

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 1

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 14:00.

The House Chairperson (Mr C T Frolick) took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Please be seated. The Secretary will read the First Order of the day.

DEBATE ON 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM FOR NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN CAMPAIGN: LETSEMA – MEN, WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS WORKING TOGETHER TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE (GBVF)

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Hon Chair, hon members, thank you so much for the opportunity. Today, we stand at the intersection of history, pain and possibility.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 2

We gather not merely to repeat what we already know, because every South African knows that Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, GBVF, is the deepest wound our democracy continues to carry. We gather to confront this crisis with renewed honesty, renewed radicalism and renewed courage.

The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children reminds us that GBVF is not a headline, but a campaign that comes with the work that we need to be paying attention to, with the crisis that we have to be declaring, but also, it's not just a calendar that we need to be focusing on. It is a national crisis declared as such by President Ramaphosa, and it remains the greatest betrayal of the promise of 1994 as we fail to uproot it in our lifetime.

The theme before us for this year's campaign, Letsema: Men, women, boys and girls working together to end GBVF, carries the full moral weight of our African traditions grounded in Ubuntu. Letsema is not simply a collective effort. It is a demand that every one of us must step into the work in our homes, communities, institutions and Parliament, because violence thrives when silence lives. Silence is a luxury that costs women and children their lives.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 3

Hon members, the ANC-led government has made tremendous progress in building a legislative, institutional and developmental architecture that places the rights and safety of women and children at the centre of our democracy. The early years of our freedom gave women equality before the law for the first time in the history of this country.

It is the Parliament that passed the Domestic Violence Act, the Sexual Offences Act, the Children's Act, the Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Act and the expanded definition of sexual offences that protect the most vulnerable. These are the fruits of 30 years of struggle, sacrifice and feminist organising under the ANC government. Yet even the most progressive laws cannot shield a society that's still shaped by patriarchal power, inequality and violence-enabled environments.

GBVF is not a mystery. We should know that there are root causes - gender inequality, patriarchy, toxic masculinity, economic dependency, intergenerational trauma, substance use and abuse, and the learned behaviours that have normalised violence in families, relationships, communities and, increasingly, online. Our work is to dismantle these foundations brick by brick, norm by norm, belief by belief.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 4

We must also acknowledge that we will not end GBVF if men do not rise and if boys do not unlearn the violent masculinity they inherit. We will not end GBVF if men continue to believe that leadership in this struggle belongs only to women. This fight needs men in the streets, pulpits, construction sites, Parliament, taxis, mines, shebeens, WhatsApp groups, boardrooms and at every side of human endeavour to join the fight. Patriarchy is a system built by men, defended by men and benefiting men. Therefore, it must be dismantled by men too.

Across the country, communities have shown us that society is ready to rise. The Women for Change, WFC, ANC Women's League, ANCWL and many organisations are mobilising. They have shown this powerful example of a whole-of-society activism - women who have refused to be silent, women who have refused to look away, women who have refused to accept violence as normal or inevitable. Their call is our call, no more. Their courage is the pulse of society refusing to collapse under the weight of fear. Their actions confirmed that Letsema demands that communities must lead alongside government, not behind government. They must! This also reminds us that change is not a top-down process, it is a lift and is intersectional.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 5

House Chair, while we confront the pain, we must also recognise the progress. The Seventh Administration has strengthened the criminal justice system, specialised courts, improved sexual offenses legislation, expanded the definition of violence, strengthened bail conditions and reinforced tighter mandatory reporting frameworks. The implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, our feminist, whole-of-government blueprint, is underway across the country with a prevention programme in schools expanded to Thuthuzela Care Centres, TCCs, updated police protocols and the establishment of the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide to hold us accountable. We have advanced child protection measures, strengthened the Child Justice Act and deepened our collaboration with civil society shelters, safe houses and psychosocial service providers.

Local governments also have an essential role. Strengthening community safety structures is not a nice-to-have. It is a matter of life and death. Community policing forums, ward committees, local drug action teams and youth structures must be equipped, capacitated and empowered to intervene early. Violence is often visible long before it escalates. The neighbours hear it, the teachers see it, the clinic notices it, and the

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 6

community knows it. Our local system must respond before the obituary is written, before the shelter is sought and before the police file is opened.

In our response, we also cannot ignore the powerful role of the media. The public narrative of violence is shaped every day by what happens and what appears on our screens, in our headlines, on our phones and across digital spaces. The media must take responsibility for how it responds to violence and how it reports violence, how it frames victims, how it treats survivors and how it gives voice or silences those voices to those stories as well. In the age of digital harassment, deepfakes, cyberbullying, revenge pornography and artificial intelligence-generated sexual content used to shame or intimidate women, we must enforce the Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Act of 2023 with urgency and with teeth. Online violence is not just virtual. It destroys reputations, careers, mental health and, sometimes, lives.

The crisis persists because the drivers of violence lives not only in laws, but in the hearts and habits of society. This is why this debate on transforming social norms, patriarchy and violence-enabled environments is so central to our 16 Days of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 7

Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. We know that in one recent quarter alone, more than 1 100 women were murdered and over 20 000 women were violently assaulted. We know that one in three women in South Africa will experience violence in their lifetime. We know that girls as young as 10 are becoming pregnant. That is statutory rape, often because violence begins long before childhood ends. These numbers are not statistics. They are lives, they are families, they are communities forever altered. They tell us that equality without safety is a broken promise.

Hon members, we must confront violence not only with justice, but with prevention. We must confront patriarchy not only with outrage, but with re-education. We must confront harmful masculinity not only with punishment, but with transformation. Let's ask ourselves questions. Who are we raising? What are we teaching our boys about power? What are we teaching our girls about their worth? What digital spaces are shaping their minds or are these spaces shaping the minds of our children?

This is my call to South Africa. Letsema must not be a theme, it must be a way of living. Letsema must be men standing in the gap. Letsema must be neighbours refusing to stay silent ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 8

[Inaudible.] ... boys who do not fear women's power but celebrate it. It must be institutions refusing to re-traumatise survivors. It must be communities confronting perpetrators, not harbouring them. It must be a call for all of us rising, refusing and rebuilding. As we carry this work, the work that was led by the ANC in the struggle for gender equality for generations, for the Women's March, that adoption of gender equality in our constitution, the laws that protect women and children today, let us honour this legacy, not with words, but with action.

As we step into 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, let us recommit to a society where equality is lived, where dignity is upheld, where justice is real, and where no child goes to bed afraid and no woman wakes up fearing the person she loves. Violence is not a destiny; violence is a choice. It's too much of peace, equality, justice and healing that we need now. Thank you so much, House Chair.

Dr K LITCHFIELD-TSHABALALA: Hon Chair, I rise on behalf of Mkhonto Wesizwe ...

Sesotho:

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 9

... lerumo la setjhaba ...

English:

... the spear of the nation, on the topic of 16 days of activism on no violence against women and children. That violence has a name. It's called gender-based violence and femicide, henceforth GBV. It was declared last week by the President of this country a national crisis. But how is it a national crisis, really? Because a national crisis is something of significance that suddenly takes the nation by surprise and alters the functioning of that nation. There is nothing sudden about gender-based violence. That's why in MK party, we call it a pandemic, not even an epidemic, because it is a global phenomenon.

There is nothing sudden about it. It is endogenous with capitalism, meaning if capitalism and its highest stage, which is neoliberalism, were living organisms, GBVF would be to eat like the liver is to enzymes or the mouth is to the saliva. Inevitable. Neoliberalism is a violent system, and it produces intersectional forms of violence as it goes along. It has its origins, by the way. Nothing just happens.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 10

In the early days of capital, when European women were reduced to one of the commodities of trade and capitalism by their white male counterparts, capitalism started there in destroying what we know as an extended family and reduced it to what we were reduced to, a model family. Only your parents are your family. Women lost the support structure of ...

IsiZulu:

... umamncane, umamkhulu, u-anti, ubabekazi.

English:

We were reduced to just one mother when we have so many mothers and so many fathers in our communities, because the names even say so ...

IsiZulu:

... ubabomncane, ubabomkhulu, umamncane, umamkhulu.

English:

But capitalism to do this, and neoliberalism at its highest stage, did really violent things. Believe it or not, hon members, in its heydays in Europe, capitalism asked a woman in court who had taken, as a survivor, taken his rapist to court.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 11

You would be asked by how many metres were you penetrated? How many centimetres were you penetrated? Because then it would determine if it's a crime of passion or it's rape. Wow!

By the time capitalism came here, it no longer asked that, because I think it called itself civilised and looked down on our local cultures. Now it was asking, what were you wearing? What were your gestures? What were you doing in the dark alley alone? Meaning, at the end of the day, there is something. That you would have done as a woman to attract this rape. Let's bring this violence home. And before we do that, let's just be clear.

Neoliberalism is a social economic system of choice for the African National Congress. It's a social economic system of choice. Austerity, deregulation, retreat of state from social services, all that violence was argued against by labour in 1994, and it was shoved down labour in this country. And neoliberalism is a problem because as the year goes, it becomes more bolder. I think which is why in a country where there's load shedding at O R Tambo and water shedding, we could still host the G20 with a smile. That's neoliberalism at work.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 12

One of the most dangerous countries to be in the world is South Africa. For me to get out of my house at Acacia and jog can cost this House to come to my funeral. Simple jog at 5 am or it's worse if you're an African woman because this neoliberal violence is also intersectional. It goes by race, it goes by class, it goes by this bastardised thing we call African culture based on customary law which was written for us by Shepstone and his son, by the way. By the way, that town called Port Shepstone needs to change because that's a very negative legacy. Because customary law is not African. But that's topic for another day.

Another way in which we show the violence of neoliberalism is that the recent national prevalence stats show that in a research that looked at three women, at least two of them mentioned having suffered either physical or sexual violence and the leader in that pack is intimate crime violence. The UN Women 2024 feature confirms these statistics about us. The SAPS crime stats 2024-25 confirm that the four quarter stats of this year shows a reduction of violent crimes everywhere but not in GBF. It refuses to go away. But how can it? Because it is embedded within the neoliberal system, the social economic system which we chose in 94 without a gun on our head, willingly.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 13

The other stat that scared me is that between January and March 2025, over 10 000 rapes were recorded. We use the word recorded because we know that those who report are always under than those who do not report. Hon Chair, that is 10 000 psychosocial problems created right there. I know we call them survivors, but here's the truth. No woman survives rape. You take it to your relationships, you take it to your marriage, you take it to how you look at that gender, you take it everywhere you go, it follows you. You take it to your self-esteem, you take it to your sexuality. And in extreme cases, it even becomes the tie between you and substance abuse because you lose touch between reality and unreality. It's a national crisis, we are told, a pandemic.

What does neoliberalism further have to do with gender-based violence? It's a system shaped by political economy that taxes the poor, putting the burden more on women than on the rich. Believe it or not, we are told Tutuzela centres, which the NPA, has shown that women who go to Tutuzela centres escape secondary violence, meaning they don't report to a police station and risk being raped more, because that happens also in this country.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 14

It has also shown, Tutuzela centres have shown, that women who report through them, those cases have an increment of those perpetrators being found guilty. But the NPA report says we want more. How can we have more? When we have followed a system that separates tax evasion and tax avoidance, for companies to hide their assets and money, for companies to misrepresent, to mis-invoice, to lie, in essence, it's called tax evasion. And neoliberalism says it's not a crime. You are just being clever with your books. You have a good lawyer. You have KPMG on your side. But you can't do that for personal income tax. They will find you under the rock. Now, we lose R90 billion to this. How many Tutuzela centres could we have erected? NGOs are crying that there are no shelters for women that are state-funded. The ones that are there are NGO-funded, meaning when that elective ceases being funded, you as a woman in that shelter can be told, sorry, but we are closing today. You need to go. Now, how can we solve this in the little time that's left?

We need to invest in social protection. Again, I say neoliberalism is not about that. Neoliberalism is about austerity. We need to tax the rich and not the poor.

Neoliberalism is not interested. It says tax evasion is okay. You are being clever about your books. So, rob South Africa of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 15

R90 billion annually. You need to revolutionise care work from unpaid care work to paid care work. Again, it cannot happen. Not under neoliberalism.

We need to make infrastructure a safety or GBV issue. You know there are so many studies that show that load shedding has increased GBVF. But we still are not making infrastructure choices that are protecting this. Now, this is very simple. Clearly with the 30 seconds that I have left. Just take the GNU out with its neoliberal policies. Just vote MK because we will nationalise our national resources.

We will have the money to invest in social protection, and we will have the money to ensure that there is no informal work. What is informal work? Work is work. What's an informal work? I think I just want to leave you by saying GBVF can go if the ANC and the GNU and its neoliberal policies the G20 included can be eradicated from our soil.

Ms T A KHANYILE: House Chairperson, I rise today to echo my voice on the 16 Days of Activism for no violence against women and children. We gather under the powerful theme: *Letsema* - men, women, boys, and girls working together to end gender-based

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 16

violence and femicide. *Letsema* means working together for a common purpose, this calls for all of us to come together to curb the scourge of gender-based violence. This also reminds us that no single gender, no single organization nor stakeholder can win the fight against gender-based violence and femicide alone.

While we acknowledged the 16 Days of Activism for the No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign, one must strongly emphasize that there must be action to address GBVF for 365 days and educate communities about the importance of respecting each other's rights.

Gender-based violence in South Africa has reached epidemic levels. The first National South African gender-based violence study conducted in 2024 found a profound connection between substance use and intimate partner violence, which is deeply rooted in power imbalances and gender-based inequalities.

While substance use and alcohol do not cause violence, they are both drivers and consequences of gender-based violence and femicide.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 17

Hon members, President Ramaphosa declared gender-based violence and femicide a national disaster, which is a step in the right direction. We will keep a close eye to ensure there is ring-fenced budget and necessary resources are allocated for this purpose.

South Africa has also established the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act, which is meant to protect individuals from abuse and support survivors. As South Africa has one of the highest rates of femicide in the world, which is almost five times the world's average, in May 2024, President Ramaphosa signed the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Bill, establishing a National Council to combat gender-based violence and femicide effectively.

I'd like to indicate that the process to have the National Council on GBVF established was slightly delayed because when our portfolio on Women, Youth, and Persons with disabilities was about to advertise the post for Council members, it was unclear whether National Treasury would have a budget set aside for the Council, understanding the important responsibility of this Council we did not want this to be a tick-box exercise.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 18

Now that we have received confirmation that a budget will be made available for the Council to carry out its duties, we have started with the process, which will be finalized early in 2026.

Our country has established Thuthuzela Care Centres, which offer holistic support services that are gender sensitive and responsive to rape victims and seek to reduce secondary victimization and expedite conviction. During the recent stakeholder engagement held, it was brought to our attention that there are only 68 Thuthuzela Care Centres across the country.

These TCCs are not enough, if we are serious about protecting the dignity of victims, we will need to have more budget allocated to the establishment of TCCs and ensure each and every constituency has its own TCC.

I'd like to applaud the DA Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Minister McPherson who has donated more than 15 unused state-owned properties to Social Development in Gauteng and Mpumalanga to be used as safe houses. We will be conducting an oversight of these facilities to ensure resources have been allocated so that they serve the purpose they were meant for.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 19

Multiple studies and reports confirm that financial dependency the primary reason women often cannot leave abusive relationships. Economic abuse, which occurs in 99% of domestic violence cases, creates vulnerability and traps victims by limiting their access to resources and independence.

Some of the key findings from Research are:

Top barrier to safety concerns the ability to provide financially for themselves and their children are consistently cited by survivors as one of the main reasons for staying with or returning to an abusive partner. Prevalence of economic abuse; studies, such as those cited by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the National Network to End Domestic Violence, highlight that economic abuse is near-universal in domestic violence situations. Abuser tactics, perpetrators use various tactics to ensure financial dependence, including forcing victims to hand over income. Concealing financial information or limiting access to joint accounts.

Sabotaging employment opportunities, accumulating debt in the victim's name. Financial Strain: studies have found a strong association between economic abuse and significant financial

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 20

strain, which persists over time. Women who experience economic abuse are more likely to face food insecurity and live in circumstances of poverty.

Looking at the above key findings, I'd like to commend the DA Ministers of Agriculture and Public Works and Infrastructure who have created more than 143,000 job opportunities within a year of joining the government of national unity, GNU.

We are of a firm view that should more job opportunities be created, we will ensure women get financial independency, claim back their power, and will be able to leave abusive partners.

Hon members, in order to defeat the scourge of gender-based violence, we need SA Police Service, SAPS, to demonstrate capability against this fight. Recent reports from various nongovernment organizations, NGOs, indicate that such is an obstacle in tackling GPV. They turn victims away. In some instances, away minors are involved, they demand parents' presence to be able to open cases.

And we are well aware that in some of the GBV related cases, especially rape, some parents are suspects. They also disregard

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 21

the Children's Act 38 of 2005 section 110(1), which clearly stipulates who can lay charges where any kind of abuse is identified.

Hon members, on 9 November, I received a call from a lady who was physically assaulted by her husband and the SAPS in Olifantsfontein convinced her not to lay charges because her husband will lay counter charges against her. Through our intervention, the case was finally registered, and the husband was arrested.

He was released from the cells without appearing in court, which is against the GPV procedure. When the husband however laid counter charges, the SAPS went to arrest her at night, broke down her door and was eventually locked in a filthy cell which had pee all over the floor.

The victim was secondary victimized by SAPS instead of protecting her. Through the intervention of the provincial commissioner, the responsible SAPS members were finally charged. We would like to urge SAPS to pull their weight and help us to fight the scourge of gender-based violence. I thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 22

Sepedi:

Moh P R MAILOLA: Mohl Modulasetulo le Maloko a Palamente, re le EFF re eme mo pele ga lena nakong ye ya Matšatši a 16 Kgahlanong le Tlaišo ya Bana le Basadi. Re gatelela gore Afrika Borwa ga e na bothata bja tlaišo ya basadi le bana feela, e na le bothata bja batho bao ba bušago naga ya gaborena. Tlaišo e sa tšwela pele ka gobane mmušo o tšwelelela feela ka nako ya dikgetho, eupša o sepelela kgole ge basadi ba hlaselwa ebile ba bolawa mola e le gore ba hloka tšhireletšo ya wona.

A re lekoleng dintlha tšeo di bontšhago diphošo tšeo di dirwago go tshepedišo kgahlanong le tlaišo ya basadi le bana. Ke 8% feela ya ditsheko tša bao ba tlaišwago ka tša thobalano tšeo di fihlelelago kahlolo. Se se ra gore ke 92% ya basenyi bao ba sepelago ka go lokologa ka ge go se na kahlolo ya melato ya bona. Mo kotareng ya go feta - mo dikgweding tše tharo feela, bana bao ba fetago 500 000 ba tlaišitšwe ka tša thobalano. Ditiši tša maphodisa ga di na phaphoši ya sephiri moo batšwasehlabelo ba ka begago melato ya bona. Tlaišo ya inthanete e oketšegile ka 50%, efela maphodisa ga a na leano la go rarolla tlaišo ya bong ya inthanete.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 23

Re a dumelelana gore tlaišo ya basadi le bana ke tlhobaboroko. O ka se tloše basetsana ba 70% go tlaišo yeo ge ba se na mešomo. Basadi ba hwetša tefo ye nnyane mešomong ge ba bapetšwa le banna. Go na le basadi ba 48% bao ba se nago mešomo goba letseno ka malapeng. O ka se botše mosadi gore a tlogele molekane wa gagwe mola a se na mošomo le tšhelete ya go iphediša.

Go na le ditharollo tšeo EFF e tlilego ka tšona. Dikantorokgolo tša naga tša taolo ya tlaišo kgahlanong le basadi le bana di swanetše go ba le maatla a go nyakišiša melato. Re swanetše go ba le pego ya tšwa go mmušo ya maphodisa ao a rakilwego mošomong ka lebaka la go pipa melato ya tlaišo kgahlanong le basadi le bana. Pego ye e swanetše go hwetšagala go batho kamoka. Go tla be go thibelwa gore ba se hwetše mešomo ditišing tše dingwe tša maphodisa.

Gape go swanetše go be le lenaneo la ditšhiwana tšeo di lobilego batswadi ka lebaka la tlaišo ya bong. Ga go be le thušo ya tšhelete ya nakwana yeo e lekanyeditšwego; ba fiwe menyetla pele mešomong ya mmušo; ba fiwe thuto le bokgoni, ba be ba agelwe dintlo. Go swanetše go be le yuniti ya tlaišo ya bong ya inthanete. Mokgatlo wa EFF o hlohleletša banna go thekga basadi go lwantšhana le tlaišo ya bong, gomme ba šireletše basadi le

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 24

bana. Mokgatlo wa EFF o nyaka matšatši a 365 a twantšho ya tlaišo ya basadi le bana, e sego matšatši a 16 a go se re selo. Ke a leboga.

Ms B E MACHI: Hon Chairperson, we meet in discussion at a moment when South Africa confronts a profound moral and constitutional crisis. The statistics speaks with unbearable clarity. More than half of South African women have experienced gender-based violence, GBV, and over 75% of men admit to having committed violence against women. We call ourselves a peaceful nation, yet women and children continue to live under such assault in the very homes that should protect them.

Just four days ago, on 21 November, women in alleys across the country fell silent, withdrawing their labour and suspending their voices in deliberate protest. Their message was clear: Until South Africa stops burying a woman every two-and-a-half hours, talk on growth is meaningless. Their silence slowed the economy and forced the nation to confront the heavy burden women carry and the devastating cost of our collective failure to protect them.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 25

The IFP welcomes the declaration of gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, as a national crisis, but this declaration must be more than symbolic. It must trigger bold and decisive action. The IFP therefore calls for urgent reforms that restore trust in the rule of law. We must revisit legislation to ensure that courts deny bail to those accused of rape and murder because too many women have been killed by abusers who returned to their communities. We must reform the SA Police Service by providing trauma-informed training and deploying skilled officers to high-risk areas, whilst enforcing strict consequences for corruption and negligence. We must also strengthen mental health services and trauma support services.

