewing. Dit lei dan op sy beurt, op die aard van die saak, tot verdere werkloosheid, tot 'n verdere tekort aan geleenthede. En dit lei tot nog meer uitbuiting deur bendes en nog meer weerloses wat by bendes aansluit, omdat daar geen ander uitweg is nie.

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Die VF Plus vereenselwig homself met die voorgestelde resolu­ sie deur die agb Ntlangwini. Ons stem saam met die erns, maar verskil dat 'n ad hoc-komitee die antwoord is. Eerder, gesamentlike ter plaatse besoeke en openbare verhore deur huidige portefeuljekomitees, ondermeer die Portefeuljekomitee oor Polisie en die Portefeuljekomitee oor Onderwys.

Hierdie Parlement moet begin werk. Dit help nie ons probeer sy tekortkominge en sy swakhede wegsteek, deur die vorming van ad hoc-komitees die heeltyd nie. Komitees moet funksioneer en moet werk vir die mense wat ons verkies het, die mense wat slagoffers van bende­ geweld, van dwelms, van polisie­ korrupsie en van swak regering is.

Dit is wat ons veronderstel is om te doen. 'n Ad hoc-komitee is 'n pleister­ plak. Kom ons kry die komitees van hierdie Parlement om te werk, om resolu­ sies te maak, wat tot aksie lei en wat tot beveiliging en oplossings lei, nie net vir die misdadigheid nie, maar wat ook die ekonomiese omstandighede van ons mense in die Kaap en in die Kaapse Vlakte, in besonder, kan aanspreek. Ek dank u.

Ms D E JAMES: Hon Speaker, the Cape Flats, our communities need help now. They need help today. Just today, hours back, I

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received a message of three boys laying in the streets and pictures with their mothers laying over them, shot in their faces, multiple shots. And today, we are speaking about an ad hoc committee. Just two weeks ago, more than 40 people were shot and killed in separate incidents across the Cape Flats. Forty lives lost in a single weekend, 40 families destroyed.

Hon Speaker, every sphere of government, from the DA-led province to the Government of National Unity, acts as if this is normal. There's a complete breakdown of safety, law and order, and this is why ActionSA has called for a state of emergency, because we cannot keep responding with half measures and photo opportunities for every revolving door of Ministers who fly in from Pretoria, while our people die in the streets. It is time for government to put its money where its mouth is and take a decisive action backed up by resources.

The goal is immediate relief coupled with medium and long-term solutions, and to restore safety and dignity to our communities. ActionSA's plan is clear. We've always said it - street-by-street intelligence-driven operations. Deploy our intelligence services systematically - street by street, house by house.

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Blanket deployments without intelligence leads to failures. A co-ordinated intelligence-led approach will dismantle gang structures at their root. Deploy the SA National Defence Force, SANDF. Let the SANDF relieve the pressure on the ... [Inaudible.] ... and restore calm to communities that are under siege. Law-abiding citizens should not live in fear while criminals are roaming free. A "whole of government" response according to the National Drug Master Plan, NDMP. The crisis cannot be left to the police alone.

The Department of Social Development, DSD, must be deployed to rescue children exploited by gangs and drugs, while targeted school programmes prevent gangsterism from claiming another generation. Use specialised courts to expedite justice. During the 2010 World Cup, 56 special courts worked day and night to deal swiftly with crime. We must replicate this model in gang-ridden areas to ensure that cases are fast-tracked, and gangsters are put behind bars, not back onto the streets like we currently see.

Repurpose our Sector Education and Training Authority, Seta, for real skills development. Instead of wasting R20 billion annually, redirect Seta funds to targeted long-term skills development for vulnerable communities. A 2013 pilot, I remember when former

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President Jacob Zuma was in Eldorado Park, proved that this model can actually work. It must now be scaled nationally. Breaking the cycle of poverty is key to breaking the cycle of violence and gangs.

Hon Speaker, we recognise that an ad hoc committee may help to put part of the puzzle pieces together, but the people of the Cape Flats ...

Afrikaans:

Ons kan nie wag weer vir 'n hele jaar of maande ...

English:

... for help to come our way. We cannot wait another minute or another weekend for this government to act. ActionSA is clear. The time for excuses is over. We demand a state of emergency right now, not tomorrow, not another funeral, but today. I thank you.

Mr M M SOKOPO: Hon Chair, I rise to reinforce the ANC's position to oppose the motion brought by hon Ntlangwini.

IsiXhosa:

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Masiyibambe kancinci mkhaya. Masiyibambe kancinci le nto
yezikomiti zexeshana, ...

English:

... not out of indifference, but out of respect for parliamentary process and effective oversight. The existing ad hoc committee on policing and the allegation made by Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi has already begun addressing the following: weaknesses in crime intelligence, resource allocation to crime hotspot areas, police-community relations and failure in leadership accountability within the SA Police Service, SAPS.

