

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 1

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF MINI-PLENARY SESSION - GOOD HOPE CHAMBER

Members of the mini-plenary session met in Good Hope Chamber at 10:00.

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

APPROPRIATION BILL

Debate on Vote No 8 - National Treasury (State Security):

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): We recognise the hon the Minister in the Presidency. Is it a coded speech? Hon Minister, you must switch on the microphone also.

The MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY: I am saying, hon House Chair, that I am trying to remove the password. It is password

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 2

protected. That is my slight challenge. Alright.

[Interjections.] We are good. That's fine. Thank you.

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: On a point of order, House Chair: I hope the minutes are running because that is her minutes during which she is trying to find her speech. I don't know from where – from Stellenbosch or from where – so whilst she is finding it from Stellenbosch or from Luthuli House, that's alright.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon Ntlangwini.

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: Or from the cloud ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. Thank you.

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: ... or from on-the-ground criminality, we don't know.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. Look, all of you who have been at the podium will know the minutes only start running when the speaker at the podium starts speaking, but,

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 3

Minister, that doesn't mean you can keep us here for 10 minutes whilst you find the password, so please proceed.

The MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY: Hon House Chairperson, Chairperson of the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence hon Sylvia Lucas-Isaacs, hon members of the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence, Deputy Ministers Morolong and Mhlauli, acting Director-General of the State Security Agency, SSA, Ambassador Tony Gab Msimanga, *in absentia*, and today's acting Director-General of the State Security Agency Mr Sinthumule Ramabulana, the top management of the State Security Agency, acting co-ordinator of the National Intelligence Co-ordinating Committee, NICOC, Dr Ntandazo Sifolo, Inspector-General of Intelligence Mr Imtiaz Fazel – welcome back – and hon members, the year 2025 marks 30 years since the establishment of a civilian intelligence service.

As we mark this important milestone of our existence, we are reminded of the journey undertaken by men and women for the protection of our national sovereignty and national security – a journey characterised by challenges overcome, milestones achieved, and lives positively impacted. We also mark this anniversary fully cognisant of the weaknesses that beset us

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 4

and the dangers such weaknesses pose to national security and national sovereignty. Most importantly, we mark the 30th anniversary of the civilian intelligence service with a new mandate to modernise and improve the effectiveness and accountability of South Africa's intelligence operators, whilst addressing past weaknesses, strengthening national security, and enhancing the role of intelligence in the democratic society. This new mandate derives from the General Intelligence Laws Amendment Act that was driven by the sixth administration, passed by the Sixth Parliament, and assented to by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Several commissions, review panels, and internal investigation reports have documented in detail the weaknesses that confronted the SSA and made very particular recommendations to address the challenges that confronted the SSA and the intelligence community. We remain focused on implementing the recommendations, tracking the progress thereof, and reporting same to the National Security Council and the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence.

The first of these weaknesses we're addressing is dealing with allegations of malfeasance, corruption, and unethical conduct,

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 5

specific to the recommendations of the high-level review panel and the Zondo Commission. In line with the recommendations of the high-level review panel, a panel of two independent senior counsel and a counsel has commenced its work to assess the allegations made in various reports, with a view to initiating disciplinary actions or recommending referral of cases for prosecutorial action by the relevant authorities. This initiative forms part of our broader effort to strengthen consequence management within the agency, reinforce institutional accountability, and restore integrity to the civilian intelligence services. To prevent recurrence, we are also strengthening our risk management system within the SSA. We are enhancing the role of intelligence in a democratic society.

Furthermore, the high-level review panel highlighted the need for a comprehensive national security strategy to guide the work of the national intelligence structures and government in general. In March 2024, Cabinet approved the National Security Strategy that was also consulted with the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence. To enhance the role of intelligence in a democratic society, the high-level review panel has recommended that we reaffirm our commitment to transparency

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 6

and accountability and ensure that our national security priorities are accessible and understandable to all South Africans.

In this regard and following extensive consultation and legal guidance on the implications of publishing material produced by national intelligence structures, I shall release, for the first time in the history of South Africa, the public versions of the National Security Strategy 2024-2029 and the National Intelligence Estimate with its National Intelligence Priorities 2019-2024. We cannot release the current National Intelligence Estimate because it will then interfere with the operations of the intelligence structures and other bodies. The guidance is that we must release for the previous term. So, because the sixth administration has concluded, we are going to release the public versions of the National Intelligence Estimate for the sixth administration. We will release it today at 13:30 at the Government Communication and Information System media centre.

The General Intelligence Laws Amendment Act establishes new intelligence structures, provides for improved oversight and accountability of intelligence services, including enhanced

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 7

independence of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and NICOC. In terms of the new structures, the General Intelligence Laws Amendment Act establishes the SA Intelligence Service, the SA Intelligence Agency, the National Communications Centre, and the SA National Academy of Intelligence. To ensure efficient and streamlined organisational structures, these new departments and structures will be supported by shared service capacity that will consolidate key administrative and support functions across the civilian intelligence community.

In this regard, NICOC and the Office for Interception Centres, OIC, structures have been approved, and the filling of vacancies will be completed over the next 24 months.

Similarly, the Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence is currently filling its vacancies in line with its available budget. We are not only finalising the organisational structures but also the relevant regulations that will govern them and their co-ordination and collaboration.

We are mindful of the work under way in Parliament regarding the Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication-Related Information Amendment Bill, but we

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 8

have also requested the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to prioritise the broader overhaul of the Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication-Related Information Act, RICA, framework as initiated through the RICA reform task team.

The OIC has commenced drafting legislation that will govern intercepting and bug surveillance for national security purposes, as also raised in the AmaBhungane court judgment, because RICA will not sufficiently address requirements of national security. In addition, we are focused on building lawful interception capabilities for the OIC, which will be on par with the advancement of technology and provide the ability to respond to emerging challenges.

Capabilities such as data analytics and the use of artificial intelligence will enhance the ability to analyse big data, identify threats, and predict patterns of behaviour from intercepted data, generating insights for law enforcement agencies to act pre-emptively and thus enhancing the crime-fighting effort. Thus, resources will be directed towards investment in state-of-the-art technologies that will enable

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 9

interception, processing, and data analysis to stay ahead of emerging threats.

To prepare for the implementation of the new structures, we undertook a skills audit that had over 96% compliance, supported by a competency assessment. The skills audit and competency assessment highlighted the skills and competency gaps, some of which the organisation has started to address through training interventions by the intelligence academy, soon to be the SA National Academy of Intelligence. The next intake of cadets will focus on much-needed skills such as data analytics, data science, and artificial intelligence, amongst others, supported by clear career pathing and a progression plan. The intelligence academy has also commenced its repositioning as a fully fledged academy with SA Qualifications Authority-accredited courses. This process will include collaboration with other institutions of higher learning to ensure skills portability.

The need for established career pathing, progression, and succession policy has become clearer during the current implementation of the voluntary separation package, VSP, where members predominantly stated the following reasons for taking

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 10

up VSP. Many indicated that they were responding positively to the broader government programme of managing down the Public Service wage bill and allowing employment opportunities for younger people who could bring fresh ideas and skills, as well as the mechanism that afforded a few applicants the opportunity to exit due to health problems not serious enough to warrant consideration of medical boarding. A small number cited family responsibilities that were detracting from their ability to be optimally productive. The majority of applicants felt that they had reached the ceiling of their growth in the organisation and, due to advanced age, had less prospects of growing.

As of today, 228 applications, which is 8% of the staff establishment, have been approved for VSP. The bulk of the applications, 76,3%, came from the G3, P1, and P2 levels. These are the higher-level generalist and professional bands who, despite the majority holding qualifications, have remained in the same position for an extended period with no prospects of career growth in their remaining years of service. The VSP programme is also supported by a dedicated change management initiative.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 11

On strengthening national security, the most important is the fight against organised crime. The shadow of organised crime in South Africa stretches far and wide. It is a serious and complex challenge that undermines national security, social stability, economic development, and the rule of law. It is no longer limited to local gangs. It includes transnational syndicates involved in drug trafficking, human trafficking and smuggling, rhino poaching, illegal mining and smuggling of precious metals, cybercrime, and financial fraud.

