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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 15:00.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, please take your seats. We will recall that on Wednesday 22 October, during Questions to Ministers in the Social Services Cluster, Questions directed to the Minister of Basic Education stood over in terms of Rule 144(1)(a). Likewise, on Wednesday 29 October 2025, during Questions to the Ministers in the Governance Cluster, Questions directed to the Minister in the Presidency stood over in terms of Rule 144(1)(a) to 26 November 2025.

However, due to ill health of Deputy Minister Morolong, Questions 1055, 1056 and 1047 again stood over in terms of Rule 144(3)(b). In terms of Rule 144(2)(b), the questions have been

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published in the order in which they previously appeared. Consequently, in addition to 30 minutes, will be added to today's Question Time for this purpose as provided for in terms of Rule 137(5) (b) .

Replies to questions which remain unanswered at the conclusion of three hours and the additional 30 minutes will be provided in writing and published in Hansard in terms of Rule 143(1) .

The first item on today's Order Paper is Questions addressed to Ministers in Cluster 1, Peace and Security. There are four supplementary questions on each question. Parties have given an indication on which questions their members wish to pose a supplementary question. Adequate notice was given to parties for this purpose. Members who will pose supplementary questions will be recognised by the presiding officer.

In allocating opportunities for supplementary questions, the principle of fairness, amongst others, has been applied. And at this point, before we proceed on the virtual platform, please ensure that your microphones are muted. [Interjections.] Please make sure that your microphones are muted.

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A member who is supposed to ask a supplementary question through the virtual platform and is unable to do so due to technological difficulties, the party Whip on duty ... [Interjections.] Deputy Minister, I don't know which one, please mute your microphone. Could the Table also please assist me because I don't see the full names so that I know who I have to caution.

I will start again. If a member who is supposed to ask a supplementary question through the virtual platform is unable to do so due to technological difficulties, the party Whip on duty will be allowed to ask the question on behalf of their member. When all the supplementary questions have been answered by the executive, we will proceed to the next question on the Question Paper.

The first question has been asked by the hon Mohlala to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development. The question is: Given that Advocate S Batohi and Advocate A Johnson testified that an oversight judge had been appointed on 11 October 2025 to support the Investigating Directorate, ID, against corruption, whether she has found that the specified appointment is lawful and legitimate, since there was no public appointment announcement, ministerial statement, presidential

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communication, departmental notice and/or Government Gazette publication confirming the appointment. If not, what legal basis exists for remunerating a judge whose appointment has not been formally gazetted and/or publicly disclosed? If so, whether the appointment complied with the principle of transparency and administrative justice in the establishment of anticorruption oversight structures? If not, what is the position in this regard? If so, what are the relevant details? The hon Minister?

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

CLUSTER 1: PEACE AND SECURITY

Question 1335:

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Deputy Speaker, the new section 22(8) of the National Prosecuting Authority Act, which is yet to commence, provides for the complaints and accountability mechanisms to be headed by a retired judge who is required to investigate any alleged improper conduct or misconduct or any conduct which has resulted in an improper or prejudice on the part of any staff member of the ID – the Investigating Directorate, against corruption.

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For this reason, to commence, it requires the making of regulation submission of the regulations to Parliament prior to publication in the *Gazette*, the appointment of a judge and proclamation for the commencement. The process to appoint the retired judge started in 2024, which then identified Judge Takalani Joseph Raulinga and consultation with the Chief Justice as required by the laws and joins the Minister to do so before making that appointment. On 10 October 2024, the Chief Justice addressed the letter to my predecessor supporting the appointment of Judge Raulinga.

In this regard, I approved the regulations on 10 October 2025. The outstanding steps are the submission of the regulations to Parliament, finalisation of the appointment process and proclamation to bring the section into operation. These processes are underway. The process of appointment is being conducted in full compliance with the relevant legislation and prescript. The judge has not yet commenced with his duties and will be remunerated based on submission of invoices for work that has been done. So, to date, the judge has not submitted any invoice as the work has not started. This will happen only when this is brought to operation. The public pronouncement will be

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done once Parliament has been consulted and publication of the regulations has been done. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first supplementary question will be asked by the hon Mohlala.

Ms M R MOHLALA: Thank you so much, Deputy Speaker. Minister, beyond the legality and transparency issues around this so-called oversight judge, can you explain how an oversight structure that operates in secrecy without a public mandate, without a traceable appointment process and without any measurable performance indicators can ever guarantee independence from political interference, especially when the investigating directorate against corruption is currently handling matters that implicate the senior officials, ruling party deployees and individuals with access to state security structure? What safeguards, if any, exist to ensure that this undisclosed oversight judge is not being used to influence decisions on who gets prosecuted, which cases are prioritised, or which politically sensitive investigations are quietly suppressed under the guise of oversight? Thank you.

Sepedi:

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TONA YA TOKA LE TLHABOLLO YA MOLAO THEO: Mohlomongwe ke swanetše ke e hlalose ka Sepedi, mohl Mohlala. Ga go na moahlodi yo a šetšego a thomile go šoma, ebile ga go na sephiri. Molao o re ge re thwala moahlodi, re swanetše re latele ...

English:

... due process and transparency, because we approach the Chief Justice, and request concurrence ...

Sepedi:

... gore o dumelelana le rena go thwala moahlodi yoo. Ge re se na go e hwetša, re a boa ra gatiša gore moahlodi bjale o a šoma, gagolo go bao ba rotšego modiro. Ge go le bjalo, re ka se bolele gore moahlodi o a šoma ka gore ...

English:

... regulations that grant the judge the right to work are not yet into force. Once the regulations are into force, the judge will be working, and they go together for publication. There is no secrecy. And that is done with Parliament. The regulations ...

Sepedi:

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... di tlišwa Palamenteng, go hlaloswe gore ...

English:

... here are the Investigating Directorate Against Corruption, IDAC, regulations, together with the judge. So, there is no secrecy. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The second supplementary question will be asked by the hon Motaung. The hon Motaung.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Deputy Speaker, was Batohi lying when ...
[Interjections.] The Minister must confirm here ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon MkhaliPhi, that is not allowed. It is not a point of order, and I have not recognised you. Is there anyone from the ANC who will take this question of the hon Motaung? Please proceed, hon member.

Mr M M SOKOPO: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Minister, can you please answer this question: I would like to know whether the Chief Justice was consulted in the appointed of the retired judge to oversee the work of the IDAC.

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The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much. Yes, the Chief Justice has been consulted by my predecessor on 10 October 2024. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The third supplementary question will be asked by the hon Breytenbach.

Adv G BREYTENBACH: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Minister, can you detail the exact process that was followed in the appointment of this judge and provide the empowering provisions for this appointment? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much. The process of appointment is that with any other judge that we do. So, based on the availability of the judge, we would specifically identify those who are retired - as some of them may be unable to do the work due to health reasons. We will consult them and ask if they are available to do public service work. If they agree, then we approach the Chief Justice.

Sometimes we approach the Chief Justice because we would have a pool of judges that have made themselves available after retirement for the work that needs to be done. By law, we have to write formally to the Chief Justice to indicate the

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identified judge, outline the duties the judge will be doing, and provide all the details. We also specify if there is going to be additional remuneration that the judge is going to receive over and above the money that they receive in terms of their pension.

The Chief Justice will then look into terms of the records and then write formally to say they confer. Again, the Chief Justice check with the judge concerned to confirm whether the judge is willing to undertake the assignment, as some may decline certain areas of work. Once the Chief Justice agrees, we send the necessary documentation. It's within Section 22(2)(a) of the National Prosecuting Authority Act that gives this provision of work. Out of that for the judge to start working, it prescribes that we must be able to bring the regulations to Parliament. Once the regulations are into effect and Parliament has considered the regulations, then we are able to get the judge to work. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The last supplementary question will be asked by the hon Litchfield-Tshabalala.

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Dr K LITCHFIELD-TSHABALALA: Thank you, Chair. Minister, can you clarify this to us? The two advocates, Batohi and Johnson, said the judge is appointed. They didn't say a judge is being appointed, which is present continuous tense. So, this indicates that the process is ongoing. Instead, they used past perfect tense: "A judge is appointed." Did they, as two advocates, lie? Again, the Minister said, the judge has not invoiced, is that so? How are we sure as a House ..."

Sepedi:

... gore mmereko o tšwela pele.

English:

An invoice, even if it comes after, it's going to be backdated. We don't have an assurance of that. So, can you assure us that when the invoices are submitted, they will clearly reflect a present date and will not be backdated because they can be backdated without disclosing. But the amount will tell us that this is a backdated amount. Thank you, Chair.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Litchfield-Tshabalala. The judge has not commenced work, so the judge cannot invoice. Previously, there were

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discussions whether he must be paid fully or per invoice. The argument is that the judge will be paid per invoice of work that has been done. The judge has not started work because what will give effect to the judge doing the work will be the regulations, which I am currently finalising. Actually, I finalised it, as I said, and they are to be submitted in Parliament - they are just going through legal assessment for submission in Parliament. So, the expectation from where I am sitting is that the judge will start early next year in terms of the process, once Parliament has given me a go ahead to be able to start implementing the invoice. There can be an invoice that is backdated in terms of that work.

In terms of Advocate Batohi and Advocate Johnson, I think the issue is understanding the difference an appointment and the commencement of work. As I said, on 10 October 2024, confirmation of availability of the judge and willingness to do the work, thereby meeting the requirement of the appointment, has been done. What is missing is the regulation, which give effect to the judge doing the work. So, once we receive that ... I think my predecessor have not been able to submit the regulations to Parliament on time. They have not been able to because if they received those regulations, then the judge would

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have started last year. Because the regulations were not yet approved, that's why the judge can't start the work.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Thought that they would be able to get the regulations on time into Parliament, they have not been able to. Because if they had gotten that regulation, then the judge would have started last year. But because the regulations were not yet approved, that's why the judge can't start the work. Thanks.

Question 1273:

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): With respect to parts a and b, I wish to clarify that while the hon member refers to these matters as unresolved, they are in fact currently under formal investigation by the Hawks and the Special Investigating Unit, SIU.

These investigations will culminate in recommendations for the Department of Defence and, where applicable, other institutions to act upon.

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It is also important to note that the value of the cases under investigation by the Hawks and SIU relating to the department is approximately 1,2 billion, not 2,5 billion as stated.

During our recent engagement with the portfolio committee, both the Hawks and the SIU indicated that significant progress has been made, with several investigations nearing completion.

Deadlines have been set and once these reports are finalised, the department will be in a position to identify implicated individuals and implement appropriate corrective measures, including disciplinary action where recommended.

Internally, the department has already taken steps to enforce compliance and accelerate the finalisation of internal investigations. Clear deadlines have been instituted for boards of inquiry and progress is now monitored through the management councils as part of the department's action plan to address findings raised by the Auditor-General, AG.

Oversight by the inspector-general of the Defence Force is being intensified, while the military police continues to liaise with

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the Hawks and SIU to provide all necessary support within their mandate.

Furthermore, the leadership of the department has issued explicit instructions, reaffirming our commitment to the timely resolution of all internal investigations.

In terms of the matter of 1 Military Hospital, which is indeed of great concern, the Hawks have confirmed that their investigation is nearing completion.

As with all other cases, the recommendations from the investigating authorities will guide further action by both the department and the Hawks. Thank you.

Inkosi R N CEBEKHULU: Hon Deputy Minister, what urgent steps will your department take to guarantee statutory whistle-blower protection and relocation ... financial support for defence personnel who expose corruption?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): Well, the department ...

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Deputy Minister, I first recognise you. Please proceed.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): Are you recognising me now?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am recognising you. Please proceed.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): Okay, thank you, Chairperson. The whistle-blower protection policy is always there for all departments. So, in liaison with the state department responsible for that, I can assure you that we will not expose whistle-blowers. In fact, the Department of Defence, police, Hawks and SIU are working in close collaboration on matters of that nature.

Mr M M HALA: Hon Deputy Speaker, can the Minister kindly update the House on the specific progress already made by her department since the matter was last raised in terms of, one, securing co-operation from all role-players, two, fast-tracking the outstanding Hawks and SIU investigations, and lastly, the concrete disciplinary and recovery steps now underway, particularly regarding the 1 Military Hospital repair and

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maintenance irregularities to restore public confidence in the SA National Defence Force, SANDF. Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): Thank you, hon member for addressing me as a Minister. On a serious note, you will recall that last month we had the privilege of being briefed by the Hawks, SIU and also the AG.

So, I can assure you that at least they told us – fortunately you were there – that there is progress. They are seeing progress.

However, I think what is going to be important for us as Members of Parliament is to keep informing the public about the progress made. Perhaps if we embark on that, you wouldn't even want to ask the questions that you have just asked. So, we need to improve the publicity part of cleaning up the image of our defence.

Ms C T NONTENJA: Hon Deputy Minister, what proactive and preventive strategies has the department put in place to rebuild the financial management architecture and prevent all these

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irregular, unauthorised ... and all that's happening, rather than addressing it as an after-effect?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): The Department of Defence has a renewed or a newly appointed audit committee which is manned by professionals outside the military.

That audit committee, together with the department, has come up with an audit action plan to make sure that we address the queries, but at the same time asking those who are in procurement to be trained, and also screened and vetted to ensure that the mistakes of the past do not continue to haunt the Department of Defence. Thank you.

Mr W M THRING: Deputy Minister, the AG has found that there is poor accountability and weak internal controls within the Department of Defence.

This is corroborated by the Hawks' disclosure of some 1,2 billion in corruption and serious criminal cases across the SANDF, the Department of Military Veterans and the Department of Defence.

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Deputy Minister, what specific steps will be taken to remedy the AG's finding of poor accountability and weak internal controls, which have resulted in some officials and units obstructing investigations or withholding documents from law enforcement agencies? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): As I've just said, there is an audit action plan which we are following, assisted by the Defence Audit Committee as well as the AG.

However, what we must also be cognisant of is that we are dealing here with audit queries which date back as far as 2006. So you can imagine the backlog which is there.

However, I am happy that the co-operation between the SIU, the AG, National Treasury, as well as the Hawks in working together with our military police ... we are making progress. I hope that the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, will ensure that they at least establish, even if you can talk of having established, the special courts in order to accelerate these cases to be finalised.

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However, unfortunately, the police, Hawks and NPA sometimes do raise their concerns that the NPA is dragging its feet. Thank you.

Question 1260:

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Deputy Speaker, the department does invoke section 63(a) of the Criminal Procedure Act, as amended, which empowers the head of a correctional centre to apply to a court for the release of an accused person, or for the amendment of their bail conditions, as a measure to ease overcrowding in remand detention facilities.

The criteria are as follows.

The inmate is housed in a facility wherein the head of a correctional centre is satisfied that the population is reaching such proportions that it constitutes a material and imminent threat to human dignity, physical health, or safety of the accused inmate who is charged with an offence falling within the category of offences for which a police official may grant bail in terms of section 59, or referred to in Schedule 7, or has been granted bail by any lower court in respect of that offence but is unable to pay the amount of bail concerned, or is not in

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detention in respect of any other offence falling outside the category of offences referred to in the first paragraph. If I can give the statistics, in the first quarter of this year, there were 2 533 court referrals. A total of 409 were successful. It gives us a 16,15% success rate. In the second quarter, up until September, we referred 2 362 cases. We were successful in 506 cases, with a 21,42% success rate.

In relation to the impact on reducing overcrowding, utilising section 63(a), the department continues to collaborate with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the National Prosecuting Authority, the SA Police Service, and the judiciary to facilitate the review of bail conditions and promote noncustodial options where appropriate. However, the ultimate decision regarding the detention or release of the remand detainees lies with the court and not with the Department of Correctional Services.

Mr M M SOKOPO: Deputy Speaker, I thank the Minister. Minister, In light of your response, will you also further indicate how the department intends to strengthen the consistent use of section 63(a) as a relief mechanism in severely congested remand centres? Thank you.

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The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Well, as I said, hon Deputy Speaker, we can give the finer detail of each and every region where we refer certain cases, but the success rate and the way we do it are as I have said. We refer it to the head of the correctional centre, of course. We will do anything possible to reduce the overcrowding, and we will use this tool – and I call it a tool – for reducing overcrowding in the first instance because then it is much easier. We must always remember that you can only go to the court that has jurisdiction over that matter. So, it is not that you can just randomly refer certain remand detainees to any other court. Thank you.

Mr J ENGELBRECHT: Deputy Speaker, through you to the Minister: Given this department's reported experience with section 63(a), what specific steps is the Ministry taking to systemise its application, in collaboration with the judiciary and the SA Police Service, to ensure it is used as a primary tool for managing remand populations? Also address any legal or operational impediments identified during this period that may have limited its broader and more effective implementation.

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Deputy Speaker, as the hon member has said, we do collaborate with the Department of

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Justice and Constitutional Development. At least, we try to have, say, on a quarterly basis, a meeting with the judiciary, where we also have the National Prosecuting Authority with us, to see whether there are certain processes in administration that we can speed up and so that we can also bring to the attention of specifically the prosecuting authority the problem of overcrowding.

However, we must always remember, in the end, even if you bring it – and, as I said, let us take, for example, the first quarter. We came forward with 2 533 applications, but only 409, or 16,15%, were successful because, in the end, it lies with the presiding officer, whether it is a lower court or a higher court. It lies with them. That is why we also have meetings with the Chief Justice to see whether we can speak to other presiding officers to see how we can ensure that there is more, can I say, understanding for the overcrowding problem in our facilities.

Ms D E JAMES: Adjunkspeaker, aan die Minister: Laat ek maar mooi praat vandag. [Deputy Speaker, let me speak properly today.]

Would you agree with ActionSA that South Africa cannot continue with a situation where our prisons face overcrowding levels of

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up to 220%, driven by foreign nationals whose upkeep is being funded by law-abiding citizens? Furthermore, is your department even engaging with the Department of International Relations and Co-operation and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to explore mechanisms to recoup the costs from countries of origin and to strengthen our systems to ensure that our correctional facilities do not become bed-and-breakfast facilities for foreign offenders? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Deputy Speaker, the hon member is a member of the portfolio committee, and we have had these discussions there many times, but let me reiterate again.

Firstly, yes, we have a problem, and I said that we must do everything to see how we can deal with this problem.

Unfortunately, the reality is that we only have so much space, and we are in a process to see whether we can get some more facilities. I also want to state it very clearly that there is a special task team of the Justice, Crime, Peace, and Security cluster. They have regular committee meetings, and they make proposals on what and how we can eliminate this overcrowding.

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When it comes to foreign nationals in our facilities, we talk about, say, 26 000 to 27 000 of them, and I am on record saying that we are in the process of seeing what we can do to repatriate them to their countries of origin. In the end, I would like to see that those people are sent back to their countries of origin, but, unfortunately, it is an amendment of legislation. The hon member will know it is not as simple as changing legislation tomorrow. It is a process, but we will continue with that process.

Mr S N SWART: Deputy Speaker, the ACDP shares the concerns about the perennial problem of overcrowding, which negatively impacts on rehabilitation and places the safety and security of inmates and officials at risk. There are some 55 000 remand detainees. It seems, however, that far more section 63(a) applications are now being brought by the department, which is commendable.

It is, however, hon Minister, as you indicated, that the department relies on the judiciary to make the final decisions. In that light, hon Minister, to what do you attribute the relatively low success rates of 16,5% and 21,6% of the court applications that were brought, given that the cases only pertain to certain categories of offenders who have been granted

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bail but cannot afford to pay it, this particularly in light of the fact that it costs more than R400 a day to house such remand detainees? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Deputy Speaker, I agree with what the hon Swart has said. I can also inform him that the number of remand detainees has increased. They are between 58 000 and 59 000 now.

Unfortunately, in the end, it is the decision of the presiding officer – the magistrate or the judge, whatever the case may be – and we cannot interfere with that. Of course, the hon member knows that, but I think what he wants to say is, yes, it is currently costing us R463 a day per inmate, and it is very costly to the taxpayers of South Africa.