Stigma continues to silence victims and to fuel cycles of violence. Community-based counselling and rehabilitation centres must become accessible to survivors and to individuals struggling with substance abuse. Let us confront the clear link between alcohol misuse and gender-based violence, especially since femicide rates dropped dramatically during the alcohol ban and rose again when restrictions ended. For these reasons, the IFP calls on the government to fully implement the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, expand and properly resource Thuthuzela Care Centres, introduce anonymous

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 26

digital reporting platforms, and build more safety shelters and trauma facilities for women and children.

South Africa does not suffer from a lack of policies but from a lack of political will. In the spirit of Letsema, I call on every citizen to stand together, reject silence, and take collective action to end this violence. Thank you.

Ms J S PETERSEN: House Chair, hon members, and members of the public, not just close to home but at home, in the very streets we walk, raise our children, and build our lives in, the same streets that shaped us are now the very streets that strip us of our right to safety.

Today, we stand on the brink of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. Our nation faces a brutal reality, a reality so undeniable that it forced our country into a standstill during the recent shutdown. South Africa did not shut down because communities were restless. It shut down because communities are bleeding. It shut down because women are being hunted in their own homes. It shut down because children are being violated by the very hands meant to shield them. It

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 27

shut down because the cries of victims have grown so loud that the ground beneath us could no longer stay silent.

We gather here for a war, a war against a pandemic that has stolen mothers, broken families, shattered childhoods, and left permanent scars on our collective souls. The shutdown was not an act of defiance. It was an act of desperation, a country begging to be heard, communities exhausted from burying daughters, exhausted from pleading for justice, exhausted from protection that arrives too late or never at all. It also revealed something undeniable: When society rises with one voice, systems must move. When people refuse silence, institutions can no longer hide behind it.

Let us be absolutely honest and clear, hon members and members of the public, that 16 days is not enough. We need 365 days of accountability and 365 days of consequences. Thank you.

Mrs H DENNER: Chair, today marks the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, a campaign born of necessity – necessity to address a crisis that is not only South African but global.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 28

Every 10 minutes, somewhere in the world, a woman is murdered.

This statistic is neither abstract nor distant. It is an urgent call to action. Gender-based violence is not a uniquely South African issue. It is a pervasive international epidemic. Yet South Africa stands out for all the wrong reasons. Our nation consistently ranks among those with the highest rates of violence against women and children. Femicide rates in South Africa are five times higher than the global average. These figures are more than statistics. They are a damning indictment of our society's failure to protect our most vulnerable.

During the G20 period, the President declared gender-based violence a national crisis. This recognition was a positive step. However, declarations alone are not enough. In the wake of the Uyinene protest in 2019 here in front of this Parliament, government announced multiple interventions, legislative reforms, improved policing, and the establishment of a National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. Yet here we are, years later, and the GBVF council remains nonfunctional. These failures are not mere oversights. They represent broken promises to women and children whose lives continue to be shattered by violence.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 29

The theme of this year's campaign, "Letsema – men, women, boys and girls working together to end gender-based violence and femicide", is ambitious but not unreasonable. However, it cannot be realised by individuals acting alone. Real progress demands co-ordinated, collective action, and, most importantly, accountable leadership. Without this, our efforts will be scattered, and our voices will remain unheard.

It is not coincidental that the launch of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign for this year aligns with the annual Judiciary Day and the release of the Judiciary's Annual Report. This overlap is significant as well, especially as our justice system faces unprecedented scrutiny at the moment. The failures of our courts, police, hospitals, and schools to protect women and children are well documented. Public infrastructure is in disrepair, and essential resources are chronically lacking.

These systemic shortcomings are not simply administrative; they are life threatening for women and children. With the declaration of GBV as a national disaster, more resources and funding will be unlocked. Yet we must be wary. If government departments cannot manage basic services, if police stations

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 30

lack working telephones and rape kits, if hospitals cannot provide trauma care, and if schools are unsafe, then additional resources alone will not solve the problem. We have witnessed before, as with the personal protective equipment procurement scandals during a previous national disaster, that mismanagement and corruption can turn well-intentioned interventions into wasted opportunities.

The imperative is clear. Men, women, boys, and girls must work together, but we cannot do this in isolation or without the full force of government accountability. If our leaders do not act decisively and transparently, we will be back here next year reciting the same grim statistics and mourning the same preventable losses. Let this campaign be more than a ritual this year. Let it be a reckoning, a demand for change and for justice. Let us finally see government accountability and co-operation across the spectrum for the dignity and safety of every woman and child in South Africa and beyond. I thank you, Chair.

Dr K T S LETLAPE: Chair, I speak today as a member of ActionSA and a survivor of femicide. And I will start by giving you a Setswana saying that says:

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 31

Setswana:

Mmangwana o tshwara thipa ka fa bogaleng.

English:

What that means is that the true protector of children are women, not men. And just to say where I come from Letsema is a community-led and controlled process. The state might assist, but it's not a state-led process. It's a people's process.

Now, in terms of the rules of the Government of National Unity, GNU, I declare a conflict of interest as I am vested in this topic. In the presence of the people of the world, we have declared gender-based violence, GBV, and femicide a national disaster. All of us who are males must hang our heads in shame. We had a responsibility. We apportioned to ourselves, or as the saying goes, based on faith and cultural beliefs, and we have failed miserably in that respect. Truly, times have changed.

We have a Constitution that promises gender equality, and it demands of us to pronounce a different narrative. Man is no longer the head of the family or the provider because we have failed in both. We rape our own babies and have failed to provide as evidenced by the millions amongst us raised by single

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 32

mothers and grandmothers. Where are the fathers and where are the grandfathers? Guess what? Even the rich, the employed men abuse and kill their partners. So on this matter, let us give apartheid a break and take responsibility as men of all tribes and colours and shades, irrespective of the size of their wallet, are killers of women.

The indoctrination that women need to be financed by men to be independent should be reversed. What you need in a partnership is interdependence and mutual respect, not dependence on the male. The root cause of what we have is the power imbalance and disrespect for women. And unless we deal with that, we will never see the end of this pandemic.

We need to re-educate all genders on these matters. Increasing budgets for rape kits and building more Thuthuzela care centres means we are anticipating continuing killing and raping our women, so we need more centres to take care of them. We should be investing in education and health for all, characterized by the motto of the G20: Solidarity, because it will be for all of us. Equality, because public and private won't make a difference. Sustainable, because we will concentrate on creating jobs, employment, so that we can collect taxes that we use

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 33

appropriately, that we do not loot and we stop corruption. There should be no mitigation for GBV. There should be absolute intolerance. No bail and a minimum sentence of life for homicide.

Rev K R J MESHOE: Hon Chairperson, hon members, the ACDP notes the growing momentum of activism against gender-based violence, particularly against women and children by civil society. The Women For Change led a Purple Campaign which called for a national shutdown last week to coincide with the G20 Summit highlighted the economic and social costs of GBV by asking women to refrain from work for a day. This was not just a protest. It was a powerful warning and a call for change. If the call was not widely heeded, it was not because most women do not support it, but because so many women have to work to keep food on the table.

The ACDP urge the P20 Women's Parliament to strengthen oversight, support survivors, and mobilize faith communities against GBV. We support Professor Jantjies, Director of the Parliamentary Budget Office, who urged G20 states to invest in affordable quality child and elderly care services that

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 34

disproportionately burden women. It is often said that those who have the money have the power.

With nearly half of South African households being single parent, women-led households, many earning far less than men, education and salary equity are essential to reduce vulnerability. GBV is overwhelmingly committed by men to our shame, and many would not be abusive if they truly respected the dignity and worth of women.

We are deeply concerned by delays in establishing and funding the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. When will the President set the date? We want to know. The Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth, and People with Disabilities rightly called for urgent accountability and gender-responsive budgeting.

The ACDP calls for the full operation of the council by March 2026, dedicated funding for survivor services and safe houses, rural prevention programs, and ethical leadership. We must not only speak against violence, but we must also build up the systems that prevent it from thriving and education - as our

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 35

colleague has said - and ensure that those who promote GBV face the full might of the law.

The ACDP stands in firm support of the 16 Days of Activism and campaign. And we wish that one day it will be 365 days of activism and not just 16 days until this evil thing that is called a crisis is eradicated. I thank you.

Ms C T NONTENJA: Hon House Chair, this debate comes after South Africa witnessed a powerful moment of unity on the 21 November as thousands joined the national march led by Women For Change, calling attention to the country's ongoing crisis of gender-based violence and femicide.

While we appreciate the intentions behind the 16 Days of Activism, we must ask, is 16 days enough? The UDM's argument is simple. Violence against women and children continues at an alarming rate despite this annual campaign. Why? Because for many institutions, the campaign has become a symbolic gesture. Speeches are made, posters go up, and the life continue as normal.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 36

We cannot rely on awareness alone. Survivors need consistent support, not seasonal attention. They need shelters, accessible legal services, trauma counselling, and effective policy. If these are not provided during the other 349 days of the year, then the campaign becomes a ritual rather than a solution.

Real change demands ongoing action, not a two-week spotlight. The campaign was never meant to replace long-term interventions. GBVF has been tearing apart our societies. And it is a critical criminal matter that knows no bounds, with children also bearing the brunt of this pandemic.

Recently, we have seen the growing number of parents, particularly mothers, accused of selling their own children, often to traditional healers or for human trafficking. Remember the tragic story of a six-year-old girl, Jocelyn Smith, who remains missing.

Shockingly, this pandemic is now spreading in schools. Between 2021 and 2025, 176 teachers were found guilty of sexual misconduct involving pupils. Once again, we are faced with a situation where those who are entrusted with protecting the children are the abusers of the day. I thank you.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 37

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu, ...

English:

... hon members and fellow South Africans, last week Women for Change led the national shutdown to protest against gender-based violence in South Africa. Last week, gender-based violence and femicide was finally declared a national disaster. These are two major recent events, yet they only showcase the ongoing dangers that women and children have faced for years and years on end with no end in sight.

Hon members, South Africans have lost faith on our criminal justice system. South African women and children have lost faith in the men of our country. The violence and lack of accountability must end now. We must learn from those who have largely perfected dealing with large scale crisis, the emergency medical services. A paramedic knows that when you have to charge, you cannot prioritise a broken toe over a person that has just been stabbed in the abdomen.

Similarly, we have to prioritise dealing with certain criminal cases. The murder, assault and rape of women and children must

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 38

be deemed priority crimes for the entire security cluster from reporting, investigation to prosecutions and convictions. Our entire criminal justice system must be reworked to rebuild the trust that South Africans have lost in it. We know that our detectives are overworked and overburdened. Still, they must ensure that murder, assault and rape of women and children are at the top of the list of cases they investigate and no case must be left unsolved.

These cases must not only be solved timelessly but must be made prosecution ready. The prosecutors who receive these cases must also prioritise the speedy resolution of the court cases. Judges who preside over these cases must take due account to the impact of these crimes on victims but also the broader society.

Us, as men, must also recognise our role in this crisis. We are the main perpetrators of the emotional, physical and economic violence committed against women. It is then vital that we take an active role in raising awareness around gender-based violence and femicide in changing the culture that allow for such violence. We must speak out against any man that mistreat a woman. We must continue to advocate for the safety of all women and children in South Africa.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 39

Let us stand together to ensure that every murder, assault and rape case is solved and prosecuted. Let us stand together to build a society where any form of violence against women and children would be unacceptable to us all.

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: House Chair, last week we saw Women for Change lead women across the country taking to the streets and taking a stand in a national shutdown that went across the country. We saw purple profile pictures, we saw women of every race and of every class coming together to stand against gender-based violence.

The announcement by government that declared gender-based violence and femicide as a national disaster is welcome.

However, it was bittersweet because while we can be proud of the fact that the idea that the power is in the hands of the people and indeed ...

IsiXhosa:

... amandla ngawabantu, ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 40

English:

... it was bittersweet because it was a reminder of the number of women who since there have been calls for gender-based violence to be made a national disaster, have actually died at the hands of violence. The number of women who have been raped and who have been sexually assaulted, it has taken too long for us to get you. Nevertheless, now that we are here, declarations alone are not enough. We have to ensure that we have stringent timelines that there are concrete plans and that there is decisive action.

We also have to be clear that there are various truths that we can no longer ignore and one of these is that, in South Africa offenders often reoffend with many committing further violence against the same victims. In South Africa, we face one of the highest rates of recidivism. Nine out of 10 ex-offenders reoffend after their release. We can reduce this number.

We are tired of all the tragic stories of women who have fallen victim to individuals with prior convictions. Many of us in this House and in South Africa will recognise the names of Uyinenene Mrwetyana, Karabo Mokoena, Anene Booysen and many others. However, we do not know the names or faces of the perpetrators.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 41

If they were released today, many of us would not be able to take measures to prevent ourselves of being victims of a repeat offense by those perpetrators.

So, if we are to make one meaningful impact during the 16 Days of Activism, let us as a House agree to prioritise working towards making the National Register of Sexual Offenders public and readily available. Let us put names and faces to offenders who roam our streets and make it into our workplaces and our homes. The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development keeps reneging on its commitments to make the register public, which she first announced in January this year. It is our duty to move when government sits on its hands.

Making the register public is essential to protecting the safety of women and children in our country. So, let us not mark the 16 Days of Activism with words, but with actual intention. Let us make sure that we fight for this justice that we need as women in South Africa. Thank you.

IsiXhosa:

Nksz T L MARAWU: Sihlalo weNdlu, ndimi apha namhlanje phambi kwale Ndlu ndimele isininzi samakhosikazi nesankxwe sezililo

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 42

esenzekayo ngokuhlukunyezwa kwamakhosikazi. Masiqale sibulele isibhengezo sikaMongameli welizwe ...

English:

... by declaring gender-based violence as a national disaster.

IsiXhosa:

Ixhala linye ke leli lokuba kudala kwenziwa izibhengezo kodwa ukuphunyezwa kwazo kungabikho. Ndiyafuna ukungqinelana nesithethi sangaphambili kwinto ethi, esi sibhengezo senziwe nguMongameli kufuneka ukuba sitshintshwe ...

English:

... into a programme of action and have time frames and assessments on performance and how far have we gone in terms of implementing the declaration itself.

IsiXhosa:

Kodwa ke ndiyafuna ukuthi, eli Sebe lezoBulungisa noPhuhliso loMgaqosiseko lingekebinayo ...

English:

... the capacity to deal with gender-based violence cases ...

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 43

IsiXhosa:

... siza kuba sengxakini kuba ngamanye amaxesha uye ufumanise ukuba amapolisa wona kuqala awanayo ...

English:

... that capacity to deal with gender-based violence. Some of them are not trained for that.

IsiXhosa:

Udibana nabo bebakhulula abantu besithi hambani niyixoxe isikhaya le nto. Nanku ke ngoku umntu exhatshaziwe, uhlala kule ndlu kwaye kufuneke ukuba aphinde ahlale nale ndoda ibimxhaphaza kuba kaloku ...

English:

... the Thuthuzela Care Centres have no capacity to cater for ...

IsiXhosa:

... bonke aba bantu. Siyacela ke ngoko ukuba ingingqi nengingqi mayibenayo ...

English:

... a Thuthuzela Care Centre ...

IsiXhosa:

... kuba oomama nabantwana abangamantombazana baphela bengamaxhoba kuba kaloku baphinde bahlale nabaxhaphazi kweli gumbi linye. Sithi ke ngoko mabaqeqeshe nabasebenzi bezempilo ...

English:

... in terms of dealing with gender-based violence, GBV, ...

IsiXhosa:

... iza kusincedisa kakhulu loo nto ekuqinisekiseni ukuba siyalithoba inani. Ixhala leli lokuba ...

English:

... during the period of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children ...

IsiXhosa:

... inani lokuxhatshazwa koomama namantombazana liphindeke kabini. Masicengane bethuna simcele urhulumente ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 45

English:

... that the systems must be in place. There is nothing impossible.

IsiXhosa:

Le nto ifuna ukuba abantu abakwizikhundla eziphezulu bazibophelele bayiqonde ukuba imeko esiphila phantsi kwayo iyatshintsha. Enkosi Sihlalo weNdlu.

Mr M S MOELA: Hon House Chairperson, hon members, as the ANC the movement that fought for the rights and dignity of all South Africans especially those who are historically marginalised; we stand here today to highlight where we have identified gaps, acted and strengthened governments' capacity to fight against women and children abuse.

Today's debate goes to the very heart of our constitutional project which is building a nation where every person lives free from fear, violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse. The ANC always has a view that the struggle against Gender-based Violence and Femicide, GBVF, and child abuse is not a women's struggle alone but a national imperative. It is a sole of our

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 46

democracy, the character of our society and the values we stand for as a nation.

Despite progress made over 30 years of democracy, violence against women and children remain a profound challenge that continue to threaten our social cohesion.

The intersecting vulnerabilities of those with disabilities demand even shaper attention.

Hon members, we emphasise that as the ANC we have consistently pinned out the GBVF as not only a criminal justice issue but also a social, economic, public health and a women rights issue.

There have been several government interventions in the previous and the current administration employed by government in the fight against women and children abuse. Those include strengthening of Sexual Offences and Community Affairs until within the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, prioritised prosecution on the sexual offences' expansion of Thuthuzela Care Centres, amendments of progressive legislation that protect women and children at the establishment of the Council of GBVF.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 47

However, we must also emphasize that these interventions require a nation that is ready and willing to confront the fight against GBVF and uproot practical norms.

Hon members, we equally welcome the President's call to declare this scourge as a national crisis.

As a nation we must also confront the challenges that come with the introduction of new technologies and new digital platforms because some of them perpetuate violence and cyber exploitation which cause harm to our children. Digital technologies do bring opportunities but also bring dangers to our children.

Particularly those with development of cognitive disabilities face sensitive risks online.

The government has made strides in this regard to protect our children through units like the SA Police Service Cyber Crime Unit, collaborating with Interpol to identify and disrupt child exploitation networks. However, it is important that we as a nation also assist the government in our households, communities ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, my apologies.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 48

Hon Aphiri on the virtual platform, please remain muted until you are recognised to speak.

Mr M S MOELA: Thank you, House Chairperson.

It is however important that we as a nation also assist the government in our households, communities, schools and all other places that interact with our children.

While we recognise that violence does not need a motive to occur, we must also acknowledge that the role of substance abuse and its link to neglect domestic violence and exploitation.

Hon members, substance dependency has a potential of intensifying poverty, child neglect, domestic violence and community instability. These have been government efforts to try and address these issues. Those efforts include the establishment of the Central Drug Authority, the Expansion of Public ... [Inaudible.] ... Replication Services and family strengthening programmes and the integrated school health programme which identifies learners that are at risk at an early age. Reporting by schools and clinics community structure must

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 49

be enforced because it remains a cornerstone for an early intervention.

These institutions are often the first line of sight of abuse, neglect and exploitation especially for children and persons living with disabilities. So far there is progress made by government including the Children's Act and the Sexual Offences Act that impose legal duties to report certain forms of abuse.

Hon members, although there have been challenges on mandatory reporting because many educators, health workers and community-based organisations lack training in this issue. They may find it difficult to recognise signs of abuse particularly on children with disabilities or on online exploitative behaviour.

Hon members, in conclusion as the ANC we want to reaffirm to South Africans that our policies have legal frameworks with institutional architecture what we now require is a stronger co-ordination and accountability, quicker implementation community mobilisation and greater disability inclusion. The ANC remain unwavering in its belief that the fight against violence and exploitation is the fight to protect the soul of our nation. This is our country's mission. It demands courage, compassion

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 50

and collective responsibility. Let us honour children whom we failed. Let us support the survivors who continue to build our nation. Let us respect persons with disabilities who deserve full dignity and safety. Let us respect our children and let us ensure that our nation becomes a place where violence against women and children is not just condemned but it is ended by us. We are saying not in our name.

Hon members, as I conclude, I want to also congratulate the South African government for a successful hosting of a G20 Summit the first time on the African soil which was very successful despite the attempts from the Western Imperialists to disturb it. We honour our children and we say, "Not in our name." Thank you very much.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon House Chairperson, tomorrow, Al Jama-ah's leader, in his capacity as the Deputy Minister of Social Development will together with the Central Drug Authority convene the fourth biennial Substance and Alcohol Abuse Summit in Johannesburg. This summit also takes place against the backdrop of concerns about the alcohol abuse which among other negative impacts on society.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 51

It is also closely associated with Gender-based Violence and Femicide, GBVF. Gender-based Violence and Femicide is a critical issue. Al Jama-ah welcomes the President's declaration at the G20 Summit that GBVF in our country is a national crisis.

The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children should be treated as more than a campaign but a call to action of *Letsema*. For all men, women, boys, girls, media and film industries, religious fraternities, NGOs and businesses to stop being perceive observers to GBVF.

Government must increase and provide more support to places of safety for abused women and children.

Al Jama-ah welcomes the President's declaration at the G20 Summit declaring Gender-based Violence and Femicide as a national crisis. The action to eliminate GBVF should match that crisis. Al Jama-ah calls for the following action: Revoke the extension of liquor trading licences.

Shut down od shebeens in residential areas. Specifically, those in close proximity of schools, places of warship and sports

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 52

facilities. It is unacceptable that in the Western Cape we have more shebeens than schools.

Training and sensitisation of police and officials in the criminal justice system. Fast-track GBVF cases in our courts. Eliminate the gangsterism and drug dens. Municipalities must prioritise support systems for GBVF victims. Upgrade more courts into Sexual Offences Courts and fast-track DNA lab tests. Provide skills training and economic empowerment. The hotline must be promoted at all government and public institutions.

The National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide which outlines a roadmap for the next decade to create safe, violent free environments will be fruitless if government fails to address the critical issues on the ground such as unemployment, shebeens, drug dens, gangsterism and other harmful factors. I thank you.

IsiXhosa:

Malibongwe!