In South Africa, organised crime is closely linked with illegal mining by the zama zamas, gang violence particularly in the Western Cape, hijacking and extortion rackets, corrupt procurement and looting of state-owned entities, and cross-border smuggling of drugs, cigarettes, and firearms. Organised crime causes economic damage and distortion by diverting billions from the legal economy through money laundering, tax evasion, and counterfeit markets. Furthermore, it discourages investment, raises the cost of doing business, and distorts fair competition. Cases of extortion pervade industries such as construction, transport, as well as small and large business enterprises, and there is a new wave of water mafia undermining and damaging critical water infrastructure, thus

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 12

undermining both service delivery and economic development. This cannot be left unattended.

As we ramp up the fight against organised crime, and to direct its approach in this fight, the SSA is finalising its anti-organised crime strategy while also participating in the process of drafting the national anti-organised crime strategy spearheaded by the SA Police Service, SAPS. In addition, the SSA is leading the drafting of South Africa's counterproliferation strategy. Furthermore, the SSA continues to employ its resources together with local and international partners to stem illicit financial flows generated by organised crime enterprises and to play its role in safeguarding our country's economy. We have made significant progress in this regard, contributing to South Africa's substantial completion of all 22 Financial Action Task Force, FATF action items, paving the way for an on-site visit and our country's anticipated removal from greylisting.

We are also seized with addressing the threats posed by gangsterism and all its permutations, including kidnappings and demands for ransom, in an effort to ensure that our people are safe and feel safe. We acknowledge that no single

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 13

government agency on its own can effectively address this threat. Therefore, as the SSA, we are committed to continue our participation in multistakeholder forums aimed at devising and implementing co-ordinated interventions. As the SSA, we will continue to lead and provide guidance to further enhance current counterintelligence co-ordination initiatives, especially at provincial and local government level, to create awareness of the risk to national security and required mitigation and measures to be instituted.

On counterterrorism, in some regions, organised crime form alliances with terrorists or insurgent groups, thus creating hybrid threats such as arms for drugs, exchanges, and smuggling routes. We continue to monitor if such linkages are emerging in South Africa. With its multifaceted and ever-evolving forms, terrorism stands as one of the most pressing and insidious threats to global peace and security in the 21st century. No longer confined by geographic boundaries or political ideologies, it has transformed into a truly global phenomenon, impacting nations regardless of their economic standing, political systems, or cultural heritage. South Africa's terrorism threats landscape is informed by

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 14

developments and plans domestically and outside South Africa's borders.

In February 2023, the FATF designated South Africa as a jurisdiction under increased monitoring, more commonly known as greylisting, due to this threat of terrorism and terror financing. Subsequent to South Africa's greylisting, the country has been diligently carrying out a range of strategic, legislative, institutional, and co-operational interventions aimed at rectifying the identified deficiencies and ensuring removal from the greylisting. As the National Intelligence Priorities mandated the SSA to focus on terrorism and terror financing as a matter of priority, the SSA has increased its ability to identify potential terror financing cases by broadening its understanding of terror financing, both analytically and operationally.

We are also increasing our counterterrorism focus and will continue to be involved in bilateral engagements with foreign counterparts on counterterrorism and terror financing, including the Southern African Development Community, SADC, Regional Counterterrorism Centre. On border insecurity and migration, the intersection of border security and migration

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 15

presents a multifaceted challenge with profound implications for individual states and nations globally. In a globalising world characterised by porous borders, ease of movement of goods and people, as well as the rapid flow of information through technology-enabled channels, our security is increasingly becoming entangled with that of our region of Southern Africa, the continent of Africa, and indeed the rest of the world.

These dynamics necessitates a comprehensive understanding of how migration flows and border management strategies directly influence state resources, infrastructure, social services, and, ultimately, the broader security posture of the country. South Africa, like all other states with a significant illegal immigration challenge, is at risk of threats as they present and manifest as its ports of entry. The SSA is increasing its focus on border and ports of entry security to improve its support to other border security role-players, such as the Border Management Authority, SAPS, and SA National Defence Force, to secure territorial integrity in land, aviation, and maritime domains and national sovereignty through providing information and intelligence to mitigate and counter the threats.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 16

On cybersecurity, during the last Budget Vote, I committed to tabling a cybersecurity Bill. However, the process of developing a cybersecurity Bill had to be done in phases. For now, we are going to finalise consultation on the cybersecurity strategy, and the purpose of the cybersecurity strategy is to provide a clear, structured, and proactive approach to protecting the country's digital assets, information systems, and critical infrastructure from cyberthreats. It aligns cybersecurity efforts with national interests. The draft strategy focuses on protecting information and systems by ensuring the security, confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information and communications technology systems and digital infrastructure to build resilience and incident response by developing the capability to detect, respond to, and recover from cyber-incidents and minimise disruption to services and operations during cyberattacks or breaches.

The draft strategy further focuses on strengthening national security by protecting critical infrastructure, such as energy, transport, health care, finance, communications from cyber-enabled threats and enhancing national defence and intelligence capabilities in the cyberspace domain. It aims to

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 17

promote awareness and cyber-hygiene by educating employees, citizens, and other stakeholders about safe digital practices and fostering a culture of cybersecurity through training, awareness campaigns, and responsible behaviour online.

Finally, it aims to focus on fostering collaboration and information sharing by enhancing co-ordination between government, the private sector, academia, and international partners. The NICOC will soon develop co-ordination capacity for an integrated national intelligence structure cybersecurity co-ordination body to support the work of the SSA and other role-players.

On the work we do for the rest of the world, South Africa remains mindful of the linkages of our national security to those of our neighbours and the continent of Africa and the world as at large. The SSA has been active in supporting government's work in the context of SADC, the Southern African Customs Union, the African Union, Brics, the United Nations, and all other bilateral relations. Our work includes working closely with partner intelligence security services in identifying the common security threats affecting the region, most of which would pose a threat to South Africa's national security.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 18

Recognising the new threats emerging from the digital space, the SSA has been proactive in pioneering discussions on collaboration among African countries for investing in sovereign digital infrastructure that is interoperable. In this regard, the SSA, as the Southern Africa Regional Chair of the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa, has been at the forefront of initiating dialogue within the Southern Africa region on building strategies for technological sovereignty. In support of South Africa's multilateral programmes, the SSA provides threat, risk, and opportunity assessments, as well as intelligence briefs in preparation for the participation of South Africa's various delegations to multilateral bodies and the implementation of multilateral agreements with a view of supporting South Africa's international agenda.

The SSA has, through quarterly continental stability assessments and other products on transnational threats such as terrorism, forewarned on regional instability that could constitute an impediment on the operations of South Africa's businesses wishing to invest in Africa. Recent global developments, such as the roll-out of global tariffs and the withdrawal of international aid to African economies, have

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 19

also been factored into the SSA's assessments on threats, risk, and opportunities to South Africa's economic diplomacy.

Intelligence exists primarily to safeguard the sovereignty of the state. It must fulfil its role by identifying and countering potential threats using the instruments and resources available to it. I table the Budget Vote No 8: National Treasury (State Security) for your support to enable us to deliver this work. As I table this Vote, we want to commit that the SSA and all the national intelligence structures that I am responsible for will avail ourselves to the proposed Madlanga commission of inquiry, as announced by the President. Thank you, Chair.

Ms S E LUCAS-IZAKS: Hon House Chairperson, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence, JSCI, Minister in the Presidency, together with your Deputy Ministers, Morolong and Mhlaule, our Acting Director-General, Ambassador Msimang, the Inspector General of Intelligence, IGI, and the management team of the State Security Agency, SSA, and the intelligence community. We are here today because we were brought together to debate on a very important budget vote at a very pivotal moment, as South Africa undertakes one of the most significant

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 20

reforms to its national intelligence architecture, a reform that seeks to deepen the roots of governance and accountability. At the heart of this transformation is a simple but powerful principle.