We do engage, as I have mentioned, with the judiciary. I also spoke to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, and, from her side, she is also doing everything she can, and she does understand the problem. We put our heads together to see what we can further do to ensure that we can use and utilise section 63(a) in a more effective way.

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Question 1259:

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. At the time of the deliberations of the establishment of the Border Management Authority, BMA, the transfer of certain powers and functions from the Minister of Police to the Minister of Home Affairs were requested. This included powers and functions in terms of the Explosive Act of 1956, Act 26 of 1956, the Firearms Control Act of 2000, Act 60 of 2000, and the Second-Hand Goods Act of 2009, Act 6 of 2009.

It was argued that section 97(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, provides that the President, by proclamation, may transfer to a member of the Cabinet any power or functions entrusted by legislation to another member. The provision, therefore, authorised the transfer of power or functions from the Minister of Police to the Minister of Home Affairs. Legal advice obtained by SA Police Service, SAPS, concluded that the relevant powers and functions set out in the legislation could not be transferred. It was because the legislation confers power upon and assigns functions to members of the SA Police Services and not to the Minister of Police.

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Section 97 does not authorise the transfer of powers and functions from an official, that is police official; to a Minister, that is the Minister of Home Affairs; only from one Minister to another Minister. Most recently, the BMA requested the transfer of power conferred upon a member of the SAPS in terms of section 13(6) of the SA Police Service Act of 1995, Act 68 of 1995, to the Minister of Home Affairs. However, this request could not be agreed to, based on the same legal interpretation. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Rev K R J MESHOE: Deputy Speaker, if no powers can be transferred to BMA, and they are expected to ensure that our borders that are leaking stop leaking, what is the advantage of having BMA with no powers that the SAPS have? Why does the SAPS ensure that the borders are sealed, and we do not have the foreign nationals coming into the country as if we don't have borders, because they don't have powers, and the legislation, as you are saying, is not allowing anybody to transfer powers to the BMA? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): Deputy Speaker, the BMA is working together with the SA Police Service and the SA Defence Force, and they've been working together even before

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it was formed. When it was launched in Musina, fortunately, I was there in terms of what could be done. Therefore, from the police side, we don't have the resources to transfer to BMA now, and we are helping them to be able to get that resources from Criminal Assets Recovery Account, Cara, so that they can be able to do their work. Until they are fully resourced, we will not withdraw any powers or anybody from the border. We'll make sure that we work hand in hand with them to make sure that our borders are safe. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Mr M S MOELA: Deputy Speaker, through you to Deputy Minister, in view of your response, can the Deputy Minister further clarify what measures are being taken to ensure that any transfer of policing powers to the Border Management Authority does not weaken SAPS operational capacity at points of entry, particularly regarding crime intelligence, organised crime detection, and cross-border traffic enforcement as you have already clarified in terms of the Act that you have stipulated? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): Deputy Speaker, as I've said, it is not possible to transfer the police function, but it does not mean that as the police services, we

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are not able to do the Act. We are working together very well, and we are making sure that organised crime and all the crimes that happen, we are helping each other. It's just that now both the BMA and the SAPS need more resources to be able to do that their work effectively. I think also the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, need their work so that we can be able to work together. Therefore, there is no way in which we can abandon that responsibility. We'll make sure that our country is safe and we save the security of our country. Thank you very much.

Ms D E JAMES: Speaker, through you to Deputy Minister, year after year government blames SAPS, Home Affairs or BMA for our collapsing borders. Yet the truth is that your government has left BMA with a staggering R2 billion shortfalls while SAPS clings to key border control powers it should have handed over a long time ago.

Considering this chronic failure, will you admit that your department is directly contributing to the chaos at our borders, including unchecked illegal crossings, smuggling and trafficking? And can you tell this House why South Africans should believe any promises of improved border security when neither the funding nor the legal powers are in place? Finally,

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Deputy Minister, by when will SAPS complete the transfer of these operational functions to the BMA? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): Deputy Speaker, I think I must be able to explain this issue of the BMA and the R2 billion that people are talking about. As I always said, you can't transfer from an empty cup. Fortunately, when the BMA was formed, it was when the Minister of Home Affairs was still Dr Aaron Motsoaledi and I was part of some of the discussion when it was. The aim of the BMA is to make sure that our borders are safe as much as the SAPS, as much as the State Security Agency, SSA, and as much as the SANDF.

Now, as SAPS, we don't have enough resources. The police that we have at this moment are less than what we had in 2010, when we held the World Cup. You know that the population has grown up and we are trying as much as possible to bring more resources into the SAPS to be able to assist us. Fortunately, last week, 3 433 constables graduated from colleges to be able to do that.

Therefore, there's no billion that must be transferred to BMA or police officials that want to be transported to the BMA.

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The BMA has the opportunity to advertise for the police or people who can work as police to be able to apply, and they will have the budget to be able to pay them. You can't take from an empty cup and be able to give to somebody else. We still have the responsibility in terms of 205 of our Constitution and we can't be able to comply with it if we give what we don't have to BMA. However, as I said, we are working together to make sure that these shortcomings we are dealing with it ... Thank you very much. [Time expired.]

Xitsonga:

Ttn S M GANA: Xandla xa Xipikara ...

English:

... through you to Deputy Minister, I am listening and I'm trying to picture what really is happening. Let's say there's a criminal that the BMA flags or they get hold. You are saying that there's close working relations with the police. How does that work? Maybe you can share with this House to say that with the plane that landed with Palestinians, was SAPS involved in that standoff for, I think it was eight plus hours and what was the role of the SAPS in that? Just in explaining this close working relations between BMA and SAPS. Thanks.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): Deputy Speaker, in terms of working together with BMA, last year on the 31 December 2024, I was working at Beitbridge together with the SA Revenue Service, Sars, together with Department Rural Development and Land Reform, they were loaning us some drones and together with SANDF and all others. We were able to get about 88 cars which were stolen and were about to cross the border.

Therefore, we are working together and not competing to make sure that we deal with the border issue. In terms of the other question that you ask, I think it's not for me to explain. The person who must be able to explain will do so. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Minister. I think the hon Gana sneaked that last part of the question in it is a different question. Hon members, we proceed, Question 1298 has been asked by the hon Breytenbach to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development. The question is, considering that during the National Summit against gender-based violence and femicide, she made a number of commitments to combat the scourge more effectively, what tangible progress has been made with the

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implementation of the commitments and what are the reasons that the criminal justice system continues to struggle with providing adequate protection and support for survivors? The hon Minister!

Question 1298:

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Deputy Speaker, as we may know, many resolutions were taken during the Presidential Summit on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, and I shall only focus on those relating to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. In the previous financial year, 19 sexual offence courts were established, and in this financial year, 16 courts are being established.

We are officially opening one tomorrow at Botshabelo in Free State, and these are important as they help victims to be able to testify appropriately and have an environment that is appropriate, and a victim support or victim-based and survivor-based approach. And 40 courts are being upgraded this financial year to provide a catalogue of survivor-centred support services. Since 2022, the Thuthuzela Care Centres, TCCs, have been increased to 66, and it is our plan to increase the footprint with an additional four TCCs. This year in the APP, you will see two. We have been able to work around finding

resources to be able to add two more. The department has introduced a multisectoral 100-day challenge to reduce the turnaround time in the finalisation of cases of domestic violence and sexual offences. This year again, we have given a directive for the service of protection orders by the clerks of court to issue within 24 hours from the time the order is received from the court and is being monitored through our APP and their performance assessments. One hundred and three ad hoc intermediaries were appointed to support the current fully appointed team to ensure there are no cases being postponed due to a lack of intermediaries in the sexual offences' courts.

And this year, I tabled in Parliament the national policy directives on gender-based violence or domestic violence for prosecutors to ensure a victim-centred approach by prosecutors. In the protection of vulnerable groups from April 2025 to October 2025, a total of 40 063 National Register of Sexual Offenders clearance certificates has been issued. The ultimate goal is to make the register public. We remain committed. The review of existing legislation is underway as a draft has been finalised, and is currently being consulted within the Justice Crime Prevention and Security, JCPS, team. It is currently at the technical level. The following amendments to legislation

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have been made since the President announced the changes. The Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Act 16 of 2023 was signed by the President as per the resolution of the summit. The Domestic Violence Amendment Act 2021, except for one section dealing with the appointment of an administrator and repository for documents related to domestic violence, like protection, the entire Act has come into effect. The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 2022 has come into effect. The Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Act 2021 has come into effect.

We do want to say, hon Breytenbach and members, the fight against gender-based violence needs all of us. It needs the whole society. While we can do our part as the justice system, we do need families, we do need churches, and we do need everybody to be able to raise their hands. We will continue to do monitoring and evaluation on our part to ensure no one is left behind. Thank you very much.

Adv G BREYTENBACH: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, hon Minister, how many prosecutors have been specifically trained to prosecute gender-based violence and femicide matters since 2022? And how many prosecutors have completed the Aspirant Prosecutor

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Programme at the newly revamped Bridget Mabandela Justice College since the rather expensive renovation thereof? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Deputy Speaker, my apologies, because this is statistics. I will have to verify. Otherwise, I'll mislead the hon member. I do not have that information on hand. But what we do once we issue these directives; we request that Advocate Bonnie train everybody in terms of these directives that we've issued. So, all of those that have been done have been taken through the new directives across the country, especially those who are within the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs, Soca, unit. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The second supplementary question will be asked by the hon Tshotetsi. The hon Tshotetsi? Is there anyone from the ANC who will ... [Interjections.] ...

Mr M M SOKOPO: Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please proceed.

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Mr M M SOKOPO: One of the challenges of dealing with crime in general, in gender-based violence plus femicide in particular, is the need to co-ordinate the JCPS cluster. What measures are put in place to strengthen the co-ordination of the JCPS cluster? Thank you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, hon member. I can confirm that, as the JCPS, we work together and we are co-ordinating, starting with statistics. What we have done in April this year and eventually in May latest, we asked National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure, NatJoints, to have a part that deals with gender violence as a task team and it had about seven workstreams, specifically focusing on gender-based violence. Out of that, what we did first was to focus on statistics because you'd find that each department or agency will have a different mechanism where they deal with statistics.

So, you'd have the SAPS when they capture their statistics, they'll have their own way and then the Department of Justice and others. So, we then reconstructed the whole process and asked that we seamlessly want to work on the numbers that make sense. So that was done. Two, we had to have case management.

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So, we emphasised the importance that at a point where the case is, there must be a whole approach of what you have as a police officer or investigator, a prosecutor and those that are supposed to play a role. So that they can be, if it's a social worker who must do a report or a doctor who must do a report, working together to be able to manage. And out of that, for example, when I did an oversight in Randburg Magistrate Court and looked at terms of case management, we found that out of the case management process, because it's got everybody, and they were able to pick up that they had a backlog in Gauteng on the basis that there was no psychiatrist to treat the children, and to evaluate the children. So, they were able to do an intervention from the case management and were able to respond. The JCPS, as a cluster, has done two outreaches specifically for gender-based violence. It was in Limpopo and in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape. This was to evaluate what the standard is in the police station, whether the rooms that the victims come to or the survivors come to are suitable. Go to the courts, evaluate the sexual offences courts themselves and all that. So, it went end-to-end. Thank you.

Ms M R MOHLALA: Minister, despite everything that you have said, ordinary survivors witness repeated failures, protection orders

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ignored, repeat offenders walking free, and police failing to act. If the justice system itself is failing, how can your submitted commitments succeed without structural reforms to remove bottlenecks, corruption and political interference at the station and at the court level? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, hon Mohlala. The first issue in terms of protection orders, as part of responding, we've now made it possible for a protection order to be issued online.

So, you can apply for a protection order, and it can be received on your WhatsApp. It is part of the issue. Even where we are looking for people who find that we want to serve them, and we can't find them. One incident I think is in the Free State, the magistrate had to find the person on social media because they kept reaching out to that person, and the person was not responding. So, they went and posted on their social media page that you've got this order on you; therefore, respond, and the person got embarrassed and responded. So, there are various mechanisms that we can say need to be done.

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And I understand the context that one woman raped is one too many. One child violated is one too many. So, we can talk about statistics, but as long as there is a woman who is raped, there's a child who is violated. That is too many. So, we need to create an environment where in a society where we protect these children, we protect the society. And gender-based violence has no political alliances. So, there's no political interference, because even I, if I go and interfere, tomorrow it can be my child that is violated. So, I can assure you there's no political interference. We understand as parents, as leaders in society, that we've got to work together to fight gender-based violence in our country.

Mr M A MNCWANGO: Hon Chairperson. Arising from your response, hon Minister, in KwaZulu-Natal, gender-based violence and femicide-related cases continue to face extensive delays due to outstanding DNA processing and court roll backlogs, particularly in eThekweni and Pietermaritzburg. What concrete steps has the Department taken beyond policy commitments to ensure these cases are prioritised and not lost in systemic delays that deny survivors justice?

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The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, ...

IsiZulu:

... ngiyabonga Baba uMncwango, ngithanda ukukutshela ukuthi ngomhlaka-8 kuZibandlela, uSekela Ngqongqoshe ...

English:

... who is responsible for the DNA sectors, because it's not with us as the Department of Justice, it's with the police.

IsiZulu:

... bazobe bevula isikhungo se-DNA KwaZulu-Natal eThekwini.

English:

We have been waiting for that for a long time. We do think this is welcomed.

IsiZulu:

Sizosiza kakhulu abantu bakithi kusheshe amacala amile omama abacela nokuthi bathole usiz ngabantu ababahlukumeza. Ngakhoke siyathemba ukuthi njengoba lesi sikhungo esizovulwa sama-DNA

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sizokwenza ukuthi lawa macala ahambe ngokushesha kakhulu.
Ngiyabonga.

Question 1263:

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): Hon House Chairperson, on 7 October 2025, the SA Police Service officially launched Operation Safer Festive Season, unfolding the five co-ordinated phases that combine high visibility policing, tactical crime prevention, intelligence-driven operations, and will be conducted alongside Operation Shanela 2 during the festive season deployments. Operation Safer Festive Season reaffirms the government's dedication to protecting South Africans and maintaining law and order during the festive season. The operation will focus on several priorities, crimes, and strategic threats, including gender-based violence and femicide, and the enforcement and compliance with protection orders. The SAPS, in collaboration with other government departments, especially the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security, JCPS, cluster and civil society organizations, will continue to observe gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, public education programmes and awareness across the provinces, which include the 16 days of activism for no violence against women and children campaigns. These campaigns will include members of

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the detective services, which will do the following: educating communities on gender-based violence (GBV), distributing communication materials and safety tips, conducting imbizo roadblocks, crime prevention operations in hotspot areas, raiding and closing illegal shebeens, and tracing wanted suspects. The SAPS has prioritized the capacitation of the detective services during 2025-26, including Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences, FCS, unit through the placement of newly recruited students who have received the required specialized training, the re-enlistment of detectives who exited the SAPS, and the return of trained detectives who were transferred or promoted outside the detective service environment. The Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences unit is a specialized unit that has 176 geographically placed units that serve the 1 172 police stations countrywide, thereby aligning the placement of the FCS units within the districts. While the offices of the various FCS units are not yet all open, we are trying our best to make sure that as we go to the festive season - and you know that there will be a lot of abuse of alcohol and drugs - we ensure that they all function.

The R40 million that the Minister announced during the announcement of crime statistics is to make sure that we revamp

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the Ministry of Police, we revamp the violence-friendly victims ... Can I be protected, House Chair?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): You are protected, Deputy Minister.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): Thank you very much. Cases of statutory rapes are traced by using the SAPS's crime administrative system, which is a technology which provides a breakdown of specific types of crime as well as the status of the crime regarding the investigation process. At the national and provincial levels, cases are being monitored by using SAPS's crime management information system to monitor and advise on the criminal investigation processes. The national and provincial offices also conduct visits to Family Violence and Child Protection units to assess performance and provide guidance on the efficient and effectiveness of completion of investigation processes. Thank you very much, House Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, Deputy Minister. Deputy Minister, before I recognize the hon Mokwena for a follow-up, please move the mic ever so slightly away from you? Most members are too far from it, but in your case, there is a

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bit of feedback, which I am worried might even be taken to the broadcast. The hon Mokwena.

Mr M S MOELA: House Chair, I will take this question on behalf of hon Mokwena.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): You are welcome.

Mr M S MOELA: Deputy Minister, further to your reply on the measures implemented to improve frontline responsiveness and strengthen investigation capacity on GBV cases, what steps have you taken to ensure that these interventions result in measurable improvements, specifically in relation to reducing investigation turnaround times, preventing the requiring problem of missing incomplete dockets, and ensuring consistent oversight on GBV cases beyond the 16 days of activism? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): Hon House Chair, am I audible? Thank you very much. As indicated in my response, cases of statutory rapes will be traced, which provides a breakdown of specific types of crimes, as well as the status of the crime. Also, the SAPS has implemented a national

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nodal point to monitor all reported cases of sexual offences committed against women and children across the country. This nodal point assesses the status of the investigation and advises on further action regarding the specific investigation as and when required. Investigating officers within the FCS units are also encouraged to involve prosecutors in the investigation of complex cases to receive court-directed advice during the investigation processes so that we can achieve success. Also, we assess the performance, as I said, so that we can do that. We have also re-enlisted other detectives that I have left with experience to assist us in this matter. Thank you very much, hon House Chair.

Ms L SCHICKERLING: Good afternoon, Deputy Minister. It does seem that we spend a lot of time talking about GBV, but we do not get much done. What steps has the SAPS taken to prevent the loss and misplacement of dockets and the contamination of forensic evidence? And will you please provide us, Deputy Minister, with the latest data on DNA turnaround times and the size of the remaining backlog that we have in South Africa? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): Am I audible?
It seems ... am I fine?

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yes, you are.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): Thank you very much, hon Schickerling. Regarding the dockets, WhatsApps have started ... they have started what they call e-docketing, which is just ... no, it is not electronic ... it is just electronic, but also just for filing, where you can see where your case is, what is happening, and the feedback. So, the system that we want to use is going to make sure that when there is a docket, you have a password, like you have in your port or your bank or anywhere, where you can log in and see where your case is in terms of your docket, not just a copy, but where it is in terms of the investigation. And when you are not satisfied, you can also lodge the dissatisfaction in the system. So, yes, we want to do that regarding the technology. Yes, we are aware that there are dockets that have legs. And in this process, we are trying to deal with the issue. However, we want to assure the public that we are aware of the issue, we know it is a problem, and we are dealing with it. We are not going to shy away that it is a challenge, and we are dealing with it. Thank you very much.

Ms Z S ABADER: Hon Deputy Minister, your reply still does not address the lived reality of victims. Can you clarify why the

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SAPS continues to prioritize administrative compliance over operational urgency when frontline officers themselves admit they lack vehicles, manpower, and forensic turnaround times to respond to GBV cases? And what direct intervention will your department take to ensure that victims are not forced to return home to their abusers simply because the SAPS cannot respond timeously? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): Hon House Chair, as the Minister of Justice has said, the GBVF issue is not an issue of police only. It is a society issue. Sometimes the police, unfortunately, come after the act has happened. So, as the community, we should be able to work together. We have started ... like Thohoyandou is number one regarding rape cases, according to our statistics. I went there. I have started working with the traditional leaders there, the church people, the school children, and everybody to make sure that all of us take responsibility and make sure that the GBVF is dealt with thoroughly. It is not good to see the victims. I work with them every day. Sometimes you find them, unfortunately, not alive, sometimes to find them mutilated. So, it is very pressuring and sometimes it also involves some of our families. So, it is not true that we are not doing anything, we are just talking. We are

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busy with issues like we are here today. We were supposed to go somewhere, but because we respect you and respect the people of South Africa, we came here to give answers. However, we are busy, and that is why the Minister was able to even allocate R40 million because of the statistics to say, out of these top 30 stations, which show the highest numbers regarding rape, what do we do to make sure that we deal with the scourge. So, we call upon all of you, from all political parties, to assist us in dealing with this matter because it normally happens amongst people who know each other. Thank you very much, hon House Chair.