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Thank you, Chairperson.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 53

Sesotho:

Kgotso, Maafrika!

English:

The term Letsema, for men, women, boys and girls working together to end gender-based violence, calls South Africa and the African continent to collective action grounded in Ubuntu and shared responsibility. However, for Letsema, to be effective, we must confront a deeper truth: Africa possesses a wealth of scholars, academics, researchers and professors who are fully capable of interrogating the complex root causes of gender-based violence and femicide. We must trust African knowledge system. African research traditions and African intellectual sovereignty.

Hon Chair, gender-based violence did not emerge in a vacuum. We cannot read it only as a surface-level behavioural crisis. We must ask: Where did this problem begin; what historical forces shaped the dynamic we see today; and how have colonial violence, patriarchal system and economic deprivation, as well the community failures, contribute to this crisis? It is therefore essential that government commission independent African-led

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 54

research that traces the structural, historical and psychological drivers of violence.

Without proper diagnosis, we risk adopting solutions that address symptoms rather than the causes. At the same time, hon Chair, we must be careful not to fall into a narrative that divide men and women, or boys and girls. While it is correct to critically examine how social messaging, media discourses and policy framing influence perception, of muscularity, we must allow-- we cannot allow untested assumption or conspiracy claim to mislead us.

Instead, what we need is a rigorous African scholarship that clarify the real forces shaping behaviour, economic pressures, social fragmentation, trauma, substance abuse, harmful norms and historical inequalities. Letsema means working together. It means men as allies, not enemies. Women as partners, not victims in waiting. Boys and girls learning new ways of relating rooted in dignity, compassion, and accountability.

As the UAT, we insist that any national strategy must rely on evidence, not fear, African research, not important narratives. and collective healing, not divisions. The fight against gender-

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 55

based violence must empower African men and boys to be part of the solution, not reduce them to stereotypes. Honourable members, only through truth, understanding and unity, we can end this crisis and restore the moral fabric of our community. [Time expired.]

Ms L SCHIKERLING: Good afternoon, hon House Chair. Hon members, today as I stand here, dressed in black, I do so with a heavy heart. I stand in mourning, in protest and in solidarity with the families of every woman and child whose life has been stolen through violence.

My attire today is not just symbolic; it is a reminder of the darkness that far too many South African families live with every single day. It is a reminder that for thousands of women and children, fear does not end after 16 days. They live in fear for 365 days of the year, while government delivers 365 days of excuses.

Hon members, when Gaby Ndaba went missing, her family did everything right. They reported a disappearance immediately. Her phone rang until the early hours of the next morning, yet no trace was done; no officers rushed to assist, no urgency; no

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 56

care. Gabby was not treated like a woman whose life was in danger. She was treated like an administrative inconvenience, and six days later, she was sadly found dead.

Today, we must say her name in this House, because her story is not just a tragedy, it is an indictment: An indictment on a police service that is meant to protect; an indictment on a state that treats women's lives as disposable; an indictment on leadership that remains unbothered by the bloodshed happening under their watch. Let us be clear: This is not an isolated failure. It is the daily reality of our mothers, sisters, daughters, aunts, and friends.

Women whose safety depends on whether the system chooses to act on that day or not. Gaby's story reveals something deeply disturbing. Most families do not know what to do when a loved one goes missing; and worse, many SAPS members do not know either. Sadly, cases get cold in the first hour simply because no one responds.

However, hon House Chair, even in the darkness, South Africans refuse to be silent. On Friday, the mass action organised by Women for Change reminded us of what courage looked like. It

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 57

reminded us of the ageless mantra: You strike a woman; you strike a rock! To activists, like Sabrina Walter, Merlize Jogat from Women for Change, to tireless fighters, like Juanita du Preez and Kaylnn Palm from Action Society, and all the unsung heroes who walk our streets at night to save victims, who lift broken bodies from danger, and then who fight tirelessly for justice. We see you; we see your sacrifice; and we honour your fight.

These women are not politicians; they have no blue lights; and no billion-rand budgets. What they have is heart, courage and a refusal to accept the violence that has become normalised in this country. While victims lie bruised and bleeding in alleys, in bushes, in their own homes, where they would have been safe or should have been safe, corrupt leaders are bleeding our policing system dry. They are not just stealing money; they are stealing the chance for victims to be found. They are stealing the chance for cases to be solved - the chance for justice.

Every single rand stolen through inflated tenders, kickbacks and corrupt networks is a rand stolen from the safety of women and children. It is a vehicle at a FCS unit that never gets repaired. It is a detective post left unfolded for months. It is

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 58

a DNA test that sits untouched in a backlog, which I have seen. It is a victim support room that never, ever opens its doors. Hon members, if we are serious about ending gender-based violence, we must stop pretending that corruption is a separate issue.

Corruption and GBV are directly connected. Corruption kills. Corruption silences. Corruption created the very condition in which abusers, rapists, and killers currently thrive. What we need is a whole of society response. Civil society, business, faith communities, schools, families and government, all working together on a response bigger than slogans and bigger than speeches because every single life matters, every single one and every life lost is a blood-red stain on the soil of South Africa.

As we observe, the 16 days of activism, let us be honest with ourselves. Year after year, we debate, we gather, we hold dialogues and seminars, yet the statistics rise. Year after year, women march, mothers cry, families bury their daughters, yet the system barely shifts. Today we must rise together. Fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts and say

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 59

enough is enough. Not with speeches, not with hashtags, but with action.

We need properly resourced FCS units with more detectives and trauma-trained staff. mandatory training for all SA Police Service members on missing persons protocols, GBV legislation and victim handling, real accountability when officers fail to act, because negligence should never be excused. Hon Speaker, the DA will continue to fight for these reforms. We will continue to demand decisive action.

We owe it to every woman and every child whose voice was silenced. We owe it to the next generation to build a South Africa where girls grow up dreaming; not just surviving. Let 2025 be the year we stop lighting candles and start fixing the system. Let us stand united, men, women, boys and girls, to build a country where safety is not a privilege but a right.

Today, as I do not end with silence but with their names, names that we must echo in this House, not as statistics but as lives that mattered - Gaby Ndaba, Hannah Cornelius, Naeema Marshall, Jesse Hess, Tinyiko Ngoben, Zainab Jacobs, Gouwah Smith Newman, Bongani Mhlomo and Allison Plaatjies. Their voices were silenced,

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 60

but through our actions, they will speak again. Enough is enough! The time for action is right now, today! I thank you.

Mr O M MATHAFA: House Chair, hon members and fellow South Africans, we participate in this debate to mark the launch of the annual Sixteen Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children programme. We recall the words of our founding father of our democracy, President Rolihlahla Mandela, when he said that a society's moral character is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members, primarily by ensuring their fundamental rights, safety, and dignity.

Madiba's words echo the provisions of section 12 of the Constitution that states that everyone has the right to freedom and security, which includes the right to be free from all forms of violence, from either public or private sources, and the right to be free from being tortured in any way.

This debate takes place just a few days after the declaration of gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, as a national disaster by the President and by the National Disaster Management Centre, in terms of section 23 of the Disaster Management Act, which was

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 61

also welcomed by the Ministry of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Cogta.

This declaration, as outlined by Cogta, will mean reinforcing and strengthening the existing systems that are already taking place to fight GBV and femicide. Amongst other things, these systems include the reinforcement and strengthening of the work of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the GBV and the expansion of the Thuthuzela Care Centres, the strengthening of sexual offenses courts, as well as the reform of the criminal justice system, to effectively fight GBV and femicide.

The declaration of GBV and femicide as a social national disaster calls on all organs of state to strengthen their support to existing GBVF response structures to fully implement their contingency arrangement, and to ensure that all necessary mechanisms are activated to enable the national executive to manage this disaster effectively.

In terms of section 22 of the Act, organs of states, the private sector, communities and individuals are urged to intensify the risk reduction and prevention practices through the implementation of GBVF-related standards, procedures, and

legislative measures. Individuals are strongly encouraged to refrain from any act of gender-based violence or femicide.

Further, the international, provincial and municipal authorities are also advised, consistent with the Act, to implement multisectoral prevention, mitigation, relief and rehabilitation plans to address the effects of this disaster holistically.

Our focus in this debate will be on the strengthening of the state's response to gender-based violence and femicide and children's rights. Part of interventions undertaken by both Parliament and government include amendments and passing of legislation that are aimed at legally strengthening the fight against GBVF.

Some of these legislations include the Social Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act of 2022, which is aimed at comprehensively and extensively reviewing and amending all aspects of the laws and implementation of the laws relating to sexual offenses, and to deal with all legal aspects or aspects relating to sexual offenses in a single statute.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 63

It is done by repealing the common law offense of rape and replacing it with the new expanded statutory rape offense, applicable to all forms of sexual penetration without consent, irrespective of gender, as well as repealing the common law offense of indecent assault and replacing it with a new statutory offense of sexual assault, applicable to all forms of sexual violation without consent amongst other things.

Essentially, the Criminal Law Amendment Act criminalises various forms of sexual violence and harassment and outlines procedures for reporting, investigating and prosecution of sexual offenses. This legislation introduced specific provisions that widened the definition of rape from common law and included other provisions relating to sexual assault and grooming of children for sexual purposes.

The other Act is the Domestic Violence Amendment Act of 2022. The Domestic Violence Act provides legal protection and remedies for survivors of domestic violence, including protection orders and access to support services. The last crime statistics indicated that, in respect of sexual offenses, rape increased with Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal contributing 19,1 and 19,9%, respectively to the national total.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 64

The statistics further indicated that women remain disproportionately affected by rape, assault, grievous bodily harm, GBH, and murder. These statistics paint a picture that the war against gender-based violence and femicide is far from over and it requires our collective efforts to win it. The children of our country continue to be victims of abuse and murder.

This puts our society as a failure on the test that Madiba challenged us with many years ago that our moral character will be tested by how we protect the most vulnerable of our society, including children. No child should be a victim of abuse and crime in our country. We should live by the principle that every child is my child and that all of us individually and collectively have an obligation to protect our children and the most vulnerable in our society.

The fight against GBVF and abuse of children requires the whole of government and whole of society approach. This means that civil society should join hands with the law enforcement agencies to fight GBVF and no violence to children.

It is important that our criminal justice system strengthens its programmes on victim support, as well as ensuring that all

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 65

police stations have GBVF tests to ensure that victims of GBVF are enabled to report their cases to the police. We know the various legislation that have been passed strengthen the fight against GBVF and violence to children. What is critical is that we should ensure that these legislations are enforced and where there are weaknesses, the legislation should be strengthened.

We must also ensure data integrity and centralised GBVF information so that the systems within the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security, JCPS, cluster talks to one another in an integrated manner. Madam House Chair, we thank you for the opportunity to participate. Thank you very much.

Debate concluded.

**CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR APPROVAL BY PARLIAMENT OF
RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
AFRICAN EXPORT-IMPORT BANK, AFREXIMBANK, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AGREEMENT,
SIGNED 8 MAY 1993**

Mr M C MASINA: The Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition considered the agreement for the establishment of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 66

the African Export-Import Bank, Afreximbank, on 7 October 2025. The African Export-Import Bank is a multilateral financial institution established in 1993 to facilitate, promote, and expand intra- and extra-African trade. With the subsequent establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA, Afreximbank has become the key support of trade within the continent.

While South Africa has a shareholding in the Afreximbank through the Export Credit Insurance Corporation, ECIC, and the Public Investment Corporation, PIC, it is currently not a full sovereign member of the Class A shareholder. This limits its say in the bank's strategic direction and in the financial resources allocated to the bank. Full membership will grant South African entities access to the bank's preferred credit status. This reduces the political and commercial risk of operating across Africa, thus allowing institutions like the Export Credit Insurance Corporation to offer more competitive insurance prices and boost overall investor confidence in South African projects.

Furthermore, this will consequently unlock the high-impact financial and strategic facilities, thereby driving inclusive growth and job creation, an increase in exports and investment

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 67

by facilitating financial assistance of South African companies, commercial banks, and state-owned enterprises to expand into Africa.

Finally, strengthening the economic linkages within the key African partners, in particular, accession to the agreement offers South Africa an opportunity to leverage financial and expertise for the implementation of strategic programmes and industrialization, such as the financial support for the Special Economic Zone, industrial parks, as well as investment and expand local production and boost value-added export. The promotion of local mineral beneficiation through access to finance for the development of local smelters, refineries, and processing plants for strategic resources to ensure that the value is captured locally before export, instead of the current pit-to-pot trend. Supporting the integration of micro and small business enterprises into regional and continental supply chains through banks' existing platform and accessing additional trade finances and support for their development across all sectors. Hence, it is in South Africa's national interest to become a full member, and South Africa's accession to the agreement will enable this.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 68

Therefore, in terms of section 231(2) of the Constitution, the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition recommends that the House approve the South African accession to the agreement for the establishment of the African Export-Import Bank. I thank you.

Declarations of vote:

Mr M M MDLULI: House Chair, as South Africa deepens its engagements with continental financial institutions, we are called upon today to reflect carefully on the role Afreximbank plays in advancing Africa's economic integration and development. The request before us, to ratify the Bank's establishment agreements, offers an opportunity to reaffirm our country's commitment to regional co-operation grounded in sound economic principles.

From the outset, let me state clearly that the DA supports the establishment and purpose of Afreximbank. The bank was created to expand Africa's trade finance capacity to fund major development projects and to facilitate the kind of cross-border commerce that drives industrialization and economic growth.

These objectives remain as important today as they were at the agreement's signing in 1993. The Afreximbank is intended to be a

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 69

catalyst for export developments, industrial expansion, as well as infrastructure investments. It is an institution designed to help African firms compete, grow, and integrate into regional and global markets. This is a vision we share and will continue to support.

However, support for the bank must be accompanied by the responsible use of its purpose. As members of the GNU, we carry a collective duty to ensure that every financial commitment is prudent, sustainable, and aligned with the highest standards of governance.

In this context, we must express our concerns regarding the proposal to borrow between R34 billion and R50 billion from the bank to capitalize, as currently referred to as the Transformation Fund. While the intention of promoting inclusive growth is one, we all recognize, the scale and structure of this borrowing set the alarm bells ringing.

Small and emerging businesses in the country already operate under extraordinarily difficult conditions. Rising costs, regulatory burdens, failing local infrastructure, and unreliable basic services place considerable pressure on their

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 70

sustainability. Under these circumstances, large-scale lending to such companies carries a meaningful risk of defaults. If this borrowing were to result in sustainable nonpayments, the consequences for the national fiscus could be severe.

House Chair, we must avoid creating future contingent liability that compromises our ability to fund essential public services or invest in catalytic developments.

In the same breath, taking on a new role in Afreximbank requires the government to play a stronger role in the governance of the bank. The bank is only one rating away from junk status due to high levels of nonperforming loans. We must use our seat at the table to ensure that proper due diligence and risk management become a feature and not a failure of the bank.

The DA will continue to back this. However, we do have distinct reservations over the DTIC's proposed use of the bank to capitalize on the Transformation Fund and the bank's internal control mechanisms. I thank you.

Mr S I GAMA: Hon House Chair, hon members, the MK party bemoans the delayed ascension of South Africa as a sovereign member of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 71

the board of the Afreximbank. For 30 years, South Africa has not been a sovereign member but has held Category B shares through the Export Credit Insurance Corporation. The absence of sovereign membership has restricted the bank's ability to extend support to South African projects, with the result that a pipeline of projects north of \$1 billion, which has been previously approved, has expired and not been implemented due to South Africa not being a sovereign member.

In an era where we must advocate African solutions for African problems, the MK party supports the upgrade of South Africa's membership in the bank, as it will facilitate intra-African trade and support regional integration through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. This aligns with our people's mandate emphasis on African economic co-operation and the strengthening of economic ties with the Global South.

We believe that sovereign membership will not only give our country industries access to a wide range of financing facilities, but it will also provide our people with much-needed capital funding for industrial growth. A multilateral financial institution that speaks to our people's preference for African financial architecture as an alternative to neoliberal global

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 72

institutions that continue to undermine and exploit Africa's self-determination will always garner our support. The reduction of neocolonial influence and dependence on Western financial institutions through utilizing Afreximbank is the correct approach towards industrialization of our continent, and our party is committed to economic transformation, which ensures that most of our people who are excluded from gainful economic participation can be moved from the periphery to the centre of economic activity. Mineral beneficiation, industrial participation, access to Pan-African markets, and the funding of industrial infrastructure are at the core of MK party's mandate. The MK party will continue to advocate for black South African industrialists and other marginalized minorities, such as women and disabled persons, to access preferential financing and support.

As a progressive force committed to economic transformation, the MK party will ensure oversight and accountability in how this temporary government allocates the \$43 billion balance sheet unlocked by the bank for South African projects. We need to deal urgently with the existing infrastructure financing gap, which has been found by the African Development Bank to be between \$130 to \$170 billion across the energy, water, transport, and

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 73

digital sectors, which needs to be transformed so that more Africans can take part in these industries.

The MK party supports funding that ensures that the control of production, the control of employment, and the control of investment decisions is transferred to the majority of our population, and ensures that we reduce reliance on foreign direct investment in the resources sector, and we place a great emphasis on developing domestic firms in manufacturing and tradable services. The MK party is a progressive force for good, which recognizes the need for our people to be employed, for the economy to grow, and to reduce discriminatory funding mechanisms in our economy. The MK party supports the signing process of South Africa's ascension to the Afreximbank.

IsiZulu:

Gwaza Mkhonto! Gwaza!

Mr M KHOZA: House Chairperson, the EFF has taken note of the establishment of the African Export Import Bank, and this agreement as a progressive step in the promotion of intra-African trade and a shift away from traditional dependency on global financing institutions.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 74

For too long, we have allowed trade in Africa to rely on exports to nations which have formerly colonised our continent in exchange for the import of finished goods. But more harmfully, we have allowed the financing of our developmental agenda as Africa to be determined by Bretton Woods institutions who come with conditionalities and structural adjustment programmes.

This has meant that our development in infrastructure, energy, rails, logistical technologies has relied on financing from institutions which perpetuate Africa's underdevelopment. This agreement gives us an opportunity to finance our industrial objectives through mutually beneficial partnerships within the continent. This development must be welcomed. However, we must caution that this initiative should not allow the cloud of Western nations and their self-indulgent policies to inform our trade and developmental agenda.

When considering financing for energy security, let us not allow the nonsensical notion of abandoning prematurely and without reliable alternatives, natural resources such as coal. When considering the expansion of digital infrastructure in the region and the continent, let us not be seduced by tech billionaires of fascism, such as Elon Musk and Stalin, who are

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 75

antitransformation and have a nefarious agenda of United States, US imperialism.

Let us not use this agreement as a mechanism to advance privatization of rail, logistics, and energy, meaning we further decapacitate African states. Let us use this instrument before us to advance Africa's sovereignty, development, and trade. The EFF supports this report. Thank you, Chair.

Mr T M LANGA: House Chair, may I request to keep my camera off for better connectivity objective. The IFP welcomes the report. This agreement represents an important step in strengthening Africa's regional integration, expanding intra-African trade, and enhancing the continent's industrial and export capacity. The African Export-Import Bank plays an important role because it helps African countries and businesses get money to trade, grow industries, and compete in global markets.

By approving this agreement under section 231(2) of the Constitution, Parliament helps South Africa gain better access to trade, finance, investment, and economic growth. The IFP supports the committee's recommendation for the approval of the agreement.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 76

IsiZulu:

Ngiyathokoza.

English:

Thank you very much, House Chair.

Ms M L MATHOPA: House Chair, hon members, the PA supports initiatives that strengthen intra-African trade and industrial cooperation. The African Export-Import Bank plays a vital role in promoting trade finance, industrialisation, and economic resilience across the continent. Ratifying this agreement aligns South Africa with continental efforts to enhance trade facilitation, and access to finance for businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises.

This is critical for job creation and economic growth, transparency and accountability, clear benefits for local industry, ensuring that South African businesses, especially all disadvantaged enterprises, gain equitable access to African Export-Import Bank, regular parliamentary oversight, monitor compliance and performance.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 77

In conclusion, the PA therefore supports the approval of the ratification of the agreement as a step towards advancing South Africa's role in continental trade and economic development. I thank you.

Dr W J BOSHOFF: Hon House Chair, I am speaking from the beautiful Hantam in the Northern Cape.

Afrikaans:

Die Afreximbank, wat bedoel is vir die bevordering van invoere en uitvoere in Afrika onderling, is eintlik een van die beste goed wat nog gebeur het of wat kan gebeur, aangesien Afrika eintlik in 'n situasie is, wat nie baie verskil van toe kolonialisme tot 'n einde gekom het nie. Inteendeel, die soort groeperings bly voort bestaan. Dit is die Francofoon-Afrika, die Engelssprekende Afrika. En dit lyk maar baie soos tevore, behalwe dat daar 'n nuwe vorm van kolonisering vanuit China besig is om plaas te vind, wat besig is om Afrika se hulpbronne vir hulle toe te eien.

As ons bietjie daarna kyk dan is om Afrika te dekoloniseer in die eerste plek 'n kulturele saak, maar dis nie vandag se onderwerp nie. Dis andersins ook 'n ekonomiese saak. Dit gaan

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 78

daaroor om Afrika se hulpbronne eerder onderling te gebruik en te verhandel, as om dit na die buiteland toe te stuur.

Daar is baie ou voorbeelde daarvan. Die Cahora Bassa-hidroëlektriese skema is meer as 50 jaaar oud, waar elektrisiteit wat in Mosambiek opgewek word in Suid-Afrika verkoop word. Nog 'n voorbeeld is die Republic of Mozambique Pipeline Investments Company, Rompco-gaslyn, waar Suid-Afrika met Sasol die vermoë het, om die gas in vloeibare brandstof te verander, wat in Mosambiek ontgin word.