Intelligence services must uphold the Constitution and respond to the realities of a rapidly changing world. Today, the global environment is volatile, shaped by shifting alliances, cyber warfare, disinformation campaigns, and economic uncertainty. The General Intelligence Laws Amendment Act 37 of 2024 sets the legal foundation for a re-emergent intelligence architecture.

We are moving towards a more modern, mission-driven, and accountable intelligence capability. Through this legislation, the State Security Agency will be disestablished in the 2025-26 financial year, and in its place, two specialised services will be established, as already alluded to by the Minister. The SA Intelligence Agency focusses on domestic intelligence, and the SA Intelligence Service responsible for foreign intelligence. This is more than just a name change. It represents a strategic transformation that signifies a clear shift towards intelligence services that are fit for purpose

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 21

and clearly mandated. The 2025-26 annual performance plan, APP, of the SSA marks the first year of this transition.

According to the State Security Agency, this year will be used to build the institutional, regulatory, and operational foundations of the new services, guided by a change management roadmap, and supported by a shared services model to ensure business continuity, making oversight during this time extremely crucial. The Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence will have a key role in ensuring effectiveness, transparency, and ensuring that as the services transition, they remain firmly focused on the core mandate of protecting the Republic of South Africa, securing its people, and safeguarding its sovereignty. Transformation is not only about new structures, but it's also about new standards.

In recent years, trust in our intelligence institutions has been tested. The high-level review panel into the SSA made it clear that in order to restore our services, governance must be tightened, oversight strengthened, and professionalism restored. As the JSCI of the Seventh Parliament, we have reinforced the call to strengthen internal governance systems and address areas that were previously identified as weak.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 22

The various engagements we have had with the Audit and Risk Committee and the Internal Audit Unit, as well as the IGI, all reaffirmed that work is being done to focus on fraud prevention, internal accountability, and risk management. The strategic focus of the State Security Agency has become more defined, deliberate, and aligned with our national priorities. The agency is now squarely focused on the collection, analysis, and dissemination of intelligence that is directly linked to those elements of national life. We are duty-bound to protect our people, our sovereignty, our democratic institutions, as well as our economic wellbeing. These identified reference objects are not abstract. They are clearly outlined in both the 2025 to 2030 strategic plan and the 2025-26 annual performance plan.

In reviewing the APP and accompanying budget, the JSCI has played a decisive role in ensuring that measurable outcomes match the strategic intent. In this regard, we welcome the specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound targets embedded in both the APP and the strategic plan. We say this with confidence, having sent back the SSA and insisted on a redrafted submission of both the strategic plan and the APP to ensure that the planning documents met the high

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 23

standards expected of an institution mandated to safeguard national security.

Allow me to thank Minister Ntshavheni, as well as Ambassador Msimang, for their responsiveness to our oversight. Their leadership has demonstrated that reform and accountability can and must go hand-in-hand. The reality is that the SSA is operating within a tight budget allocation. As the effects of budget cuts from previous financial years are still being felt, this is despite the marginal increases provided in the 2025-26 allocation. The SSA is required to do more with less, even in the context of rapidly changing national security challenges. The intelligence community will have to develop a framework within which resources can be shared and operations co-ordinated.

One of the challenges they are experiencing is cybersecurity. Our digital infrastructure, economy, and even democratic institutions are now targeting a global cyber conflict that transcends borders. In response to this, the SSA is fast-tracking a new legislative framework for cybersecurity and a national cybersecurity strategy, both designed to develop the capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to cyber threats.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 24

As the agency reforms to support evidence-based decision-making, it will have to invest in the people behind it. The Intelligence Academy will be positioned as a centre of excellence, with curriculum reforms underway to equip the next generation of intelligence officers with critical skills. It is also progressing towards becoming a registered institution of higher learning, preparing for both today's threats and those yet to emerge, these steady yet progressive reforms should not be limited to the SSA.

Crime intelligence faces significant challenges due to various instabilities and systemic governance issues. As the JSCI, we called for the prioritisation of governance through the strengthening of internal controls. This is why we initially sent back sub-Capability Initiatives, sub-CIs, APP and strategic plan calling for a redraft to ensure that governance matters were given priority. The resubmitted plans represent progress, recognising that much work is still needed in reforming sub-Cis. As the JSCI, we are committed to driving and overseeing these challenges.

I must confirm that following the press conference by the KwaZulu-Natal Police Commissioner, General Mkhwanazi, the

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 25

Speaker of the National Assembly has requested the JSCI to consider on an urgent basis in terms of our mandate, the allegations made and the implications of those to our national security and report to the National Assembly in this regard. I can confirm that in addition to our own oversight engagement in crime intelligence, the committee is also now ceased with the work referred by the hon Speaker, taking into account that the hon President have appointed a Judicial Commission of Inquiry.

However, after analysing both plans and the accompanying budget of Crime Intelligence, it is clear that governance must be tightened, oversight strengthened and professionalism, accountability and integrity must be restored to sub-CIs. The vacancies that are hampering service delivery should also be filled as a matter of urgency.

As I conclude, it has become clear to me as we work through the various planning documents that we are laying the groundwork for a new generation of intelligence services - services that are not the remnants of the past, but engines of protection, foresight and national development. Implementation of resolutions of the IGI and the JCI will enable us to ensure

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 26

accountability and assist in building a secure, sovereign and democratic South Africa once it is ready, not only to respond but to lead. I thank you.

Sepedi:

Ke a leboga.

IsiXhosa:

Enkosi.

Mr E M NTSHINGILA: Hon House Chair, hon members and the people of South Africa, we rise this morning not as a party, but as a voice of the betrayed nation, deeply wounded by the rot that defines our practice and intelligence community.

Lieutenant General Mkhwanazi revealed the unthinkable that the Minister placed on special leave has interfered directly with critical crime intelligence operations, that the investigation into politically motivated killings were deliberately dismantled, investigators sidelined, and dockets locked away to protect those with blood on their hands. What is more alarming is the allegation that drug cartels and organised

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 27

crime syndicates have infiltrated the SA Police Service, SAPS, crime intelligence and the judiciary.

Most recently, the President misled the nation on a serious security high risk for the country. Once Parliament, SAPS, the National prosecuting Authority, NPA, and the judiciary are compromised and in cahoots with criminals, we don't have a credible government. These allegations are a red flag of a deep state.

Disturbingly, the morally and ethically questionable President delivered a carefully worded national address in defence of the sealed CR17 bank statements and Phala Phala. We rise with fervent anger grounded in the blood of soaked soil of our struggle to oppose this Vote. It remains a creator of corruption, secrecy and betrayal.

Let it be said clearly that this is not a Vote for safety, but a Vote for surveillance, a Vote for suppression, and a Vote to shield the corrupt from the consequences of their treason.

This Vote has become a tool of domestic control, not of national security.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 28

State security should refer to the safeguarding of the country's sovereignty, constitutional order, territorial integrity and the safety of its citizens against internal and external threats. However, its true meaning beyond the official definition depends on how it is implemented, who controls it, whether it serves the people or the elite or the criminal syndicates and organised crime.

The Zondo Commission exposed how State Security was abused to target progressive forces for refusing to conform to elite pressure and influence that discriminated against the majority in their land and failed to uphold the founding principles of the Freedom Charter. It became a tool used to settle political scores and character assassinations rather than upholding the constitutional obligations. Instead, the intelligence services were used for factional ANC battles targeting journalists and activists, including whistle-blowers, but also manipulating political outcomes.

Vote 8 is a disaster. It fails to address the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority, which uncovered secret unaccredited military style training camps near White River in Mpumalanga, where around 95 Libyan nationals undergoing

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 29

training were arrested. They had entered South Africa claiming to be security guard trainees under student visas while having extensive training by unaccredited and foreign trained instructors. These terrorists were admitted under misrepresented student visas, revealing cracks in visa check. These are real dangers to state security and cannot be deliberately ignored. The State Security Agency, SSA, once tasked with defending democracy, is now an ANC political instrument.