Mr M KHOZA: Deputy Minister, Statistics SA has reported that there were 2 103 reported cases of births by girls between the ages of 10 and 14 in 2024. Those are 2 103 clear cases of statutory rape in the country, and that number is only a tip of the iceberg as far as this heinous crime against children is concerned. Why has the SA Police Service persistently failed our girl children over the years by refusing to open cases and investigate these Schedule 5 offenses that are widely reported by government institutions annually, and in some cases quarterly? Why do our girl children not deserve protection and justice from the South African police? And Deputy Minister, if

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you can take us into confidence as to how many ... [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): Thank you very much, hon Minister. This is the best question. Hon member, no, no ... it is the hon member. This is the best question I have received since I left college. I agree with you. It is just that sometimes we do not want to see the whole thing and look at the small thing. I was once the MEC of Education. According to the South African Schools Act, it says only relatives of a child can open a case, even if they see that a child is being violated through statutory rape. However, in terms of the Bella Act, which has changed, to say anybody who witnesses what is going on regarding statutory rape you are allowed to approach any police station and open a case without even consulting the parents. It is just that we do not see it, we see one issue of it. This Saturday, the Department of Women, Children and People with Disability had a teenage pregnancy and statutory rape conference at Birchwood. I was one of the speakers that were there. I was happy that even men were there and being able to take responsibilities. Unfortunately, as I have said, there was also a case in Seshego, where a 13-year-old gave birth. I went there and was at the forefront making sure that we open the case and

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deal with the matter. So, we arrested the boy that raped her, only to find that the DNA does not match. The boy has spent about a month in police custody. So, it means we must pay money. So, all of us must never allow ... [Time expired.]

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Hon Chair, she has not even touched a single question. It is clear. We said there are cases that we need to be updated about. This is very serious. We are talking about the statutory rape ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon MkhaliPhi. Hon MkhaliPhi ... [Interjections.] ... Order. Hon MkhaliPhi ... [Interjections.]

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: No.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): It is indeed a serious issue, but that still does not ... [Interjections.]

Ms L A MATHYS: On a point of order, Chair. I have my hand up.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Mathys, I will come to you. Hon MkhaliPhi, you know the Rules. That was not a point of

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order. It is a point of debate. No, no, let me just say this: earlier this week, we dealt with the report of the Rules Committee. Previously, we as presiding officers have said, if you want a change in the Rules to allow for an engagement because you feel the Minister has not answered, change the Rules ... [Interjections.] ... No, hon Mkhaliphi, I have dealt with the matter. No. Hon Mkhaliphi, that was not a point of order. We are moving on. Thank you. No, thank you. Hon Mathys on the virtual platform ...

Ms L A MATHYS: Yes, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): ... please, in future, do not ... No, hold on, in future do not unmute and start speaking ... [Interjections.] ... do not unmute and start speaking before you have been recognized ... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You are now being emotional for nothing ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Mathys, you wanted to be heard. What is your point of order?

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Ms L A MATHYS: Yes, Chair, my hand was up for a while. So, that is why I asked to be recognized is because I thought you did not see it. I do understand what the Rules are. However, Chair, it must be noted that the Government of National Unity, GNU, is failing us. They cannot even answer a simple question about statutory rapes. It is 16 days of activism, and we have a Deputy Minister who is telling us about a case that they failed to ask ... [Interjections.] ... 11-year-old child a proper question about how many men ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon Mathys ... [Interjections.]

Ms L A MATHYS: No, it must be noted. We are reduced to a serious matter ... [Interjections.] ... to question time and whether a Minister or Deputy Minister can respond to a question or not ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon Mathys, will the Table please assist me to mute the hon Mathys. Hon members, firstly, I have already dealt with the point of view as aired by the hon MkhaliPhi that the question was not answered. Therefore, hon Mathys, once that ruling has been made, it is final. It does not add value for you to ... [Interjections.]

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Ms L A MATHYS: But Chair, I am raising a point of order on you because I do not know how ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. Please mute the hon Mathys ... [Interjections.]

Ms L A MATHYS: ... of activism and you are doing that ...

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

Ms L A MATHYS: ... that you are failing ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon Mathys. Secondly, hon members, the Rules are ... [Interjections.]

Ms L A MATHYS: You are failing the children of ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Mathys ...
[Interjections.]

Ms L A MATHYS: ... by allowing this nonsense ...

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Mathys, I am going to give you one more warning ...

Ms L A MATHYS: You can warn me all you want. This is about ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): ... [Inaudible.] ... without being recognized. Table staff ... [Interjections.]

Ms L A MATHYS: ... you can mute me all you want ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Mathys, if you do that one more time, I will ask that you be removed from the session. No, Hon Mkhaliphi, you know. Okay. Hon members, we have now dealt with this matter, we are moving on.

Question 1321 has been removed from the question paper due to the resignation of the hon Ms M Rweqana. Hon Trollip, why do you want to be recognised?

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Hon House Chair, I rise on a point of order. With the flood of resignations and expulsions of members from MKP, we are being prejudiced. We do not have an opportunity to have a follow-up on this question. I think it is a very good

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question. So, the Deputy Minister is here. I am sure he is prepared. Very late notice to withdraw the question. Let us proceed with the question.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. No, hon Trollip, even if I agreed with you, I am not empowered by the rules to allow for it. Order, hon members.

Question 1336:

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): Hon Chairperson, thank you for the question. I wish to assure this House that steps to address the challenges of the South African Navy and the broader defence force did not begin recently but were initiated well before the approval of 2015 Defence Review. That document was thoroughly consulted across the Department of Defence, the Executive, and both Houses of Parliament. Hon members would be aware the department has suffered cumulative inflation-related cuts amounting to R63 billion since 2017 financial year, which has significantly constrained our ability to modernise and sustain our capabilities.

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Despite these constraints, the department has consistently engaged with National Treasury, the Standing Committee on Appropriations, the Joint Standing Committee on Defence, and the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans to secure support for rejuvenating prime mission equipment and modernising the force.

Hon members, I can confirm that during the previous medium-term expenditure framework period, National Treasury began providing targeted support for critical capabilities. This includes R700 million for mobility packages and technology enhancements along our borderline, as well as recently R1 billion allocated to extend the life cycle of two of our medium transport aircraft.

In addition, the department is currently engaging National Treasury on funding for the Journey to Greatness, which is a 30-year strategic document designed to restore and rebuild the defence force. As part of this engagement, we have submitted areas requiring urgent interventions, all of which now form part of the ongoing discussions between officials of the Department of Defence and Treasury, as directed by both executives.

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National Treasury is also assisting the department with personal rejuvenation measures. This support is intended to strengthen the defence force's training pipeline and ensure the development of a younger, fitter, and mission-ready cohort of soldiers within the medium-term defence programme.

Finally, most recently, the National Treasury and the Department of Defence provided a joint presentation to the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans on these matters, which reflects the shared commitment to stabilising and strengthening the South African National Defence Force, SANDF, including the South African Navy. Thank you, Chairperson.

Mr C G NIEHAUS: Hon Deputy Minister, I am not sure you want to carry the can for the follies and the rash actions of your Minister, but I will ask the follow-up question anyhow.

Why has the hon Minister, instead of meaningfully engaging with the very serious concerns and frustrations raised by Vice Admiral Monde Lobese, chosen to threaten him with disciplinary action? Instead of threatening Vice Admiral Monde Lobese to silence him, should he not rather be praised for his courage and patriotism? Surely, everything possible should be done to assist

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Vice Admiral Monde Lobese in naming and shaming the executive members who are promoting drug cartels and other criminal syndicates.

In the context of what is revealed about executive members in the Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee and the Madlanga Commission, surely these allegations must be taken very seriously.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): Thank you very much, hon Carl Niehaus. The hon Minister of Defence wishes to begin by affirming that within the defence establishment, across government, and in Parliament, there are established platforms specifically designed to manage and ventilate the types of concerns raised by the Chief of the Navy. And he, she has already started the process to consult on that issue. But the key here, there are certain things which the Admiral of the Navy, which we have been hammering in this House, related to ... Can you keep quiet, please? You are making noise ... [Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order hon member! Hon members to the left of the Deputy Minister, please take your conversation outside.

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An HON MEMBER Yes.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Lorimer ...

An HON MEMBER: Call the DA into order, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yes, I am. Hon Deputy Minister, please continue.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): ... We cannot deny that some of the issues, if not all, which have been raised by the Chief of Navy has reached this institution for many years, that of defunding. We must also remember that in 1998, a decision was taken by this Parliament that we will no longer invest more on military security, but it will be more on social security. As a result of that, the Department of Defence suffered a lot. You will recall that recently, the Minister of Finance, briefed us together with the portfolio committee and revealed that, yes, they had defunded the Defence Force because they had to go and bail out state-owned enterprises, SOEs.

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There are issues where we need to set aside our pride and decide what priorities we want for this country regarding security matters. I hope that the State Security Council, or those who sit in the State Security Council conduct a security threat analysis. Thank you.

Setswana:

Rre M D LEGOETE: Ke a leboga, Mmusakgotla. Go Motlatsatona wa Tsheriletso le Mekaubere ya Ntwa ...

English:

Can the Deputy Minister, DM, confirm which established internal structures such as the Defence Staff Council and Military Command Plenary enables senior officials to raise funding and combat readiness concerns confidentially. And what recent directives have been given to all services to ensure full use of these channels instead of public statement, especially when we deal with matters of national security. It's not about a simple matter; it's about a national interest. Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): Thank you very much Chairperson and thank you to the hon member, the chairperson of our standing committee. We have

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what you call a Military Command Council and the Secretariat Council and Plenary Defence Staff Council. These are the bodies which bring together senior leadership of the National Defence Force.

Recently, the department has reiterated to all services and divisions, the importance of utilising these platforms fully, both to maintain institutional integrity and to ensure that funding and state of readiness of our defence force is attended to. I think I have answered your question, unless you have a follow-up.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): No Deputy Minister, somebody else will ask a follow-up.

Mr M L SHELEMBE: Deputy Minister, Chief of the South African Navy Vice-Admiral Monde Lobese, in his address at the gala dinner held in November 2025, he further attached on the serious allegations and amongst those was an alarming allegation that the government department attempted to bring a company to patrol South African waters, a move he characterised as a sell-out.

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Can the Deputy Minister confirm if this move was due to prolong the funding of the defence force? Which department and official were responsible for this move? And what is your policy on the privatisation of South Africa's core sovereign functions, such as territorial defence? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): The issue of the Commander of Navy is being handled by the Office of the Minister and the Commander of the Defence Force, who is responsible for the discipline of the SANDF members.

Until they have engaged him, we will also be able to respond to your question. If I attempt to address it now, my answers would be based on speculation. Let us wait for the Minister to come and brief Parliament on these matters. Unfortunately, she is currently in Mozambique with the President.

Mr W M DOUGLAS: Thank you, hon Chair. Hon Deputy Minister, in your response earlier, you said that we are facing certain constraints in terms of the budget and in terms of being able to fulfil the mandate that you have. The challenge for us is that you are part of government who has the mandate to be able to

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instruct National Treasury to take money and pay for maintenance and pay for petrol and for all other things.

In the light of South African Navy Vice-Admiral's warnings, can the Minister explain why repeated alerts from senior leadership in the department has still not tabled a credible turnaround plan with clear timelines and funding requirements to arrest the decline of the navy and the broader defence force, and what immediate actions will be taken to prevent further degradation of critical maritime and land with defence capabilities and to force the Executive and Treasury to take action for our people's safety?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): Hon Chairperson, The word "force" implies something else. I have experienced this before and do not want to go down that path again. On a serious note, the Department of Defence Force has submitted the challenges facing the department to the National Treasury and the Office of the President. As a result, a committee has been established between the National Treasury and the team from the Department of Defence.

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As I mentioned earlier, and more recently, the Minister of Finance updated the Portfolio Committee on Defence. So, we are addressing these issues. But as I said, since 1998, the paradigm shifts to move away from the military security to focus more on social security has led to the department to be where it is today. The situation was aggravated by the monies which were taken from the defence to bail out SOEs. So that is the situation. We are not folding our arms. The navy is part of that.

The same clarion call has been made by the air force, the army itself, and others. We are trying to rectify the situation. As for forcing them, the only thing we can do is bombard them with our memorandums and make use of any opportunity. Fortunately, the portfolio committee is supporting us. They have been engaging their counterparts in Parliament to save the defence. Thank you

Question 1267:

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): Hon House Chairperson, with respect to parts A and B, I wish to inform this House that at the instruction of the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, the Department of

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Defence and the National Treasury have established a joint technical team. This team brings together officials from both departments to develop sustainable modalities that align our deployable human resource requirements with our operational obligations within the constraints of the current compensation of employee's allocation.

Furthermore, following the engagement of this joint team and guided by both executives, the department has incorporated a set of urgent interventions into the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. These interventions are intended to stabilise personnel management, address immediate cost pressures, and support ongoing discussions with the National Treasury to secure the additional funding required to prevent these structural challenges from escalating. Thank you.

Mr W T D PLATJIES: Deputy Minister, now that you are saying there is a team that is working on these matters in your department, this year, this financial year, what successful costing containment have you put in place as the department to optimise the spending on the compensation of employees, the budget thereof? Secondly, Minister, now that you have got some commitments from Treasury on some of your shortfalls, how are

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you going to see yourself structurally make sure that those funding sustained you do not overspend it on the regular forces and also the over-utilising of reserve forces? I thank you, Chair.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): This department, when it comes to issues related to deployment, relies heavily on its units and as a result of that, we have also included the directive of the President that the Department of Defence must be given more monies to rejuvenate the Department of Defence because the reserves are the ones who are deployed in operations.

On the other hand, we are trying to address the question of exit strategy, but it requires a lot of money. Exit strategy will allow those who are 51 or 48 years old who are still troops but they can no longer be fit to be deployed in the operation. We have also requested the National Treasury to give us money to recruit at least in the next year or two, at least to recruit 10 000. But we understand the national fiscus that at times, they have other priorities, but we are working around the clock to address the issue.

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

Hon members, before we move on, because I want to recognise the hon Shalembe, please be reminded that the use of cell phones within the House is not permitted.

IsiXhosa:

USEKELA MPHATHISWA WEZOKHUSELO NAMAGQALA OMKHOSI (Mnu. B H Holomisa): Mbambe. Biza amapolisa

English:

Call police.

Mr M L SHELEMBE: Deputy Minister, as in the recent years, the Department of Defence continues to receive qualifiers.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members, I do not think the Deputy Minister will be able to hear the question. Hon Shelembe, please speak into the microphone.

Mr M L SHELEMBE: Deputy Minister, as in the recent years, the Department of Defence continues to receive qualified audit opinions from the Auditor-General for 2024/25. Among the causes for the repeated qualified opinion is the material persistent

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misstatement on the basic salaries, housing allowance, and deprivation allowances, which made it impossible for the Auditor-General to determine the full extent of overstatement on compensation of employees.

Can the Deputy Minister, given that the Department of Defence continues to receive qualified opinion, more especially on the compensation of employees, how are you going to motivate the National Treasury to give more money for compensation of employees when your department cannot account on its allocated budget when it is required by the Auditor-General to do so?
Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): Hon Chairperson and the hon member, we are in agreement with the Auditor-General that we will always receive these qualified reports, especially if we are not funded adequately, because what we are doing currently, we are like robbing Peter in order to pay Paul. In terms of the regulations, if you do that, you will be penalised. But if you look at issues like the devastation caused by the climate change, the support we are giving to the police, and also to Eskom. Some of these monies are not budgeted for, but they appear at the end of the

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day to be unauthorised expenditures because we cannot fold our arms and say there is no money.

So, what is needed now in future is that if, for instance, the Defence Force of South Africa is to be deployed, the National Treasury should be informed by the President, and that the budget will cost such an operation, and that the budget is allocated. For us in this Parliament, you approve, okay, yes, you can deploy the Defence Force members and then when we go back, we find that we do not have enough money. So, then we go and take money somewhere, including the money which is earmarked for the reserves. So, we need to change this situation around.

Mr W M DOUGLAS: Hon House Chair, given that the Defence Force, hon Deputy Minister, is already struggling with shortages in funded posts and an overstretched reserve force, what concrete backup plans does the department have if National Treasury refuses to increase the compensation of employee's budget, specifically to ensure that border safeguarding deployments continue without interruption, our peacekeeping missions remain fully staffed and compliant with international obligations, and internal security support operations were not weakened in moments of national crisis? Thank you.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): Well, we are not going to mislead this House, hon member. The Department of Defence is engaging the Department of National Treasury on the instructions of the President, who said, let us move away from 0,56% of the GDP to 1,5% of the GDP. So, we are working on that mandate. Then if the National Treasury would refuse to adhere to that directive, then we will have no option but to come back to Parliament and say, notwithstanding what the President of this country is saying, there are people who are defying the President in order to fund the Defence Force of this country, which is compromising the security of South Africa.

Xitsonga:

Ttn S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu wa Yindlu, ndzi kombela ku vutisa Xandla xa Holobye wa swa Vusirheleri na Khale ka Valwelantshunxeko, jenerali.

English:

So, I want to check, when was your last engagement with the Reserve Force? And what is your assessment of the current state of the Reserve Force and their training needs, considering that

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we are utilising them more than we should ordinarily be utilising them? Thanks very much.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS (Mr B H Holomisa): The leadership, hon member of the Reserve Force, forms part of these council structures I have outlined earlier on. They have submitted their requirements. Even last year, before we submitted to the National Treasury, as well as to the President. Yes, they are part of the leadership and we are aware of the problems. But like the Navy, they are also suffering, like the Air Force, like the army, where, for instance, you have a defence, you deploy people, and then there are no tents. What are you expecting them to do? So, we need to make sure that the priorities in this country are put correctly. Thank you.

Question 1301:

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): Hon House Chairperson, thus far in the 2025-26 financial year the laboratory has already received 303 728 case exhibit entries and already finalised 296 288 case exhibit entries.

The biggest contributor to the high number of entries is intelligence and first-out principle against the date of exhibit

delivery in the laboratory and loaded into the National Forensic Database for investigative purpose to establish lead serial offenders and is processed.

A total of 212 statements generated in 2024-25 end of quarter 2 was 27 856 and in 2025-26 end of quarter 2 was 23 800, of which 10 815 were rape-related and 2 364 were murder-related.

Since the establishment of the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, SA Police Service, SAPS, project, the committee ensured that prioritization of cases and non-withdrawal of cases due to a lack of Deoxyribonucleic Acid, DNA, reports and there is no backlog of gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, and any other DNA-related cases.

A total of 56 213 GBVF-related DNA reports have been successfully issued. In the financial year 2025-26, as at the end of 30 September 2025, a total of 2 852 GBV-related reports has been issued, while NPA only formally requested 175 cases to be prioritized.

The Forensic Science Laboratory, FSL, is continuously experiencing high influx of cases due to heightened policing

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strategies on the fight against crime. However, the human capacity within the laboratories is declining.

The infrastructural deficiencies are a hindrance for the laboratory to function optimally, deteriorating state of facilities. There is a lack of building maintenance contract for FSL laboratories, with the exception of the Eastern Cape Laboratory, which is accommodated in the Department of Public Works building.

The national Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has secured an estimated budget for procurement of vehicle for maintenance and repairs on matters relating to infrastructure in Pretoria also, Arcadia Laboratory, which commenced in April 2025 for a term of 36 months.

The rotation of KwaZulu-Natal members, since the laboratory has not been fully functional, to other regions inflated the budget, and this was necessary to ensure that the institution comply to value for money on salaries paid monthly. However, plans are in process to reserve this challenge as the alternative accommodation currently is underway.

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And I'm happy, hon House Chair, to announce that the laboratory of KwaZulu-Natal, we're going to open it officially on 8 December 2025. Thank you very much, hon House Chair.

Mr I CAMERON: Deputy Minister, I want to understand: Has the DNA backlog been resolved or not? And if so or if not, why not? And by when can we expect for the total DNA backlog to be resolved? Thank you, House Chair.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): House Chairperson, the person who was asking the question is our Chairperson of the portfolios and knows what the answers are.