Hierdie soort ding het oneindige potensiaal om verder te gaan soos die water van die Kongorivier byvoorbeeld. Daar is soveel voorbeelde van hulpbronne wat ons beter oor en weer kan gebruik, as om dit na eerstewêreldlande of lande in die globale noorde uit te voer, net om dit later weer in verwerkte vorm terug te voer. Dit gebeur tot so 'n mate dat jy jouself afvra hoe dit is dat ons as 'n land nou eers daarby aansluit.

Dit is so dat die Public Investment Corporation, PIC, en die Export Credit Insurance Corporation ECIC altwee staatsinstansies is wat reeds aandele in hierdie bank besit en dit is hierdie aandele wat [Tyd verstreke.] Ai, dis jammer. Dankie.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 79

Mr A D BEESLEY: House Chairperson, ActionSA supports deeper African economic integration. We recognise the importance of trade finance and growing exports, strengthening industrial capacity, and unlocking the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area. The agreement before us establishing the African Export-Import Bank is a key instrument for expanding intra-Africa trade and giving South Africa's manufacturers, exporters and emerging businesses access to the financial tools They need to reach new markets.

The portfolio committee has considered the legal and policy implications of this agreement. ActionSA notes its recommendations for approval in terms of section 231(2) of the Constitution. Chairperson, whilst we support this agreement, we must also be honest about the context in which it arrives. South Africans exporters continue to face obstacles at home, unreliable logistics, limited industrial financing, red tape, and the chronic underperformance of what increasingly resembles the department of no trade and no industry.

Without domestic reforms, our exporters cannot fully leverage continental opportunities, even with institutions such as African Export-Import Bank, Afreximbank at their disposal.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 80

ActionSA therefore welcomes additional trade finance capacity this agreement can unlock. But we caution that financing alone cannot compensate for policy failure at home. We must ensure that South African businesses, especially small, medium, and micro enterprises, SMMEs and township enterprises, are able to access these instruments and are not excluded by bureaucracy or a lack of government support.

Chairperson, parliamentary approval of this agreement is a correct step for South Africa's integration into Africa's trade systems. But ActionSA will continue to hold the executive accountable to ensure that the benefits of this agreement are felt not only by established exporters, but by the entrepreneurs and job seekers who depend on a growing and outward-looking economy. We therefore support the recommendation before the House. I thank you.

Mr W M THRING: Hon House Chairperson, the ACDP notes the report of the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition on the request for the approval of the ratification of the agreement establishing the African Export-Import Bank, signed in May 1993. This bank was created to facilitate and expand intra- and extra-African trade and today counts some 52 African states

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 81

among its members. Its mandate includes financing industrialization, supporting the African continental free trade area, and strengthening Africa's sovereign economic value.

The ACDP recognizes the potential benefits of ratification for South Africa, including access to strategic programs, trade finance, and industrialization support. However, we also acknowledge recent concerns. In June, Fitch Ratings downgraded Afreximbank to BBB-, citing high credit risk, weak risk management, and rising exposure to distressed governments. The African Peer Review Mechanism similarly warned of stress indicators, such as rising non-performance loans and sovereign risk concentration. Nonetheless, the ACDP supports this ratification but insists that South Africa's participation must be accompanied by strong oversight, transparency, and risk management safeguards. We cannot afford to expose our economy to instability without clear accountability. As kingdom builders, the ACDP asserts that this ratification must be a step towards building Africa's trade capacity and, simultaneously, it must be matched with prudence and ethical stewardship. Thank you.

Afrikaans:

Mnr N L S KWANKWA: Niks om te se nie, Voorsitter.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 82

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu, ...

English:

... we will not declare. We support the report of the committee.

Xitsonga:

Ha khensa swinene.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: House Chair. BOSA, welcomes the report recommending the approval of the establishment agreement of the African Export-Import Bank. We recognize that this ratification is not merely a procedural formality and that, rather, it's an important step towards strengthening South Africa's role in Africa's regional trade architecture and expanding our participation in a continent-wide effort to accelerate industrialization, to facilitate trade, and also to deepen economic integration.

South Africa has to be fully aligned with this institutional framework, and this agreement brings us closer to that. However, as we welcome this step, we also must confront the truth that

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 83

South Africa's ability to benefit from Afreximbank depends entirely on the strength and readiness of our own economic governance. And while Afreximbank can mobilize capital, it can't compensate for our own weak internal controls. It can't compensate for delayed reforms or the persistent inefficiencies that we've seen with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and its entities, which are a continuous struggle.

A country can't fully leverage regional trade finance while it actually battles domestic red tape or slow project implementation or inconsistent policy signals. So, if we wish to unlock the full opportunities that Afreximbank offers, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition has to urgently strengthen its own capacity, and that means clearing some bottlenecks in industrial policy execution.

So, as BOSA, we support the ratification of the Afreximbank agreement, and we call on the executive to match this strategic opportunity with the internal reforms that are required to ensure that South Africa is not left behind in Africa's economic future and in fact leads it. Thank you very much.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 84

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Al Jama-ah, support the ratification of the agreement on the establishment of the African Export-Import Bank. Thank you.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: The UAT, support the consideration.

Ms S MOSIKATSI: House Chair, the ANC rises today in this House to express its strong support for the agreement for the establishment of the African Export-Import Bank, Afreximbank, which this House is considering for adoption.

The ANC firmly believes that the agreement is far more than just a technical financial instrument. This agreement is a strategic lever to rebalance African position in global trade as it enables African countries to take ownership of their country economic future. For the ANC, we have always maintained that economic liberation is inseparable of political liberation.

The bank creates a space for African countries to enjoy greater economic liberation by shifting trade financing away from international financial institutions and credit rating agencies who have historically imposed Washington Consensus policies in Africa and dictated terms of participation of African countries

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 85

in the global markets. Today, in the global economy where African goods face significant barriers, we access to finance remains a critical challenge for our small, medium, micro enterprises, provides a practical solution to unlock our trade potential and accelerate industrialization. This is important for South Africa because our manufacturing sector is struggling, our export market diversification is limited, and our economy remains largely commodity dependent.

South Africa's participation in the Afreximbank is both symbolic and strategic. It signals our country's commitment to regional integration as envisioned of African continental free trade area. The Afreximbank operates in by addressing a structural trade constraint such as shortage of working capital for exporters, lack of guarantees for cross-border transactions, absence of payment settlement systems, and high-cost logistics and insurance through the Pan-African payment and Settlement System, PAPSS, intra-African trade initiative, guarantee facilities for SMMEs and project preparation.

Hon members, the bank is also geared towards increasing intra-Africa trade currently accounts for approximately 15% to 16% of the continent's total trade. This is far too low for a continent

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 86

that has abundance of natural and mineral resources, talent, and innovation as us. The bank through trade financing investment guarantees the advisory support can help African women-owned, youth-owned, persons living with disabilities-owned SMMEs to scale production, access in new markets, and compete globally.

Fellow South Africans, this agreement also aligned directly with South Africa's industrial policy priorities by supporting sectors such as manufacturing, agro-processing, renewable energy, and services. It strengthened our capacity to create jobs and stimulate sustainable growth. Participation in this is not merely financial because the benefits are not narrowly measured, only in interest payments.

Rather, they are benefits measured in the expansion of the African manufacturing capacity and strengthening of the regional value chain and unlocking of a new export market for South African SMMEs. Afreximbank is grounded in the Pan-African institution building and, therefore, participating in reinforces the ANC's commitment to Pan-Africanism, strengthen bonds between African states, and enables collective action in global markets where historically African voices have been marginalized. Collective bargaining and shared infrastructure create

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 87

resilience, reduce foreign dependency, and ensures that Africa can chart a new economic course without external interference.

The bank also, as a continental development bank, is a practical tool capable of turning our Pan-African outcomes. I want to be very clear that does not undermine South Africa's sovereignty. Instead, it enhances our ability to exercise economic self-determination by mobilizing African capital for African development.

We become less vulnerable to external institutions, and we give South African SMMEs to funding that might otherwise be available.

In conclusion, I ask this House to approve this agreement without hesitation. This is an important step forward achieving a prosperous, integrated, and self-reliant Africa.

It is an investment in our people, in our industries, and in the shared future of our continent. Let us embrace this opportunity not simply as a member state, but as a committed partner of Africa economic resilience. Let us demonstrate that, when

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 88

African nations act together, we can shape our economy and create jobs for our people. I thank you.

Ratification of the Agreement on the establishment of the African Export-import bank ("Afreximbank") and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on the Establishment Agreement (signed 8 May 1993) accordingly approved.

**CONSIDERATION OF BUDGETARY REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT OF
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMPETITION**

Mr M Nontsele moved: That the Report be adopted.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr M M MDLULI: The DA supports the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports for the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry, and Competition. The report highlights commendable delivery in parts of the Department Trade, Industry, and Competition portfolio, including clean audits and measurable performance in several sectors and incentives programmes, but also identify assistance, governance, and delivery risks that require some attention. We have some concern over the SA Bureau of Standards, SABS, cyber-attack delayed financial statement

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 89

submissions. The Department Trade, Industry, and Competition and as well as SABS must provide firm plans as well as its plans on ensuring cyber security assurance and clear consequences for further non-compliance. We also stress that there is urgent need to finalise the new industrial policy to create a predictable environment that boosts investors' confidence and supports the revival of South Africa's industrial base. Hon Speaker, we support this report, but with reservations, particularly as regards to governance, accountability, as well as the implementation of key policy measures. Thank you.

Mr S I GAMA: Hon Deputy Speaker and hon members, the MKP rejects this report. Cry the beloved country. The Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports for the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry, and Competition reveals how we cannot plan for our country's economy from London without ever visiting Johannesburg or Mqanduli or Kokstad. It is like the tale narrated by Charles Dickens of two cities where we all want to go to heaven and yet we are all going to hell. It is like having a perfect landing but at the wrong airport.

These strange policies have not invested in the economic welfare of all the people of our country. The Department Trade,

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 90

Industry, and Competition does not create jobs. It does not grow the economy. It does not industrialise, and our people are still poor and hungry. The elite who has captured the state for the past 120 years are the only ones who have a stake in the success of our economy.

The department spent all its budget but only achieved two-thirds of the objectives. That sums up the level of incompetence in a department that is charged with the hopes and aspirations of our people. The failure of the Government of National Unity, GNU, and its neoliberal policies that excludes 80% of our population from the economy is glaring and hidden from plain sight. We should not expect anything as inequality, poverty and joblessness continue with no intervention from this department. It has become crystal clear that these budgets are here to serve neoliberal interests and not those of the majority of South Africans.

Under MKP people will have jobs, industries will grow, and the economy will thrive. We expect nothing from economic policies without any reference to the lived realities of our people.

IsiXhosa:

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 91

Siyayichitha le nto. [Kwaphela ixesha.]

Mr M KHOZA: Hon Deputy Speaker, the EFF cannot in sound mind support this Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports for the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry, and Competition because it represents the collapse of trade and industry which has come to characterise South Africa today. Year after year, quarter after quarter, we as lawmakers and citizens alike, cry and mourn the fact that our nation is in a rapid path of deindustrialisation and has gross levels of unemployment. At the centre of that crisis is this department and the incapacity of its entities. Perhaps of more concern is the preoccupation of this department with the strategic objective of corruption and the general lack of imagination to do anything associated with industrialisation.

The National Lotteries Commission, NLC, is the greatest exhibition of the unethical relationship between public duty and corruption. The National Lotteries Commission indicated that its historical irregular expenditure opening balances recorded were in the report, in an annual report, as R111 million. This is, however, the tip of the iceberg, as we are all aware of how lottery money, which is currently under investigation by the

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 92

Special Investigating Unit, has been subject to investigation due to it becoming the personal coffer of celebrities and politicians alike.

To date, the National Lottery Licence is not a subject of developmental debate, but it is in court due to its link to high-ranking politicians, including the Deputy President of South Africa. The reflection that there is a stagnation in private investigation to boost industrialisation and sustain industrial policy, citing R1,9 trillion in private sector cash reserves which have not been deployed, is a further sign of naïve thinking by this government. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr T M LANGA: Deputy Speaker, may I again request to keep my camera off for better connectivity. The IFP welcomes the report. This agreement represents an important step in strengthening Africa's regional integration, expanding intra-African trade, and enhancing the continent's industrial and export capacity. The IFP acknowledges the attainment of a clean audit, however, we express our profound concern that the Department Trade, Industry, and Competition achieved only a portion of its targets in 2024/25, despite spending 99% of its budget.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 93

Firstly, strategic execution is falling short, as the very slow progress in creating jobs is holding back real economic transformation. This is worsened because the Transformation Fund, a vital support mechanism for Black businesses, remains stalled and unfunded. Secondly, governance risks compromise our trade infrastructure, as evidenced by the SABS failing to submit its financial statements after a major cyber-attack.

Finally, this decay is amplified by a serious capacity deficit, with senior management vacancies and the inability to staff foreign trade offices. Consequently, the IFP calls for the accelerated finalisation and Cabinet approval of the national industrial policy and global export strategy. We further call for the immediate implementation of the SABS remediation plan, with firm consequence management.

Lastly, we urge prioritising the filling of all critical senior management and foreign economic representative vacancies to restore capacity. The IFP accepts this report, but stresses that achieving a clean audit is meaningless if the department cannot effectively convert public funds into sustainable jobs and economic opportunity. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 94

Ms J S PETERSEN: Hon Deputy Speaker, we do not have a declaration but we support this report.

Afrikaans:

Dr W J BOSHOFF: Agb Adjunkspeaker, hierdie BRR-verslag van die Departement van Handel en Nywerheid het goeie en slegtee nuus. Die goeie nuus is dat die departement 'n skoon oudit het. Nog goeie nuus is dat die spesiale ekonomiese sones in Limpopo klaarblyklik op die lange baan geskuif is, of glad nie meer gaan gebeur nie, nadat die Chinese besluit het dat hulle dit nie meer gaan finans ier of daaraan gaan deelneem nie. Dit is baie goeie nuus, want dit is ekologies 'n baie sensitiewe gedeelte en dit was oppad om 'n ekologiese ramp te wees. So, dit is baie goeie nuus.

Dan is daar ook die goeie nuus dat die program vir aanmoedigingsmaatreëls of die incentives programme, soos dit in die verslag staan, baie suksesvol was en dat hulle die doelwitte oortref het. Hulle het die doelwit gehad om 6 000 werksgeleenthede te skep, toe skep hulle 11 656. Dis goeie nuus.

Die slegte nuus is dat die administrasie slegs een van ses doelwitte kon behaal, dat die South African Bureau of Standards,

SABS, herhaaldelik kuberaanvalle beleef het en nie kan rapporteer nie, omdat hulle stelsels eenvoudig tot nuut gegaan het.

Die heel slegste nuus is dat die afdeling wat oor transformasie gaan, eintlik net twee van sy sewe doelwitte kon bereik. En waar hy die plan gehad het om 200 000 werksgeleenthede te skep, skep hy toe 1 215.

Dit beteken dat ons hier twee benaderings tot ekonomiese groei het. Die een sê, dwing transformasie af. Dit breek die ekonomie. Dit keer transformasie. Die ander benadering is, ko mons moedig ekonomiese groei aan en as dit die oorhoofse doelwitte en die styl van die regering was, kon hierdie ekonomie in 14 jaar verdubbel het. Ek dank u.

Mr A D BEESLEY: Deputy Speaker, ActionSA supports the adoption of this report. However, support for this report cannot be mistaken for satisfaction with the performance of this department or, as South Africans increasingly experience it, the department of no trade and no industry. Despite administering billions of rands and being entrusted with driving inclusive growth, the department continues to fall short where it matters

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 96

most, creating real job opportunities. The transformation programme promised 200 000 job opportunities. It delivered just over 1 200.

Deputy Speaker, in a country with more than 12 million unemployed people, this is not a mistarget, it is a moral failure. ActionSA has shown that job creating interventions can work when they are designed with accountability and clear outcomes. Our proposed opportunity fund is precisely such a model, one that channels resources directly to entrepreneurs and small businesses with measurable job creation requirements.

Deputy Speaker, the same failure is seen in the so-called spaza fund. Not a single cent was dispersed – zero, zip, nil.

At a time when township entrepreneurs are desperate for recognition and funding, and while foreign-owned spaza shops continue to dominate, the government does not even support one local spaza shop owner. This is exactly why ActionSA has launched our spaza for locals' campaign, to demand that South African township businesses receive the support this department keeps promising but never delivers.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 97

In conclusion, ActionSA supports this report because Parliament must maintain strong oversight, but let it be recorded, we expect the Minister to treat these failures with the seriousness they deserve. South Africans do not need more plans, summits or frameworks. They need jobs. They need jobs now, and they need this department to do its job and deliver. I thank you.

Mr W M THRING: Hon Deputy Speaker, the ACDP notes this Budgetary Review and Recommendations Report, BRRR, of the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition and acknowledges the department's ambitious R700 billion investment pipelines, including R339 billion in transformative energy projects, as tabled in the Minister's Budget Vote speech. Yet, ambition must be matched with delivery. The South African economy continues to face sluggish growth, with gross domestic product, GDP, expanding by only 0,6% last year and unemployment persisting at 32,9%.

The ACDP has consistently warned that structural reform cannot remain rhetoric. The sugar industry welcomed relief when government refrained from raising taxes, but broader industrial sectors still suffer from failing logistic and energy insecurity. The ACDP recognises that funds cannot be shared

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 98

equitably but must be entrusted to responsible individuals who will steward it wisely. Industrial revival must empower entrepreneurs, strengthen local manufacturing and uphold ethical governments.

The ACDP commends clean industrialisation and electric vehicle initiatives as raised in the Group of Twenty, G20, summit, but insists that these must not sideline small businesses or local capacity. In growing our economy through industrialisation and beneficiation, as the ACDP has championed over the last seven years, we call for transparent timelines, measurable outcomes and stewardship that rewards responsibility and not rhetoric. Thank you.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Deputy Speaker, industrial localisation and beneficiation must remain at the core of South Africa's economic strategy, especially the industrial policy. The country must add value to its exports, particularly minerals, to create jobs, strengthen industrial capacity and enhance competitiveness in global markets. Local value addition, strengthen supply chains, reduces vulnerability to price fluctuations and generates sustainable employment opportunities for everyone, especially South Africans.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 99

Recent developments, including the European Union's 50% steel tariffs, highlight the necessity to diversify South Africa's exports markets and broaden the export basket for our country so that we can create jobs here in South Africa and take advantage of the Continental Free Trade Area Agreement. We believe that industrial market concentration remains a significant challenge in South Africa, which must be addressed by the department. New entrants often struggle to reach global markets in sectors such as agriculture unless they are part of established industry.

Bodies and small-scale miners face barriers in accessing resources, finance and export channels. Manufacturing share of GDP has fallen, as many of you know, from about 20% in the 1990s to 12% because we have allowed a process of de-industrialisation to occur, which now leads to a situation where imports exceed exports in so far as this matter is concerned. This trend reduces productivity gains and limits employment in labour-intensive sectors in South Africa in particular, and these are some of the things in our view that the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition must undertake and do to resolve the growth strategy of the country.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 100

Also, internally, some of the entities, for example, like the National Lotteries Commission and the National Credit Regulator do experience some governance challenges, including weaknesses in governance, compliance and systems. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Xitsonga:

Ttn S M GANA: Xandla xa Xipikara ...

English:

... the report itself is very comprehensive. It's a 67-page piece of work, very comprehensive, with 31 areas of interest and areas that the department must look at, 31 of them. However, the fastest growing industry that's causing damage in South Africa is not listed in one of the 31. Therefore, that's a problem. It's a problem that gambling ...

Xitsonga:

... Mutshamaxitulu Masina ...

English:

... in your 31 recommendations, it could not even feature. Therefore, we are giving the department 31 recommendations. We

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 101

have reflected on the National Lotteries Commission, on the spaza shop, on many areas, but one area that there was no reflection on is gambling. The only time gambling is mentioned ...

Xitsonga:

... Mutshamaxitulu Masina ...

English:

... is when you say the National Gambling Board is listed only in the entities. In the 67 pages of the BRRR, the only time the word gambling appears is when you mention the entities. You have not reflected on the state of the entity itself. It hasn't had a board since 2014. It's got an acting chief executive officer, CEO. You haven't reflected on the National Gambling Policy Council that has left the gambling regulation unattended to for over 21 years.

I was hoping that when I look at where the legislation is concerned, you are going to reflect on the need to amend the National Gambling Act. While there's work on the 67 pages that has been done, it's lacking. We'll support the 31 points that you have raised, but we need five more points on gambling.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 102

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa swinene, Xandla xa Xipikara.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Deputy Speaker, as BOSA, we have noted and we want to put on record our support for the Budget Review and Recommendations Report for the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition. We also, though, want to record that while the report contains areas of progress that we welcome, the clean audit, it also exposes deep structural weaknesses that continue to undermine South Africa's ability to attract investment, to undermine South Africa's ability to grow the economy and to undermine South Africa's ability to create jobs.

At the heart of the report there is something that is familiar and that is the fact that in South Africa good policies or weakened by poor execution. That is very clear particularly in the performance of our Special Economic Zones. Special Economic Zones remain one of the most powerful tools that we have to drive industrialisation and to attractive investment. The Budget Review and Recommendations Report itself acknowledges that investor interest in Special Economic Zones is consistently high and that many zones hold significant potential for catalytic growth. However, potential is not performance.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 103

The report highlights very worrying lapses in internal control and delayed submission, procurement weaknesses and the critical infrastructure programme and ongoing challenges in the administration of Special Economic Zones. As BOSA, we have long argued that Special Economic Zones have to be expanded into strategic townships. These are places where millions of South Africans live and where economic exclusion is most entrenched.

Declaring targeted townships as Special Economic Zones would unlock investment, it would stimulate local manufacturing in townships and it would bring economic opportunities closer to people. Instead of scaling up, the department is actually even struggling to stabilise what already exists. We truly believe that Special Economic Zones will only succeed if they achieve long term financial independence rather than relying on the Industrial Development Corporation, IDC, grants because these delays ... [Time expired.]