Over R1,5 billion remains unaccounted for from looted special operations. There are no prosecutions, no reforms and hence no consequence management. Parliament is forced to vote on a classified budget that even the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence cannot meaningfully scrutinise. An amount of R11 billion in 2025-26 for early retirement, yet there are no structural overhaul and or plans for workforce rejuvenation. This is not reform, but a formula to recycle rot.

The defence intelligence has become marginalised in strategic planning, especially in cross-border threats and regional instability. The collapse of intelligence co-ordination in peacekeeping operations, like in the DRC has exposed South

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 30

African soldiers to danger with no threat detection capabilities where several cases of theft, sabotage and security breaches in military bases have occurred, including the theft of weapons where defence intelligence was unable to detect these activities.

This budget is a betrayal of citizens. Even those that sit in the DA GNU cannot deny it. In your secret palace and time of reflection, my words will resonate with you with these absolute truths.

The true meaning of state security lies not in how it is defined on paper, but in how it is practised. It should never become a tool for authoritarian control or elite protection, but a service that empowers a safe, just and inclusive society.

Compatriots, until state security serves the people, until the budget serves the grassroots not the elite, until this intelligence services are transformed and not recycled, we say no to Vote 8 and no to tyranny and fear cloaked in the term of national security.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 31

The fires of our struggle continue to burn. We, the disciples of change and bearers of the spear, vehemently reject this Vote and demand the immediate arrest of the President and his corrupt Minister. I thank you.

Ms D KOHLER: House Chair, there appears to be an infinite number of moving parts spinning out of control within the SAPS today. As the accusations swarm about us pre-emptively claiming crimes committed by every single player, it would be unwise indeed, to predetermine the outcome. I have had to rewrite this budget speech repeatedly, sometimes hourly.

Let's start with the fact that it took a year for the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence to be constituted. As we know from bitter experience, in a vacuum there is no resistance to the inevitable South African free for all. Money was splurged, stolen and misused. We should have been there to oversee crime intelligence.

I am sure you have all read the newspapers. The State Security Agency was outed for mass looting during the Zondo Commission. The defence intelligence, think of our SA National Defence Force, SANDF, members killed in Congo. Two months before the

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 32

creation of the committee, I wrote to the Inspector-General, IG, of Intelligence and asked about the purchases by crime intelligence of at least two questionable very expensive properties in the suburbs of Pretoria and Durban. I checked, and they had failed to consult with the Minister of Public Works before making purchases.

I found myself asking what it could possibly be that they intended to do with a R22,7 million, 24-bedroom five-star hotel in Pretoria. While I may not speak of the final report of the IG as it was presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence, JSCI, the extent of the purchases has now been revealed in great detail in the media.

The picture is far darker than I first imagined. As we have already seen and as with every such episode I have watched over the years, we are hearing claims and counterclaims while the ... [Inaudible.] ... shoot to kill reputations through kangaroo courts without a shred of evidence.

Three weeks ago, there were seven crime intelligence arrests, in fact the whole top structure, not in relation to the building purchases yet, but in relation to the hiring of a

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 33

lady from BMW. One of those arrested had actually been arrested a week prior in connection with the saga that somehow involved a hooker, a gun, a laptop or a cellphone.

On Sunday the President announced not a suspension of Lieutenant General Mkhwanazi who had the world thinking we had a coup on our hands or the firing of the Minister facing claims that he had colluded with a criminal syndicate and interfered in various high-level investigations, but the formation of yet another judicial commission. The Minister is, however, to sit at home on full pay and watch his 2027 presidential ambitions circle the drain.

A quick reminder of the billion-rand arrest-free Zondo Commission. We know that after the Zuma incarceration for contempt of court, came the riots, lootings and murders. We gave up asking where the intelligence services had been during that time and why they had not put the fire out before it became a R21 billion conflagration. The seven crime intelligence arrests were unconvicted, just a tip of a very large iceberg, looking to sink careers indiscriminately.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 34

Sprinkled throughout these budget debates have been references to possible criminal activities by various Ministers, something the President could have, should have in my opinion, dealt with on Sunday evening. So, while crime intelligence is imploding, the State Security Agency opened the window for expertise to fly out and fly it did.

Back in November last year many insiders came to me and others with claims that the Minister told a gathering of senior SSA officials that anyone over 50 must take early retirement - take a package or be fired basically. So, they went and now the SSA is surely scrambling to replace the massive loss of intelligence expertise.

Now, juniorisation is the catch phrase of the day. Give youngsters a chance, but this in the full knowledge that decades of experience cannot be rushed and the lack thereof could endanger lives. There was, of course, no JSCI to dig out the truth of the situation. Ultimately, a pivotal issue such as this should have been required to have at least the backing of the JSCI and operational committee.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 35

Allegations are also swirling around the same Minister Ntshavheni with reference to her time as municipal manager of the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality in Limpopo. This started as a small investigation but moved into a massive R80 million corruption probe and now sits with the NPA.

Is this in the end all about the wrecking of various presidential ambitions? If so, who is behind it? Another presidential hopeful? Of course, there are loud denials flying around about the so-called Operation Sibonkolo, which was alleged to have been informed by the SSA officials aimed at undermining various political ambitions with our Minister. So, the claims go allegedly behind it - deny, deny, deny.

This is not my first rodeo, it wouldn't be the first or even the second time the SSA was used for a particular political agenda. The High-Level Review Panel report determined that the SSA was open to abuse to achieve political ends of individuals within the ANC. We all know that Minister after Minister after Minister has been seen to weaponize the SSA for their own gains while feeding in scores of unqualified family members.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 36

Firstly, there is absolutely no evidence whatsoever that this current Minister has ever followed that particular tradition, but the very integrity of our entire criminal justice system is on trial as we speak. So, here we are, after all that bluster, a Minister at home, another ministerial salary being paid, many fingers are crossed that this will blow over and that we will have lost interest when in a year or more we may or may not discover the truth. Thank you.

Mr N S MATIASE: Hon Chair, we salute the commander-in-chief for steering the EFF into safer and calmer waters as we observe the 12 years of the organisation's existence, and we invite our supporters and members to join us as we celebrate this 12-year existence on 26 July here in Cape Town. House Chairperson, we are having this debate when our country is entangled in the midst of a territorial storms that threatens to destroy the very foundation of our sovereignty and security as a nation. Ordinary citizens are justified in thinking that the ship has no captain, that it's free for all, and that the little intelligence capacity the state has is, in fact, captured by criminals who project themselves as leaders. The budget outcomes presented here today do not demonstrate the

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 37

clear appreciation of the priorities for ensuring the security of the state against both external and internal threats.

Chairperson, Gen Mkhwanazi spoke out publicly with clarity of the crisis in the country, specifically in the SA Police Service, SAPS. The country's entire security apparatus is used by those with nefarious and who tend to enrich themselves and inflict harm on defenseless people, and by extension, inflict harm on the very security of the state. Among those involved in the afore-mentioned, we have key leaders such as hon Ntshavheni, who is the Minister here, and some of these people such as herself, are functionally clothed with authority that should be reserved for only men and women of integrity. She lacks such integrity. The collusion between the criminal underworld, be it domestic or external, poses grave dangers for our country and the fabric of the society. This possesses existential concern for the country, and the way we deal with these problems must demonstrate that we have reached a crisis level in the country. We have become a mafia state, and Cyril Ramaphosa has become the mafia-in-chief.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 38

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Matiase, sit down for a moment, please. I have a hand here on my right. Hon member, why do you want to be recognised?

Mr T B MUNYAI: Hon House Chair, the hon member is casting aspersions on the Minister on the issue of integrity, and this has not been tested in a substantive motion.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yeah, thank you. Hon Matiase, I heard you made this statement that the Minister lacks integrity, that is, in fact, the type of statement that needs to be brought to the attention of the House through substantive motion. I would request you to withdraw that statement and to rephrase that type of argument.