These are the very foundations of this crisis of violence and murder. To create another committee would dismantle continuity, forcing witnesses, departments and stakeholders to duplicate submissions and testimonies before multiple bodies. That would be a waste of time and, of course, it will eat into our fiscal and affect taxpayers' money.

The crisis of violence and murder demands actionable and evidence-based outcomes. These would include, as I mentioned, improved policing in hotspot areas, strengthened and better rescue community police forums to rebuild public trust. We need to modernise the detective and forensic services capable of

solving cases quickly; an updated digital and data management system that will enhance intelligence-driven policing. None of these interventions will be achieved by simply creating another committee with overlapping mandates and undefined timelines.

What we need instead is institutionalised focus, accountability and a co-ordinated execution. The focus must shift to ensure that the recommendations of the current ad hoc committee are adopted and integrated into a programme, and monitored by the Portfolio Committee on Police.

Parliament is not in an arena of competition between committees. It is a co-ordinated system of accountability. The duplication proposed by the EFF undermines institutional coherence. It confuses executive accountability. It burdens the Parliamentary Budget Office and, ultimately, it will delay outcomes because there will be an overlap on these suggested or proposed ad hoc committees.

Hon Chair, instead, the ANC proposes that this House focus on strengthening the work of the existing ad hoc committee and encourage public participation to provide an opportunity for engagement, where such matters that are contemplated in the draft resolution can still be pursued and responded to. We respect the

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urgency of addressing violence, but we must do so within the framework of efficiency and respect of parliamentary process. In closing, the ANC rejects the motion. I thank you.

Ms D KOHLER: Chair, as it is common knowledge, there has been endless political-driven attacks on the DA, blaming the DA in Cape Town while simultaneously the national governments past have stonewalled requests to grant expanded provincial and municipal powers to lead the SA Police Service. The DA has, in fact, undertaken extensive investigations into this matter of violent crimes and murder in Cape Town and it has become as clear as crystal that the metro, indeed, the province is deliberately kept short of the SA Police Service staff, the SA Police Service expertise and the SA Police Service equipment.

The Western Cape has a lower police-to-population ratio compared to the national average, and specific police stations in vulnerable communities are severely underresourced. As of 10 days ago, the number of operational SA Police Service officers in the Cape Town Metro area was shown to have declined by 15%. Indeed, there are roughly 1 300 fewer SA Police Service officers in Cape Town today than we had four years ago.

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In response, the DA-led metro has grown its metro police and law enforcement deployment by 1 263 officers. They now have more operational vehicles than the SA Police Service and they are ready to help with the fight against gun and drug related crimes. On the one hand we hear daily of massacres in the Western Cape, and on the other, how successful and well-resourced specialised units are in other provinces. However, where are the crack SA Police Service teams for Cape Town?

While we welcome Acting Police Minister Firoz Cachalia's commitment for a National Anti-Gang Strategy and the fact that it is being rolled out in Gauteng, the Western Cape, the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, the scale and immediacy of the Western Cape crisis demands urgent and decisive action now, right now. In the past 72 hours alone over 40 people have been murdered on the Cape Flats. That number rises hourly. These are not isolated incidents, they are brazen criminal acts, symptomatic of a policing and intelligence system that has totally collapsed.

Nowhere in our country is this national failure more visible than in the Western Cape where gang violence, extortion networks, kidnappings and targeted assassinations have turned neighbourhoods into war zones. The parliamentary ad hoc inquiry laid bare the rot within the SA Police Service Crime Intelligence

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Unit. A unit paralysed by internal factional battles, leadership failures, compromised personnel and a near total inability to gather actionable intelligence. Instead of infiltrating criminal networks, Crime Intelligence Unit has been infiltrated by dysfunction. This breakdown directly enables the brazen killings now devastating communities.

How does one get around such governmental incalcitrance? Firstly, one follows the law to the letter. Secondly, having worked out exactly what rights a metro does and doesn't have. The answer is to increase municipal policing personnel and resources. This city's metro police are among the few remaining trusted and functional law enforcement structures in the province. They are already on the frontlines, but without the legal powers to investigate gang-related gun crime, conduct ballistic testing, or gather intelligence on organised criminal networks. Their ability to respond remains constrained.

What is needed is urgent action from the Minister, to grant the immediate authorisation for the City of Cape Town and the Western Cape to assume expanded policing powers so they can act decisively against gang violence and restore safety to communities abandoned by the SA Police Service. Already, they work seamlessly alongside the SA Police Service as force

multipliers. Indeed, Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis says the city has filed a game changing proposal for municipal police to be granted powers to investigate crime and up convictions for gang, gun and drug offences.