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Deputy Speaker and hon members, Al Jama-ah notes and support the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report of the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition. This report reflects a department that is central to South

Africa's economic recovery, reindustrialisation and job creation.

We acknowledge the progress made in strengthening localisation; supporting small, medium and micro enterprises, SMMEs; driving competition reform and expanding industrial support through key programmes especially in manufacturing, automotive, steel and the green economy. However, we must emphasise that economic transformation cannot remain a theoretical ambition. Our industrial policy must directly uplift township and rural enterprises, expand market access to small businesses, protect local industries from unfair imports and accelerate the ease of doing business.

We urge the department to intensify support for youth-owned enterprises, promote export readiness for emerging companies and ensure that competition rulings translate into real empowerment for consumers and small players. As South Africa faces unemployment, inequality and fragile economic climate, this portfolio must remain a driver of inclusive, ethical and resilient growth. Al Jama-ah support the report and urges urgent implementation of its recommendations. I thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 105

Sesotho:

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Kgotso, Maafrica.

English:

The G20 ... [Inaudible.] ... and similar global performances perpetuate what Frantz Fanon describe as a neurotic relationship between the white superiors and Africa inferiors. In the space, the mere fact of proximity to power, the nothingness of engagement and the choreography of polite smiles and presented as progress. Steve Biko warned us about these encounters. He called them, the tea parties. Symbolic, empty and structurally disempowering.

It is in this context that we must interrogate the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report on the Portfolio Committee of Trade, Industry and Competition. The report revealed a department still trapped within the global economic order that keeps South Africa as a consumer, not as a producer. A supplier of raw material rather than the manufacture of finished goods, an economy tied to external approval rather than to indigenous African industrial power.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 106

The report expose three critical factors. Firstly, despite our constitutional mandate to drive industrialisation, the department continued to underspend on incentive programmes meant to revitalise manufacturing and support the SMMEs. This is a direct contradiction in the economy desperate for jobs and domestic productive capacity. Secondly, the persistent misalignment between the department and its entities, the Industrial Development Corporation, IDC; the International Trade Administration Commission, ITAC, and the ... [Time expired.]

Xitsonga:

Khanimambo!

Mr M C MASINA: I am certain, member Gama, that as you travel to hell with your fellow colleagues who were clapping hands for you, we shall not accompany you as the ANC and this Government of National Unity, GNU.

Member Khoza, we forgive you. We know that it is your new assignment today, your day one. We note that the artificial intelligence, AI, tried to assist you but you don't have the actual facts about that which has produced this particular report because you have not participated. Nevertheless, we will

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 107

be very patient and make sure that we work with you so that we can grasp some of the issues. I was very impressed this morning in your first task, I think that you were doing very well.

So, this is one department where we don't push each other. We argue, that is what we do there. It is not a physical department. There is no hard work there. We are thinking all the time on how we can get things better.

Then, the colleagues from the IFP, we note the issues that you are raising. I think the point around transformation fund has been made that it has to be implemented. This is one area that we have seen weaknesses, including the call that we have made in the portfolio committee with regard to the cyberattack at the SA Bureau of Standards, SABS, and so on. So, we will make sure that they meet the publication and submit the finances.

To the other colleagues who have supported, we thank you. We are certain that this report including what ...

Xitsonga:

... mutshamaxitulu ...

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 108

English:

... had said, we invite you to come to the portfolio committee to come and make a contribution and we acknowledge some of the issues that you raised. However, we do these things according to programming. At this point that was not the main area of focus of the department but we have been doing a lot of work in ensuring that this work is done. Thank you very much.

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

**CONSIDERATION OF BUDGETARY REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT OF
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

There was no debate.

Mr M Nontsele moved: That the Report be adopted.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr B S MADIKIZELA: Hon Deputy Speaker, members of the House, the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report before us reflects

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 109

the early progress under Minister Dean McPherson's leadership in addressing longstanding challenges within the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

We note that the department achieved 99% of its financial performance targets for 2024-25. The Council for the Built Environment maintained its clean audit status, and the Independent Development Trust has shown improvement, but the Property Management Trading Entity, PMTE, remains a challenge and something urgent needs to be done to turn it around.

We support the efforts by Minister and his department to advance the CBE Amendment Bill and Infrastructure Development Amendment Bill, which will provide legislative clarity needed for effective service delivery.

The Expanded Public Works Programme remains a priority area requiring attention, and we acknowledge the Minister's commitment to implement turnaround measures. Politicians must be kept out of the recruitment process and full-term employment must be increased to give appropriate skills and experience to the beneficiaries of this programme.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 110

The department faces critical capacity constraints with a 14% vacancy rate. The Minister has correctly identified the need to attract and retain qualified property specialists and construction professionals, essential to improving infrastructure delivery.

I fully support Minister McPherson's reform agenda, including comprehensive reporting on SIU investigations, addressing material irregularities, and fully capacitating the IDT for cost-effective infrastructure delivery. After numerous exposés and investigations, we need to see swift action on consequence management. It is totally unacceptable that we spent more than R2 billion acquiring and fixing Telkom Towers at SAPS headquarters, yet they still pay R444 million annually on private lease agreements ... [Time expired.] The DA supports this budget.

Mr N I NXUMALO: Deputy Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the MK Party to reject this report. This Report on Public Works is not just a document; it is a screaming indictment of a failing state. It is a chronicle of betrayal against our people. While our communities cry out for jobs, roads, hospitals and clinics,

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 111

the Department of Public Works and its entities are a circus of incompetence and corruption.

The DPWI itself is a ship about to sink - a 0% achievement on ethics and fraud perception. This is not a mistake. It is a confession that corruption is so entrenched and it has become a norm.

Look at the Expanded Public Works Programme EPWP, a target of over 1 million work opportunities, but they fall short by 81 000 jobs so, 81 000 families are left in poverty by this government's inefficiency. And the Independent Development Trust, IDT, has qualified audits every year for the fourth year in a row, and billions in project funds, yet service providers are not paid, projects are abandoned and the vulnerable are left waiting for services they were promised. Who is held accountable? No one.

The Property Management Trading Entity, PMTE, cannot maintain state properties and Agrément SA, a success story, is forced to waste money on a private lease, while the state, the biggest property owner, looks on.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 112

The DA-led ANC government has broken the backbone of this country. They have turned the promise of public works into a graveyard of stolen property opportunities. This department under this fake government is beyond repair. It's a monument of failure. [Time expired.] I thank you.

Mr M B BLOSE: Deputy Speaker, I rise on behalf of the EFF to reject this report of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. This department is a department that is led by an uneducated Minister, who clearly has no clue what he's doing and his incompetence is hidden by the colour of his skin.

The department has achieved less than half of its performance targets for this year alone, but no one is being held accountable for this disaster. Achieving 43% of your targets is not underperformance, it's actually institutional failure. But you will have to walk through the doors of institutions of higher learning to understand this phenomenon.

This is a department that cannot even keep its own head office safe. Clearly, the rot has reached to the highest levels - a self-created mess that emanates from the failure to produce a credible and updated assets register.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 113

How will you maintain what you cannot identify? This is exactly why buildings are abandoned and then later hijacked for illegal use. This department is a true reflection of white failure, credible evidence that things also do collapse under white supervision. This Minister of the DA has completely failed to stabilise this department. The legislative programme has collapsed, key Bills meant to transform the sector are ignored, all in an attempt to appease white interest.

A department that cannot produce legislation, cannot reform the industry, it cannot drive transformation, and it will definitely not build a capable state. The EFF will not endorse failure, will not rubberstamp decay. I thank you.

Mr S L NGCOBO: Deputy Speaker, the IFP recognises the department's essential role as a regulator and custodian.

However, we must observe that severe operational challenges persist. Firstly, the Ministry is constrained by fragmented and outdated legislation, lacking a modern Act to define its vast mandate. This is compounded by the fact that the disposal of valuable state-owned properties is still guided by the Pre-Constitutional Land Disposal Act of 1961, which is no longer fit for modern developmental objectives.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 114

Secondly, financial misalignment is evident. Despite administrative overspending, critical funds allocated for construction, project management are not efficiently deployed, thus failing to deliver infrastructure timelessly.

Finally, we see a collapse in integrity and capacity. The department achieved a 0% score on its internal ethics and fraud perception rating, while concurrently failing to provide professional indemnity cover for built environment professionals serving the state.

The IFP urges the Minister to prioritise the Modern Public Works Act and must work with relevant Ministries to update the old land disposal system. We also call for immediate professional indemnity cover for built environment experts in government and strong action to restore ethical standards. The IFP accepts the report and I thank you.

Afrikaans:

Mr P A VAN STADEN: Agb Adjunkspeaker, ...

English:

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 115

... the persistently low number of state-owned properties being leased out remains a serious concern. Equally troubling is that client departments continue to neglect their contractual obligations to this department, placing additional financial strain on its overall budget. As a result, many buildings are not maintained and are left to deteriorate. This matter must be resolved once and for all, and we welcome the committee's recommendation that a comprehensive report be provided, detailing all outstanding amounts owed to this department by client departments.

Client departments must stop complaining about the state of their offices and start paying their bills. There must be consequences for client departments, provincial governments and local governments that are not honouring their contractual agreements.

Under Programme 10, the challenge in the verification of immovable assets due to expired contracts and the unavailability of municipal values for some assets need to be addressed. Budget shortfalls within this department remain a concern for the VF Plus.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 116

The following matters that are reflected in this report is a matter of concern for the VF Plus. Firstly, in Programme 1, the targets related to misconduct, reporting and control effectiveness achieved 0% of its targets; the lack of capacity, due to reduced investigating officers; the delays in filling of positions due to National Treasury cost containment measures, salary disparities or variances with the private sector.

Secondly, in programme 2, we applaud all the targets that were achieved, some more than others, but we are concerned that the number of disputes resolved remains a problem, as there are challenges with some matters that require further planning and approval.

Thirdly, Programme 4 has its own challenges regarding legislative delays in the area of workshops and consultations, analysis of public comments that took longer than expected or anticipated. Thank you.

Ms M P KOBE: Hon Deputy Speaker, what we are witnessing in this department is a change of Minister, but not a change in ethos or outcomes. It is simply business as usual. This is a department that's sitting on a backlog of more than R30 billion, yet it

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 117

behaves as though nothing is wrong. The audit outcomes remain unchanged year after year, confirming a culture of stagnation and a blatant refusal to improve.

The report highlights that the larger auditees of this department, mainly Property Management Trading Entity, PMTE, and Independent Development Trust, IDT, are the biggest culprits in the department that showed absolutely no change in their audit outcomes, with the root causes being cited as inadequate internal controls over both financial reporting, compliance laws and regulations that are perpetuated by failure to implement audit action plans, and a lack of consequence management. The asset register remains in shambles, failing the most basic requirement of public administration - knowing what you own, what you manage, and what you are accountable for. Despite repeated calls from ActionSA, this department refuses to release the Telkom Towers Report, an act that flies in the face of transparency and accountability. What exactly is being hidden from the people of South Africa? House Chair, to make matters worse, over R100 million has been spent on new leases ...

[Interjections.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 118

The Deputy SPEAKER: Hon Khawula, please mute your microphone. Hon member of Action SA, please proceed. It seems the member is not on the platform anymore. We will proceed. The ACDP.

Mr W M THRING: Hon Deputy Speaker, as we consider the Budgetary Review and Recommendations Reports, BRRR, of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure, it is the view of the ACDP that infrastructure is not just about roads, bridges, and buildings, it is about is where the citizens can access schools, clinics, safe housing, and reliable services. This department's annual performance plan, APP, highlighted the Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, as a cornerstone of job creation, with targets to provide some one million work opportunities in 2025-26, repositioning the works programme from a temporary job relief measure to a structured, skills-based employment pipeline with some R7,2 billion allocation over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF, period. The ACDP has long recommended that the EPWP must evolve to offer long-term, dignified employment.

We also welcome the establishment of a special technical construction team to fast-track the 10-year-long delayed completion of the historic Ohlange Institute, an institute built

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 119

by the brother of my great-grandmother, Dr John Dube. Also, the establishment of a new national database that can name and restrict dodgy contractors and consultants who fail to deliver, noting the amplified frustrations around stalled construction and accountability gaps.

The ACDP supports the introduction of the SA Construction Action Plan that includes blacklisting defaulting contractors, ring-fencing infrastructure budgets, mandatory project tracking, and enhanced accountability in procurement and audits, as well as the brave intention to rid the country of the so-called construction mafia. As kingdom builders, the ACDP ... [Time expired.] ... for prioritisation and completion of bridges.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: No declaration.

Ms T L MARAWU: Deputy Speaker, this department is worrisome. The department is the custodian of all infrastructure of the government, and the nerve centre of infrastructure development. But looking at their plans, there is no plan at all. There are unused buildings, which are supposed to be used by sister departments, but the sister departments continue to pay big amounts for rentals. So, it cannot address its core function at

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 120

the nerve centre for infrastructure development. Looking again at the unsurveyed land, it has an incredible asset register. So, if it can focus on that, we can then recognise it as the nerve centre for infrastructure development. Thank you.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, Al Jama-ah supports the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure sits at the heart of our country's economic recovery. This department is the backbone of service delivery, the catalyst of investment, and a lifetime of job creation in our communities. We acknowledge the progress made in strengthening the infrastructure investment plan, rolling out EPWP opportunities, and improving the management of state assets. However, persistent delays, underspending, and weaknesses in maintenance continue to undermine the department's impact. We cannot rebuild South Africa on a foundation of overdue projects, vandalized facilities, and unoccupied state buildings. We therefore urge the department to prioritize maintenance, ensure that contractors are held accountable, strengthen oversight of implementing agents, and fast-track community-based job creation through EPWP ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 121

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, my apologies, I do see that the hon Ngobeni's hand is raised. Hon Ngobeni, is this about you not being able to complete your declaration?

Ms L M NGOBENI: Good afternoon, Deputy Speaker. Yes, it is, but I did not mean to disrupt the hon member. I was going to speak after him.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. I did not know whether it was a point of order. So, my apologies. Hon Ismail Moosa, you may proceed, and then after that, the hon Ngobeni will. She has 38 seconds left.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Thank you so much. Our people need functional schools, clinics, roads, and public spaces. Infrastructure must work for the poor, the unemployed, and the forgotten. Al Jama-ah supports this report. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. Hon Ngobeni, you have 38 seconds.

Ms L M NGOBENI: Thank you. Hon Kobe will finish her remarks.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 122

Ms M P KOBE: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and apologies for earlier. As I was saying ... and despite repeated calls from ActionSA, the department still refuses to release the Telcom Towers report. An act that flies in the face of transparency and accountability. What exactly is being hidden from the South African people? To make matters worse, over R100 million has been spent on new leases, even as the department claims to have no money to maintain state properties, to clear backlogs, or deliver on its mandate.

Deputy Speaker, this department is continuing business as usual, insulated from consequences for the Minister who is more interested in PR than attending committees and who is indifferent to accountability. As ActionSA, we will not stand by while billions are mismanaged, audit outcomes stagnate, and transparency is treated as optional. South Africans deserve a department that delivers. Thank you so much, Chair.

Mr S MAHLANGU: Hon Speaker and hon Members of Parliament, on behalf of the ANC, we rise to commend the Department for the progress reflected in the Auditor-General's Report for the 2024-25 financial year. The ANC fully supports the Budgetary Review and Recommendations Report of the portfolio committee and its

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 123

entities. Hon Deputy Speaker, while we acknowledge these improvements, we must also emphasize the urgent need for the department to strengthen financial management controls, address irregular expenditure, improve the quality of performance reporting, and ensure that consequence management is applied consistently and decisively. Continued failure to meet key service delivery targets cannot be allowed to persist.

The ANC remains committed to monitoring the implementation of corrective action plans and ensuring that internal controls are enforced to prevent the reputation of unfavourable fundings. We will continue to pursue the investigation into irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure. We expect appropriate disciplinary actions where wrongdoing is confirmed.

Hon members, firm action must also be taken against nonperforming contractors, including those operating in partnership with the Construction Industry Development Board, CIDB, as well as against project managers who fail to meet performance obligations. Accountability must be the order of the day.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 124

We further call for strengthened skills development and capacity-building initiatives within the Property Management Trading Entity so that it can fully execute its mandate. The ANC views public works and infrastructure as a vital pillar of the National Development Plan, NDP. Central to job creation, infrastructure development, community empowerment, and redressing the historical injustices. This sector remains a critical ... [Time expired.]

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

Division demanded.

The House divided.

The House Chairperson (Mr W Horn) announced that the Speaker had determined that, in accordance with the Rules, a manual voting procedure would be used and that the Whips would conduct a headcount of members in the Chamber and on the virtual platform for the purposes of ascertaining the quorum and voting. A quorum being present in terms of Rule 98(1), voting commenced.

[TAKE IN FROM MINUTES]

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 125

Motion agreed to.

Report accordingly adopted.

**CONSIDERATION OF BUDGETARY REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT OF
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

There was no debate.

The ACTING CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY (Mr M Nontsele) moved: That the Report be adopted.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: But this is not the Chief Whip!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Mkhaliphi, ...

[Interjections.] ...

Ms C M PHIRI: It is not your problem, Mkhaliphi!

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: No, he is not a Chief Whip this one!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): ... order! Hon members on the virtual platform, ... [Interjections.] ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 126

Ms C M PHIRI: That is our baby to deal with. It is not yours!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): ... order. Both hon Phiri and hon Mkhaliphi, please, only speak when you are recognised to speak. We will proceed with declarations on this specific report. All parties will, again, have up to two minutes. The DA.

Declaration(s) of Vote:

Ms N K SHARIF: House Chair, the DA supports the adoption of this Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report. We do so, however, with serious reservations. The Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report expose a painful truth: our national response to gender-based violence and femicide is still failing the very people it is meant to protect. Given that gender-based violence, GBV, in the country has been rightly called a second pandemic, a crisis and our disaster by the President, the department's lacklustre performance is alarming.

Despite the Department of Social Development being responsible for gender-based violence, GBV, shelters, the department did not include a single performance indicator for shelter delivery this year. To quote the Auditor-General, "The achievement of this objective was not planned or accounted for." No targets. No

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 127

measurement. No accountability. Survivors cannot rely on a system that does not even track its own obligations, shocking to say the least.

The Gender-Based Violence Command Centre shows progress. But the Auditor-General raised concerns about rural communities' possible lack of awareness of this vital resource, especially in the Northern Cape. Violence hasn't decreased there. Access, including access to information, has. A survivor's safety cannot depend on where they live.

The Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report also reveal that R15 million of the Criminal Assets Recovery Account funds had to be returned because the National Development Agency failed to implement necessary gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, programmes. Money meant for victims was lost. This is not a technical setback; it is directly harmful to women and children needing urgent support.

What we expect is clear, measurable shelter targets, stronger psychosocial support, and all the Gender-Based Violence Command Centre to be available in every province and all gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, funds moved to institutions that

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 128

can deliver. Every day this system underperforms, another woman is failed. I thank you.

IsiZulu:

Mnu Z E MTHETHWA: Ngiphakama egameni le-MKP, Sihlalo. Osonhlalakahle bayaqeqeshwa bese bengaqashwa. Osonhlalakahle bayashoda emnyangweni kodwa bahlezi emakhaya. Umbuzo uthi, kanti besibaqeqeshelani uma singakwazi ukubaqasha? Kulo mnyango kunabantu abangu-600 000 okufanele bathole izibonelelo eziqhamuka kulo mnyango. Labo bantu balinda kolayini abade ngaphandle beqale ebusuku, kuze kuse beme laphayana. Abantu esikhuluma ngabo la ogogo, abantu besifazane, kube futhi abantwana, bonke bathembele futhi bancike kule mali, kodwa benziwa ukuthi balinde kusukela ebusuku.

Omunye umbuzo ulona othi, abantu abahlomula kulo msebenzi bangango-18,2 million, okusho ukuthi balingana nabantu basesifundazweni saKwaZulu-Natal, okusho ukuthi kungaba nesifundazwe sabantu abancike kulezi zibonelelo kodwa ababonelelwa. Bese kusetshenziswa ubuxhakaxhaka bezobuchwepheshe obufa njalo. Njalo uma kumele abantu bahole kuthiwa imishini ifile. Umbuzo uthi, kanti ubani lo okhiqiza le mishini efa kangaka? Uma abantu kufanele bahole laphaya, bazohola kanjani?

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 129

Omunye umbuzo uthi, sishintsheleni kanti safaka le mishini kanti imishini iyasokola, njalo iyakhwehlela? Yini abantu bangayamukeli imali yabo esandleni? Amahhovisi akhona aeduze nala abantu behlala khona kodwa emahhovisi bayayekwa kuthiwe hambani niye emishinini, bafike emishinini bathole ukuthi ayisebenzi. E-Utrecht akusekho nebhange, angazi ukuthi ogogo bazohola kuphi ngoba kuthiwa mabahole laphaya emishinini engasebenzi.

Bese kuthi eMpumalanga koloni naKwaZulu-Natal, abantwana abancane babulawa ukungondleki. Okusho ukuthi ukudla akukho emakhaya. Yenye inkinga esibhekene nayo leyo.

English:

Thank you. [Time expired.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members. Hon Marais, please proceed.

Ms P MARAIS: Chairperson, the EFF rejects the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report for the Department of Social Development. The Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report process itself is meant to strengthen accountability. It is

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 130

meant to highlight performance, identify gaps, and ensure departments have the resources they need to serve the most vulnerable. But what we see before us is not a document of accountability. It is a record of systematic neglect, year after year, wrapped in technical language to hide the pain on the ground.

Let us be clear today, a shortfall is not a mistake; it is a decision. A decision to prioritise the elites over the poor.

A decision to protect consultants and bureaucrats while communities starve. A decision to hide where fiscal consolidation, while children sleep hungry and gogos [elderly women] stretch grants that simply cannot stretch any further. The department has a very important mandate for this country.