Mr N S MATIASE: I rephrase the statement.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): No, I need you to withdraw, hon Matiase.

Mr N S MATIASE: I withdraw the statement ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 39

Mr N S MATIASE: ... and rephrase it, that the Minister has not covered herself with glory for her to escape the criticism that we're making. Hon Chair, the observation we're making is that this country has become a safe haven for international and criminal organisation who are involved drugs and human trafficking because of these characters we have described, these two were unable to detect and prevent because our intelligence services are thoroughly incapable of doing the intelligence work necessary to detect and prevent such occurrences. When the President took the State Security Agency, SSA, under the Presidency, he did so presumably to prevent his hollowing out that had been initiated under the Zuma corrupt administration. This is the vicious cycle of the ANC corrupt leaders replacing one another at any given time. However, what this has done now, is to insulate the State Security Agency, SSA, from proper oversight from Parliament, and allow the President massive resources to be used for political expedience as a mafia-in-chief.

The transition has also destabilised the State Security Agency, SSA, leading it not to focus on some of the key priorities. Chair, as there is a need for a dramatic reevaluation of policing in this country, we also have an

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 40

urgent need for rebooting our intelligence services. These must be as free as possible from political influence and manipulation. There must also be regular reverting of all involved in the management of our intelligence services to eliminate any entanglement with criminal elements. This country needs a decisive leadership of a benevolent leader who loves these people unconditionally, the commander-in-chief, who shall ensure that institutions such as State Security Agency, SSA, are freed from the state capture, are freed from elite capture, are freed from underworld criminals who masquerades as the leaders in suits, when during the night they connive against the sovereignty of our people with hardcore criminals, who some, serve jail term in prisons. This country needs a benevolent leader who shall ensure that these criminals in suits and ties, are put where they belong, in jail. The EFF rejects this Budget Vote with the contempt it deserve. Thank you so much.

Mr N M HADEBE: House Chairperson, we rise today to raise critical concerns regarding the allocation and oversight of resources linked to state security. This is not a peripheral matter. In an era of rising cyber threats, political instability, transnational organised crime and illicit

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 41

financial flows. State security is inseparable from economic stability, investor confidence, and the integrity of public governance. While we welcome the R5,6 billion allocation to Programme 8, which includes both the financial intelligence centre. About the secret state security transfers, we remain concerned about the capacity of classified allocations and the lack of meaningful parliamentary oversight of entities operating under the cloak of national security. It is unacceptable that billions can be transferred under the guise of quote, "state security," without adequate mechanisms for accountability and audit.

This creates fertile ground for abuse and undermines both fiscal credibility and constitutional governance. On one hand, the Financial Intelligence Centre, FIC, continues to play a vital role in countering money laundering, terrorist financing and illicit financial flows. Its performance targets ranging from conducting 240 compliance reviews, producing 95 high priority intelligence reports and maintaining 100% success rate in fund blocking requests, demonstrates an active and evolving institution committed to international antimoney laundering and countering the financial financing of terrorist obligations. However, the same cannot be said for the state

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 42

security, body whose funding is tucked into this vote, but whose performance are cloaked in undue secrecy. We acknowledge the sensitive nature of intelligence work, but security without oversight is a danger to democracy. The continued lack of transparent indicators, public reporting and institutional reform within the SSA is untenable. We note with disappointment that the SSA component is still reported only to the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence with limited public scrutiny, at a time when the country is grappling with complex threats, human trafficking, cross-border crime, cybercrime, extremists network and sabotage of critical infrastructure.

We need an intelligence architecture that is effective, ethical and answerable to the people of South Africa. Let us be clear, state security is not just about intelligence, files and classified rooms, it is about defending the Republic, it is about ensuring that every South African is safe from criminal syndicates, terror networks and corruption. Hon Chairperson, the IFP, however, supports Budget Vote No 8 with the firm expectation that this allocation for state security must be matched by tangible reform, strategic co-ordination and constitutional accountability. We cannot allow our people

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 43

to continue living in fear while the state security institutions operate in silence and shadows. I thank you.

IsiZulu:

Mnu E HENDRICKS: Siyabonga mfowethu.

English:

Hon Chairperson, hon Minister in the Ministry, members of the House, not forgetting my fellow patriots, South Africans, the PA supports Budget Vote No 8, but insists on accountability, transparency and clear alignment between state security spending and real threats facing our nation.

South Africa's security system has, for too long, suffered from corruption, mismanagement and inadequate oversight. The National Treasury should ensure funds are properly justified, scrutinised, used for legitimate national security needs, and preventing misuse for personal or political gain.

Security spending must match real threats. The budget must reflect a clear strategy to counter cybercrime. Cyber warfare poses ongoing threats to vital infrastructure, financial systems and government data. To combat these, we need advanced

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 44

cybersecurity, defence training experts and proactive counter measures to prevent attacks from both foreign and domestic workers. Terrorism and extremism are increasing threats in South Africa. It requires strong counter terrorism efforts, improved intelligence sharing and greater regional collaboration. Intelligence agencies should focus on dismantling organized crime and corruption, including criminal networks within the state instead of being used to target political opponents.

Secrecy in intelligence must be limited, whilst some confidentiality is necessary, Parliament and its independent bodies must oversee spending and ensure accountability, preventing secrecy from hiding corruption. We demand regular classified briefings to a multiparty oversight committee. Review expenditure and operational outcome, Minister, forensic audits of intelligence budget to root out wasteful expenditure and graft. the State Security Agency should be depoliticised and professionalised, focusing on national protection rather than targeting journalists, activist or political rivals. The people of South Africa deserve ... [Inaudible.] ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 45

In conclusion, the PA supports Budget Vote No 8 on condition that it delivers real security, Minister, not more corruption under the guise of secrecy. We will not be fooled again, Minister. The people of South Africa deserve security, the security sector that protects them, not one that plunder their taxes. We call on the House to adopt this budget, but with vigilance, with scrutiny and with an unwavering commitment to transparency.

Afrikaans:

Ons baiza (huiwer) nie. Ons huiwer nie.

IsiZulu:

Asinavalo.

English:

I thank you, Minister. Thank you.

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Chairperson, as global and regional threats to peace and security continue to escalate, South Africa must act with urgency to strengthen its deterrents capabilities and ensure their operational readiness of the state to respond as and when the need arises. Look no further than Mozambique to

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 46

see. The consequences of an ISIS insurgency. Central to this readiness is an intelligence apparatus that is capable not only of detecting threats but also providing early warning and enabling proactive co-ordinated planning and responses across all levels of government.

The Minister's speech didn't inspire any confidence. In fact, it compounded our concerns. Sadly, it is common cause that South Africa's intelligence capacity has been systematically hollowed out. That is a refrain I have heard all morning here. Successive administrations have presided over the politicisation, mismanagement and fragmentation of our intelligence services. This has left us dangerously exposed at a time when the threat environment is becoming increasingly volatile and where threats are far more sophisticated and less conventional, particularly in current technological age. I noted the people that the Minister greeted sitting at the back from the National State Security Agency. Now, I venture that we know who the people are who don't know what's going on in this country, and if you think it's harsh, think back to 21 July 2021, did anyone know what was going on? No. What should be apparent to all of us is that we are nowhere near the

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 47

institutional capacity required to give meaningful effect to the intelligence mandate.

From transnational trafficking syndicates and terrorism to espionage and the invasion of our porous borders. The state lacks the strategic coherence, technical capability and professional leadership required to secure the Republic against both current and emerging threat. It is with this context that Action SA registers its deep concern. Minister, despite repeated commitments, neither the National Security Strategy nor the 2024-25 National Intelligence Estimates have been released. These documents were promised in your 2024 Budget Speech, and we are expected in August and September of last year. You tell us today that they are mysteriously going to be released today. How do you expect us to believe that when you have not met your own commitments for more than a year. Why can't we even get the basics right on time?