In terms of the budget, we are not able to have laboratories in four provinces. Limpopo, we don't have, North West, Northern Cape and Free State.

So, at least for this financial year we have prioritized Kwazulu-Natal, which we said we are opening on 8 December.

And also Mpumalanga, we are doing what is called e-laboratory, where we are using technology to be able to do the matter.

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So, as soon as the Chairperson helps us to get more money to be able to deal with the four outstanding, I think we'll be able to have the turnaround as much as possible.

But it's also important for me to mention that in terms of the GBVF cases there is no backlog at all and we don't agree with the backlog. Thank you very much.

Mr E A CLOETE: Hon Deputy Minister, considering the impact of the delayed DNA results on case finalization: Can the Deputy Minister indicate what operational thresholds the SA Police Service has set to guarantee that all forensic laboratories consistently meet the 30-day turnaround target? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): House Chair, as I said, unfortunately, we all depend on the national Department of Public Works and Infrastructure for all our infrastructures. So, for the four laboratories that we would need, we ... that's why we depend on the Department of Public Works. And as all of us know, there's a lot of backlogs.

And also in terms of building the police stations ... because public works don't have the requisite capacity. But also, as

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SAPS we are looking at alternatives of what we can do in order that we can be able to build our infrastructure that needs to be built so that we can be able to do that. But as soon as we get that, the four priorities are the laboratories in the four provinces that don't have the laboratories. Thank you very much.

Ms Z S ABADER: Deputy Minister, families sit in courtrooms shattered because rape and murder cases collapse, not for lack of truth but because DNA results never arrive. Survivors are forced to relive their trauma for months and even years while critical evidence sits gathering dust in laboratories your department has repeatedly promised to fix.

How do you justify a reality where a child's dignity, a woman's safety and a family's justice are held hostage by a backlog that should no longer exist?

And will you commit to an urgent, transparent and enforceable turnaround plan with public reporting to ensure that no victim's case ever again dies on a laboratory shelf while her perpetrator walks free? Thank you.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): Hon House Chair, the SAPS has prioritized - as I said - the analysis of the GBVF-related cases as part of the project that have been established with the NPA so that we deal with the backlog and that we don't have backlog in that regard.

So, a total of 53 361 GBVF-related cases, including statutory rape cases, have been prioritized and the DNA reports have been successfully issued as indicated as follows: in 2021-22 7 611, 2022-23 20 492, 2023-24 16 606, 2024-25 8 652. And that's why I'm saying to you, as we add Mpumalanga e-laboratory and also the one of KwaZulu-Natal, we'll also be able to deal with other backlog.

But in terms of the GBVF and the statutory rape, we have that NPA-SAPS project, we don't have any backlog at all.

The problem is just the enrolling of the cases on the court roll because it depends on the court when it is enrolled. But there is no backlog in terms of the GBVF and in terms of the statutory rape. Thank you very much, hon House Chair.

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Mr M KHOZA: House Chair, it's very disappointing, Deputy Minister, to sit here and hear you giving such a very misleading response in terms of the backlog that we're experiencing in the country, more especially on statutory rape and on the Cwecwe case.

Can you please, as you respond, give the nation confidence on the response on the Cwecwe case, Deputy Minister?

Deputy Minister, we have observed the intensified and deliberate effort at breaking down state institutions in order to allow for the outsourcing of these services to private sector.

Eskom has, until recently, deliberately run down in order to allow independent power producers, IPPs, to take over.

SA Airways, SAA, was deliberately collapsed in order to hand over our skies to private companies.

Denel has been collapsed in order to allow private arms manufacturers to hog that space.

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The collapse of the SA Police Service forensic lab is also a deliberate attempt to hand over this critical service to the private sector.

What guarantees have you put in place that work will be done ... [Time expired.] ... at the forensic lab without outsourcing this critical state function to private labs?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): Hon House Chair, in terms of the outsourcing of Eskom and others, I would not know what that is all about.

But in terms of our police stations and also our lab, as I said, they are done by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. And I said, where we are, only four are left. And in terms of our police stations, we had 1 164 in the last financial year, now we have 1 172, which means some are completed. We are not able to increase as much as we would because of the constraint of the capacity in Public Works.

So, yes, we might want to partner with various people to be able to complete, especially the laboratory. So, I can't come here and sit here and say, we won't outsource or won't source. But if

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there is a need and there is a problem that we need to address, we will do that based on the analysis that would have done, based on the cost analysis and all other things.

And in terms of the Cwecwe case, I'm shocked that we can come here in public and speak about children that are raped by ... [Inaudible.] ... so ... [Interjections.]

Mr M KHOZA: you are always shocked and surprised ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): ... to that because the matter ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members! Give the Deputy Minister a chance please. Order! [Interjections.]

Mr M KHOZA: ... [Inaudible.] ... be shocked ... [Inaudible.] ... she can't be shocked ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order!

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Mr M KHOZA: ... now you're shocked and surprised? Give the public answers please ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Khoza, you have not been given permission to switch-on the mic. You've asked the question, the Deputy Minister is responding. Please give her the platform!

Hon Deputy Minister, please proceed.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): So, we have referred the matter for prosecution as they have to deal with the matter as the Department of Justice and all other things.

But ... [Interjections.] [Laughter.] ... it's not with the police. So ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order!

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): Can we be protected, hon House Chair!

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yes! No, hon members, we can't have that. Afford the Deputy Minister the opportunity to respond. [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Order, hon members! But what's the use of having a question and answer session if the Minister isn't audible?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): We will heckle back, we have the capacity but we will not do it ...
[Interjections.]

Mr M KHOZA: Do it!

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): So ... yes, we have the capacity to do that, but we respect the hon House, we respect the House Chair. We will not do that.

So, Chair, as I said, that case is referred because it is a minor who needs to be protected. It's referred to the Department of Justice and they are dealing with the matter. And as soon as they are ready, they'll be able to give answers to the public. Thank you very much, hon House Chair.

Question 1270:

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The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Hon House Chair and hon members, first, to indicate that the Border Management Authority, BMA, as well as Home Affairs, have established processes in place to declare people who overstay as undesirable. In the case of a person who overstays for a period not exceeding 30 days, the entry ban is for a period of one year. In the case of a person whose overstay exceeds 30 days, they are declared undesirable and are banned for a period of five years.

Traditionally the biggest challenge – and it's one that I've identified before this House before – in this regard and in our capability to detect overstaying in a timeous manner has been the lack of biometric and digital information recorded for foreigners. That is something that is now being changed through the electronic travel authorisation, which is currently being rolled out in phases. The Electronic Travel Authorisation, ETA, records biometrics and other information for every foreigner who obtains a visa and enters South Africa, which will significantly enhance the capacity to proactively detect visa overstays. Once this is fully rolled out, the ETA will enable the BMA and the Department of Home Affairs to automatically detect when a visitor has failed to exit the country on time because their facial biometrics are recorded both when they enter and when

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they exit. That is the end state for the ETA that we are building, and that will enable us to do things like directly contact overstayers and significantly enhance the capacity to proactively detect and enforce deportations and those undesirability orders in cases of visa overstaying. Thank you very much, House Chair.

Mr M S CHABANE: Minister, noting your responses, the House has made significant progress since the fifth and sixth term initiating and passing the Bills, the Border Management Authority Act and the One-Stop Border Post, OSBP. This is a significant act in responding to the concerns of South Africans about our security in our country. However, the border fence has been a thorn for a period of time, and this was observed recently by the Joint Standing Committee on Defence. Can the Minister update the House on the outcome of the investigation about the fence in Beitbridge and the plans to cover the 4750 radiuses throughout our land ports of entry? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: House Chair, it is a slightly different question from hon Chabane, but I will try to give it a shot as the original really refers to overstaying.

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I think, firstly, the legislative reforms that the hon member refers to are indeed very important, and there are a number of others that are also on the way through the process. That will include the revised White Paper On Immigration, Citizenship and Refugee Management, which will really enable a lot of these mechanisms that I've just spoken about to be used more effectively.

There's also the digital ID policy that is under development by the Department of Home Affairs that will enable us to have those biometric stored for foreigners in exactly the same way that we already have for South African citizens, so that if someone is detected on a camera, we actually have a database against which they can be matched, and that we're able to bring that level of automation and control to the immigration space.

I think as it relates to the border environment and the border fence, this is obviously an issue that has been vexing for a long time, also because it cuts across the mandates of Department of Home Affairs, BMA, as well as Public Works and Infrastructure, and also even the Defence Force. So, this is something that requires joint and co-ordinated action. It is not something that sits at all within the funding capabilities of

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the BMA at the moment. I think the hon House is aware of the significant underfunding of the BMA as a relatively new entity, and there is not a funding allocation in this regard. So, it will have to be something that is done collaboratively with other departments.

In the meantime, what we are very much focused on is using technology to improve surveillance in the border environment - whether it's things like drones, body cameras and other surveillance technology to make a difference on the ground at some of these ports of entry. But of course, if there is a greater investment of resources both in physical infrastructure and technology, we can do more. Thank you.

Mr J S NGUBANE: House Chair, to the Minister, shouldn't people who have overstayed their visit in South Africa be blacklisted and fined higher penalty fees since they've breached the laws of the country by overstaying? Why is South Africa's penalty of visa overstaying breach so weak, considering that South Africa has a huge problem of illegal immigrants, and overstaying is one of the challenges being used many times for people to stay in South Africa, except for unforeseen circumstances beyond the applicant holder's control?

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The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: House Chair, thank you to the hon Ngubane for the question. Firstly, of course, these are legislated provisions, so they operate within a certain legal framework, but there is blacklisting. So, as I mentioned in the original response, if someone overstays for less than 30 days, they are effectively blacklisted for a period of one year. If they exceed that 30-day threshold, then they are blacklisted for a period of five years.

In the past, there has been mechanisms around fines, but they proved very difficult to enforce. So, what we are currently looking at is whether we could combine, as the honourable member says, some form of blacklisting or undesirability status with fines. But we want to make sure that it's something that's enforceable because we don't want the Auditor-General to say that there's a system that cannot be implemented here. It is something that we are currently looking at, but certainly there is a strong enforcement where these are detected.

The bigger problem is with the detection, as I mentioned. I think that's where the ETA is really going to strengthen our hand. Finally, to mention, there are some of those inadvertent cases where you'll find that someone has a flat tire or a

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medical emergency on the last day of their visa validity, and so there is a process in place for them to appeal once they have been declared undesirable. Thank you, House Chair.

Ms B E MACHI: Hon House Chairperson, to the hon Minister, how will the Border Management Authority enhance co-ordination with Home Affairs to strengthen internal controls such as real-time data sharing, exit-entry tracking, and compliance alert to prevent illegal admitted visitors from lapsing into irregular status? If not, why not? If so, what are the relevant details? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: House Chair, to the hon Machi, you are absolutely right - central to what we are doing is co-ordination between the BMA and Home Affairs. To give you a concrete example of how important this is and how seriously it is being taken, if you look at how the ETA operates, and in fact, how the visa system operates, it is the Department of Home Affairs that grants someone permission to enter South Africa, whether as a tourist or a student or anything else.

Then it is the BMA that uses that permission, whether it is in the form of a traditional visa or in the form of the ETA, to

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then process their arrival when they come to South Africa. So, by its very definition, these systems are integrated. There are other systems like the Advanced Passenger Processing System, which is also involved in the clearance of these passengers or travellers to South Africa. It is an entire ecosystem, and that is really why we've taken an approach of referring to this as the Home Affairs ecosystem, so that we indeed don't have the development of silos in a space that is inherently based and reliant on that kind of co-ordination.

I can certainly report to the House that is happening as it relates to the ETA. It is built in from day one, and it is something that we will continue to expand to make sure that we leverage off of both the Home Affairs capabilities and the BMA capabilities as we move forward to build that automated entry and exit system that the hon member refers to. Thank you, House Chair.

Ms C T NONTENJA: House Chair, South Africa continues to face significant challenges in migration management. These realities highlight the urgent need for a strengthened, co-ordinated and sustained enforcement capacity across the country. Hon Minister, what progress has been made on the biometric movement control

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system, and how will it improve the detection of overstayers, repeat border offenders, and those exploiting gaps in the current movement control processes?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: By way of quick background, the Electronic Movement Control System, EMCS, was built in 2010 around the soccer world cup at that stage and it was rolled out at ports of entry at that time. It is really based upon the passport as the fundamental identifier. Subsequent to that, in recent years, there was an attempt to replace that with what the hon member refers to there as the Biometric Movement Control System or BMCS. Unfortunately, that rollout was not a success. One of the reasons is that it was based on fingerprints. The hon members can imagine how long it would take you if you were standing at an immigration queue and every single person has to do 10 fingerprints, one by one.

There were also issues around the system's stability. What we have done now instead is to move to facial recognition. You will remember that not long ago the thumb fingerprint was the key to unlocking something like the cellphone, but these days it is also based on facial recognition. That is because that has

become the key credential that is being used around the world for security purposes.

Instead of the BMCS and all the challenges that we experienced there, the ETA is linked to an EMCS 2.0 which is effectively building on the infrastructure that has worked successfully in the form of EMCS, but now adding those facial recognition functions and integration and other verification systems that is going to make the kind of difference that the member is talking about. Thank you.

Question 1256:

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): Hon House Chair, 24 692 murder cases were reported during the 2024-25 financial year. Fifteen thousand one hundred and thirty charges of murder have been solved during the 2024-25 financial year. These charges include suspects charged, cases finalised as guilty, cases where suspect is deceased and alternative dispute resolution.

It should also be noted that the number of charges solved during the 2024-25 would also include cases that were reported prior to

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2024-25 due to the nature of the case docket management process.

Thank you very much, hon House Chair.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu, ...

English:

Minister, to the last statement that you have issued, the essence of my question is to say, alright, what are the cases ... if you take the 15 000 that you have listed, to say that were solved in 2024, how many of those relates to the murders committed in 2024? Because one of the big issues that we do have, as you would know, is the detection rate of murder cases in South Africa, which is very low, extremely low. I think it is sitting at 11% according to the annual report, by the way.

So, I would have loved to ask the Acting Minister to say, since his arrival, maybe you can answer because now it's a new broom. Since the arrival of the new Minister, what are the strategies or tactics that have been introduced to improve the murder detection rate? So, if you could just respond to that. If none has been introduced, you can also say that nothing has been introduced as it is. Thanks.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): Hon House Chair, I'm not sure what the member is referring to when he said, none detected murder cases because I was just giving the figures here, but also to say the Minister of Police is Prof Firoz Cachalia. I am the Deputy Minister, not the Minister.

However, as the SA Police Service, SAPS, we were able to get detectives, as I said, those that have retired to come and be able to assist us. I also said last week that 3 433 new constables graduated and we've put more feet on the ground to be able to assist with such. I also said, we have increased our police stations from 1 164 to 1 172. I've also said that two laboratories will be opened in this year, one in Mpumalanga and the other one in KwaZulu-Natal. So, we'll be able to deal with these cases of murder. Thank you very much, hon Chair.

Mr M S MOELA: Deputy Minister, in light of the figures provided, can the Deputy Minister further indicate what targeted interventions will be implemented to improve the murder detection rate, particularly in high burdened stations? And, whether additional investigative capacity, forensic turnaround improvement or specialised units will be deployed to address the gap between reported and solved cases? Thank you very much.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): The SA Police Service has embarked on a specific project to capacitate the detective service capacity in 2025-26. This capacitation which involve the placement of approximately 4 000 personnel members as the detective service by the end of 2025-26 financial year, will include the appointment of former detectives who have left the SA Police Service on a contract basis, the ... [Inaudible.] ... of the SA Police Service members who have specialised detective services training from other environment in the SA Police Service back to the detective service, the filling of vacant posts through lateral transfers and the placement of entry level constable, which have received the prerequisite training at the detective service.

In addition, 353 contract workers to assist with the backlog of case dockets older than two years, murders included and 1 536 students who have just passed out and will now do their workplace exposure before placed at Detective Services Unit. Two hundred and three enlistments are to be placed in the newly established Forensic Investigation Leads Unit and additional 1 000 members are projected to join the detectives services through lateral transfers.

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The following interventions are and will continue to be implemented to address the detection rate for murder; one, murder cases with Forensic Investigative Leads are followed up; tracing operation focusing on wanted persons, particularly those wanted for violent crimes are conducted; performance review meetings are conducted quarterly to assess the performance and initiate corrective actions where required and capacitation of the Murder and Robbery Unit. Thank you very much, hon House Chair.

An HON MEMBER: House Chair, what is the point of this exercise if the Deputy Minister just read? ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): ... hon member, hon member just pause there. No, no, hon member, just pause there.

An HON MEMBER ... [Inaudible.] ... word for word ... these questions ... of this House ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): ... hon member, pause, please. Put up your hand ... Okay, you don't want to. Please, don't unmute and speak again without raising your hand. Hon Mkhali, why do you want to be recognised?

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Ms H O MKHALIPI: Chair, is the ANC giving the Ministers follow up questions because she is reading the whole paragraph? How does she know? ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): ... thank you, hon member ...

Ms H O MKHALIPI: ... no, no, no, you are rendering this service very useless. This is very useless.

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

Ms H O MKHALIPI: So, she can't read our questions because we don't give it to her but when is the ANC ... No, Chair, she can't do this, no.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon MkhaliPI ...

Ms H O MKHALIPI: No, haai. So, we must not have this kind of questioning and answer.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon MkhaliPI, that's technically not a point of order, but let me just say this. Order! Let me just say this to the hon Deputy Minister.

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Essentially, this follow up was the same one the hon Gana asked. And then you spoke off the cuff. It doesn't give a good impression if a member of your own party ask essentially the same question, then you are able to read. In that sense, I must agree with the hon members.

An HON MEMBER: Yea, yes!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. Order, order!

Ms H O MKHALIPI: She speaks as if she is speaking on behalf of the SACP ... [Inaudible.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): ... hon Mkhalipi, don't over-reach.

Afrikaans:

Mnr N L S KWANKWA: Voorsitter? Voorsitter?

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, order! Hon Kwankwa on the virtual platform, why do you want to be recognised?

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Afrikaans:

Mnr N L S KWANKWA: Jammer, man.

English:

Maybe the ANC should not be allowed to ask follow up questions to their own Ministers.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Kwankwa, order! Hon members, let us move on. Hon Cameron.

Mr V G REDDY: Deputy Speaker, Acting Speaker, my hand is up. It's paining now, so long it's up.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Reddy, unless that's a new point of order. I have dealt with the previous one. Why do you want to be recognised?

Mr V G REDDY: Thank you. Your ruling, I just want to commend you on the ruling, but just state that this whole process is like a big fuss when these Ministers and Deputy Ministers just read out answers, it simply does not make sense.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Reddy, hon Reddy, order.

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Mr V G REDDY: It's such a futile exercise.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Reddy, thank you. We have dealt with the matter. The fact that you bring some honey to me doesn't mean you get another bite at the cherry. Hon Cameron.

Mr I CAMERON: Deputy Minister, you've given the number of murders reported but the public, I think, deserves a bit more clarity on the outcomes. Of the murders recorded in 2024, what percentage resulted in a conviction-ready docket handed to the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, and proceeded to prosecution? And if you cannot provide that percentage, with the Minister or the Deputy Minister, then concede that the SA Police Service's detection rate may just be paperwork not justice. I think the hon Mkhaliipi might have a point in that I found out that often the ANC gets ... [Inaudible.] ... portfolio committee ... [Inaudible.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): ... hon Cameron! ... you also are out of order. Order! Order, let's give the Deputy Minister ...

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): The question from hon Gana was the total number of murder cases that has been reported in 2024. The figure that I've given was based on that question. So, if hon Cameron want me to have the percentage and the others, he can give me that question then I'll be able to, because I have responded to what hon Gana have asked. Thank you very much.