A mandate to protect children, support families, strengthen communities, and provide a cushion against poverty. Members, this is the lived reality beyond the members. Social workers are drowning. They face impossible caseloads. Vacant positions remain frozen. Officers operate without vehicles, without adequate staff, and without basic tools, while communities depend on them for protection, for counselling, for

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 131

intervention, and for survival. NGOs are collapsing. The shelters, children's homes, disability centres, and community nutrition groups are all struggling because transfers come late or come short.

These organisations do the work that the state cannot be doing itself, and yet they are treated like an afterthought. After all this, there are consequences of poor leadership at the highest level. The Ministry itself is limping from one disaster to another. In the midst of all these problems, she has reduced the department into a personal fiefdom, going on shopping sprees in the USA, and firing staff who expose her wayward ways, and hiring barely qualified relatives to positions of authority in the department, while ignoring the particular incapacity problem. We reject the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report. [Time expired.]

Ms B E MACHI: Chairperson, the IFP expresses concern over the committee's findings regarding the performance of the Department of Social Development and its entities. The committee's work reveals a troubling pattern. The department has spent almost its entire budget, yet its performance has declined. This cannot be

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 132

justified when the lives of South Africa's poorest depend on these programmes.

The IFP is particularly concerned about excessive spending on travel, consultants and administrative costs, while essential programs that are meant to reduce poverty and strengthen communities remain weak. This is not efficient governance. It is misdirected spending. Furthermore, we commend the serious weaknesses uncovered within the SA Social Security Agency, Sassa, systems, fraudulent Social Relief of Distress, SRD, payments, coupled with the crisis around the Post Bank card replacement, exposed the deep dysfunction in the management of social grants. The IFP stresses the urgent need for accountability across the Social Development Portfolio.

[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, just hold on. Hon Nontenja, on the virtual platform, please remain muted until you are recognised. My apologies, hon member, please continue.

Ms B E MACHI: Let us remember that the effective implementation of the recommendation measures is important to protect social

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 133

grants, restore public trust, and support South Africa's vulnerable citizens. I thank you, Chairperson.

Ms S M PETERS: House Chair, the PA hereby declares our support for this report. While the department has made meaningful progress in expanding social protection services, several challenges continue to limit its ability to fully meet the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

We note improvements in areas such as Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, GBVF, awareness campaigns, child protection interventions and the digital modernisation of SA Social Security Agency, Sassa, systems. However, increasing levels of poverty, unemployment and social distress continue to place immense pressure on our social support network.

Delays in nonprofit organisation, NPO, funding are disrupting essential services in child protection, disability care and GBVF shelters. Social worker shortages and capacity constraints are weakening frontline delivery. Rural and informal communities still face significant access barriers, and rising demand for social relief of distress support is outpacing available

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 134

resources. These challenges signal the urgent need for stronger co-ordination, more predictable funding and improved oversight.

In our response, our recommendations are centred on strengthening the department's ability to respond effectively. We propose increased baseline funding for NPOs, particularly those providing GBVF support in residential care services. We call for immediate action to fill critical social work, community development posts, and for the enhancement of digital systems to improve Sassa efficiency.

We further recommend expanding food security Social Relief of Distress, SRD, programmes, improving monitoring and evaluation capacity, and establishing a transparent national NPO funding model to ensure timely, fair and sustainable allocations.

Hon members, the Department of Social Development, DSD, plays a pivotal role in protecting the dignity and well-being of millions of South Africans. By implementing these recommendations, we can strengthen our social safety and ensure that our vulnerable persons are not ... [Time expired.] ...

Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 135

Afrikaans:

Mnr P A VAN STADEN: Geagte Huisvoorsitter, ...

English:

... the department's underspending of R2 billion in grant payments needs to be addressed urgently.

The eight critical Bills and policies that are still outstanding and not finalised as planned for the Sixth Administration need to receive attention. The Seventh Administration has only prioritised to develop and finalise three of these eight Bills.

The audit outcome of the DSD from an unqualified audit with findings to a qualified audit with findings is a matter of concern. The irregular expenditure of R5,3 million in the department, R1,57 million in Sassa, and R700 000 in the National Development Agency, NDA, is completely unacceptable. These amounts stem from inadequate oversight responsibilities, weak internal controls, and ineffective review and monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance with supply chain management laws and regulations. These shortcomings must be addressed and resolved as a matter of urgency.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 136

The Auditor-General detection of a slow response in the implementing of disciplinary processes and the recoverability of financial losses is also unacceptable. The FF Plus supports the committee's recommendations. I thank you, House Chairperson.

Ms M P KOBE: House Chair, ActionSA is deeply disappointed by the slow and hesitant reform of South Africa's grant system.

For years, we have been clear. If we want to restore dignity, stimulate our economy and uplift millions of South Africans that are trapped in poverty, then we must move boldly. This is why ActionSA has long advocated for a universal basic income stimulus, a model that recognises that the most powerful way to revive an economy is to put money directly into the hands of the people, allowing them to spend it in their communities, support local businesses and break the cycle of poverty.

ActionSA's proposed universal basic income stimulus is clear, practical and economically sound. It introduces a three-year phased transfer of monthly cash payments to all eligible South Africans. In year one, it will be pegged at the poverty line, in year two, at the lower bound poverty line and in year three, at the upper bound poverty line. This is an economic stimulus

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 137

designed to lift the poorest households while driving economic growth through the multiplier effect. All adult South Africans earning below the SA Revenue Service, Sars, tax threshold and all children eligible for the child support grant will automatically be registered. No complicated systems, no bureaucratic barriers, just dignity, access and opportunity.

ActionSA is clear. Our basic income stimulus does not replace existing grants. It adds an essential income stream that enables underprivileged South Africans to meaningfully participate in the economy. It is a bridge between poverty and productivity, between exclusion and hope.

ActionSA's commitment to social justice and to the empowerment of vulnerable South Africans is unwavering. ActionSA is determined to ensure that South Africa adopts a grant system that restores dignity, drives growth and puts our people first. Thank you very much, House Chair.

Rev K R J MESHOE: House Chairperson, the ACDP knows the Budget Review and Recommendation Report, BRRR, of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 138

We remain concerned about the gap between budget allocations and the daily realities of vulnerable South Africans, especially regarding water and sanitation. Although this department is not the lead agency for water infrastructure, we feel it must still receive added pressure because their mandate is to uphold dignity, which cannot be fulfilled where basic services are absent.

In February, over 6 000 NPOs were deregistered for non-compliance following 41 000 notices issued under the Nonprofit Organisation Act. While compliance is essential, the scale of deregistration cuts off support to vulnerable communities, and the ACDP urges adequate transitional planning.

The committee was concerned about the lack of monitoring and evaluation of the high level of targets not met by the department, as well as the department's core mandate. The annual report also flags persistent weaknesses in oversight and co-ordination of funded entities. These gaps undermine the department's core mission. The ACDP calls for urgent reform in internal governance, stronger oversight of NPO funding and a renewed commitment to ethical leadership. I thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 139

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, Al Jama-ah supports the BRRR of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development. This department carries one of the most sacred responsibilities in our nation - protecting the vulnerable, uplifting the poor and restoring dignity to millions who rely on the social safety net.

We acknowledge the efforts made in stabilising grant payments, strengthening oversight over the entities and improving social welfare programmes. We acknowledge the challenges that remain severe. The rising cost of living, persistent poverty and high unemployment are placing unbearable pressure.

The modernisation of this department is equally important to ensure this budget is supported in terms of the submission just made. Al Jama-ah supports the budget. Thank you.

Mr T B MUNYAI: Hon House Chairperson, hon members, progressive NGOs who are the partners of the DSD and all beneficiaries of social grants and the people of South Africa.

This declaration comes in the wake of the South African unprecedented, successful G20 presidency that Africa has ever

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 140

seen under the stewardship of His Excellency the President, Cyril Ramaphosa. The G20 declaration places at the core social issues that are at the very heart of its declaration. In this spirit, the ANC rises before this House to express its full support for the DSD's 2024-25 BRRR.

The BRRR provides a clear and stark assessment of our nation's social protection system, a vital lifeline for millions of South Africans. Our social grants remain the most powerful weapons at our hands to fight against poverty, inequality and directly responding to the current socioeconomic needs for over 28 million South Africans. This report underscores the clarity and the noble commitment of the ANC to the most vulnerable members of our society, those who are trapped in hunger, poverty and inequality.

House Chairperson, we commend the urgency and the resolve demonstrated by the hon Minister Nokuzola Tolashe and the group chief executive officer of Sassa, Mr Themba Matlou, in their unwavering commitment to zero tolerance to fraud and corruption. We welcome the ... [Time expired].

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 141

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

**CONSIDERATION OF BUDGETARY REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT OF
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

There was no debate.

Mr G J SKOSANA moved: That the Report be adopted.

Declaration(s) of Vote:

Mr L MPHITHI: House Chairperson, millions of South Africans continue to wait for what was espoused in section 26 of the Constitution of South Africa, waiting for the dignity of shelter. Many of those individuals, those South Africans, have died waiting for dignity, waiting for their title deeds, and waiting for the houses they had been promised by the government. Many of them have died believing they will get their houses, believing that indeed they will have the dignity their family has never had.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 142

There is something that is fundamentally wrong with our system. Something is truly broken within the housing sector. We have continued to see the looting of housing entities across the human settlements sector. We have recently seen the National Housing Finance Corporation, NHFC, where the CEO has been suspended or put on cautionary suspension because of allegations that have led to the looting of the NHFC. So, this is just an example of how our entities continue to betray South Africans who are desperate for the need of housing. If you have been waiting for a house, you've been waiting for dignity for many years. We have seen that the informal settlements are increasing across our country, and this is because there has been a marginal and deep failure by this particular department. The department's performance in this Parliament has not done justice to the values of unleashing the potential of all South Africans. Instead, we have seen South Africans continue to wait, but not only wait, die at the doors of the Human Settlements Department, which cannot be acceptable.

In this House, we have to continue to fight for the dignity of South Africans, and it is indeed that it is important that the DA will remain steadfast in fighting for the dignity of South

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 143

Africans to receive housing that is espoused in section 26 of our Constitution. Thank you.

Mr T I GAMEDE: Chairperson, ...

IsiZulu:

... uMkhonto ongadidekile, thina singu-MKP siyawuhlaba siyawuhlikiza lo mbiko ngesabelo zimali.

English:

This document attempts to impose a veneer of success upon a sector in systemic collapse. However, the department's overall performance reveals the structural failures that the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report conveniently minimise.

Failure to meet key targets, despite spending 98% of its R32,8 billion, but the department failed to meet critical delivery targets. Widespread delivery shortfalls, six out of nine provinces missed their Breaking New Ground housing target, while provincial service site targets were also missed. On the title deed crisis, a staggering backlog of over 2 million title deeds remained trapped, with township establishment failure and bulk service shortages blocking progress. When the

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 144

administration collapsed, the essential National Digital Human Settlement Management System remained merely conceptual, leaving beneficiaries vulnerable to manipulation and political interference. On underspending amid a crisis, the department underspent by R830,8 million due to delays and critical vacancies, even as millions remain homeless, back yarded and in disaster areas. The Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report is a bureaucratic exercise that protects failure and conceals corruption instead of saving our people and the ultimate need for houses and service land.

The outrageous crisis in Madadeni, H39, with a 15-year wait, cracking units, and untraceable beneficiaries, is completely omitted, representing a total administrative collapse. Approving this report would make Parliament complicit in the ongoing collapse of the human settlements mandate. Our people do not need another polished document. They require credible oversight, and they do not treat public funds as sacred. For this reason, the MKP ...

IsiZulu:

... awudidekile nhlobo, sithi siyayichitha

English:

... this Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report. Thank you.

Ms M DLAMINI: Hon Chairperson, hon members, the EFF rejects the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report from the Department of Human Settlements in its entirety. We declare that a budget that is hollow in substance yields no impact, and that the true intention of any budget should be transformation, real, tangible change in the lives of our people.

Chairperson, this Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report is a smokescreen. It speaks of clean audits and percentage spending, while ignoring that 67% of provinces have failed to deliver houses promised to our people. It is a budget that hides behind accounting terms, while millions remain homeless or in substandard conditions.

We in the EFF say a budget that does not transform is a budget that does not serve. R830 million underspent, Chairperson, is not just a number; it is roofs not built, title deeds not delivered, and informal settlements left to decay. Let us be clear, to this day, the department has not been to Bongweni. The videos and images of the destruction of homes in East London

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 146

this past week, belonging to people who have decided to build for themselves on land owned by the state, are one of the clearest indications of the lack of co-ordination and planning by this department and its sister departments in the state.

Chairperson, we must also expose the truth about companies like Communicare, a so-called social housing institution that was established during apartheid, using state funds to house communities. Public money, public land, and public mandate. Yet today, Communicare has reinvented itself as a private company, using that lie to sell off state-funded assets, to evict working-class families, and to claim ownership over properties built from the very resources of the people.

This is not a transformation; this is theft. It is a continuation of apartheid-era privilege and is a crime against the poor. Let us also remind this House how the DA attempted to use the Department of Human Settlements as a department pivotal to the dignity of our people as a political bargaining tool. They were ready to reject the budget, not on principle, not on policy, but because it was in the interest of the poor. We reject this budget. Thank you, Chair. [Time expired.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 147

Mr N M HADEBE: House Chairperson, when our democracy was founded in 1994, one of the earliest promises made to South Africans was that every family would one day have access to a safe and dignified home

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members, please allow the member of the IFP to make his declaration while we all pay attention.

Mr N M HADEBE: Yet today, informal settlements continue to expand as people search for land, opportunities and a better life. Many of these communities living in informal settlements still live without water, sanitation, electricity and access to proper roads. Fires spread quickly, floods destroy the little that people own, and emergency services often cannot reach them in time. Hon Chairperson, informal settlements are not temporary shelters. They are home to millions of South Africans who deserve decent living conditions. Upgrading informal settlements must be treated with a sense of urgency. The IFP supports efforts that focus on expanding access to basic services, improving living conditions and ensuring that informal settlements receive consistent long-term development support. In

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 148

light of the matters raised, the IFP supports the report. I thank you.

Ms M L MATHOPA: House Chair, hon members. Access to adequate housing is a constitutional right and a cornerstone of social stability. The PA remains committed to ensuring that every South African family has a safe, dignified place to call home. Many individuals continue to live without proper shelter. The Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report highlight persistent challenges in the delivery of housing projects, including corruption, backlog in title deeds, delays in project implementation, budget underspending in key provinces, and insufficient progress in eradicating informal settlements.

These issues undermine the objectives of the Department of Human Settlements and perpetuate inequality. While we acknowledge the efforts made, the PA insists on improved financial management to prevent underspending and ensure funds reach intended beneficiaries. The prioritisation of local contractors and communities in housing projects to stimulate local economies and create jobs. Enhance the monitoring and accountability mechanism to curb corruption and inefficiency. The PA supports the recommendations of the portfolio committee, provided that urgent

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 149

corrective measures are implemented to accelerate housing delivery and restore public confidence in the department's capacity to meet its mandate. I thank you.

Mr P A VAN STADEN: House Chairperson, the department's underspending of R830,8 million largely attributes to the delays in the upgrading of informal settlements, the delivery of temporary residential units, procurement bottlenecks and constraints in the filling of vacancies. Under Programme 1: Administration, we note the underspending of R116,5 million. Under Programme 4 there is a continued underspending of R9,5 million. Program 5 underspent by R29,8 million.

Although the FF Plus applauds the delivery of 17 000 title deeds across the nine provinces it must be noted that this will unfortunately not resolve the backlog in the issuing and delivering of title deeds. The Title Deeds Restoration Programme continues to underperform, with persistent backlogs that mirror the delivery failures of both the pre-1994 and post-1994 periods.

The FF Plus supports the Auditor-General's recommendation to the committee to make sure that adequate consequence management

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 150

processes are implemented. The incompleteness of numerous housing projects remains with no evidence of accountability. This results in delays that need to be addressed. I thank you House Chairperson.

Ms M P KOBE: House Chair, as ActionSA, we rise to note the committee's Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report, BRRR on Human Settlements had to speak very honestly about what these findings mean for our people on the ground. House Chair, behind every statistic in this report is a family that is waiting for dignity. The department may have spent 98% of its budget, but spending without outcomes does not build homes. It does not clear the 2 million-plus title deeds backlog, and it does not help the grandmother in Madadeni, who has waited 15 years for a house that never came.

We cannot ignore the leadership instability, slow upgrading of informal settlements, and the ongoing structural defects in projects that leave communities unsafe. The report clearly shows weak oversight, poor co-ordination and almost no consequence management, continuing to hurt the very people that this department claims to serve.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 151

House Chair, the report also highlights what is possible when governance actually works. The turnaround at the Housing Development Agency, HDA proves that clean audits and real service delivery are achievable when leadership is strong and corruption is confronted. As ActionSA, we support the recommendations calling for tighter oversight, faster title deep restoration and mandatory use of the National Housing Needs Register and recovery of wasted funds and accountability for contractors who fail our communities. We cannot continue normalising broken promises, House Chair. We support the report. Thank you.

Rev K R J MESHOE: House Chairperson, the ACDP is taking this opportunity to raise again government's equivocation over Special Housing Needs. We are exasperated at the persistent gap between the Ministry's eloquent promises on Special Housing Needs and its painful slow, sometimes contradictory execution.

Special Housing Needs is shelter for orphans, those with disabilities, terminally ill and frail people, destitute people, substance abuse, rehabilitation services, parolees and people released on probation, victims of serious crime and human

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 152

trafficking, older people and victims of gender-based violence, GBV, desperate people who need housing.

Eventually, after many years of cajoling, the policy was formally approved back in October 2022. NGOs say 13 pilot projects were identified, 12 applications submitted, and both national and provincial Social Development officials trained; yet the programme itself has never been activated. No launch, no circular, no cost-rate updates since 2019, and certainly no instruction empowering provinces to process applications. The result? Provincial departments are reluctant to budget for Special Housing Needs in the 2026-27 cycle because the national Department of Human Settlements has not cleared the policy fog it created.

Meanwhile, nonprofit organisations serving people who cannot wait, submit applications into a void. Victim-support organisations in Limpopo and elsewhere, serving women and their children fleeing gender-based violence, are reported to receive no feedback at all. Government speaks passionately about GBV from every podium in this country, yet the very ... [Time expired.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 153

IsiXhosa:

Mnu N L S KWANKWA: Sihlalo weNdlu, siza kuyibetha ngesintu. Sihlalo weNdlu, kudala siyithetha le nto singumbutho i-UDM sisithi abantu bethu bahleli ebugxwayibeni. Abantu bahleli ematyotyombeni ekubeni likhona eli ziko limele ukubalungiselela iindawo zokuhlala. Kubuhlungu kuba nokuba uya eSite C okanye eSite B eKhayelitsha, eMdantsane okanye nayiphi na indawo enelokishi, kuba naba behleli apha ngaseDriftsands bathi xa kukho izikhukula zemvula, izindlu zabo zikhukuliswe ngamanzi.

Kunzima nangakumbi kubantu ...

English:

... that are in the gap market ...

IsiXhosa:

... apha kule nto yezindlu. Ubukhulu becala, bakhona abangamkeli imali eyaneleyo ...

English:

... to qualify for bonds ...

IsiXhosa:

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 154

... kurhulumente nabangakwaziyo ukuncediswa ngurhulumente ukuze bakwazi ukuba neendawo zokuhlala. Kweli Kapa, ingakumbi kuba abantu bakuthi bengakhuselwanga, izindlu zithengwa ngabantu bangaphandle. Uninzi alukwazi nokuzithengela izindlu apha, kufuneke ukuba bahambe baye kuhlala phaya ezintabeni ngokungathi zizilwanyana kuba kaloku abanandlela yokuseondela kwiindawo zokusebenza.

Iyafuna ukuqwalaselwa le nto yokuba abo bangafumani mali yaneleyo ukuze bazithengele izindlu bancediswe ngurhulumente. Kudala siyidwekesha le nto yee ...

English:

... title deeds.

IsiXhosa:

Kumana kuthethwa ngayo ibe inganikwa ...

English:

... targets and time frames and keep talking about backlogs. Backlog means that there are time frames and a target. You can't have a backlog when there's no time frame and there are no clear targets on how to achieve ...

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 155

IsiXhosa:

... ukuze izindlu zabantu ziyeke ...

English:

... to be a dead capital ...

IsiXhosa:

... bengenakho nokuzisebenzisa ...

English:

... as collateral ...

IsiXhosa:

... ezibhankini ukuze bazenzele ubutyebi ukuze babeneendlela zokuboleka imali baziqalele amashishini ukuze bayeke ukuba ziimbendlenge zikarhulumente njengoko kusenzeka. Siyabulela.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: No declaration from BOSA.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon House Chair, hon members, Al Jama-ah supports the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements. However, what is housing? Housing is about dignity, safety, stability, and the

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 156

creation of communities where families can thrive to live in sanitary conditions. Students can feel comfortable to educate themselves.

We acknowledge the department's work in accelerating stalled projects, upgrading informal settlements, and improving oversight of provinces and municipalities. But the reality on the ground remains painful. Thousands of families continue to wait for houses for decades. Many live in unsafe, informal settlements without proper sanitation of services. Corruption in the allocation of houses, poor workmanship, and repeated delays are robbing our people of the constitutional right to adequate shelter.

We therefore call for stronger monitoring of municipal delivery, faster rectification of defective houses, improved transparency in beneficiary lists, and meaningful support for social housing, rental options, and affordable housing for the missing middle. Human settlements must prioritise the poor, the elderly, child-headed households, and communities displaced by disasters. Housing is not a privilege; it is the foundation of social justice. Al Jama-ah supports this report, and urgently requires ethical and people-centred implementation. I thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 157

Ms T E MAGAGULA: Hon House Chair, hon members, the ANC rises to support the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements for the 2024-25 Financial Year. The report reflects both progress and persistent challenges in our collective effort to build sustainable, inclusive communities for our people. We welcome the department's 98% expenditure performance and commend the significant policy advancements, including the White Paper on Human Settlements and the initiation of the National Digitally Human Settlements Management System.