Well, I suppose the answer to that is that no Ministers or Deputy Ministers have any performance contract. You just do as you please in this country. This delay undermines parliamentary and oversight transparency, particularly given that these documents were intended to respond to the exact

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 48

concerns we are raising today. Minister, you are aware that under democratic norms, it is entirely acceptable to release redacted or summarised version of such documents if declassification is not possible. Without these strategic frameworks in place, the country and the State Security Agency, SSA, continues to operate in the dark and our ability to anticipate and respond to security threats remains dangerously compromised.

South Africa cannot defend itself against internal threats of drugs, gang warfare, rural crime, farm murders, gender-based violence, uprisings, rampant crime and corruption. All of those things exposed by General Mkhwanazi. But we have a Minister of Defence who says Don't worry, we can defend ourselves. That the Minister of 30%; 30% in defence is failure, which makes this parlous state of state security a matter of grave concern. If you cannot support the security of South Africa and its citizens, how can you expect us to support this budget? Thank you.

Mr S N SWART: House Chair, the ACDP is fully aware of the many threats facing the nation, both globally and domestically, and that these require an effective and properly resourced State

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 49

Security Agency. Significant structural reforms following various inquiries have now been implemented with enhanced oversight and accountability.

Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi's recent explosive revelations of crime and corruption at the highest level of the SAPS are deeply concerning, and we in the ACDP welcome the role that Parliament will play in ventilating these issues and exercising oversight as a matter of urgency, in addition to the judicial inquiry. While these statements still need to be tested, it does show the important role that national intelligence structures should play in protecting national security.

In this regard, one only needs to remember the violent unrest in KwaZulu-Natal and parts of Gauteng in 2021, which resulted in a tragic loss of 350 lives to understand the critical need of reliable state intelligence, whether it be crime, military or state security intelligence. In addition, a real threat is presented by ISIS on our very doorstep. The security situation in northern Mozambique's Cabo Delgado region remains precarious. Domestically, as the Minister pointed out, organised crime syndicates pose a significant threat to

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 50

stability, development and national security masquerading as business forums whilst driving a nefarious criminal agenda.

So, the ACDP is also concerned about the budgetary constraints facing our intelligence services. There is a dire need for properly resourced intelligence agencies. So, Minister, there is a severe indictment that the amendments to the Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication-Related Information Act, Rica, were not signed into law by President Ramaphosa before the cut-off date of 3 February 2024, this after Parliament rushed through the amendments in December 2023 to give the Presidency time to sign the Bill into law by February 2024. Sadly, this did not happen and eventually in November 2024 the Presidency sent the Bill back to Parliament with reservations and the President is now seeking to revive the court order.

This, hon Minister, Chairperson, as you know, has resulted in a serious gap in the law and it is disgraceful that as we speak, state security agencies, whether it is crime, whether it is military, whether it is our state security agencies have no way legally of obtaining Rica surveillance orders since February 2024, more than 18 months. Minister, I would like you

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 51

to address this issue and how the agencies are required to do their intelligence job given this lacuna. I thank you.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Hon Chairperson, we must confront a very uncomfortable truth as South Africans. It is the fact that when it comes to state security and intelligence too much of the old apartheid architecture still lingers. The only difference is that this time it doesn't manifest itself as an authoritarian regime, but by political factions that fight for power and impunity.

General Mkhwanazi's revelations exposed how the State Security Agency was systematically abused to serve the ANC factional battles, not national interests. His testimony echoed Zondo's findings, and that the State Security Agency's resources were diverted to manipulate internal politics and protect corruption. Zondo's recommendations were very clear that strengthen the Inspector-General, empower Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence, tighten financial controls and end ministerial interference.

The General Intelligence Law Amendment Act signed in March this year, is meant to answer that call. It splits the State

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 52

Security Agency into domestic and foreign agencies. It enhances oversight and formalises auditing and inspection controls. But have these reforms been reflected in this recent budget? The State Security Agency remains deeply hidden. The national security strategy and the national intelligence estimates though reportedly approved, are still not public. And so even the Auditor-General faces restricted access to the State Security Agency expenditure. While the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence, JSCI, has since been reconstituted in 2024, questions remain over its real power and access.

The public currently as we know is resisting a judicial commission of inquiry following General Mkhwanazi's revelations. And it's not because they do not believe that we need insight into what is happening in this system, but it's because we have not seen enforcement of the Zondo's recommendations and we are likely to see that repeated with the Madlanga Commission. The problem is not inside, the problem is the political will to act on it.

This budget has got to do more than approved figures. It must embed transparent and accountability into the very fabric of our intelligence structure. We call on the National Treasury

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 53

to publish a clear breakdown of the State Security Agency allocations including classified appropriations on a confidential basis to the JSCI as well as to the Auditor-General. We urge the executive to ensure that the JSCI is fully functional. We also request formal progress reports on whether, first of all, the ministerial and financial control reforms have been implemented, the State Security Agency is truly divested from political interference and the implementation status of the General Intelligence Laws Amendment Act within the State Security Agency.

If we are serious about rebuilding trust and state security, we have to make sure that when we approve budgets it comes with stringent oversight conditions and mechanisms. We support the budget, but on those conditions.

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: On a point of order, House Chair. I didn't want to interrupt the hon Webster. We have a member that is wearing party regalia in the House. Hon Dugmore is wearing a tie with the ANC logos all over the it. Can he please remove or close the tie. That is the Rule, and he knows it. Thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 54

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms L S Makhubela): Order hon members. Hon member, yes.

Ms R C ADAMS: Chairperson, I was going to mention about the EFF jacket. We must impose the Rules fairly to everybody.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms L S Makhubela): Hon members, yes, indeed ... [Interjections.] ... hon members, the House is still in session. It does not make your point heard when you scream across. Hon members, yes, to uphold and maintain the decorum of the House the Rules do not allow you to wear party regalia or a logo. Therefore, all hon members across the board just be mindful of the fact that the Rules that you are subscribing to, the ninth edition, do not allow you to wear your party logo. On that note, this is a curtesy call for all of us to be cognisant of that fact. Hon members, let us step aside from this matter and invite the hon Myburgh.

Mr N G MYBURGH: Hon Chair and hon members of the House, South Africa's intelligence services are burdened by two issues, namely, people and money. Without adequate finances and the right staff complement, the various threats to our national security cannot be met effectively. But the more we dig into

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 55

the underlying causes and the better we come to understand the genesis of our challenges, the more one realises that most of our troubles are in fact self-inflicted.

Two statements in two Sundays. One was from the provincial police commissioner and the other from the President. Taken together these two statements, sadly, but concisely illustrate precisely what's wrong with South Africa. Every opportunity to do the right thing is wasted time and time again.

Why is it that we are now struggling to make ends meet? Why are so many of the state's critically important mandates suffocating under financial constraints? The reasons lie in the choices that we make. Decisions have consequences. Even today, some in the executive cling to the outdated and inappropriate ideological allegiances which are costing the country dearly.

Poor policy choices both foreign and domestic are posing a direct threat to the economic security of the country. Without a thriving economy and an expanding tax base, we will never be able to meet the growing financial needs of our intelligence community. Poor strategic judgement and a misreading of the

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 56

international balance of forces will continue to stifle our economy and expose our vulnerability to global realities. An ailing economy due to poor executive decision-making is unable to support the resource requirements of our national security imperatives.

Whilst we now look toward appropriating funds for the important work of our intelligence services, the longstanding elephant in the room remains, the almost total absence of consequence management for past misdemeanours. The High-Level Review Panel report and many have referred to that. Today, the state security of 2018 made many important recommendations. Seven years later most of these remain unimplemented.

Thereafter, it was followed the Zondo commission which found, inter alia, that the State Security Agency had undertaken illegal operations to improve the political fortunes of the ANC in various provinces. The commission also found that hundreds of millions of rands in cash, which were withdrawn and handled by Mr Dhlomo, Mr Mahlobo and Mr Fraser remain unaccounted for to this day. I quote from the commission's report.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 57

There should be consequence management, including the recovery of the monies lost.