Ms Z S ABADER: Hon Deputy Minister, how do you stand before this House and speak of reported murders when thousands of families are still waiting for justice that never comes? What do you say to the mothers who sleep with their children's pictures because the SA Police Service has turned murder dockets into dust collectors? At what point will this Government of National Unity, GNU, admit that its failures are not statistics, they are graves and that your inability to solve murders in 2024 is turning South Africa into a sanctuary for criminals while victims are abandoned to pain in silence? Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr P Boshielo): Hon House Chair, as you are aware, last week Friday we released the crime statistics. In terms of the crime statistics that will be for the first and the second quarter, it has shown that the murder

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rate and all other ... [Inaudible.] ...crimes have gone down. Then, it means that as the SA Police Service, we have put more effort and sources but also concentrate on the hot spots as indicated by the top 30 and the top 50 so that we are able to bring the crime down.

We are trying our best to also work with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in terms of the NPA and SA Police Service project to ensure that the dockets that are ready to be involved in court are enrolled so that people can be able to get justice. However, it will depend on how many cases are there and whether they can be involved or not. We are not ignoring cases that need to be put on the roll. It does not depend on us, but we are not also stopping in terms of what we want to do.

I can assure this House that we also have other measures that we will apply to be able to make sure that these figures goes even higher, even if they are a little bit down, we are still worried they are high and we will do our best to make sure that they become higher. As I'm talking to you, we have launched what we call safer festive period, where we will go all out in all the nine provinces to make sure that we clamp on all people who are

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wanted, all people who have committed crime and also illegal shebeens and taverns where most of the rapes and the murders take place. So, we will not rest or go on holiday, we will make sure that we keep our people safe and bring down the rate of crime. Thank you.

Question 1271:

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: House Chairperson, my apologies, I had to leave. I've got a launch of a sexual offences court tomorrow in Free State. The department has developed draft Bill proposing amendments to the Special Investigating Unit, SIU, Act to, amongst others, revise provisions relating to establishment of the Special Tribunal additional functions of the Special Investigating Unit, issuance of reports by the Special Investigating Unit remedial action, funding of the SIU, and nature of proceedings in the Special Tribunal, preservation for future of the proceeds of unlawful activities, appointment of curator bonus and administrative sanctions.

Secondly, we have been able to develop a Bill that relates ... development of the Bill relation into the protection of whistleblowers. This Bill is called Protected Disclosure Bill

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that has been finalized and is currently in the process of consultation at the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security, JCPS, cluster level ... able to introduce it into Parliament at the beginning of next year.

We have also received inputs to the amendment of the NPA Act which are being processed as well, in terms of the JCPS. This one is still in the department where we are finalize...

[Inaudible.].

Lastly, on the Law Reform Commission, is on the last stages to review the Criminal Procedure Act that will also be introduced to Parliament in the last quarter of this financial year. Again ... [Inaudible.] ... report as submitted to the President has been studied by the department as required by the President and technical consultation workshop has been held with all the law enforcement agencies to source their inputs on the recommendation. And in this regard, preliminary comments have been received and will be processed to the JCPS ministerial cluster. Thank you very much.

Ms M MODISE-MPYA: House Chair, I will take it on behalf of hon Motaung. The progress report is welcomed, hon Minister. Can you

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elaborate more to the House on how will the draft Bill ensure that the SIU functions does not conflate those of other investigating agencies. In other words, to ensure a harmonious working relationship amongst all the agencies?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, hon member. Indeed, one of the issues and what the President has committed, was to ensure that we look at the overall work of the agencies, avoid duplication. And that's why, in this regard, the ... [Inaudible.] ... report remains critical because it does deal with a framework in terms of law enforcement agencies that are fighting corruption and have been able to identify where duplications are and made such recommendation.

So, we will be able to come and present. For example, one of the proposals that they're making is that SIU becomes the anti-corruption agency for the South African population, so that we deal with it both in terms of corruption within the state and corruption outside the state. Thank you very much.

Mr D D KLOPPER: Minister, given the importance of a unified and decisive national response to corruption, has the department

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considered the Constitution 21st Amendment Bill 2024 not merely as a standalone proposal, but as a potential component to strengthen and consolidate the Republic's broader anti-corruption framework?

If the Bill, which proposes an independent anti-corruption commission, with a constitutionally entrenched investigative and prosecutor powers for serious corruption of high-level organized crime, as set out in section 191(a-c), has not been taken into account by the department's anti-corruption strategy. Will the Minister indicate the reasons for this?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Thanks, hon Klopper. As you know, when the Bill was presented, the department did a full presentation in response motivating why the proposals are not supported. This is not only because of the Minister, but law enforcement agencies inputted into that and did disagree with that proposal. Thank you very much.

Ms M R MOHLALA: Minister, while you have outlined the drafting and consultation stages of SIU Amendment Bill, the Protected Disclosure Bill, and the NPA Act Amendments, you did not explain how your department is ensuring effective coordination across

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all law enforcement and oversight bodies to implement these measures. Can you clarify what concrete mechanism are in place to guarantee that these Bills, once passed, will lead to actual anti-corruption action and not remain on paper as mere legislation. Thanks so much.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Mohlala. It's not the issue... let me start first by saying, there are certain things you can't do when the law does not give you powers to do it. So that's why the amendments are important, so that they can give effect to the changes that we want, the recommendation, for example, from the Zondo Commission in terms of the commitments that the President has made. Secondly, in terms of the areas that we have identified, that's why we are introducing those legislation.

In terms of the current mechanism, for example, SIU and Asset Forfeiture Unit in the NPA, works collaboratively. For example, if you look at the Tembisa Hospital saga and how they've been able to take those assets, it was a joint effort between Asset Forfeiture Unit, in the NPA and SIU. So, there are many examples that we can give in terms of collaboration where you find that the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, DPCI, in the

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police would work together with NPA and SIU to be able to take other assets, preserve them, or even prosecute in terms of the work that needs to be done.

So, we're just saying in these Bills, what we want to see is that there are gaps that we have identified, for example, strengthening the powers of SIU beyond just dealing with state issues, but deal with holistic corruption in society.

Secondly, on NPA, it's particularly the issue of ensuring that NPA's financial and operations are independent, and therefore you can determine that the National Director of Public Prosecutions, NDPP, the chief executive officer, CEO, there becomes the accounting officer of the NPA.

And then again, when you look at the whistleblower, there isn't anything in the country currently that legislates the whistleblower protection. That's why there will be different issues, and this has been a public outcry. So, we know that once we enact that, it will protect whistleblowers, it will make sure that it's not only because they are witnesses to a case, but because they are providing information. And some of the proposal, hon member, if you would like to say, there are also

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people who are saying, let's look at and ... [Inaudible.] ... it, people. Let's look at how do we protect them? That will be there. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr M A MNCWANGO: Hon Minister, in light of the case of Mr Bongikosi Shoyisa, who was to be a key witness in the murder case of a senior municipal official from KwaNongoma in KwaZulu-Natal, KZN, and who was later found murdered inside a state witness protection safe house in 2018, how can the public have confidence in the implementation of the anti-corruption Bills, when witnesses essential to such prosecutions are not protected even within the very structures meant to safeguard them, and as such, resulting in cases collapsing due to their deaths?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Mncwango, while it's a new question, but let me deal with it. After the incidences where we had challenges in terms of witness protection houses, and also the mechanisms of witness protection. That's why now you have witness protection across the country in terms of region. The Minister does not get to see, to know who are the people that are actually in the witness and NPA, because it's linked to cases, they are responsible for

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this. And we are currently, as I say, finalizing the whistleblower protection Bill that will assist in protecting those who have information and all that.

Currently, we have made sure that we strengthen the weakness protection. That's why you'd see people are able to testify, for example, in many courts, they are able to testify even in commission. And it's provided for them, even offline. So, the mechanisms previously that would have made witnesses vulnerable have been implemented, hon Mncwango. That's why you can quote a case of 2018, because there isn't a recent case of a witness that has been killed in protection.

Question 1281:

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Thank you, hon Chair. Just to indicate Stages is an acronym for the Screen Talent and Global Entertainment Scheme, Stages. It is a new online visa platform for the creative sector, the film industry and other productions like this. It was published and activated in the *Government Gazette* on 10 November 2025. Federations, organisations and associations involved in facilitating film production that meet the selection criteria published in the *Gazette* and are interested in being considered for admission to Stages, have

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been invited to submit an expression of interest and supporting documents using the Stages link that is available from the department's website.

In terms of the next phase to fully operationalise the scheme, it involves evaluating, assessing and validating the submissions. This will be done like it was done for the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme by an interdepartmental committee comprising technical officials from the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of, Trade Industry and Competition, the Department of Arts and Culture and any other relevant department. The Stages' interdepartmental committee will, after assessing and validating the applications, make recommendations to myself on the admission to the programme. Applicants will be advised on the outcome of their applications within 30 working days from 10 November. Those federations, organisations and associations that are successfully admitted to Stages will be granted access to the dedicated visa application platform in digital form, which really will be able to ensure that we provide visa outcomes for this creative economic sector within 24 hours.

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According to the National Film and Video Foundation's 2020-2021 Economic Impact report, the total impact of the film industry on South African GDP is currently estimated to be about R1,08 billion. The report, however, further suggests that for every R1 of additional expenditure that comes from international film productions facilitated through something like Stages, an additional R2,82 of income is generated in the economy. In terms of employment, the report estimates that for every R1 million Stages generates in direct expenditure by production companies in South Africa, an average of 5,65 additional new jobs can be created annually. Thank you, Chair.

Mr A C ROOS: Thank you, House Chair. The formal establishment of the Stages visa scheme is a major milestone for South Africa's creative economy. It reflects a growing policy focus on using immigration as a driver of economic growth and international collaboration. Minister, what mechanisms will you put in place to guarantee predictable turnaround times, consistent processing across missions and real time monitoring so that delays are detected before they derail international productions?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Thank you chair, and to the hon Roos. Firstly, is that we are not doing anything new. We've

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already demonstrated with the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme that this approach of digitally raising the visa process is able to deliver outcomes within a very quick timeframe. As I said, I think we are averaging 24-hour turnaround time currently. So, it is the same mechanism that will now be extended to the creative economy as you've mentioned.

But of course, the linchpin of all of these is that we are eradicating the paper based and manual processes that previously led to massive delays in addition to issues of fraud and corruption. There was one case that I've cited before. Netflix actually ended up moving R400 million productions to Mexico, even though they wanted to bring it to South Africa, because of the delays that were involved in the visa process. It is a tried and tested model now. It is really another benefit of the focus on digital transformation that we have adopted as our apex priority. I'm confident that we will see similar results as we've seen with the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme.

I know the industry is very exciting. We've received some very positive feedback in terms of what the scheme can do to really take South Africa to the next level. We have everything we need to be a world-class and sought-after destination to create jobs

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in our production and creative industries. I think Stages really adds to the attraction of South Africa as that kind of destination. Thank you.

Mr J S NGUBANE: Thank you very much, hon Chair. Minister, the report and feedback you are giving us is false. Do you know that this so-called Visa International Film for Creative Professionals is contributing to the abuse and exploitation of South African creative industry since these international films never create any employment opportunities for local artists, but abusing them and even ignoring them or pay them what is called stipend while they pay themselves exorbitant salaries? The senior actors in South Africa become junior since they rate themselves higher than the South African actors. Now that you know that the so-called film tourism investment is led by exploitation: What is the Minister going to do about it? Most of the so-called employment creation visa granting is being abused by foreign internationals. The other examples on the lowest level of these are Uber eats, Pick n Pay, Sixty60 and Uber drivers in South Africa. Most or all of them employs 90% of illegal immigrant. Minister, what are you going to do with this system of yours that is has exploiting our labour market in South Africa? [Time expired.] Thank you, Chair.

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The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Thank you, Chair. That's quite a strange suggestion because Stages has not been implemented yet. So, I'm not quite sure how on earth it could be doing all these horrible things.

As I mentioned, we are still in the expressions of interest phase for those companies to come forward and indicate whether they want to use this system. But I think I would really encourage the hon member to go and Google the National Film and Video Foundation report for economic impact on the South African film industry. All the research and the numbers are there. I think in a country like ours the real labour exploitation is high unemployment rate – an unemployment rate of over 30% that is exploitation. That is what we should all focus on. It is the apex priority of the government of national unity, GNU, to generate economic growth and reduce unemployment. I am quite encouraged that South Africa's booming creative sector is going to get another boost on the international stage by making sure that we attract these big productions to South Africa. Thank you.

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Thanks, House Chair. In terms of predictable timelines given historic delays in specialised visa categories:

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What specific operational changes beyond digitisation is being applied to ensure that Stages applications are processed within the timelines? Thanks.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Thank you, Chair and to the hon Mkhaliipi. The first important point to make is that there is a dedicated team that works initially on the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme, but now also on the Stages initiative. It has dedicated capacity really around the clock. It is also something that is monitored on a continuous basis to ensure that we do meet those standards. I think the feedback from the operators who have participated in the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme, TTOS, which works on the same principle as Stages, will give the House comfort that these turnaround times are indeed going to be met.

I think the hon member raises an important question because it actually extends beyond this particular scheme. Of course, we want to meet turnaround times across the board. Again, the mechanisms to get there is really to automate as much of the process as possible. I think that that is ultimately where all of these kinds of initiatives lead us towards an electronic travel authorisation, ETA, which is a fully automated system that operates very much like the SA Revenue Service's tax filing

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system to remove those kinds of delays and manual processes. That's the direction we are going overall. I think Stages once again takes us closer to that. Thank you, Chair.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Ndza khensa, Mutshamxitulu ...

English:

... this is a very wealthy intervention. I want to check if there is a similar intervention that you would introduce especially in the professional football space, given the number of international players that professional teams sign, and also the naturalisation of players that have been playing their trade in South Africa for more than five years. At times it takes more than six months to be processed and finalised. I just want to check if you will extend this kind of regime to the other industries like football.

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa swinene, Mutshamxitulu.

English:

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The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Thank you chair. I am sorry that my video is not working because the hon Gana would have seen the smile on my face. He's asking exactly the right question. The answer is, yes, there is a very similar scheme that we are developing for international artists and sports people to also facilitate South Africa's standing as a global destination for those types of events. So, absolutely this approach I think has been proven to be a success. We started with the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme. We are now moving to the creative industries. Indeed, then sports and arts and culture will become one of the next spaces that we would like to extend this to.

In terms of naturalisation, that is an established process that is provided for in law. So, that will not really be affected by this. But certainly, our ability to attract international artists, sporting coaches and sports people will receive a big boost once we roll-out that as the next phase of real our contribution to making sure that we pursue that goal of growing our economy in every way that we possibly can and really positioning Home Affairs through technology as that kind of economic enablers.

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Thank you to the hon Gana for the question, and this is one of those that could have ended with a simple word, yes. I think that's encouraging. Thank you.

Question 1317:

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Chair, there are two aspects to this question. The first one dealing with the Anti-Corruption Forum, ACF. I just want to indicate that the question is quite contradictory because the establishment of the Border Management and Immigration Anti-Corruption Forum, BMIACF, is itself an expression of the clampdown on long-standing corruption within the sector.

The forum was not established as a single once-off event, but as a permanent strategic platform to deal with this problem. Its primary objective is to foster a collaborative, multi-agency approach to identify, prevent and combat corruption within the border management and immigration environment.

Hon members may recall that prior to its launch, efforts by individual departments such as the Department of Home Affairs, DHA, the Special Investigating Unit, SIU, the SA Police Service, SAPS, the State Security Agency, SSA, and the National

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Prosecuting Authority, NPA, as well as the Border Management Authority, BMA, were often siloed. The forum now breaks down those silos to ensure a unified and intelligence-driven national response to the sophisticated syndicates that operate within the space.

When this forum was launched earlier this year, I warned that South Africa, in the wake of state capture, is increasingly a syndicate society. It's one of the consequences of the state capture that we saw under the leadership of the leader of the party, of the member who posed this question. We are now dealing with it in a very systematic way. It is in recognition of this fact that we have to fight these entrenched syndicates and the pursuit of corrupt officials, that it requires complex and meticulous evidence-based work, that this ecosystem has really taken the lead in using the forum to drive disciplinary action and prosecutions.

Chair, briefly, in terms of statistics, 25 officials have been dismissed from the BMA since I assumed office. Eleven more have been arrested and there are a number of additional cases underway. Dismissals at the DHA are now over 30 individual cases. Clearly, the fruits are there for all to see.

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Chair, the second part of the question, the ongoing project to upgrade the Electronic Movement Control System, EMCS, that I mentioned earlier includes its integration with the Electronic Travel Authorisation, ETA. The ETA is designed to replace the manual visa process with a fully digital end-to-end solution that automates the immigration processing lifecycle. Once a traveller's authorisation is completed electronically and their facial biometrics is linked to the upgraded EMCS 2.0 that I mentioned, port officials will be able to verify the traveller's details instantly through facial recognition, thus finalising processing more efficiently. These will all contribute to clearing the delays that the question raises. Thank you, Chair.

Ms M B B MUHAMMAD: Minister, I don't know if you heard of the phrase, "People in glass houses should not throw stones." But anyway, thanks for your response. Can you please explain why no high-level arrests or dismissals have followed the many whistleblowers' reports on visa fraud? What consequent management has actually taken place since the forum's launch, and can you give the House one single example of a syndicate disrupted under your watch? Also, has the department conducted any audits to determine how many officials are involved in

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permit and visa bribery schemes? And if so, why are those findings still not public? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Chair, I would ... suggest that someone who is in a party led by Jacob Zuma, they live in a glass house, and they should be very careful to throw stones. I think the hon member must heed her own advice. Chair, I mentioned some of the numbers, but let me indicate them again.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon members, hon members, please, can we listen to the response? Hon members, can we please listen to the response? Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Chair, just to reiterate some of the concrete statistics that the member is asking for. Since the start of this Administration, 25 officials have been dismissed from the BMA. Eleven have been arrested for acts of misconduct relating to corruption. There are a number of additional cases underway, and that is not even including over 30 officials that have been fired from the DHA, as well as I think eight different prosecutions that have been secured in the home affairs environment as well, some of them relating indeed to the immigration space.

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Chair, I think the premise is simply flawed. We have never seen the speed and urgency at which these cases are being finalised, as we are currently seeing being done across the BMA and DHA. Indeed, the work of Dr Lubisi's multidisciplinary task team, the work of the SIU, these are all things that have been consolidated into this forum and this co-ordinated strategy, and these are yielding the fruits that we are now seeing. Thank you.

Mr A C ROOS: House Chair, this is another whopper from the MK. I find it incredible, baffling to suggest that the Minister has not taken action to clamp down on corruption. We've heard in our own committee meetings, where hon Muhammad was present, that 54 officials from the DHA and the BMA have been dismissed for corruption or misconduct. Eight individuals have been convicted and sentenced to prison, terms ranging from four years to 18 years imprisonment.

Prosecutions against another 19 officials are underway.

Minister, my question is, how will the digitisation of entry and exit points assist with tackling illegal immigration? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Chair, I think our approach to dealing with these syndicates and with corruption is twofold,

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and it's really worth emphasising again. On the one hand, there's accountability and all of the things that we have just been discussing around arrests, people being dismissed and the work of the SIU in collaboration with this forum. So that is one key part of the equation.

The other key part of the equation is to close the loopholes that these corrupt individuals and syndicates exploit. That is where the hon member's question is relevant because once we remove that discretion from officials, once we close down the space for people to manipulate pieces of paper or manipulate and delay processes so that they can solicit a bribe or something of the like, that is the moment when we are systematically closing the loopholes for corruption.

I've said it before; you cannot bribe a computer. Once you arrive at a border post or in any other context to apply for a smart identity document, ID, or whatever the case may be, once that process is fully automated and there is no longer any space for you to manipulate or distort that particular process, that is the day in which we will have truly won the fight.