The strong performance of entities such as the Housing Development Agency, HDA, Social Housing Regulatory Authority, Shra, and National Housing Finance Corporation, NHFC, evidenced by clean audits, increased delivery and transformation initiatives, demonstrate improving governance and service delivery.

However, the ANC remains concerned about delays in title deeds issuance, infrastructure backlogs and underperformance in certain provincial programmes, particularly relating to Breaking New Ground, BNG housing delivery and informal settlement upgrades. The ongoing challenges around disaster response,

beneficiary verification, and grant under expenditure require urgent co-ordinated intervention.

We therefore support the recommendations calling for strengthened consequence management, leadership stability, enhanced grant monitoring, and improved utilisation of the National Housing Needs Register. This Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report, BRRR provides a clear roadmap for accelerating spatial transformation and restoring dignity to our communities. The ANC supports this report.

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

**CONSIDERATION OF BUDGETARY REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT OF
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

There was no debate.

Mr M NONTSELE: House Chairperson, I move:

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 159

That the Report be adopted.

Declarations of vote:

Ms L M MASEKO: House Chair, today's report reminds us that land reform is not just a policy or a budget line. It is about the people, families, farmers, and communities waiting for the chance to build a better life.

With an allocation of R16,99 billion for 2024-2025, South Africans expect real, tangible progress, but the pace remains too slow. By March 2025, only 11% of commercial farmland had been redistributed. The National Development Plan calls for 20% by 2030, which means almost the same amount must be delivered again in just five years. Without urgency and improved implementation, we risk failing the very people land reform is meant to uplift.

Post-settlement support is also still inadequate. Beneficiaries cannot succeed without the tools, training, and financial assistance required to make land productive. Whilst the department has exceeded its targets for supporting smallholder and subsistence producers, the lack of comprehensive support remains a serious concern.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 160

Government's challenges persist as well. After four years of audits, the Registration of Deeds Trading Account has slipped back to a qualified opinion. Delays in land claims and restitution payments continue to frustrate families who have waited far too long. Yes, irregular expenditure has decreased from R193,4 million to R187,4 million, but every rand wasted is a rand taken away from a community in need. The committee's recommendations are for ring-fenced funding for land claims, stronger financial management, and stronger anticorruption measures, something that is not optional. They are essential steps to rebuild public trust. Behind every statistic is a family seeking dignity, a farmer growing a business, and a young person hoping for opportunity.

For the DA, land reform must empower people and protect property rights, support ... I thank you, Chair. [Time expired.]

Mr J A MNGXITAM: Chair, the MKP rejects this report, and we do so for very good reasons.

Let us take the Restitution of Land Rights Act. That restitution process is supposed to give land back to our people who were dispossessed under apartheid, but that restitution process, in

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 161

fact, is a process to give land to white farmers. When our people are cajoled to take financial compensation, they are paid peanuts. The white man that got land under apartheid keeps the land. This is what restitution is about.

The same process of benefiting white farmers is clear when you look at the farm worker equity schemes. Here government said it would buy land for farm workers so that they become owners in the farms. As soon as the money comes in, the white farmers evict our people, keep the land, keep the money, and our people become squatters on the outskirts of townships.

The same logic applies to the communal property associations. When some people get a bit of land, they set up these communal property associations. Now, the white farmer comes, he gets a contract to manage the land, takes the profits, gives our people nothing, and our people end up fighting amongst themselves. These communal property associations are again agents to empower the same farmers who benefited under apartheid.

I do not want to talk about the statistics. This department is supposed to deliver about 9 million hectares, but it is planning for only 200 000 hectares in the next five years.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 162

So, only under MKP will our people get land and good development. Gwaza, Mkhonto! Gwaza!

Mr N S MATIASE: Chair, the EFF rejects this budgetary review and recommendation report.

We have heard ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members! Please take your conversations outside. Let us listen to the hon Matiase.

Mr N S MATIASE: Can you please rewind my time, hon Chair? Thank you. The EFF rejects this budgetary review and recommendation report.

We have heard excuse after excuse about this department's failure to meet its constitutional obligation to deal with our colonial and apartheid land legacy. We hear that this department is underfunded, but it being underfunded is only an excuse. The problem in this department is cross-leadership incompetence. There is a history of such incompetence. This incompetence does

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 163

not start with the current Minister. All predecessors have been just as incompetent as the current one.

The Communal Property Associations Office, established through the Communal Property Associations Act, is one of the catastrophic failures that has rendered, as the hon Mngxitam has mentioned, our people fighting among themselves over nothing, an indication of a dysfunctional system of community property associations that will require a complete overhaul. We may, perhaps, conclude that not only human factors but also structural and systemic problems are responsible.

Again, the problem in this country is that the Minister who comes on the platform with the mandate to ensure that land is returned to the people is all over the place. He is not sure what he is doing. He makes promise after promise. He goes about town as a merchant of issuing title deeds, title deeds that carry no value because a title deed in townships like Mdantsane and Botshabelo carries no value. This is because the land in townships is of no value and cannot be converted or recapitalised into anything meaningful. Our advice to the current Minister is this: Abandon your hopeless programme of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 164

issuing title deeds. Embark on a zealous programme of ensuring you introduce legislation to ensure that landless people ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon member. Your time has expired.

Mr N S MATIASE: Nothing less than that will be accepted. The EFF rejects this budgetary review and recommendation report. Thank you.

Inkosi R N CEBEKHULU: House Chair and hon members, our position is guided by the IFP's long-standing commitment ...

[Interjections.] Can I get your protection, hon Chair?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Ngobese, yes. What happened was that one of your members took to the podium in the Chamber, but he says you may proceed to make the declaration. Please continue. You are protected from your own member.

Mr A K NGOBESE: It is not just a member. It is Inkosi, hon Chair. Thank you. Our position is guided by the IFP's long-standing commitment to accountability, rural development, and the restoration of dignity through fair and lawful land reform.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 165

However, we remain concerned about ongoing weaknesses within the department's financial management, governance, and oversight systems. These shortcomings continue to delay critical redress for communities that have waited decades for justice. The IFP therefore calls on the Minister to urgently implement robust financial management systems, including automated invoice tracking, strict accountability for noncompliance, and regular monitoring to reduce irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure. We further emphasise the need to strengthen governance, anticorruption controls, and risk management across all programmes, especially in restitution, land development support, and infrastructure delivery. This includes filling critical Senior Management Service posts, boosting internal audit and forensic capacity, and ensuring targeted training for senior officials.

Finally, we support the expedited establishment of the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights as well as an autonomous Schedule 3A entity with the resources required to fulfil its mandate. Land justice demands urgency, integrity, and accountability.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 166

In consideration of the issues we have raised above, the IFP accepts the report. Thank you.

Mr S H M VAN WYK: Chairperson and hon members, good day. I rise on behalf of the PA, and we support the budgetary review and recommendation report of the Portfolio Committee on Land Reform and Rural Development.

Afrikaans:

Land is identiteit, is waardigheid. As jy dit nie het nie, dan het jy nie 'n identiteit nie. Die feit van die saak is ek het nie hierheen gekom om enige iemand te kom staan en paai hier nie. Die feit van die saak is die Khoi en San en die afstammelinge van die Khoi en San wat die sogenaamde kleurling is – hierdie is ons land. Almal het ons hier kom kry, of jy nou in die 1500's of in 1652 met Jan van Riebeeck gekom het. Ons was toe al vir 2 000 jaar hier. Dié is ons land, en van vandag moet ons sommer almal weet wie is klaas en wie is baas in die land.

As dit kom by die verenigings vir gemeenskaplike eiendom, VGE's, wil ek 'n ernstige waarskuwing rig aan die VGE's in die land, veral die VGE in die Richtersveld en ook die VGE in Bethanie.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 167

Daai dae van julle wat die VGE gebruik om juisself te verryk ten koste van ons mense is verby.

Ek wil ook die Weskus se munisipaliteit waarsku en vir die burgemeester sê daai blouvlag-status waarmee hy besig is daar op die Weskus in Paternoster gaan nie verder gaan nie. Ons gaan dit stop, want jy is besig met ontwikkeling. Jy laat dit toe dat daar gebou word op ons mense se eeu-oue grafte wat daar lê. Daai tyd is verby. Ons kom jou stop.

Laastens wil ek aan die die Minister van Grondhervorming en Landelike Ontwikkeling sê die PA ondersteun hom. Ek wil ook vir hom sê dat hy baie dapper was om titelaktes te gee aan ons mense. Hy ...

Die HUISVOORSITTER (Mnr W Horn): Dankie, agb lid. U tyd is nou verstreke.

Mr S H M VAN WYK: Ek ondersteun hom heelhartig. Agb ...

Die HUISVOORSITTER (Mnr W Horn): Agb Van Wyk! Agb Van Wyk!

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 168

Mr S H M VAN WYK: Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Van Wyk, please remain at the podium. There was a hand up before you concluded. Hon Michalakis?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE SECOND LARGEST MINORITY PARTY:
Chairperson, although it is not a member of the House, the hon member did say about the mayor ...

Afrikaans:

... ons kom jou skop. [... we are coming to kick you.]

English:

I might have heard it differently, but I would like your ruling on this. I do think that, although it is not aimed at a member of the House, making such comments of members of the public, and threatening statements at that, is unparliamentary. Thank you. Please can he withdraw it.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon Michalakis. I did not get your Afrikaans version. What I heard is, "Ons kom

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 169

jou stop", [We are coming to stop you] not "skop" [kick]. In that sense ...

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE SECOND LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: In that case, I withdraw.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. Hon Van Wyk, you are welcome to leave the podium.

Mr S H M VAN WYK: "Stop" [Stop] or "skop" [kick] is the same thing. Salut.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Van Wyk, do not now. The FF Plus.

Afrikaans:

Dr W J BOSHOFF: Agb Huisvoorsitter, dit is ongetwyfeld so dat grond en identiteit aan mekaar verbind is. Dit is hoekom hierdie departement se werksaamhede mense so warm onder die kraag maak. Dit is hoekom dit 'n ding is waarom mense opgewonde raak en waarom hulle ander mense sal stop, skok, stop – enige ding.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 170

Dit is baie belangrik as ons na hierdie departement se werksaamhede kyk om daarop te let dat niemand eintlik besonder gepla is oor die aktekantoor wat grondbesit in Suid-Afrika administreer en dit goed laat werk nie. Dis nie waarom mense dink nie. Mense dink selfs nie eens aan die basies R720 miljoen wat vir landelike infrastruktuur gebruik word en wat eintlik so min is dat 'n mens dit maar liewers kan los of by die provinsies of ander departemente kan inskakel nie. Waaraan mense dink is grondrestitusie. Dit is waar grondbesit en identiteit vir mense baie naby aan die huis kom. Dit is ook waarvoor meer as die helfte van hierdie departement se begroting gebruik word.

Nou sit ons hier met 'n probleem. Dit is dat daar 'n politiebewuste gedeelte van die samelewing is vir wie grond, identiteit, en waardigheid aan mekaar verbind is en wat daarop gesteld is dat hul grondregte herstel moet word met grond. Die mense wat die begunstigdes daarvan is, het klaarblyklik 'n ander idee. As ons net kyk na die besteding in hierdie spesifieke jaar het R1,2 miljard se begunstigdes liewers die geld verkies, terwyl R222 miljoen se mense die grond verkies het. Dit is duidelik dat die meeste mense op die grond wat met 'n oorlewingstryd besig is werk of geld soek eerder as grond.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 171

Dit beteken nie dat 'n mens daarmee grondhervorming moet stuit nie. Dit beteken mens moet realisties daaroor wees, en mens moet besef dat grondbesit een van die grondtrekke van die moderne ekonomie is. Nou ja, kom ons laat dit daar. Baie dankie.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: House Chair, we must begin by acknowledging a simple truth. Land reform is not merely an administrative program. It's a justice program. It is meant to restore dignity, unlock economic opportunity, and correct the deep inequalities that still shape South Africa. Yet the report reflects a department unable to meet its constitutional responsibility. Under spending in key programs, delays in land tenure reforms, and the slow pace of final restitution claims continue to hurt communities who have waited for far too long.

The persistent vacancy rates, weak intergovernmental co-ordination, and failure to stabilize entities such as the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights remain major barriers to delivery. We cannot ignore the audit findings which again highlight poor financial controls, weak record keeping, and inadequate consequence management. These shortcomings directly translate into stalled projects, unprocessed claims, and rural communities left without support.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 172

Chair, the Budgetary Review and Recommendations Reports, BRRR, also reminds us that progress is possible when there is strong leadership and discipline governance. ActionSA supports the recommendations calling for improved capacity, tighter oversight, faster digitization of land records, and action to clear the restitution backlog. What we would also suggest is lifetime audits of officials and representatives of communities. They are the only ones getting rich and the communities are getting nothing. Our rural communities deserve a state that takes land justice seriously.

Just as a personal note, I come from a royal family who staked the claim 30 years ago, but because we seek land that we ruled over, we are being ruled over by the new government.

Mr W M THRING: Hon House Chairperson, the ACDP, in acknowledging this BRRR of the Portfolio Committee on Land Reform and Rural Development, remains committed to a just, transparent land reform process. One which uplifts all communities, rural in particular, without undermining food security or constitutional rights. The ACDP notes the department's Umhlaba newsletter celebrating inspiring stories of female farmers in Limpopo who received land as a lifeline. We celebrate with these female

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 173

farmers. We also note that concurrently, media and committee briefings have also underscored delays in equitable access legislation and tenure security.

The ACDP has consistently cautioned against corruption, inefficiency in land redistribution programs, echoing public concerns raised in social media debates about stalled projects and inadequate support for new farmers. As kingdom builders, the ACDP is on record for stating that expropriation without compensation is not the panacea to the land question. Equitable land redistribution in keeping with the Constitution, coupled with the security of tenure, strong ethical government oversight with women and land and youth land empowerment initiatives augmented by skills transfer and working with those of all colours who have the skill in the agricultural economy, is the ACDP's preferred path. Thank you, Chair.

Afrikaans:

Mnr N L S KWANKWA: Voorsitter ...

English:

... during a recent UDM oversight visit to AphaMxesha in Dimbaza recently, residents raised deeply troubling concerns regarding

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 174

land claims that were lodged more than a decade ago yet remain unresolved. While a minority of community members have received land or some financial compensation, many are still waiting in the hope that one day they will be able to get their land claims resolved.

The visit also exposed serious structural weaknesses inside the department that continue to undermine the credibility of the land reform process. Many offices still rely on outdated manual systems with slow record-keeping and fragmented information flows. There is a lack of consequence management when officials fail to process claims in a timely manner and co-ordination between the department, the Commission of Restitution of Land Rights, Communal Property Associations and municipalities remain limited and very inefficient. These institutional shortcomings have slowed the settlement of claims across the country, deepening frustration and eroding public confidence in the state's commitment to restitution.

IsiXhosa:

Siphinde sava ngoonokrawuzana nangeempukane ezuluhlaza ukuba buninzi ubusela obuqhubekayo kula mabango omhlaba. Ezinye zee-akhawunti ezidwelisiweyo ngelithi kuhlawulwa abantu abenze

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 175

ubango bubuxoki, akukho zintlawulo eziya ebantwini. Kufumaniseka ukuba ngamagosa esebe la enza obu buqhophololo. Kuyafuneka ukuba kuphicothwe iincwadi kujongwe ukuba ingaba ezi akhawunti zihlawula ngenene abantu abenze ubango lomhlaba. Ingaba ayibaxwa kusini na into yokuba abantu abahlanu benze ubango lomhlaba kusuke kuhlawulwe ishumi lonke lee-akhawunti? Kuthiwa ayatya amagosa esebe kwaye kuseGege, kumnandi, kukwaXhel'eyakhe akabuzwa. Siqinisekile ukuba bakhatshwa ngoogxa babo bezopolitiko abayaziyo le nto. Enkosi. [Kwaphela ixesha.]

Setswana:

Ngk.M A MAIMANE: Modulasetilo, re a leboga. Jaaka Bosa re kaela gore re a e thekga pegelo [report] e. Maikaelelo a rona ke gore a madi a maAforikaborwa, lefatshe la bona le boele. Re ba fe tetla ya gore ba tsene mo ikonoming. Re a leboga.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon House Chair, hon members, Al Jama-ah supports the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. I am sure many will agree with me that land reform remains one of the most critical unfinished tasks of our democracy. Without meaningful redistribution, secure tenure, and

support for emerging multiracial farmers, we cannot speak of justice transformation of food security.

We acknowledge the progress made in settling claims, strengthening the farmer support programs, and improving oversight over entities. However, the pace of land reform remains too slow, and many beneficiaries receive land without tools, training, or financial support needed to make farming sustainable. Rural communities continue to face chronic underdevelopment, poor infrastructure, limited market access, and high levels of poverty.

We therefore call for strengthened post-settlement support, transparent land allocation processes, increased investment in rural roads and infrastructure. Land must become a productive asset that creates jobs, grows the economy, and restores dignity. Agriculture is central to our fight against hunger, inequality, and unemployment. A transformed rural economy is essential for a transformed South Africa. I thank you.

Mr M MRARA: Hon Chair, if there is one department that is charged with the responsibility to address the land question in this country, it is this department. It has got an overload of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 177

ensuring that the seriously marginalized population of our country is actually attended to as a matter of urgency. The historic development around land is a question that must gain focus to this Parliament. Different models that have been tried, some were tested, some were not tested, I challenge in terms of land restitution and land redistribution. And I think that Bill of land distribution must be fast tracked in ensuring that our people gain what belongs to them.

The policy pronouncements on establishing the land reform and rural development that has established Land Agency in 2022-23 has not yet been realized. And I think that agency was a good intervention in ensuring that we fast track the land redistribution. To the current Minister, the department is extremely important for the resolution of the historic grievance of land dispossession and rural underdevelopment, and it requires strong support to drive transformation and inclusion, as well as economic growth.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon member. Your time has now expired.

Mr M MRARA: The ANC supports the report.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 178

Question put.

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

The ACTING CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY (Mr M Nontsele): Moved that the report be adopted.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr A C ROOS: Hon House Chairperson, today, as we support the Budgetary Review and Recommendations Report, BRRR, on Home Affairs, we are reminded of our duty to restore dignity to each and every South African. The dignity of a job, the dignity of being able to look their family in the eye as a provider and not feel ashamed.

Whether government truly cares, progress is not only possible it is measurable, visible and transformative. It means confronting network failures, chronic underfunding, audit weaknesses, and service delivery backlogs not with excuses, but with urgency and reform. And Minister Schreiber has done exactly that.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 179

The top priority of home affairs is to contribute to job creation through the issuance of visas and permits to grow the economy. Under Minister Schreiber, Operation Vulindlela has shown early promise, with the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme attracting over 40 000 tourists and creating over 3 000 jobs.

The Stages scheme will bring jobs to the South African film and creative industries, and the successful G20 pilot of the Electronic Travel Authorisation, ETA, will soon be rolled out, reflecting a growth and a focus on using immigration as a driver of economic growth.

For the first time, the ETA records the biometrics of every person who enters South Africa, building a digital identity system where forged permits are consigned to the history books, helping take control of illegal immigration.

House Chairperson, with proper resourcing for the Border Management Authority, decisive information communication and technology, ICT, modernisation, and accelerated identity reforms, we can build a home affairs system that protects our borders, supports tourism, grows jobs, and restores dignity to every South African. I thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 180

Ms M B B MUHAMMAD: Hon House Chairperson and hon members, I rise on behalf of the MK party to reject this report. I am going to use my whole 120 seconds to present the Budgetary Review and Recommendations Report that paint a stark picture of the state of governance, service delivery and financial accountability within the Department of Home Affairs and its entities.

This Budgetary Review and Recommendations Report for 2024-25 financial year, is not just the document, it is a mirror reflecting the successes, failures and systemic challenges that define the institutions tasked with safeguarding our identities, borders, democracy and future of all South Africans.

Apart from the several systemic issues and shortcomings across the Department of Home Affairs and its entities each problem that includes but not limited to are audit outcomes and financial mismanagement, information communication and technology, ICT and modernisation failures, underfunding and resource constraints, service delivery failures, governance and labour instability and unresolved recommendations. Many recommendations from the 2024 Budgetary Review and Recommendations Report remain unaddressed or partially addressed including information technology, IT, modernisation, consequence

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 181

management and funding issues. Voter apathy and budget cuts for Independent Electoral Commission, IEC, delays in legislative and strategic plans.

The Government Printing Works, GPW, has not submitted the State Security Printers Bill. The Boarder Management Authority, BMA, has yet to determine the need for legislative changes to improve its functioning.

Overall, the reports reveal a portfolio struggling with systemic governance, financial and operational challenges that hinder its abilities to deliver on its mandates effectively.

The committee has made a detail recommendation to address these issues. However, recommendations on its own will just remain recommendations. I thank you.

Mr T P MOGALE: Hon House Chairperson, today we confront a hard truth. The Department of Home Affairs and its entities are collapsing under the weight of mismanagement, chronic underfunding and a so-called digital revolution that exist only on paper. While our people continue to suffer in long queues that stretch for hours.

The Budgetary Review and Recommendations Report show a department claiming 83% performance, yet the Auditor-General exposed that this so-called progress is unreliable. When we visited the frontline offices in the Eastern Cape, we did not find a digital state. We found broken systems, network failures and tools of trade that had not been replaced since 2022.

In Komani the Movement Control System was offline for a full week. Staff shortages stand at a staggering 33%. These are not numbers, these are human beings; grandmothers, workers and students forced to return to the same dysfunctional offices, again and again.

The Border Management Authority, BMA, is collapsing under severe funding crisis. Eighty five percent of its budget goes to salaries living no money for scanners, drones or a functional information communication and technology, ICT, system. They operate within a 20 km track load backlog at Lebombo, a broken border fence no dedicated surveillance technology and the SA Police Service, SAPS, still refuses to integrate into the BMA structure.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 183

Meanwhile the Independent Electoral Commission, IEC, stands alone as the only institution with a clean audit for the fifth consecutive year. Yet even here, the budget allocated for voter education has been cut from R380 million to R158 million in a country where youth voter apathy is rising and the voters roll is shrinking.