This forms part of the city's official commitment on new draft regulations for municipal policing powers published by the Minister. Our officers must have the all-important powers to investigate crime and really help the SA Police Service and prosecutions succeed. This city takes 400 illegal guns off the streets per year, but the conviction rate for these cases is just five percent due to our broken criminal justice system. With investigative powers, we can vastly improve this situation. Indeed, it seems irrational for city officers to be granted incomplete powers related to crime prevention without the power to investigate.

Our officers need more than just the existing powers to search and arrest, they need criminal investigative powers to build prosecution-ready case dockets. The city police are often the first responders at crime scenes and must have the authority to preserve and lawfully obtain evidence, maintain an unbroken chain of custody and initiate a prosecutable case file. Without these powers time sensitive evidence is at risk of degradation or loss,

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witness recollections are not formally captured and prospects of successful prosecution are diminished.

Case tracking data shows that low conviction rates are largely due to the lack of detectives and investigative capacity within the SA Police Service, outstanding ballistics and DNA reports, slow court and prosecution processes. Minister, these proposed changes just don't go far enough. What is needed now is your wholehearted buy-in. Minister, you know that despite limited resources and policing powers, the Cape Town City police have made a massive impact in the fight against crime. With the necessary powers they could do so much more.

Granting only partial powers - as the regulations currently do - undermines the purposes of crime prevention and justice. What is needed is the power to conduct forensic, ballistic or other forms of examination of exhibits that require expert analysis, to take witness statements and open dockets, to integrate with the SA Police Service Crime Administration System, CAS, and real-time access to the SA Police Service crime statistics information.

Meanwhile, the city has budgeted an R800 million safety investment in technology for smarter policing, including drones, dash cameras, gunshot detection, aerial surveillance, CCTV, body

cameras, automated number-plate recognition and the digital system to co-ordinate it all. The DA is taking major steps to tackle violent crime in areas such as Khayelitsha and other murder hotspots. Their target is to reduce the province's murder rate by 50% by 2029.

There is already a 40,5% reduction of crime in Kraaifontein, a 24% drop in Nyanga, 21% in Khayelitsha and a 14,5% decrease in Harare. All places that the Khayelitsha Commission has identified as having too few SA Police Service police officers. And that is how to make things happen. The time for calls to action has long since passed and the solutions are sitting on the Minister's desk. I thank you, Chair.

Sesotho:

Mof M MODISE-MPYA: Ke a leboha Modulasetulo ya hlomphehileng.

English:

Hon members, every day 75 South Africans are murdered, 75 mothers, fathers, children, neighbours are killed before their time, one after the other. Stars that once brightened the firmament of our society are extinguished by the scourge of violent crimes. This is not a crisis. It is a catastrophe. It is

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the single greatest threat to our democracy, our economy and our humanity.

Violent crime and murder are not mere statistics. They are the daily terror that stalk our communities, invade our homes and shatter our future, leaving families without their breadwinners and cutting short the lives of our children before they can reach their full potential.

This draft resolution rightly draws attention to the urgency of our safety responses and reminds us that it cannot operate in isolation. We will never speak enough about safety until South Africans can walk the streets at night without fear. It is therefore critical that we view violent crime through the lens of gender.

South Africa is gripped by unacceptably high levels of gender-based violence. It is women and children who bear the heaviest burden in our communities. This violence is not confined to urban centres. Rural areas are seeing alarming spikes in crime.

As a nation, we have grown numb to images of mass murders, bodies in taverns after gang shootouts in Western Cape, families wiped out in farm attacks in the Free States, young women brutally

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killed in the townships of Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. These are not anomalies. They are the daily reality of our countries under siege.

Yet, hon members, Parliament is already seized with an ad hoc committee examining the systematic decays in our policing and criminal justice systems. This process is thorough, nationwide and actively interrogating the very failures that fuel violent crimes, from under-resourced stations to court backlogs, from intelligence deficits to prosecutorial bottlenecks. It is designed to deliver structural reforms, not piecemeal responses.

We acknowledge that Cape Town faces unique pressures, gang violence, drug wars, and extortion have turned entire neighbourhoods into no-go zones. But the current ad hoc committee is already engaged in these regional dynamics within a national framework. Establishing a parallel structure risks diluting focus, duplicating oversight, and delaying implementation at a time when agency demands unity of effort.

The SA Police Service is on the front line, conducting high-density operations, tracing suspects, and dismantling syndicates under immense strain. Task teams have made significant inroads, thousands of arrests, firearms recovered, drug networks

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disrupted. These are the hard-won gains, but they are not enough while people continue to die.

We must confront the root causes of organised crime, entrenched poverty, youth unemployment exceeding 60%, spatial inequality, and the collapse of social cohesion in marginalised communities. These are not law enforcement issues alone. They demand integrated socio-economic interventions, which the existing committee is prioritising.