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Accountability is a critical part of our approach, but just as important are those systematic changes to know that once someone has been fired or convicted for one of these offences, that you're also then closing the door behind them to make sure that no one else can use that same loophole in the future to commit these kind of offences against our country. Thank you.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Minister, what budget has been allocated to anti-corruption operations within the BMA and is it sufficient to dismantle organised syndicates? Can the Minister confirm whether the digitisation project will include biometric integration, and how this will prevent repeat fraudulent visa applications?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Hon Chair, I don't have the budget figure with me, but I can tell you honestly that it won't be sufficient to fully dismantle and enforce accountability because of the earlier reference that I made to the BMA's chronic underfunding. But we are grateful to see that in the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, MTBPS, that was delivered by the Minister of Finance recently, that there is some additional money in the pipeline for the BMA. I think that will begin to assist us with exactly capacitating these kinds of functions.

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Secondly, Chair, on the integration of biometrics, yes, absolutely. I think the question specifically referred to duplications or fraudulent applications, etc. There is very powerful technology that we are really leading the world on, that we are developing and pushing that will enable us to do verifications using facial recognition, where we are now not only checking someone's face against their own record in our database, but where we're able to check that face against every record in our database and do that instantly. You can imagine our ability to detect duplicates or records that have been manipulated through technology like that is very powerful indeed.

This is something that is already being utilised in the ETA process as well as our new citizenship confirmation portal. This is going to be expanded into the digital ID space as we move forward. So indeed, a very powerful tool to pick up on that kind of duplications and manipulations within the system. Thank you, Chair.

Ms B E MACHI: House Chairperson, hon Minister, given the persistent reports of officials facilitating fraudulent permits, despite the establishment of the ACF, what specific

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investigative or disciplinary measures have you initiated to ensure accountability with border and immigration services? If not, why not? If so, what are the relevant details? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Chair, if you'll allow me, I wouldn't like to repeat those numbers a third time. I think the question has been adequately answered in terms of the accountability measures that are being implemented. Of course, if the hon member has any specific cases that she's referring to, then she's most welcome to bring that forward. But I would submit that that question has been answered. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majazi): Hon members, the three hours allocated for questions today has expired. Outstanding replies received will be printed in Hansard. We will now take the questions standing over in terms of Rule 1441, and as previously indicated, an additional 30 minutes will be added to today's question time for this purpose.

I now take Question 1040, which has been asked by the hon M A Maimane to the Minister of Basic Education. The question is about the total number of learners that are expected to write the 2025 National Senior Certificate examinations and how many

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from the original Grade 1 cohort will not be writing the specified examinations. The hon Minister.

QUESTIONS STANDING OVER FROM CLUSTER 2: SOCIAL SERVICES ON

WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025, IN TERMS OF RULE 144(1)

Question 1040:

The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: House Chairperson, the Department of Basic Education has advised that 766 543 full-time candidates had been registered to write. A total of 137 018 part-time candidates were registered to write. This represents 903 561 candidates across all provinces. I'm also advised that based on the original Grade 1 cohort ... 1 235 901 learners and 466 ... 9 000 learners from that cohort will not be writing the full-time National Senior Certificate, NSC, in 2025.

These numbers must be interpreted carefully to avoid a common misunderstanding. The assumption that all learners who are not in the NSC full-time cohort have dropped out is factually incorrect. Many learners move into other legitimate pathways in the education system. Learners transition to Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET, colleges or technical

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or occupational schools of skill, community colleges or pursue the NSC through part-time registration.

Others move to independent schools that write the Independent Examinations Board, IEB, or the SA Comprehensive Assessment Institute, Sacai, exams, and these learners remain within the broader education system even if they are not counted in the public school full-time NSC figures.

It's also important to note that some learners progress through the schooling system at different speeds due to grade repetition, subject changes and personal circumstances. These patterns are not exceptional. They are typical in any schooling system.

The department continues to strengthen its learner tracking tools to make sure that we understand where all learners are going.

However, more importantly, we are tackling the long-term factors that influence progression, retention and successful completion. These include making sure that we strengthen the foundation of learning, improve attendance and participation, ensure access to

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the School Nutrition Programme, reduce financial and social barriers to no-fee schools, ensure that pregnancy does not result in permanent school exit, improve access to textbooks, professionalise early childhood development, ECD, improve Grade R readiness, expand mother-tongue-based bilingual education, and review the post-provision norms to strengthen foundations of teaching.

Our focus is to ensure that every learner, regardless of the pathway they choose, remains within the education system and emerges with a meaningful qualification or skill. Thank you.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Chair, I will take and ask the supplementary questions. Minister, given the number of learners who sat for the 2025 examination cycle, and given the numbers that you've just shared, what lessons has the department drawn from the exam cycle regarding system readiness, regarding the learners that ultimately did sit, and what are the ways and what will inform improvements for the 2026 academic year, but also more broadly, what will inform improvements to the education system itself, particularly now for high school learners that are preparing for the next coming years of the matric examinations?

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The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: The hon member is quite right and I think it's a very valuable question because it's very important, as I indicated, that we don't just look at numbers in the very narrow sense of it. She's asking a question concerning what lessons we have drawn from this cohort.

Firstly, one of the key things that I think has been learnt is that in order to keep learners in school for longer and to retain them in schools, and to avoid grade repetitions to the point where some children are too old to even be in a particular class, we have to make sure that we are strengthening the system from the ground up. We have to make sure that not only things, for instance such as school safety, school nutrition ... these are all things that contribute to children being able to progress.

Also, one of the things that we need to do and ensure, particularly for high school children, is to support them, particularly in the uptake for mathematics and science, because we do believe that the drop in the participation of mathematics and science is a cause for concern.

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So while ... Of course we want to strengthen the foundations of learning, because regardless of whatever you do in the higher phases, if you don't focus on the foundations, you're not dealing with the cause.

However, ultimately, those learners who are now in the system must be supported. Provinces have what we call the maths, science and technology grant. All of those things are designed to make sure that we're not only making learners pass, but that they are passing with quality and with quality skills, so that they can either go to university, to technical colleges, but not just simply pass for the sake of it.

So, I think the key lessons have been that you've got to strengthen the system from the ground up. However, at the same time, you can't not support learners who are already in the system effectively. Thanks.

Mr S T D LOUW: What progress has been made in integrating the learner-tracking system with other departments such as Higher Education, Labour and Home Affairs, in order to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of where the learners transition to? Thank you.

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The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: Another excellent question, House Chair. In fact, when we announced the matric results at the beginning of the year, one of the things that I undertook in saying to the nation was that it's very, very important that we as an education system do not simply say, as the hon Maimane asked, this is how many learners have started and these are the learners that have exited.

We need to have accurate data of the learners that started in Grade 1 or in Grade R in 2025 or 2026, and what specifically happens to those learners by the time they get to Grade 12. If they leave the system because they go into a TVET college, that's fine, but we need to account for that.

We need to be able to come to you and account and say, we know for a fact that a third of the learners that are no longer writing the NSC exams have gone to TVET colleges, we know some of them have gone to technical schools, we know some of them have gone to private ... to write the IEB.

So, the hon member asks, what are we doing? Minister Manamela and I are working very closely to make sure that both our departments align with their numbers, because one of the

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unintended consequences of having two separate departments is that the way in which we collect data and the way they were collecting data were not speaking to each other.

So, we've since established a technical team from both our departments to make sure that there's a seamless transition of learners in the education system, because ultimately, this is one education system. It's not Higher Education or the Department of Basic Education, DBE.

So, it's important that we know where our learners are so that when hon Webster asks me where these learners went if they're not writing matric, we need to be able to accurately reflect exactly where they have gone to.

So, that's an undertaking we've made and I'm pleased to say that there's progress that has been made with that, hon member Louw. In the announcement of the matric results this next year, we will be able to account fully.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Minister, since the question is in relation to international relations where you compare this question ...

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IsiZulu:

... awusitshele ntombi u-30% lo ophasa ngazo izingane
niwufundephi ...

English:

... which country also applies the same 30% mark as we are doing
in South Africa?

The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: Thank you very much, hon member. I'm glad that the hon member has asked this question, because it's an important one. The reason why it's an important one is because, firstly, there is a tendency to make this a populist debate. I welcome the scrutiny by this House in asking the question whether the assessment requirements for children are at an internationally comparable state. We welcome the scrutiny by this House, but to make it a populist decision and to make it a populist debate is wrong because there's nobody ... Well, allow me to finish. Allow me to finish. No!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon members, hon members, can you please allow the Minister to finish.

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Ms H O MKHALIPHI: No, Chair, please protect us as well. We can't be viewed as people who are populist. This is very serious. A 30% mark! Where ... [Inaudible.] ... please.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon MkhaliPhi? Hon MkhaliPhi?

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: There's nothing populist about it. It's a serious matter. Or don't you want ... [Inaudible.] ... who speaks like you?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon MkhaliPhi!

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: You don't want ... [Inaudible.] ... who speaks like you?

The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: That is unnecessary ... [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon MkhaliPhi, I am protecting you by saying, can we allow ... Hon members! Hon members!

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The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: ... [Inaudible.] ... No, you don't ... [Inaudible.] ... and how I speak like that.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majazi): Hon members? Hon Minister, please do not engage in that. I want to give you an opportunity to respond to the question. There is absolutely no need to respond to hon Mkhali. Please. I am protecting you by saying, can we allow the Minister to finish and see whether she really does answer the question. Please. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: Hon Chair, thank you very much. You're right. I shouldn't engage. It is incorrect to claim that there are children in South Africa who pass with 30%. That's why I'm saying to you that this is a populist way of dealing with the results.

We have repeatedly ... repeatedly explained that out of the 800 000 learners who wrote the NSC exams, those who met the basic requirement are less than 200. To then claim that you need only 30% in South Africa to pass the NSC exams is a false equivalent.

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We have said that simply saying you're raising the bar and saying we're going to increase ... to 50% when you're not dealing with the root causes ... when eight out of 10 children in this country cannot read for meaning, you are not fixing the root causes.

If you are serious about improving education, which I really want this House to be, if you are serious about improving education, then you are going to support our efforts to make sure that the foundations of learning are strong, that the foundations at the beginning are strong, and ultimately ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majazi): Hon members? Hon Minister, can you please pause? Hon members? Hon members? Hon members, order! Hon members! Hon members? Hon members, especially on my left. Hon members? Hon members? Hon Mkhali, no, please. No ...

IsiZulu:

... angithi ...

English:

... you are conversing and I'm addressing the House. Please.

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The Minister hasn't finished responding yet and ... the way you are howling, other members cannot even hear what the Minister is saying. I, seated here, cannot hear what the Minister is saying. Can we allow ...

We ask questions because we want responses. However, if we're not going to afford Ministers ... to respond, then we're not fitting ... the purpose of the Question and answer session to Ministers. Can we please allow the Minister to finish? Continue, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: Additionally, Chair, as I have indicated before, I want to assure this House that I have appointed a body of experts that is going to look at the criteria of assessments, not just only in Grade 12, because that's not how you fix an education system ... all the way from Grade R all the way to Grade 12. They are going to examine whether or not our assessment criteria is globally comparable.

However, what we cannot do is reduce this debate to where it must be politicians who must determine what needs to happen. We have to be evidence-based and led in our response to the crisis

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of our education system. Allow the experts ... [Inaudible.]

[Time expired.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon members ...

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Chair, please note my hand. Chair, please note my hand.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Webster, you could have simply raised your hand. I would have noted. There's absolutely no need to open the microphone. Do you want me to note you or are you raising a point of order? Okay, what is your point of order?

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Chair, I raised my hand for a long time. The point of order is on Rule 142 about relevance ... of answers. I think it's an important question on global reference that has informed the 30% and I would like the Minister to answer that.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): I think the Minister made reference to the international ... unless ... Let me just afford her 30 seconds to maybe do that.

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The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: Chair, as I ... [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): No, hon members! I can use my discretion in affording the Minister ... and yet you are howling again. I will just tell the Minister to sit down and then we'll continue. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: Hon House Chair, as I indicated, the experts who are looking at this work will look at whether or not our assessments are globally comparable and whether or not children are leaving school with the requisite assessments, and I think the House will be pleased to know that once this work is done, we will make it public. We will come and table it here in this House. We remain open.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you very much, hon Minister. The last supplementary question will be asked by hon Thring. Hon Thring?

Mr W M THRING: Chair, there's no supplementary question on my part with regard to this question. Thank you.

Question 1010:

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The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: Thank you, House Chair. Thank you, hon member. Our starting point, I think, is quite clear, Chairperson, that children must be safe, they must be informed, they must be empowered from the early years of development. Age-appropriate, developmentally sensitive sexuality education plays an essential role in protecting young children, particularly from abuse and exploitation and harm.

The department uses UNESCO's International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education, which begin at age five. Since children in Early Childhood Development, ECD, centres are often younger than this age, what the department does is that it works with organizations such as the Teddy Bear Foundation, Ilifa Labantwana, and others to equip ECD practitioners with the appropriate tools to teach body autonomy, recognizing unsafe behaviour, and how to seek help. So, we are equipping the practitioners to be able to pick up whether or not children are being abused or sexually harassed or abused at home.

This is not adult content. The content that children will consume after age five is not adult content. It's about protection, it's about safety, and it's about early identification of abuse.

It's an essential part of a whole-of-government approach in combating the rising levels of violence against children. If I may emphasize this, sexual abuse cannot be excused anywhere, not in schools, not in homes, and not in communities. The harm that children experience does not begin and end in a classroom.

It often extends to what happens in the community at large, and so that's why the Department of Basic Education is working with other departments to make sure that we do this work. We are strengthening our training for ECD practitioners, improving support for centres dealing with abuse disclosures, and ensuring referral pathways to social development, health, and the SA Police Service to make sure that we are responsive. Our responsibility is quite simple, keeping young children safe, informed, protected, however, without exposing them to information that is not age appropriate. Thank you.

Mr S T D LOUW: Thank you, House Chair. How has the department established a support framework to empower parents and guardians to actively promote children's safety and bodily autonomy?

IsiXhosa:

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UMPHATHISWA WEMFUNDO ESISISEKO: Yile nto kanye bendiyithetha le, ingakumbi kubantwana abangaphantsi kweminyaka emihlanu. Ikakhulu, kufuneka sixhobise ootitshala basenkulisa ukuze bakwazi ukuqaphela umntwana xa ebonisa iimpawu zokuxhatshazwa.

English:

Ultimately, we cannot combat ...

IsiXhosa:

... umcimbi wobundlobongela bokuxhatshazwa kwabantwana ngokwezesondo ...

English:

... on our own. We have to form a partnership ...

IsiXhosa:

... nabazali. Abazali kufuneka bayazi into yokuba xa utitshala wasenkulisa ...

English:

... is raising issues with them ...

IsiXhosa:

... kufuneka bamamele neengcebiso zokuba siyixela phi into enje. Ingaba siya kwiSebe lezoPhuhliso loLuntu, kwiSebe lezeMpilo okanye emapoliseni ...

English:

... so that we can make sure that we have successful prosecutions. The greatest tragedies, Chair and hon Louw, is that in our sector while we have SAPS to report sexual violence, successful prosecutions are very rare because ...

IsiXhosa:

... sisebenza nabantwana okanye iintsapho ezingafuni ukuza ngaphambili emapoliseni zinike ubungqina obufanelekileyo. Ngoko ke, asizukwazi ukuyilwa le nto singabafakanga abazali. Abazali ...

English:

... are critical in the combating of abuse against children.

IsiZulu:

Nk H O MKHALIPI: Abazali bayingxenye vele yesikole ...

English:

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... SGB parenting. So, if you are saying that you are going to involve parents, in what way because they are already there? So please, just tell us what the plans of the department are to deal with the scourge of raping kids in school because you cannot be telling us parents are already stakeholders in many ways?

The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: Thank you very much, hon member. Remember, the question referred to ECD. So, what it referred to was zero to five-year-olds. But what I did was generously explain what we do beyond those who are five-year-olds. So, let me explain again. I think it's best explaining because the hon member's question is a very important one. We have been dealing with the scourge of sexual violence in our schools in an unprecedented way. In fact, I am pleased today, hon member, that you have given an opportunity for me to actually inform this House that as of today, we have cleared all 60 sexual predators who were found on the Sexual Offenders Register as a department.

Well yes, this is a commendable way of moving forward, it's still not enough. We still need to make sure that in our

schools' children are safe. In our schools' teachers are not the very same predator.

So, on the one hand, we are making sure that we are working with justice to make sure that the Sexual Offenders Register is updated. So, we can consistently check against it. But when we are dealing with ECD, and you are right, School Governing Bodies, SGBs are an integral part of a school community, but with ECD, because there are no school governing bodies, what we are saying is that ...

IsiXhosa:

... intsebenziswano yomzali notitshala wasenkulisa ...

English:

... have to be much closer on a one-on-one basis ...

IsiXhosa:

... ukwenzela ukuba ...

English:

... if the practitioner is the one that identifies ...

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IsiXhosa:

... ukuba umntwana udlwenguliwe, akwazi ukuthetha nomzali kwaye siyabaxhobisa ootitshala ...

English:

... to know where they go when they find this kind of abuse. But when we are talking about schools in general, I could not agree with you more. It is a crisis, and it is a crisis that I really hope that this House can help us fight as all as leaders, because this is a societal issue. But as I said, I am pleased to inform you today that those we found on the Register who were still teachers have today been fired by the operation of law.

Dr W J BOSHOFF: Thank you, Chair. I would like to ask the Minister, during the previous administration there were documents which were quite disconcerting about the age-appropriateness of the material which was prepared at that stage, and then there was also a list of international institutions, whatever you want to call it, who were involved in drafting this and even provided the money for the studies. I would like to know who are the partners, or are there external partners, or who are the people working and drafting these documents? Thank you, Minister and Chair.

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The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: Thank you very much, hon member. As I indicated, we are working with the UNESCO's International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education, and I think you raise an important point because sometimes there's a misunderstanding when we are teaching children about this kind of work. People often think that it's ideological work or we are teaching children about sexuality, and that's not what is happening.

What we are doing is, we are teaching children about bodily autonomy, we are teaching children about how to identify when they have been sexually abused, how to report, and all of those things are pretty critical in terms of how we make sure that children are protected from sexual violence. It does not in any way overstep and talk about sexuality and other things, so this in particular that we are talking about is guided by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisations, UNESCO, and it's an internationally acclaimed way of teaching children about their safety. As I indicated, our primary goal here is to make sure that children are safe, and if they do experience sexual violence, they know what's appropriate, what's not appropriate, how adults should be teaching them, and how adults should not be teaching them.

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So, then it allows us then to have early detection of abuse, and if a child is abused then we can take this up with the SA Police Service, but it really does just deal with the issue of safety of children and less about sexuality education.

IsiZulu:

Mnu I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Malibongwe!

English:

Hon Minister, would your department consider digitalising the programme and put it in the hands of parents in the privacy and comfort of their home providing data and positioning the new programme as part of the UNICEF's Strengthening Parenting programme, which is already digitalising? Religious spaces such as churches and mosques and places of worship, etcetera, will only be so happy to offer or grant safe spaces as well.

Educators should not be assigned to give sex education to learners. This should be undertaken by the parents and relevant caregivers. Thank you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION: Thank you very much, hon member. I must say that's an excellent idea of being able to provide material to parents to be able to do this kind of work,

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because as I was saying to, hon Mkhalihi, parents are critical to this kind of fight. If we are making them partners, particularly at ECD level, then they can have these conversations with their children, not only in the comfort of their own home, but also in a language that they are comfortable with, in a manner in which that they are comfortable with. So, this is important.

I think it's an excellent idea, one that I intend to take forward. But we must also make sure that it's not just about digitalisation, because if you look at particularly in places like rural areas, for instance, parents may not be able to access these things online.

So, I think that your idea is an inspired one that we should be able to offer a wide range of resources for parents as well, not just the practitioners, so that we can make the parent a far closer ally in fighting sexual abuse in our schools. So, thank you very much for the idea. I think it's an excellent one.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you, hon members. That brings us to the end of the allocated time for the 30

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minutes that were outstanding on the questions. I will now allow the Secretary to read the first order.