Government Printing Works continues to receive qualified audit. We reject this report. [Time expired.]

Ms B E MACHI: Hon House Chairperson, in the midst of the national crisis on illegal immigration, the IFP's consideration of this report is guided by our recognition of the department's importance to efficiently determine and safeguard the identity and status of citizens as well as to regulate immigration in a manner that ensures national security and fulfil South Africa's international obligation. Given the importance of the department the IFP agrees and stresses its concern about the nominal decrease in the budget. A decrease has severe consequence for the mandate of the department.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 184

Furthermore, the illegal immigration resolved soon given the fact that there are only limited funds for operational costs technology and infrastructure.

The IFP again calls for Cabinet and the National Treasury to address the fiscal challenges and secure appropriate funding transfers. However, we welcome the fact that despite the challenges it achieved 81%. Moreover, we welcome operational successes that include processing of 100% of illegal persons detected at ports of entry for deportation.

The IFP supports the Minister's engagement with Cabinet as a matter of national security and consideration of issues we raised. The IFP accepts this report. I thank you, House Chairperson.

Ms M L MATHOPA: Hon House Chairperson and hon members, at the centre of an escalating crisis concerning illegal immigration the PA rises today not only to respond but to demand restoration of a department ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members!

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 185

My apologies, hon member. Please proceed.

Ms M L MATHOPA: ... that holds the sole of our Republic. The Department of Home Affairs is the protector of our identity, the guardian of our borders and the first line of our trust between the state and its people.

Porous borders is a national emergency. We call for urgent ring-fenced funding to fully empower the Border Management Authority, aerial surveillance and uncompromising biometric enforcement. A nation that cannot defend its borders cannot defend its future.

While digitalisation is welcomed, the abuse of asylum systems and fraudulent documents continue to tear at our national fabric. We demand a full audit of asylum systems and decisive action against internal and external syndicates. Compassion cannot be replaced by sovereignty.

Information, communication and technology, ICT, modernisation must not exclude the rural, the elderly or the undocumented poor.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 186

Targeted investment in mobile units, multilingual services and community registration drives is urgent. Every South African must be counted and protected.

We support the committee's recommendation in the 2025 the Budgetary Review and Recommendations Report, BRRR, but not silently. Funding must translate into measurable outcomes. Reduced fraud faster turnaround times and restore public trust.

Home affairs is not paperwork, it is people. It is a mother in Mokgola village in Zeerust in waiting to register a birth, the officer in Musina risking his life for our sovereignty and the young South Africans who deserve the country that finally puts them first.

We stand ready to rebuild this department. [Time expired.]

Mr P A VAN STADEN: Hon House Chairperson, the FF Plus welcomes the department's attempts to increase its self-financing revenue due to the decrease of the department's budget allocation.

The FFPlus is concerned about the Border Management Authority's budget, as 85% of its allocation is directed towards employee

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 187

compensation. This leaves this entity with severely limited funding for essential operational costs, technology, and infrastructure needed to effectively carry out its mandate.

The Government Printing Works achieved 88% of its targets although attention needs to be given to its key indicators related to its information eco system as well as the completion of its new headquarters building that has its ongoing challenges on information technology, IT, and infrastructure.

The FFPlus agrees with the committee's recommendations regarding the 2025 budget review of the department, the Border Management Authority, the Independent Electoral Commission and the Government Printing Works. I thank you, House Chairperson.

Ms L M NGOBENI: House Chairperson, as we consider this Budgetary Review and Recommendation, BRR, Report, one thing cuts through every figure, audit finding, and line item. Home Affairs continues to fail the people of South Africa, and this is not an abstract conclusion drawn from paperwork. It is an on-the-ground, first-hand account at our borders and inside the very offices meant to serve our citizens.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 188

During Action SA's oversight visit to the Lubombo Border Post with the Border Management Authority, the reality was stark. What should be a modern, empowered Border Management Authority instead an institution left to fend for itself. Border guards are expected to secure our country with broken or outdated tools. Scanners lie idle, not because they aren't needed, but because there are too few to operate across a high-volume port. Drones are borrowed instead of procured, and a 20-kilometer queue of trucks has become normal because the system has simply collapsed.

The same failures echo in Home Affairs offices across the country. Outdated equipment, chronic system downtime, and staff doing their best under impossible conditions. Yet year after year, we see the same audit findings, the same irregular expenditure, and the same modernization projects that absorb billions while communities see no improvement.

This BRR Report demands more than acknowledgement. It demands accountability for repeat audit failures, urgency in completing genuine modernization, and a properly funded, professionalized Border Management Authority that can secure our borders and

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 189

serve our people with dignity. I thank you very much, House Chairperson.

Dr M A MAIMANE: House Chairperson, I think whilst I stand to support the BRRR on the Department of Home Affairs, I think it's worth noting one unequivocal failure by the department, which is the collapse of the process around the electoral reform consultation panel.

To give you a brief history, hon members, is that the Constitutional Court under Judge Madlanga had ruled to say that this House needed to amend the Electoral Act. This House then took its own time and did a malicious compliance to that judgment.

Following on from that, it is common cause, nearly every President of the ANC who has been President of the Republic has stated this issue. President Nelson Mandela conceded the point that we needed a new electoral system. Kgalema Motlanthe raised the same issue in his high-level panel report. Recently, President Mbeki has already spoken eloquently about the fact that we need a direct election of the president.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 190

But it would seem that this House, seems to dilly-dally on this issue. A panel that cannot, only had one job, which was to produce a single report for this House to consider.

Hon members, we can't sit here today and put the people against parties. We must choose, is democracy for the people or for the parties? And therefore, ultimately, we cannot continue this process any longer. I would urge that this House put its foot down, insist on a single report, amend the Electoral Act so that we can have direct accountability, so that the people of South Africa will know the end of state capture begins when we can directly vote for the people who we hold accountable.

Therefore, we support this report, but I cannot sit back and fail to say that the committee must act urgently to amend our electoral process. I thank you.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon House Chairperson, hon members, Al Jama-ah supports the Budgetary Review and Recommendations Report of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs. Home Affairs is the custodian of our identity, our borders and the integrity of the state. It is a department whose efficiency or failure is directly by every citizen.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 191

Whilst we admit there is slow progress made in modernizing systems, reducing backlogs, and improving the functioning of key services such as identity documents, IDs, passports, and immigration management, however, the department continues to face serious challenges.

The long-standing backlogs in visas and permits are hurting investment and job creation. Corruption at some offices, slow turnaround times, network outages, and poorly maintained infrastructure undermine public confidence. Border management remains a pressing issue with porous entry ports and inadequate resources.

We therefore call for accelerated digitization of all Home Affairs services, urgent strengthening of the Border Management Authority, improved training and accountability for frontline staff, and expanded mobile and community outreach units so that rural and poor communities are not left behind.

A capable Home Affairs is essential for national security, economic growth, and the dignity of our citizens. Faster process is definitely still required to ensure a catch-up with all long outstanding occupants staying in our country whose documents

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 192

remain outstanding for years on end. Al Jama-ah supports the report and urges swift, ethical and efficient implementation. I thank you.

Mr M S CHABANE: House Chairperson, hon Maimane, there's no collapse of the process in relation to electoral panel. The committee is fully in charge in terms of interacting with that matter. The ANC supports the BRRR report of Department of Home Affairs and its entities. The Department of Home Affairs reported an achievement rate of 83%, which translated in achieving 24 out of 29 is target as outlined in annual performance plan.

The ANC acknowledged commendable stride in specific areas as a foundation laid in the sixth administration. The successful clearance of 94% of visa backlog, reducing it from 300,000 to less than 18,000. Furthermore, the department reduced irregular expenditure significantly from 728 million down to closed balance of 200 million. Additionally, the immigration branch allocated 98% of general work visas and 93% of permanent resident targets.

However, these operational successes are overshadowed by the department's regression to a qualified audit opinion. The Author-General warns that Home Affairs at home modernization strategy lacks alignment with current technology standards.

Our oversight visits to Eastern Cape confirmed that chronic network downtime and outdated equipment are negating the hard work of officials on the ground. Despite the financial and capacity challenges the BMA faces; the entity has achieved 81% of its targeted annual performance plan. Yet the BMA remained grossly unfunded, with 85% of its budget consumed by salaries, it continued to demonstrate good work, and it has intercepted the illegal movement of people and goods across ports of entry, and that significantly reduced illegal immigration and illicit movement of goods.

The Independent Electoral Commission, IEC, has achieved 100% of its targets and received clean audit from Auditor-General. This points to a strong internal control environment and implementation of audit recommendation from a previous financial year. It is worth noting that the IEC has been consistent in achieving clean financial audit over the years.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 194

The IEC must invest more to capacitate the electoral officials to ensure that they are able and capable to applying the laws during the elections, particularly towards the 2024-26 local government elections.

Lastly, we remain concerned on the governance of Government Printing Works, though they have improved on its financial position as highlighted by the Auditor-General. We are aware that the Government Printing Works is facing labour unrest and governance challenges. Hence, ANC welcomes the appointment of Dr Lubisi and the team to investigate and report the matter to the portfolio committee. The ANC supports this BRR Report. Thank you.

Debate concluded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

Report accordingly adopted.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 195

**CONSIDERATION OF BUDGETARY REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT OF
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE ON PERFORMANCE OF
DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE**

The ACTING CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY (Mr M Nontsele): Moved that the report be adopted.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr E J MARAIS: House Chair, the DA notes the tabling of the Budgetary Review and Recommendations Report to the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, but we must express our concern that this portfolio continues to suffer from systemic governance failures and political leadership that has not corrected them.

The Auditor-General's 2024-25 report is clear. Despite small improvements in a handful of entities, the sector remains in crisis. Thirteen entities had material non-compliance findings. Irregular expenditure has risen to almost R70 million, and several institutions posted repeat qualified orders for the same issues year after year.

House Chair, this is not happening in a vacuum. It is happening under the watch of Minister Gayton McKenzie, a minister who

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 196

talks tough about discipline and efficiency, yet presides over a department where consequence management is practically non-existent.

The Auditor-General, AG has expressly stated that leadership in the portfolio is slow to act. Action plans are not monitored, and the same failures reoccur because internal controls remain weak. Even the department itself failed to prevent irregular expenditure and continues to mismanage transfers, the exact weakness that led to the R7,5 million broadcasting academy scandal where funds disappeared with no benefit to the public.

Entities responsible for safeguarding our national heritage, such as the National Library ... [Inaudible.] ... Ditsong Museums, the National Heritage Council, continue to receive qualified audits because their basic record-keeping and asset management are not done. If the Minister wants to predict the reputation ... [Time expired.]

Mr G MOTAUNG: Chairperson, today, the MK party rises with absolute clarity. We reject this Budgetary Review and Recommendations Reports, BRRR, not because of politics, but out

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 197

of the loyalty of the people of South Africa, whom we have failed so far.

The Auditor-General's own report confirms what the community is crying all about, R70 million in irregular expenditure in this portfolio, which is money that was supposed to build sports grounds, libraries, theatres, and safe creative spaces for our youth, has vanished in a black hole of this weak oversight.

Repeat findings and broken internal controls, year after year, the same entities such as the Boxing South Africa, National Arts Council, NAC, have the same valuation with zero consequences. Not even one official has been held accountable, not even one case has been conducted. Beyond these numbers, there are real people who are bleeding under these failures.

In Mpumalanga, 1 800 athletes woke up at 4 o'clock in the morning for a race. Some travelled from different rural areas using their last taxi fare. They ran the race with the believe that they will get money, which is—the prize money that was about R1,5 million. But come to think of it, the organisers vanished, they were nowhere to be found. But the same department

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 198

did not even ensure that those people receive their money till today.

That means the system has collapsed on them, and that the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, DSAC is non-functional oversight mechanism that fails to protect the athletes, artists, and the heritage workers. How do you explain this to a young South African, that the Athletic South Africa has never had a permanent chief executive officer, CEO since 2012? How do you do that? We don't support this.

Mr E MTHETHWA: House Chair, the EFF rejects the BRRR until such a time the Minister and his department take the sector serious. For instance, Chair, it is under the vigorous oversight of the Portfolio Committee on Sports, Arts, and Culture that the Athletic SA president has been suspended for gross misuse of the Federation's credit card. Whilst the department was sleeping at work.

Under the watch of this department, South African Rugby can impose restrictions against the Portfolio Committee's access to the forensic report about the Ackerley Sports Group investment.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 199

This is due to the private ownership of the Springbok, your national team.

The EFF is therefore calling for a private member's bill for the nationalisation of all national teams. The Minister must be held accountable for R32 million wasted in sector clusters, lacking institutional support. Corruption has already been recorded, proving that our early warnings were correct.

We demand a comprehensive response to the critical question of why artists die poor. This response should include the immediate expropriation of intellectual property rights without compensation, creation of quality jobs than the part-time jobs hailed as successes in reports, the President prioritising the urgent advancement of the Copyright and Performance Protection Amendment Bills to ensure fair compensation for our artists, establishment of a self-sustainable social benefits scheme that operates independently of government grants than the Minister's planned one that is an imminent failure even before launching it.

The EFF rejects the report and demands meaningful transformative changes. Chair, we are always the last ones in the programme.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 200

Mr A K NGOBESE: Chair, hon members, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture carries enormous value for our society, yet the committee report highlights persistent governance weaknesses, leadership instability and stagnant audit outcomes that continue to undermine the progress.

We remain concerned by the under-expenditure in the key programmes, particularly recreation, development and sport promotion, which spend only 15,8% of its first quarter budget. This directly affects school sports and grassroots initiatives, which were already disrupted earlier in the year.

We are concerned about the abrupt halt of the artists in school programmes. This programme supported young talent and contributed to arts education, and we urge its reinstatement and the proper funding. While we acknowledge the improvements, the overall picture shows a department still underfunded relative to its contribution to national development.

The IFP supports the report and calls on the department to prioritise accountability, proper planning and stronger support for grassroots development.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 201

I thank you, hon Chair.

Ms J S PETERSEN: Hon Chair, hon members and members of the public, today we reflect on a department that has for far too long been held back by a backlog of operational irregularities that undermined efficiency, weakened accountability and delayed critical services to our people.

When the new leadership assumed office, they inherited a system burdened by years of administrative lapses, outdated processes and various governance shortcomings. However, Chairperson, what is important is not only what was found but what is being done.

The current leadership has confronted these challenges head on. They have taken decisive steps to identify weaknesses, strengthen internal controls and restore compliance with laws and regulations. They are addressing the backlog with urgency, discipline and transparency because the people of South Africa deserve a department that works, not one trapped in dysfunction. We support the Minister.

Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 202

Mrs H DENNER: No declaration, House Chair.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: House Chair, what is clear from this report is that while South Africa possesses extraordinary talent, heritage and creative potential, the department continues to struggle with the basics of governance, financial management and strategic planning.

The committee's findings again highlight recurring audit issues, prolonged investigations into irregular expenditure and persistent leadership instability including long-standing vacancies in senior management. This directly undermines service delivery in communities that depend on sport, arts, culture and heritage for development and identity.

We are particularly concerned about delayed transfers to federations. The collapse of programmes like artists in schools and the department's inability to support entities facing liquidity pressures. These failures limit opportunities for young athletes, restrict the growth of the creative sector and weaken social cohesion.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 203

The BRRR also shows oversight gaps, poor monitoring of conditional grants and infrastructure projects that remain incomplete at great cost. This cannot continue.

The ActionSA supports the recommendations calling for stricter consequence management, a clear plan to fill vacancies, stronger oversight of public entities and a review of wasteful one-day events that add little value. South Africans deserve a department that treats sports, arts and culture as a character-building investment and not an administrative afterthought. For those that have given us facilities that won't work, we need to get the money back. Special Investigating Unit, SIU, please come in.

Mr W M THRING: No declaration, hon Chair.

Ms C T NONTENJA: No declaration, hon Chair.

Dr M A MAIMANE: No declaration, hon Chair.

Ms T L MARAWU: No declaration, hon Chair.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 204

Mr I SMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members. Aljma-ah supports the Budgetary Review and Recommendation report of the Portfolio Committee of Sports, Arts and Culture. This portfolio carries the responsibility of nurturing the soul of our nation. Sports, arts and culture are not luxuries. They are nation builders, unifiers and powerful economic sectors that can create jobs, empower youth and restore pride in our communities. We acknowledge the achievements of our athletes, the resilience of our artists and the department's efforts to improve governance within its entities.

However, challenges remain. Many community facilities are dilapidated or non-existent. Funding processes lack transparency and artists continue to struggle for fair compensation. The creative sector, one of the largest, globally, is still underdeveloped in South Africa. Aljma-ah therefore, calls for strengthened support for grassroots support in sports, proper maintenance of facilities, transparent and timely funding processes for artists and real investment in the cultural economy.

We must protect our heritage and ensure that our youth has platforms to excel. The reality is that poor communities still

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 205

do not have full benefit from sporting facilities. We must realise that sports help alleviate crime. A thriving arts and sports sector is essential for social cohesion, economic activity and national pride. Aljma-ah supports this report and urges implementation of its recommendation. I thank you.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: There is no declaration from the UAT.

Ms M L MMOLOTSANE: Hon House Chairperson, hon members, the ANC welcomes the Budgetary Review and Recommendation report of the Portfolio Committee Sports Arts and Culture for the 2024/25 financial year. We particularly commend the report's explicit recognition that the sports, arts, and culture sector have the potential to thrive social cohesion, nation-building, and employment creation while breaking through barriers that entrance racial, class, gender, and spatial division.

This resonates profoundly with the Government of National Unity Strategic Priorities and the Medium-Term Development of 2024 to 2029, which positioned the Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture as a lead institution in achieving social cohesion and nation-building. ANC notes with satisfaction, the department demonstrated commitment to creating work opportunities through

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 206

employment programmes in creative sector, promoting and protecting South Africa's diverse language and cultures, and investing in shared spaces that enrich our communities.

This initiative directly addressed our constitutional mandate to unite South Africa around a common programme to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality. We acknowledge the committee's rigorous oversight in demanding improved governance, financial management, and accountability across the portfolio. We commit to supporting the implementation of these critical recommendations to ensure that this vital sector delivers meaningfully on its transformative potential for all South Africans. Thank you, Chair.

Question put.

Agreed to.

DECISION OF QUESTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTION BY MRS E N NTLANGWINI

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon members, the last item on the Order Paper is a decision of question on the Draft Resolution in the name of the hon Ntlangwini. I wish to remind

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 207

you, hon members, that this Draft Resolution was debated in a virtual mini-plenary last Thursday on the 13th of November, but that in terms of our rules, a decision thereon can only be taken in the full plenary. Hon Michalakis, why do you want to be recognised?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE SECOND LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: House Chair, I wish to move an amendment to the motion, the proposed amendment in terms of Rule 121. The proposed amendment was circulated to the Chief Whips and Party Whips on the relevant group. It was also consulted with the member in whose name the motion was submitted. I would like, with your permission, to table this before the House. A signed copy of the proposed amendment has been delivered to the Table.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon members. I confirm that, indeed, a signed copy is in our possession and that the amendment has been verified as required by the rules and that it doesn't amend the scope of the original motion and that, therefore, the amendment technically is in order. Therefore, hon Michalakis, please proceed to move your amendment.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 208

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE SECOND LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: House
Chair, I hereby wish to move the following amendment to the
motion of hon Ntlangwini in terms of National Assembly Rule 121:

That the following words in paragraph 8(a) be deleted.

(8), resolves to establish an ad hoc committee in terms of
Rule 253(1) (a) to:

"(a) conduct a comprehensive assessment of," and replace
with "(8)".

Mandates the Portfolio Committee on Police in terms of Rule
227(1) (e) to:

"(a) conduct a parliamentary enquiry into"

Then, to insert a new paragraph 8(a) (iv) as follows:

Conferring with the Portfolio Committee on Social Development
and committees in the security cluster where necessary to
formulate proposals for solutions to this problem and,"

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 209

And then, finally, to delete paragraph 8(b) and 8(c). The effect of this amendment on paragraph 8 is as follows:

"mandates the Portfolio Committee on Police in terms of Rule 227(1)(e) to conduct a parliamentary enquiry into the causes of these violent crimes in Cape Town and the impact these have on society by"

One, reviewing government's response to this type of crime and identifying the weaknesses and areas for potential improvement in the policing and prosecution of these crimes;

Two, conducting comprehensive public hearings to elicit community views on the genesis of and current factors contributing to the escalation of violent crimes in the city of Cape Town, as well as potential solutions to the crisis of violent crimes in Cape Town;

Three, reviewing the legislative framework within which crime fighting is located and propose changes, if any, that would enable the criminal justice system to better deal with the problem of violent crimes in Cape Town before conferring with the Portfolio Committee on Social Development and committees

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 210

in the security cluster where necessary to formulate proposals for solutions to this problem; and

(9) sets the deadline by which the committee is to report to the House as 30 June 2026.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. Hon members, in terms of our rules, we are to put firstly the amendment to the motion. I now put the amendment to the motion of the hon Ntlangwini as moved by the hon Michalakakis. Are there any objections? No objections agreed to.

In the circumstances, it therefore follows that the original motion is properly amended and passed and will not be put to the House. Okay. The motion as amended is also put to the House. Are there any objections? No objections agreed to.

Hon members, I request you to stand and wait for the presiding officer and the mace to leave the Chamber. That concludes the business of today. The House is adjourned.

Question put: That the amendment as moved by Mr G Michalakakis be agreed to.

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Page: 211

Question agreed to.

Amendment accordingly agreed to.

Question put: That the motion, as amended, be agreed to.

Question agreed to.

Motion, as amended, accordingly agreed to.

The House adjourned at 19:07.