Initiatives like Operation Shanela have intensified visible policing. Hundreds of thousands of stops and searches, arrests and recoveries. But let us be sober. These are operational responses within a broken system. They buy time, not transformation. While lives are lost daily, we cannot afford complacency.

The real work lies in fixing the system, modernising SA Police Service, SAPS, clearing court backlogs, and professionalising the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, so that operations like Shanella become part of a functioning whole, not a perpetual firefight.

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Society must be mobilised. Community policing forums, neighbourhood watches, faith leaders, youth structures, all have a role. Rural safety plans, anti-gang programmes, and public-private partnerships are being strengthened. But none of this requires a new committee. The current process is sufficiently mandated to incorporate these elements and drive implementation.

Hon Chairperson, the ANC believes in decisive coordinated action. The ad hoc committee already in place is the appropriate vehicle to address both systematic decay and regional hotspots. Let us resource it fully, expedite its recommendations, and ensure accountability across government. Fragmentation serves no one. List all the 75 South Africans we lose every day. We must act as one Parliament behind one process for one safer South Africa.

Sesotho:

Ke a o leboha.

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Ntlangwini, I am informed to advise you that you have left two minutes in your initial allocation. Therefore, you can use your five minutes. The hon Ntlangwini.

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Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: Chairperson and hon members, I want to thank you all who have embraced our motion in the spirit in which we have tabled it. It's deep concerning for the people and the plight of Cape Town that are living in this gang violence daily. We also wish to thank the brave journalists who are risking their lives to bring these stories to the fore. We know about these deaths because of them, and we are grateful to them. We are talking of journalists such as Velani Ludidi, who is a prime example of selfless service to the communities of Cape Flats.

We call for the establishment of the ad hoc committee because of the severity of the problems in Cape Town. It's not due to a political posturing, as the ANC has accused us of. The death of tens of people in Cape Town townships is not a popularity contest. It is very sad that today the ANC in the House has come out to belittle the death of so many people in Nyanga, Khayelitsha, Guguletu, Mitchells Plain, and many other townships.

Chairperson, the crisis we have tabled here is serious. Our communities are under siege. It's not a matter of theatrics; it is a matter of life and death. Hon Cloete must go to BM Section of Khayelitsha and tell the parents of Asiphe that it will be political theatrics for Parliament to establish a special purpose

vehicle to deal with the causes of killings that claim Asiphe's life.

The only conclusion we can reach from the decision of the ANC to reject this motion is that they themselves are intricately linked to the gang spreading terror in Cape Town. They don't want to investigate their own pals who are responsible for the killings of our people. While we're sitting here comfortably, 12 people or more are being killed at the end of the day in the Cape Flats. Each of those souls is precious to their families. Yet some parties in this Parliament choose stupidly to put pride before lives of our people.

We still have time until 24 of November members. Hopefully the sanity of the ANC will prevail. To the people of Cape Flats today, you know who is on your side, and you know all that is at the end, that this bloodbath is killing the youth, it's killing a generation.

IsiXhosa:

Mkhaya ...

English:

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... we can't think at this crisis at the taxpayers' money while it's politicians. That's why an ad hoc committee is set and sitting in that ad hoc committee today, it's because of political interference and politicians using taxpayers' monies for their own personal benefits. When it comes to generations that are being wiped out in a bloodbath due to gang violence, we miraculously remember, oh, it's the taxpayers' monies. It's shameful. It should never be allowed.

Action SA, the army was deployed before in the Cape Flat area. That haven't posed any significant input. This ad hoc committee will focus solely on what is the cause for all this gang violence. It cannot be correct that many of our communities are standing daily on open graves while we are sitting here and saying, no, it's too much work, and there are budgetary constraints to Parliament. It should note to these communities that the people that care for them are the people that have supported this motion. It's not a political point-scoring. It's not a political theatrics or hon Cloete.

We are here in this House because we are representing all those constituencies of the Cape Flats. The hon member of the PA, we welcome your inputs, and we can work together and see how we can include it in our motion. This is not a time to stand on separate

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sides. We need to stand with the community of the Cape Flats. That is our communities, that is our constituencies.

We do know that the DA doesn't care about those communities. They have folded arms. The Mayor of Cape Town is busy with streetlights for Christmas trees. He's not concerned about daily guns that are going off, and kids that need to drill before they write an exam.

Matriculants of those areas can't write daily tasks properly at schools because they need to be worried about when are the guns going to go off. So, we cannot sit down and sit back on the side and just be quiet as Parliament. It's time we stand up. It can't be correct that there are kids that are studying with a song and have to lie down during school hours. On 24 November, let's support this motion. Thank you very much, Chairperson.

Debate concluded.

The mini plenary session rose at 16:38.