PUBLIC SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL

(Consideration of Bill and of Report thereon)

There was no debate.

Mr J N DE VILLIERS: Chair, today marks an important step towards fixing the engine of the state. The Public Service Amendment Bill is not merely a technical adjustment to legislation. It is a structural reform that goes to the heart of how this country is governed. As the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration, we welcome this Bill because it restores clarity, accountability, and professionalism to the public service.

For far too long, the line between politics and administration has been blurred. This has weakened institutions, created uncertainty for managers, and ultimately harmed service delivery to millions of South Africans who depend on efficiency and an impartial state. Our public administration cannot succeed when

senior managers lack the authority to manage their departments, when accountability is diffused, or when political pressures interfere with the day-to-day operations.

This Bill provides the public service reform we urgently need. One of the most important provisions is clause 4, which establishes mandatory delegation of authority to heads of department. Head of departments, HODs, will now have clear and undisputed authority over recruitment, appointments, transfers, performance management, and other administrative powers. This removes the ambiguity that allowed politicians to interfere in operational decisions and empowers professionals to manage departments effectively. It also means the HODs can finally be held fully accountable for the results that they must deliver.

Closely linked to this is clause 16, which limits the political rights of HODs and their direct reports. Senior administrators will no longer be allowed to hold political office or engage in political campaigning. This ensures that those entrusted with managing the machinery of the state are focused on running departments, not running for office. It protects both the integrity of the civil service and the stability required for

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long-term planning. Politicians set the direction. Public service professionals must deliver the results.

These changes bring South Africa in line with countries that have successfully separated politics from administration. Botswana's merit-based bureaucracy remains one of the strongest on the continent. Singapore's professional public service enables decades of rapid development. South Korea, Rwanda, and the United Kingdom all used similar reforms to modernize their states, improve service delivery, and rebuild public trust. The lesson is clear. Where administrators are empowered to manage and are shielded from political pressures, institutions become stronger, more stable, and more effective. The urgency of reform cannot be overstated.

Our committee has repeatedly seen how overlapping political and administrative authority feels inefficiency. Ministers currently have the space to meddle in administrative decisions. Managers lack the authority to discipline, recruit, or restructure. Essential services break down because accountability is blurred and leadership is fragmented. Citizens pay the price through failing hospitals, collapsing infrastructure, and the slow erosion of confidence in government. This Bill helps close those

gaps. It gives South Africa a professional, impartial, and responsive public administration, as required by our Constitution. It strengthens efficiency through clearer roles, enhances accountability by empowering HODs, protecting neutrality during political transitions, and improves stability in coalition environments, something increasingly important in our evolving democracy.

Colleagues, the choice before us is stark. Without reform, political interference will continue. Service delivery failures will remain unresolved, and institutional instability will persist. With reform, we commit to a state run on merit, not political loyalty. We build a professional public service that serves the country, not parties or personalities. May we lay a stronger foundation for rebuilding trust between our citizens and the government.

This Bill is not simply legislation. It is an opportunity for South Africa for a second chance, a chance to restore the professionalism of our public service, strengthen accountability, and deliver the quality of administration that our people deserve. Our committee therefore welcomes this Public

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Service Amendment Bill and calls on all members to support it. I thank you.

Mr G J SKOSANA: House Chair, I move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

Declarations of Votes:

Ms E R J SPIES: Hon House Chair and hon members, today we consider the Public Service Amendment Bill and the committee report and in doing so, we confront a defining question for our democracy. Will we continue down the path of institutional decline, or will we begin rebuilding a Public Service that is competent, corruption resistant, and genuinely committed to serving the people of South Africa? Imagine a Public Service staffed by qualified professionals appointed on merit, a workforce that reflects excellence rather than political favour. That is what this Bill attempts to, to draw a clear line between governance and politics and to rebuild an ethical, capable state Public Service that puts citizens first. The Democratic Alliance supports the principle of professionalising the Public Service, but we must place on record several concerns that remain unresolved.

Chairpersons, South Africans continue to suffer because the government has failed to separate party politics from public administration. From cadre deployment exposed by the Zondo Commission to collapsing municipalities staffed through political patronage, the pattern is clear. When politicians handpick administration, service delivery dies.

While this Bill moves in the right direction, it does not go far enough. We still lack explicit enforceable safeguards to stop political office bearers from influencing senior appointments, shortlisting, or disciplinary processes. The DA has been consistent.

You cannot professionalise the Public Service while cadre deployment remains alive. The Bill proposes mechanisms to strengthen mobility, accountability, and performance management of HODs and DGs. These steps are welcome. However, without transparent and fair guidelines, the mobility framework risks creating further instability instead of strengthening capacity. We already know the consequences. Senior officials suspended on full pay for years while departments deteriorate.

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Chairperson, the DA has repeatedly requested clarity on critical issues. Who will manage the central register for disciplinary cases? What independent oversight will verify the information and how will the manipulation of records for political convenience be prevented? Without clear answers, disciplinary processes remain vulnerable to inconsistency and selective enforcement. We welcome the incremental strengthening of the Public Service Commission's function, but let us be honest, the PSC cannot protect public servants from intimidation unless it is fully independent, properly funded and insulated from political influence. South Africans deserve a watchdog with real authority, not one that must seek permission before acting.

House Chair, our citizens are not interested in technical amendments. They care about outcomes. Will clinics have nurses who are present, supported, and resourced? Will police stations be staffed by trained personnel rather than political placeholders? Will teachers and principals receive the administrative support they need? A professional public service is not a luxury. It is a difference between dignity and suffering, between opportunity and hopelessness, between a capable state and a failing one. The DA supports any genuine

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effort to build a fit-for-purpose, apolitical, merit-based administration.

We support the reforms that prioritise skills, experience and integrity above loyalty, and we support measures that protect honest public servants from political abuse. But we remain unwavering. Until creative diplomacy is abolished, political interference is criminalised, and until the PSC can act with favour, South Africans will not achieve the capable state our Constitution envisions.

Chairperson, this Bill marks progress, but not perfection. It is a step forward, not a destination. The Democratic Alliance will continue to champion reforms that build such a state, and we will continue to oppose any effort, legislative or otherwise, that keeps political hands-on administrative levers. With these concerns noted, the Democratic Alliance supports the adoption of the Public Service Amendment Bill and the committee report. I thank you.

Ms M C MAFAGANE: Chair, before the mighty MK comes in, I just want to rise on a point of clarity. Chairperson, the DA and the ANC are government, so MK should be speaking before the DA, not

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the other way around. So, can I ask that you fix it with the programming that the MK must always speak first as the official opposition? Thank you very much.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon members, it is unfortunate that I cannot solve the problem for you, but MK also sits in the Rules Committee, you also sit in the Chief Whip's Forum, you also sit in programming. So, when all these decisions are taken, the MK is there and when the format of declaration was made, the MK was there.

So, it was supposed to be raised at that time, not now. And even if they are a government, I think the proportionality here speaks that the second largest and so forth, and then we go accordingly. That is why the MK then is given four minutes. So, we're not going to have this discussion. You'll take it up at the Rules Committee or at programming as the Chief Whip's Forum would do.

Mr J S MALINGA: Hon Speaker, the MK Party as the official opposition rises to state firmly that the Public Service Amendment Bill returned from the NCOP with amendments remains far from the reform South Africans desperately need. Let us not

mislead the public. The amendments before us today are largely cosmetic.

They are just definition, correct grammar, and replace must with shall. These technical improvements are welcome, but they do nothing to address the structural collapse of the Public Service. Clarity is not reform.

IsiZulu:

Insumansumane le ekhulunywa namhlanje.

English:

Clarity is not reform. Cleaning up wedding, head of department, political office, party secretary, and executive may assist the legal precision, but South African did not vote for TIDA drafting. They voted for a capable, de-politicised, and ethical Public Service. The Bill does not deliver that. Cadre deployment ...

IsiZulu:

... isiphelelwe yisikhathi.

English:

Allow ministerial overreach, blast the line between the politics direction and administrative authority, fail to prevent political deployment, offer no protection for whistleblowers, and lead DG and HOD exposed to political manipulations. These are the very fault lines that have produced a decade of dysfunction. This Bill does not close them. The ANC-led government has hallowed out the administration. The GNU ministers have dismally failed to make any impact. It's like they don't exist.

The roads continue, unfunded vacancies, must ... as real post, years of acting appointment, collapsing performance standard, a demoralised workforce, and a Public Service Commission which is hand tied behind its back. Public Service Commission ...

IsiZulu:

... izingelisa unogatsha kagesi.

English:

The Bill does not fix performance accountability. It does not strengthen the PSC. It does not enforce merit-based appointments. It does not secure administration independence.

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It leaves the article of a wicked state completely in fact. As the official opposition, we place on record that we reject the idea that technical cleans up equally meaningful reform. We want that living political interference intact, keep corruption alive.

We assert that South Africa needs a Public Service Act that shields administration from politics, not one that simply rewrites definition. We insist that real reform requires empowered institutions, enforceable ethics, and a clear farewell between the politics and the Public Service. South Africa deserves a Public Service that is professionally capable and insulated from political abuse.

The bill even with the NCOP amendment does not move us close to that vision. It is a ... exercise that avoids the real problem while the collapse of state capacity continues to rob our people of dignity. The MK Party will continue to fight for a true independent, ethical, and high-performance Public Service.

IsiZulu:

Sithi Sihlalo ake kuyobhekisiswa kahle kungadlalwa ngabantu baseNingizimu Afrika.

English:

I thank you.

Ms H O MKHALIPI: House Chair, the EFF supports the Public Service Amendment Bill. This reform is long overdue and presents a necessary step towards building a Public Service that is professional, ethical, efficient, and protected from political interference, especially at a municipal level.

For decades, the public services have been paralysed by the lines between political and administrative authority. Senior managers are too often appointed for loyalty instead of competency, resulting in weak accountability and chronic failures in service delivery. This bill begins to correct these systemic problems.

We particularly welcome three key reforms, but we were just going to be preferred if it's radical reforms. But nevertheless, firstly, the devolution of administrative powers to heads of departments introduces a clear separation between policy direction and implementation. Executive authorities will set strategy and heads of departments will be directly accountable

for execution. This will end the habitual blame shifting that has undermined performance.

Secondly, the limitation on holding political office through clause 16, introducing section 36A, is a divisive step towards ending cadre deployment by prohibiting heads of departments and their direct reports from occupying political roles. The Bill reinforces professionalism and impartiality in the state.

Thirdly, the transparent and lawful process for recovering overpayments strengthens fiscal responsibility. Clause 18 provides a fair mechanism for the state to reclaim funds paid in error while protecting the rights of employees. Chair, we are hoping that this Bill is also going to address the weaknesses of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee, MPEC, in municipalities because we have a huge problem there of weaknesses, stroke accountability. Thank you very much.

Mr T M LANGA: The Inkatha Freedom Party welcomes the Public Service Amendment Bill as a constructive step towards strengthening governance. We note its provisions to devolve administrative powers, clarifying institutional roles, and enhancing accountability mechanisms.

These are important steps in advancing efficiency and service delivery. At the very same time, we must highlight certain concerns. Stripping powers from Ministers risks weakening executive authority without addressing systematic failures.

Challenges and inefficiencies within governance must not be confined to political executives alone. To assume that all political leaders lack competence or professionalism as a diagnosis undermines the argument and the professionalisation of the competent government officials who continue to demonstrate integrity and capability in governance. Our position is very clear.

Accountability must be comprehensive, extending across all levels of governance. The IFP reaffirms its support to professionalising the Public Service, ensuring that both political and administrative leaders are held to the same standards of integrity and competence. Responsibility must also be taken for shortcomings inherited from previous administrations as this Bill builds on their work.

The IFP supports this Bill and the report thereon while emphasising that its success depends on credible implementation,

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shared responsibility, and the culture of professionalism across the Public Service. I thank you, House Chair.

Ms S PETERS: House Chair and hon members, we as the PA rise in full support of the amendments made to the Public Service Amendment Bill. This Bill represents a critical step forward in strengthening the capacity, integrity, and accountability of our Public Service. For far too long, South Africans have suffered the consequences of inefficiency and poor administrative systems that fail to deliver quality services at the pace and standard our communities deserve.

The amendments introduced bring much-needed clarity, stability, and professionalisation to the Public Service. They promote a system where appointments are based on merit, where performance is monitored effectively, and where accountability is not optional but required. These reforms will ensure that public servants serve the people of South Africa, not political interests, not personal networks, and not those who seek to capture the state but the citizens who depend on essential services every single day.

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Chairperson, professionalising the Public Service is not a luxury. It is a necessity. It is the bedrock of service delivery, and these amendments create the framework for a capable state that works, responds, and delivers. We therefore express our support for the amendments made, and we commit to ensuring that the spirit and intent of this Bill are implemented fully and fairly for the benefit of all South Africans. Thank you.

Mrs H DENNER: We have no declaration, House Chair. We welcome this Bill, and we support the report. Thank you.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: Chair, our nation has been harmed by a harmful triad that has been growing over the last 30 or so years. That is a triad of incompetence, political connectedness, and corruption, and it is a triad promoted by us, the politicians – a highly toxic combination.

We support this Bill as the first step towards destroying that triad. Today, the Public Service at all levels has become a place where you keep your job if you cannot perform it. Our public servants cannot do their jobs because most are not

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capable from the beginning, and they are preoccupied with keeping their jobs because they cannot do their jobs.

The few that can do their jobs cannot keep their jobs. If you are competent, and you are ethical, you are not employable under the current political system, and that is because of the values that emanate from us as political parties and as politicians. The big question, Chair, is whether we as politicians can be considered public servants and whether the same rules can apply to us so that we can professionalise politics and have a decent understanding that when you form a government, you need a civil service that can support any government formed by any political party. However, that civil service needs to be competent, needs to be separate. Recently, we saw a Minister in the Government of National Unity lose their job for apparently doing their job. Thank you.

Mr S N SWART: House Chair, the ACDP supports this Bill as an important step towards ensuring a public administration that is professional, effective, and impartial, as set out in section 195 of the Constitution.

What is important is that it establishes a clear separation between the political role of Ministers and the administrative functions of public servants to prevent political interference in day-to-day operations. This was highlighted by the Zondo Commission, which identified that the primary mechanism of state capture was the strategic positioning of particular individuals in positions of power, which was then used to gain control of public procurement and over law enforcement agencies. Corrupt politicians and officials used appointments and disciplinary processes to remove those law-abiding public servants and replace them with those who were willing to be complicit in corruption. This was done under former President Zuma's administration and, sadly, has continued, as we see in evidence before the Madlanga Commission and the parliamentary ad hoc committee.

Broad executive powers of appointment and removal without effective checks and balances allowed patronage considerations to pervade public administration and personnel practices, blurring lines in the political-administrative interface this the Bill seeks to remedy. The Bill has now been further improved by the National Council of Provinces to include words "or

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membership of a party's executive" after the word "party", to ensure broader application. This the ACDP supports.

Lastly, the ACDP shares concerns about long delays in finalising disciplinary action against offending public servants, many of whom are suspended almost indefinitely on full pay. This cannot be allowed to continue unabated, as it severely impacts service delivery. Disciplinary hearings must be finalised quickly and without unnecessary delays. I thank you.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Chair, the UDM has long raised concerns about the erosion of administrative authority through political interference. For years, Gen Holomisa wrote to successive Presidents of South Africa warning that when politicians usurp the powers of accounting officers, corruption becomes inevitable. We are now living with the consequences of that failure to act.

This Public Service Amendment Bill takes an important step towards restoring professionalism in the Public Service by strengthening the authority and accountability of the heads of department. By re-establishing a clear separation between political oversight and administrative functions, the Bill helps

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reverse some of the challenges and damage caused by, in particular, cadre deployment, a practice that has crippled service delivery in South Africa and has also crippled the institutional capacity of many institutions in South Africa.

The Public Service should be the backbone of development in our country. It should be capable of delivering efficient, responsive, and integrated services that meet the needs of our people. Yet today it is marked by widespread corruption, maladministration, underperformance, and persistent political interference. This has fuelled a crisis of public confidence and left millions of South Africans without basic services.

However, Chairperson, we must express a concern. The dysfunction in the public sector is not due to a lack of laws or institutional capacity currently. It is the result of officials who fail to uphold ethics, misuse state resources, and operate without the impartiality required of the Public Service. Strengthening the role and accountability of heads of department is therefore essential. It provides the legal foundation for more capable, professional, and stable public service delivery.

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However, Chairperson, we must express a concern. The Bill moves in the right direction, but it does not go far enough in enforcing the professionalisation framework adopted by Cabinet in 2022. Without strong enforcement mechanisms, appointments may still be influenced by political considerations rather than merit. We cannot afford that situation to continue. Despite these concerns, the UDM supports the Bill.

IsiXhosa:

Enkosi, tata. [Thank you, sir.]

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Chair, as BOSA, we support the Public Service Amendment Bill. We do so because South Africa urgently needs a Public Service that works, one that works for people, one that does not work for political parties, one that is not working for connected elites but for the people of South Africa.

Whilst this Bill may be technical in its wording, its purpose is actually very political because it is about building a state defined by integrity, that is defined by competence, that is defined by accountability instead of patronage, protection, and political interference that we have seen. The Bill tightens definitions such as "head of department" and "political office",

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which closes long-abused loopholes that have allowed senior public servants to wear two hats, pretending to be administrators during the day whilst serving political agendas after hours. We have seen this in the Madlanga Commission and in previous commissions.

A truly professional state cannot exist with a system where political loyalty is rewarded over merit and where the line between party and public administration is deliberately blurred. This is something that we have actually come to accept as a norm of sorts in South Africa and that really must be separated in order for us to restore a functional democracy.

We must also be clear that passing this Bill is certainly not enough. The real test will be whether government finally enforces discipline, removes unfit officials, protects whistle-blowers, and professionalises the Public Service to be honest and to have capable public servants that actually work with pride for South Africans, the South Africans in this country who actually pay the cost of a broken state every single day. We want a capable state, and we must build it. We believe as BOSA this Bill is a necessary step towards a depoliticised and ethical Public Service. Thank you.

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Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Malibongwe! Chairperson, hon members, and beloved fellow South Africans, as Al Jama-ah, we consider the Public Service Amendment Bill [B13D-2023] and the accompanying report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration. This Bill represents an important step towards strengthening the integrity, efficiency, and professionalism of our Public Service.

The amendments aim to clarify roles within the administration and ensure that appointments and performance management are based on merit, accountability, and service delivery priorities. These reforms are essential in addressing long-standing challenges such as instability in senior management, weak disciplinary processes, and inconsistent implementation across departments. The committee's report highlights the need for improved capacity, stronger oversight, and a Public Service that is responsive, ethical, and focused on the needs of citizens. A capable state depends on a capable Public Service, one that is insulated and firmly grounded in constitutional values.

Al Jama-ah supports this Bill. It advances professionalism, enhances stability, and strengthens our collective effort to

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build an efficient public administration that truly serves our nation. I thank you. Malibongwe!

Ms W TIKANA-GXOTIWE: Hon House Chair, the ANC, in its 55th National Conference, had resolved that the establishment of a strong, ethical, and capable state is necessary to grow the economy. One of the government priorities shall be the annihilation of corrupt activities and to instil a culture of ethical conduct in the public sector. Chief among the priorities will be the enhancement of the Public Administration Amendment Bill, which has prohibited employees from doing business with state organs. This phenomenon became prevalent in the Zondo Commission of Enquiry.

The ANC-led Government of National Unity, GNU, insists that the Bill will help to curb these corrupt transitions and lead to improved service delivery to the people. This Bill marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to enhance the professionalism, efficiency, and responsiveness of the public service administration in South Africa. It also improves administrative authority, accountability, and efficiency in the public sector.

The Ministry of Public Service and Administration proposed along the Public Service Amendment Bill, which intends to strengthen the public service and address policy reforms, is highly welcomed. It proposes revisions on the Public Service Act that will empower heads of department. The proposed changes include granting administrative powers to departments, strengthening the Director-General's function in the Presidency, clarifying the Public Service Commission's role and addressing appointment and career issues for the departmental heads.