Have these happened? The answer is, no. Again, I quote from the commission's report.

The role played by Ambassador Dhlomo, Mr Mahlobo who is now a Deputy Minister, Mr Arthur Fraser and other people involved in the handling and distribution of the State Security Agency's money should be looked into by the law enforcement agencies.

Has this happened? Again, the answer is, no. Further issues highlighted by the commission were the abuse of the vetting system, the misuse and disappearance of State Security Agency firearms and irregular recruitment and appointments to intelligence services. Regrettably, none of these issues have been resolved to this day.

Whilst there are many dark clouds on the horizon, it is thankfully not all is doom and gloom. Defence Intelligence is a commendable example of the creative use of limited resources in order to meet the requirements of their legislative

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 58

mandate. Like all our intelligence services, the Defence Intelligence, DI, suffers under immense resource constraints, both human and capital, yet the manner in which it has taken on the responsibility of the largely unfunded mandate of cyber command, is highly commendable and should serve as an inspiration to others grappling with dwindling resources.

Lastly, whilst most government entities continue to produce poor financial results, there is one shining example that stands out above the rest, the Financial Intelligence Centre, FIC. For the previous financial year, the FIC has received a clean audit from the Auditor-General, AG, and for this they deserve our respect and appreciation. Apart from their normal work, the FIC is also doing a sterling work in their efforts to get South Africa's grey listing rescinded. We should congratulate the FIC, not only for their diligent use of taxpayers' money, but also for the work they are doing in getting South Africa off the grey list.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to the men and women in our intelligence services who battle along regardless. Patriots of high integrity who continue to do their work under daunting circumstances. The overarching

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 59

mission of our intelligence community is to ensure that all South Africans are safe free and prosperous. It is high time that the policies and the decisions of the executive enable and not undermine the achievement of its goal. I thank you.

Mr T B MUNYAI: Greetings to the hon House Chairperson, the hon Minister in the Presidency, hon Ntshavheni, and Deputy Ministers, members of the Joint Stading Committee on Intelligence, the State Security Agency Acting Director-General, Ambassador Msimanga, the Chief Defence Intelligence Lieutenant-General Mxakato, together with all General National Intelligence Co-ordinating Committee, the acting co-ordinator of the intelligence community, distinguished guests and the people of South Africa.

Hon House Chair, firstly, it is important that the people of South Africa ignore the pseudo speeches, which were nothing but a barrage of propaganda aimed to undermine the state and its credibility, as well as the Ministry. Today, we lower our banners in salute and solemn tribute to our fallen heroes and heroines, the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Democratic Republic of Congo, under the under

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 60

the clearly defined UN and SADC missions in the context of AU Agenda 2063, in silencing the guns within our region.

We rise in support of Budget Vote 8, not just a mere allocation, but as a covenant with the people of South Africa - a cornerstone and commitment to defend our national security, safeguard the sovereignty, secure our future and uphold the territorial integrity in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

The Defence Intelligence is integral division of South African National Defence force that carries the critical responsibility of collecting, analysing and disseminating intelligence that empowers our military leadership to act with the highest degree of precision, foresight and resolve. To the patriotic men and women of the intelligence community, the Defence Intelligence, the State Security Agency, the SA Police Service Crime Intelligence, your nation sees your sacrifice and relentless effort in service to protect our motherland, the Republic of South.

To this end, let us act not with words but with resources, direction and focus as united patriots across all political

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 61

spectrum, to build intelligence capability worthy of South Africa's future. As we commence a strategic planning cycle for the year 2025 to 2030, anchored in the medium-term development plan, the Defence Intelligence remains steadfast in aligning its mission with the key priorities of government.

Our collective goal is the construction of capable, ethical and developmental state - one that serve the national interests of all South Africans with the strategic resolve, transparency and accountability. In the spirit, the Defence Intelligence has strengthened its governance, embedded rigorous internal controls and transparent systems within its 2025-26 annual performance plan, thereby reinforcing the foundation of good governance.

The strategic outputs of the Defence Intelligence over this period are clear to deliver timely accurate defence intelligence, robust counterintelligence capabilities and effective defence diplomacy that support the Department of Defence. Our vision is resolute: A well governed and sustainable intelligence services that underpins the national security, which contribute to peace and stability in our

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 62

region, as I said earlier in the context of the AU Agenda 2063.

However, this vision faces significant challenges. The reality of a declining resource base threaten to erode the capabilities that we have built over a period of time. Defence Intelligence allocation is approximately only 2%, which in our view is insufficient to meet the demands of increasing complex security environment. The budget for 2025-26 falls short of what is required to maintain operational readiness, to attract and retain skilled personnel and modernise critical technological infrastructure.

House Chair, in today's rapid evolving defence landscape, cyberspace has become a critical battlefield where our nation's sovereignty and security are fiercely contested. It is imperative that we strengthen and sustain this robust cyber command as a vital technology-force multiplier. The battles of the future will be won and lost on the strength and resilience of our technological infrastructure, as the Minister alluded, including the robust advanced early warning systems and motion sensors to provide intelligence-led, situational analysis and awareness.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 63

These capabilities will enable us to anticipate the threats and respond with military precision as we move forward. Deploying a cutting edge cyber and electronic warfare tools is non-negotiable to protect our democratic institution, upholding our Constitution, safeguarding our nation's authority and security for generation to come. To underscore this point, you cannot fight tomorrow's warfare with yesterday's tools.

House Chairperson, despite a clear warning from the joint committees - the JSCI and the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans - during the sixth Parliament, and subsequently a joint letter to His Excellency, President Ramaphosa, in his capacity as a Commander-in-Chief, in May 2023, no meaningful reversal in this budgetary decline has been achieved. These budget shortfalls shortfall come despite urgent strategic demands of the day, linked with national security, particularly the mandate to develop and maintain the operational needs.

Meanwhile, the Defence Intelligence is stretched beyond its limit. An aging workforce, a natural attrition and mobility exit mechanism are eroding the institutional knowledge and

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 64

operational capacity. Recruitment is ongoing but slowed by financial constraints. Delaying the restoration of the skills and expertise, the lack of significant technology investments worsen the challenges in this regard.

Yet, in the face of adversity, the men and women in the Defence Intelligence, under the exemplary leadership of Lieutenant-General Mxakato, as well as under the command of Acting Director-General, Ambassador Msimang, have demonstrated unwavering dedication, innovation and professionalism.

Their commitment is a testament to the resilience and the spirit that defines security services. The spirit of dedication and integrity in the Defence Intelligence represent the hope that must be upheld across all intelligence agencies, especially as we urgently renew the SA Police Service Crime Intelligence. The Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence remains resolute and rigorous on our oversight, to ensure that ensure that this transformation is executed with utmost seriousness and integrity to stabilise SA Police Service Crime Intelligence.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 65

In the upcoming financial year, the SA Police Service Crime Intelligence will focus in advancing intelligence gathering, enhancing crime management, boosting analytical capability and providing technical support for investigations and prevention. Although funding has increased slightly, additional results are crucial to fully modernise and strengthen these capabilities. Maintaining good governance in the use of these funds remains a top priority in Parliament.

In closing, let me be resolutely clear and unequivocal, hon Chairperson. The defence intelligence and crime intelligence are indispensable pillars of South African national security architecture. The threats we face are evolving so much; our response is demanded. Underfunding, outdated system, governance challenges and leadership instability place this vital institution at risk.

To guarantee our future that is safe, just and prosperous for all South African, decisive action is required. Investment in intelligence capability is not an option, but a strategic imperative. Financial support must be pursued with urgency!

[Time has expired.]. Commitment that translates into ... I thank you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 66

AN HON MEMBER FROM MKP: Your speech was flat - completely flat!

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms L S Makhubela): Hon member, that is grossly out of order.

The MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY: Hon House Chair, let me start to respond to those who dealt with substantive issues related to the budget debate today. Hon Hadebe and hon ... [Interjections.] ... No, no, you will not fall in that category - raised a question of why the budgets of State Security are kept secret. Let me give some few of the reasons. It's a national security issue because it prevents adversaries from gaining insight which will disclose what is spent on specific operational matters. Therefore, if we then put it out there, they will know what we are procuring because that is already known. It is also for operational security.

Knowledge about our budget allocations can help the hostile states or people who are opposing us or nonstate actors to deduce the scale focus and even geographic reach of our oppression. Therefore, that on its own is the reasons why this budget is kept secret and must remain classified, because then

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 67

on its own it threatens national security. It's for that reason that we have improved the mechanism of transparency, sharing what we do in these public platforms, and getting more co-operation with the office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence, IGI, and the Auditor-General.

In that regard, let me then go back to those who were raising nonissues. The Zondo Commission and the High-Level Review Panel were set in place to deal with the misnomer, with the misconduct and with all bad things that were done under the leadership of the leader of your own party and the Gupta incorporated, Inc. Therefore, if we want to cast aspersion, let's do it broadly.

Let's then move on to the next issue that was raised by hon Trollip. Hon Trollip raised an issue of why we are releasing the National Security Advisor, NSA, National Security Strategy, NSS, and the National Intelligence Estimate, NIE only now. We must go into consultations, because even the declassification, and we kept on saying that we are consulting even the declassification was an issue of what to release and what not. It is a first in this Republic of South Africa since 1912, not even since 1994, it is the first that the National

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 68

Security Strategy gets released and the National Intelligence Estimate gets released.

Therefore, we needed to make sure that we tick all the boxes. We cross all the T's, and we dot all the I's. However, we are releasing them now and we've given guidance on what to do. Then, there was an issue raised by hon Swart around Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication-Related Information Act, Rica. When the Rica Bill, which members of the Sixth Parliament had to fast-track, was done, we raised the concern that that Rica Bill was not substantive enough and will not address the challenges we had.

Parallel to that process of that Rica Amendments from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, there was then a task team that was going to look at the comprehensive review of the Rica itself. That task team did work until June last year. Immediately when Parliament was going to pass, they stopped the work and they've gone so far. Our argument has always been to finalise the comprehensive review, because that's what's going to be meaningful. The one that was fast-tracked does not go far enough.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 69

It is for that reason in my address I indicated that the Office for Interception Centres have started to develop a draft legislation to deal with bulk interception and interception from the national security point. As we understand Rica on its own, it is mostly for civilian control and oversight. Even in the AmaBhungane judgment, the judge indicated that the State Security Agency must develop appropriate legislation that will govern by interceptions for national security issues.

We are, indeed, implementing the Zondo Commission report and we have submitted progress report. I think a month ago we have submitted progress report to Parliament, and we have undertaken that we will submit again every quarter, including in Cabinet, though it is not the work of this SSA. It is the work on my other capacity as the Minister in the Presidency. We have tabled the reports, and we will continue to submit the copies of those reports to Parliament. If I had the latitude of time, I'll give a breakdown on all the progress in implementation of that report. Therefore, there is no misnomer in a commission that has been set with timeframes and clarity.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 70

Then there were others who were claiming what we called integrity. Therefore, I don't know if I need to go and dig up on point, given that hon Kohler has gone to 16 years ago in Ba-Phalaborwa and she's not even furnished with facts and she's making judgment. I thought the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, does not investigate, it is the other agencies that investigate. The NPA takes decisions.

However, what gets me scared is that hon Kohler says she knows what they are investigating. I don't even know myself who is allegedly being investigated. That is the real capture, hon Kohler. I think we need to get you into that commission to explain how you know what they're investigating when myself who's being investigated has not known. And also, hon ...

[Inaudible.] ... I didn't think you would fall for fake news, but sure, hayi [no], I am amazed that you could fall for fake news at that level.

What we're going to do for the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence, we will bring the skills audit report. This allegation that people with skills are leaving SSA is not true. People are sitting with Doctor of Philosophy, PHDs, on Anthropology, on all the other things, on witchcraft and all

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 71

those things, and then you say those are skills ...

[Interjections.] ... So, you must bring me there. What you have started to do, and the competency assessment then puts worse to say that at a certain level people do not have the competencies ...

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms L S Makhubela): Order, hon members! Hon members! A minute, Minister. Hon members! Hon members, the rules do allow you to heckle, but drowning the speaker is grossly out of order. I would urge you in your conversations and as you heckle, be mindful of the fact that the Minister is responding to the debate and do not drown her. Continue, your minute will be adjusted, Minister.

The MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY: Thank you. Let's then go back to the substantive issues in terms of the implementation of the High-Level Review Panel. I had expected members that they would have been listening. We have specifically indicated that we are implementing the recommendations in terms of establishing a panel by independent legal counsel to deal with malfeasance. I've reported and they've started their work. They've started their work to then aggregate all the cases that have been put in from all the reports, whether it's Zondo

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 72

Commission or the High-Level Review Panel, the other investigations that were done internally so that they can then take disciplinary action because that's what the High-Level Review Panel recommended, and also, refer others for prosecutorial action because we don't have the power to prosecute. That's which a criminal will have to be referred for that purpose. That's what we are doing.

In terms of the skills, part of the refocusing of the SSA is to the skills audit helped us to identify the skills gap and say what are the training that are required. Therefore, I've indicated that as the Intelligence Academy start to reposition themselves, they are also retraining members and closing the skills gap that are not there. However, there are those who are at the lower level, who had entered without skills back then during the apartheid period and the amalgamation. We are making sure that their experience is, recognition of prior learning, RPL'd, so that they can have a qualification.

We will come to the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence and provide that level of details in terms of the progress and the rollout plan for that work. Last year when we dealt with the Budget Vote, we indicated that we finalised for the first

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 73

time again in the history of this country, the national intelligence co-ordination regulations to enable National Intelligence Co-ordinating Committee, Nicoc, to co-ordinate the intelligence across. Even in the speech I indicated that Nicoc is developing the capability to co-ordinate cybersecurity of the country from the intelligence structures perspective, because the cybersecurity in general but also a co-ordinated response from the national intelligence structures so that we can build the capacity and multiply the use of resources that we have.

Therefore, we don't have to set up another cyber command centre when the Defence Intelligence, DI, has that command centre. However, we can all work to use that command centre to effectively provide the cybersecurity that is required for the country. That is the work that we have been doing. I do not know when it is said we do not have capacity, there's no change and there's nothing. You need to acknowledge even when you are criticising, you need to acknowledge the progress that is being made.

Then we all stand here and say because aspersions have been casted, we expect the President not to follow due process. The

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 74

President has instituted a commission not only to follow due process in terms of the allegations made against the Minister of Police, but also to unravel what are the other things that have not been said by Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi so that we can then deal with the full clean-up. When you see the National Intelligence Estimate, you will see that Nicoc had already directed the decontamination of the criminal justice system from criminal activities, because there was ...

[Inaudible.] ... knowledge that those things are happening, but they had to be work in place to be done to decontaminate the system.

Therefore, the work of the President takes us a step further to say that it's not only ourselves, but also the judge who will then go through and do referral. However, it has not stopped us from acting in the areas where we need to act to hold people accountable. That's why the panel continues to do its work. That's why everyone else is continuing to do the work. That's why even in Parliament the Standing Committee on Intelligence is doing its work to make sure that we come to address the root causes of the issues.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 8 - NATIONAL TREASURY (STATE SECURITY)

Page: 75

The obsession with the lynching more of finding people guilty before we have facts, I think it's not fair. What we need to give, we need to give everybody a right to reply and a right to do. What ... [Time expired.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms L S Makhubela): Hon Minister, your time has expired. Hon Minister, your time was adjusted. Hon Minister, the time was adjusted. Order, hon members! Hon members, you are reminded that the debate on Vote 2, which is Parliament, will take place in this Chamber at 14:00. That concludes the debate and the business for this miniplenary and the miniplenary may rise.

Debate Concluded.

The mini-plenary session rose at 11:42.