These reforms are essential for increasing accountability, combating corruption and providing effective public service. It aims to align key features of public administration across all levels of government. The Bill aims to strengthen governmental capacity and competency by transferring and seconding employees. The Public Administration Amendment Bill goals are to promote ethical standards for public servants, reconfigure the National School of Government, eliminate inequalities in service conditions, and improve co-operation among public administrative employees.

The portfolio committee commitment to the law demonstrates its commitment to creating a professional and capable state that

serves the interests of South Africans. These progressive reforms are aligned with the ANC's resolutions and the National Development Plan, NDP, which prioritise public service change and development.

Lastly, the Public Administration Amendment Bill aims to ensure that people with the necessary skills and capacity are attracted to jobs in areas where they are much needed for effective service delivery. This will insulate departments from political interference in the appointment of public officials, curb nepotism, and ensure proper skills match. The passing of the Bill will enable the department and agencies to enforce compliance and ensure disciplinary actions against perpetrators.

The ANC reiterated in its 2024 Election Manifesto that it will continue to strengthen state institutions with technical capacity and skills personnel and will ensure greater co-ordination and planning of service provision with the active involvement of citizens. The Bill is in line with the policy aspirations and commitments to strengthen state capacity and build a capable and ethical state. Therefore, the ANC supports the Bill in its entirety. Thank you.

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Question put.

Bill, as amended, accordingly passed.

DEBATE ON REPORT OF P20 YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Ms A N KUMBACA: Hon House Chairperson, hon Ministers and Deputy Ministers present, hon members, fellow South Africans, on 13 June 2025, Parliament hosted the first Youth Parliament of the seventh democratic dispensation. The theme was Youth Economic Participation, Employment and Opportunities – Developing a Medium-Term Youth Development Agenda for South Africa's Youth. Under this theme, the historic gathering brought together the real voices of South Africa's young people, political youth formations, student leaders, young people living with disabilities, civil society and young entrepreneurs. Today, as we reflect on the outcomes of that engagement and situate it within the P-20 process, we recommit to one principle. Young people must no longer be at the periphery of domestic and global politics. They must be at the centre of it.

Hon members, we do iterate that our foreign policy must reinforce a youth-centred approach in its people-to-people-

centred approach. South Africa's foreign policy is rooted in justice, non-alignment and sovereignty, but it is also rooted in memory. Memory of a painful past which still affects our existence in many ways, especially as young people. Tata Madiba reminded us that, "nothing is impossible until it is done." Today, we carry his words into the global arena. Through the P-20 Youth Parliament, we created a platform for youth to influence global governance, not as guests, but as partners.

Fellow South Africans, the P-20 Youth Parliament has already proven its importance. It created space for youth to speak on peace and security, climate justice, debt reform, judicial transformation and inclusive development. This was not a side event, but it was a declaration that young people are the heartbeat of a new and fairer multilateral society. One young delegate reminded us that:

We are the generation that refuses to inherit a broken world.

That is the posture South Africa must defend domestically and also globally, most especially globally.

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A young African who is unemployed or underemployed does not experience global solidarity, but they experience global exclusion, and exclusion breeds instability. For peace to be sustainable, young people must have jobs, they must have opportunities, they must have access to skills, and they must be included in the economies that shape their lives.

Through the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA, the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, Nfsas, expansion, the Youth Challenge Fund, and Rural Broadband Rollout, our government has laid important foundations. But as young people reminded us in the Youth Parliament, we do not want to be passengers in South Africa's economy, we must be in the forefront and driving it.

Fellow young South Africans, our work aligns with Agenda 2063: The Africa we want. This agenda tells us that Africa will be transformed by a generation that is skilled, digitally empowered, and entrepreneurial, and united. Across the continent, conflict continues to steal the dreams of young people, but as the EU's flagship initiative silencing the guns by 2013 reminds us, peace is not the absence of war, it is the

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presence of opportunity and opportunity is very critical at this point.

Young people are clear, young South Africans emphasise clearly that we do not want to choose between a meal and a dream, it is our responsibility to ensure that they do not have to be in that situation as parliamentarians of this good House. Hon members, the world order created after World War II no longer reflects global reality, does not reflect Africa, it certainly does not reflect its youth too.

With a population of 1.5 billion, with the majority under 35 years, Africa cannot remain a spectator at global decision-making tables. South Africa continues to push for permanent African representation on the UN Security Council and the UN advisory mechanisms across the UN system and we need a reform to multilateralism that recognises demographic realities and that includes young people. In our Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Brics, countries, our youth are already leading in innovation and entrepreneurship, the digital economy and shaping South-South Co-operation.

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As one young entrepreneur said at the Youth Parliament, globalisation means nothing to us unless it globalises opportunities. Hon members, youth inclusion matters for peace and stability in our country and the entire globe. Peace in Africa and the peace in the world would be won or lost depending on how we treat our youth and all our young people.

If they are excluded, marginalised or ignored, instability will grow but if they are empowered, educated and included, Africa will rise and thrive to her greater heights. Young people made this clear, "Do not build a future for us but build it with us."

Furthermore, honourable members, international co-operation remains essential. Youth want mobility. Strengthening Africa's academic and innovation partnerships with Brics, the G20, the AU and SADC will expand horizons for millions of young Africans and South Africans who are ready to lead. We must also confront the digital divide. Without universal access to data, broadband and devices, the gap between the connected and excluded continues to become a serious concern. Digital inclusion should be a priority because it is the new literacy at the end of the day.

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As I conclude, hon members, as we take the mandate of the P20 Youth Parliament, we must recognise that youth development is an investment in national security, economic resilience and social cohesion. Countries that fail to integrate the youth into the economy pay the price and the biggest price but countries that place young people at the core of development planning, development planning, reap the dividends of stability, innovation and prosperity. South African youth are not waiting for tomorrow they are leading today in various ways. They are thinkers, they are activists, they are innovators and also creators.

The P20 Youth Parliament brought us one step closer to where young people deserve and need to be but it also left us with the responsibility as parliamentarians to ensure that the commitments made translate into actions felt by every young person in our country and in our continent. Comrade O R Tambo once taught us that, "a nation that does not care for its youth has no future."

So, it is very important that we secure the future as hon members today.

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As I close, hon members, young people of South Africa need a future that is free from poverty, free from violence, free from exclusion and free from the limitations of the past. Our duty is not merely to support our young people but our duty is to unleash them to where they deserve to be. Hon members, everything we do in this Parliament must answer one simple question, will the next generation thank us or condemn us?

Let our everyday actions in this Parliament ensure that they thank us for many decades to come. For when South Africa's youth rise, Africa rises and when Africa rises the world will feel the power of a generation that refuses to be written out of its own destiny.

IsiXhosa:

Ndiyabulela.

Ms P MKHIZE: Hon Speaker, hon members and the young people of South Africa. As one of the youngest members in this House, I stand here today with a clear message. Young people have been failed by the ANC, ignored by the Government of National Unity, GNU and finally are finding a political home in the MK party.

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This debate on the report of the P20 Youth Parliament forces us to confront a painful truth. Young people speak but the government does not listen. Young people participate but their participation means nothing. Young people speak but the government really doesn't listen. Young people show up but the ANC and its GNU coalition continue to shut them out of real power, real opportunities and real decisions.

Year after year, the P20 Youth Parliament gathers brilliant, brave young South Africans. They speak from experience. They offer solutions rooted in the realities of poverty, unemployment and exclusion. And what does the ANC do? They take photos, they clap hands, they write reports and file those reports away, forgotten, ignored and never implemented.

This is why young people have stopped trusting the ANC and this is why they are turning to the MK, the only party that represents their struggles and their lived reality.

Hon Speaker, South Africa today has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world. Two out of three young people wake up with no job and no hope. The ANC created this crisis.

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The GNU is just making it worse. I say this not as a theory but as someone who belongs to the generation that is being crushed.

I have seen friends with degrees driving Ubers. I have seen young mothers choosing between bread and electricity and I have seen young fathers being unable to provide because the economy has locked them out. I have seen graduates living at home, not out of choice but because the job market is dead.

This is a generation losing faith in its country and while young people suffer, the ANC and the DA sit together in the GNU pretending to be saving South Africa while they are saving each other. They say the GNU is unity but let me tell you what it really is.

It is a government of national convenience built on fear, desperation and on protecting the privileged. The ANC once promised young people economic freedom. Now, in the GNU, it has surrendered its economic agenda to the DA. The ANC once promised land expropriation. Now, the GNU has buried that promise permanently. The ANC once spoke boldly of empowering the youth. Now, it speaks the language of its partners, the language of markets, rating agencies and big business.

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It is not the youth who are guiding this government. It is not the poor. It is not the unemployed. It is not the forgotten communities. It is the elite, the connected. It is those who have never known hunger, never known the struggle, never known the fear of being young and jobless.

Hon Speaker, the MK party will not allow the youth to be pushed to the margins. We will not allow young people to be treated as background dancers in a political drama. We will not allow the ANC or the GNU to bury the dreams of this generation.

The MK rises today as the true voice of South Africa's youth because the MK is made of young leaders, young activists and young Members of Parliament who do not speak about youth struggles. We speak from within them. Our party was born of resistance, out of community organising and out of the real pain of real people. And that is why the youth trusts us. They see themselves in us. They see their future in us.

When the MK speaks about unemployment, we speak as a generation that is living through it. When the MK speaks about land, we speak as the generation that is denied of it. When the MK speaks about education, we speak as the generation that faced National

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Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS corruption, financial exclusions and police on campuses that the ANC sent against students while the MK stood with those students. The GNU tells young people to wait, but the MK tells young people let's fight for what is ours.

Hon Speaker, this house must understand that young people are no longer begging for a seat at the table. We are building a new table with the MK party leading that movement. The P20 Youth Parliament must stop being a cosmetic event. We cannot be patting young people on the head and sending them home with empty promises. Youth participation must shape budgets, laws and policies. The MK party demands that young people drive national priorities, not corporate interests, not all parties that are clinging to relevance.

Hon Speaker, let me close by saying this. Young people are not asking for miracles. They are asking for the basics, land, jobs, dignity, education and opportunities. The ANC failed to give them these, but the MK party is ready to fight for them with the youth, for the youth and as the youth.

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As one of the youngest members in this House, I stand here today as a warning to the GNU and as a promise to the young people of South Africa. The MK is here, the MK is rising and the youth is rising with us. Your voice will not be silenced. Your struggles will not be ignored. Your future will not be stolen. We will defend it with unwavering determination.

Setswana:

Bokamoso ba lona ga bo kitla bo utswiwa. Re tla bo sireletsa ka nonofo.

Xitsonga:

Vumundzuku bya n'wina byi nge yiviwi hi munhu. Hi ta byi lwela ku fika emakumu.

Afrikaans:

Julle toekoms sal nie gesteel word nie. Ons sal dit met ...
[Onhoorbaar.] ... verdedig.

IsiZulu:

Ikusasa lenu ngeke lithathwe sibhekile sizozilwela sizesiphumelele. Gwaza mkhonto!

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English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon members, may I ask the older Members of Parliament just to quiet down, please? Let's give the youth an opportunity to be heard. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order! Order, hon members. The next speaker is the hon Khakhau. Hon members, may I ask the older members of Parliament just to quiet down, please? Let us give the youth an opportunity to be heard. Thank you.

Sesotho:

Mof K L KHAKHAU: Ke a leboha Motsamaisi wa dipuisano.

English:

House Chairperson, on the 13 June this year, Parliament hosted young people across political and civil society formations under the theme, Harnessing Parliamentary Diplomacy for the Realization of Global Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability. Sadly, Youth Parliament has become an annual consolation day for young people who sit at the periphery of legislative and executive power in South African politics - a creation of some leaders in this house who refuse to recognise young people as

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capable and grown enough to contribute meaningfully to the running of this republic.

Quite frankly, this periphery, disguised as a safe space for public participation and parliamentary diplomacy, exists strictly as an outlet for some of the eldership's fear of being outperformed and having their mediocrity exposed and replaced by a creative, competent and youthful energy that this country so desperately needs.

Hon members, this needs to change. It cannot be that the average age of members of this House is 50 years old, with 45 to 64 years being the largest age bracket we have, while young people only constitute 8% of this House. We cannot be taking decisions about the future of young people with the fraction of young people we have in Parliament. We can and must do better. South Africa needs more young people to oversee its now and tomorrow.

House Chairperson, I can say this because I can stand here and say this boldly as one of the youngest members of this House, a 28-years-old second-term MP, given an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the daily running of this country -an opportunity deliberately created by my political party, the DA,

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led by Minister John Steenhuisen, because the DA gets it. It is focused on ensuring that, through the strategic positioning of young people and conversation tables that matter, this country is able to realise equality, good governance and good quality living standards for all South Africans.

Yes, I am not alone, but there is not enough of us. Young parliamentarians emphasised what this country needs, which is good quality basic and tertiary education; an economy that works and affords young people a decent job with a decent earning to live a decent life; the ability to afford food, clothes, a home, a car, health care, their kids' school fees, a drink or two; and a funded December, all together without having to sacrifice one for the other.

House Chairperson, without good quality education, the lives of today and tomorrow's generations of young people are easily destroyed. Raising children who are unable to read for meaning by the time they get to Grade 4 means that by the time they get to matric, they would have just winged it throughout the system to get to the finishing line. It means we are producing medical doctors with ChatGPT degrees; politicians and ministers who can't formulate their own sentences, let alone lead government

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departments; and an uneducated who are an unequal, but most importantly, dangerously hopeless society.

These horrors are the reason why the DA are in the GNU, to rescue South Africa and to restore hope. This is why we celebrate the Ministry of Basic Education's launch of a R496 million initiative to improve early childhood development. Under the leadership of the DA's minister, Siviwe Gwarube, this initiative will restore the country's basic education standards in line with the sustainable development goals of quality education and improved access to primary education in order to end poverty and inequality.

Yes, House Chairperson, the DA gets things done.

IsiXhosa:

Halala Wushe!

English:

However, it is unfortunate that I cannot sing the same praises for the SACP and ANC's Minister of Higher Education, Ntate Buti Manamela - a minister at the helm of skills development in this country without the moral competence to steer Higher Education

in the right direction. In fact, with him behind the steering wheel, this country's youth is more lost and without signal than we were before.

This is a minister who breaks the rules to appoint failed Seta CEOs all in the name of 'you scratch my back and I scratch yours', while leaving young people to fend for themselves in a system that has left their backs in the cold. He is a minister who thinks it makes sense to appoint a man clouded with the misappropriation of just under R2 million of South Africans' money for Skills Development Funds, as the person responsible for overseeing the country's sinking, corrupt and ineffective seaters.

Oh, but it makes sense to him. It doesn't make sense to us; but to him, it does, because his primary goal is not transforming the Post-School Education and Training, Pset, sector and ensuring that skills development in this country meets the goal of young people being more employable and expanding trade opportunities in sectors that will grow our economy. His focus is the enrichment of cadres who have soiled this country's public service and administration and destroyed the future of this country's youth. But all is not lost.

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Sesotho:

Tshepo ya rona e teng moo ho Motlatsa Letona la hae, Mme Mimi Gondwe, ya sebedisanang mmoho le bo rakgwebo ba fapaneng - ke qolla Takealot ho bona kaofela - ho kwala sekgeo se bakwang ke Ntate Manamela ka ho netefatsa hore ntshetsopele ya ditshebeletso tsa bokgoni e dula sehlohong sa lefapha.

English:

This, all while shutting down bogus colleges that seek to rob and destroy the lives of young people.

Sesotho:

Eya Motsamaisi wa dipuisano, mokga wa DA o etsa dintho di etsahale.

English:

The DA gets things done! It doesn't end there. The DA's Minister of Communications, Ntate Solly Malatsi, has scrapped luxury tax on all smart devices under the cost of R2 500, boosting access to technology for young people from rural communities, all while launching cyber labs for coding and robotics to match the country's needs for tech.

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I could go on, but these are just three examples of how the Ministers and Deputy Ministers, sent by the DA to go fight to rescue South Africa, are doing that and just more. The bottom line here is, with ... [Time expired.]

AN HON MEMBER: There's an uncle in the furniture business - Joshua Doore!

Ms M DLAMINI: Commander-in-chief of the EFF, commissars, hon Speaker, hon members of the House, fellow fighters, and above all, the youth of South Africa, today we must speak with urgency of a nation in a brick. We stand here because millions of young people are being robbed, not by fate and not by accident, but by a deliberate calculated structure that chooses inequality over justice.

The youth are suffocating under unemployment, crushed under drugs, chapped by patriarchy, locked outside the economy and buried alive in townships that were never meant for human flourishing. Yet, the truth needs to be spoken in this House without apologies. When white South Africans suffered poverty in the earlier 20th century, the state mobilised with military precision to uplift them.

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The Carnage Commission of the 1927 Creative Jobs, provided training, land and guaranteed employment. Eskom, Transnet, Iscor, all were established to build white wealth, and it worked. White economic stability is not genius. It is not a miracle. It is a product of aggressive state intervention. However, when the black majority demands the same, suddenly the state becomes inefficient; suddenly the private sector becomes the Messiah; and suddenly the privatisation becomes the gospel.

This is hypocrisy in its purest form; this is betrayal dressed as policy. The P20 Report confirms that every township child already knows that the poorer your community, the less life is valued. Township youth face the harshest unemployment, the deepest digital exclusion, the weakest education, the worst violence, the most drugs and complete exclusion from policy making.

How can a young person in Mamelodi compete with one in Sandton? One steps over broken bodies; the other steps in robotic labs. This is not inequality; it is engineered injustice. Those who benefited from state-created privilege now scream privatise because they know that privatisation locks out black youth forever. Privatization is not reform; it is a political crime.

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To privatise Eskom, Transnet, Prasa and Sanral is a handover of the last remaining engines of opportunity to private profiteers. It is a declare that the youth of Gugulethu and KwaMashu must remain unemployed, untrained and unheard. Even in Parliament, youth voices are filtered, censored and sanitised.

Youth delegations do not represent the unemployed graduates in KwaGugqa, the young mother in Kayelicha, the hustler in KwaMashu or the NSFAS-burdened student. How dare we pretend to speak for the youth while excluding them from every table? How dare this house debates youth issues while shutting out the youth? Rewrite the economic rules in favor of the youth, not as a charity, not as a symbol, but as a binding law!

That is why the EFF commits to a revolution of policy, not speeches. We will pass laws that force every sector of this economy to lift young people. We will not beg anyone to include the youth; we will compel them. When the EFF takes over this country: 40% of all public jobs will go to the youth by law; 40% of government budgets will be youth budgets by law; 50% of procurement will go to youth-owned business by law; and SOEs will purchase 40% of goods from majority youth-owned by law.

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A monthly job-seeking allowance will sustain unemployed youth fighting for dignity by law. A youth loan guarantee scheme will end financial gatekeeping by law. The NYDA will be depoliticised and funded to uplift young women by law. Every private company will be compelled to employ 35% of the youth.

We must confront another truth: Drugs are not the cause of youth hopelessness; they are the symptom. When a young person wakes up every day with no job, no skills program, no factory, no sports facilities, no hope, drugs becomes the only escape. A revolutionary state intervenes before the youth breaks. A captured state watches from a distance while the youth collapse.

Education must be free. Education must be decolonised. The NSFAS chaos must come to an end. Historic debt must be wiped out. Graduates must be supported into employment. SOEs must become the training grounds of the next generation. Education is not a cost; it is an engine of national survival.

Hon members, Cabral told us that, "If we act, we answer to our ancestors, our children and the unborn." Today, the responsibility demands that we reject privatisation, rebuild the developmental state, re-industrialise for the youth employment

and place young people at the front of economical battlefield. The youth are not the future; they are the revolution waiting to be unleashed. The struggle for economic freedom fighters continues. The youth demand it; the youth deserve it!

IsiXhosa:

Amandla!

Mr S S ZONDO: Hon House Chairperson, as the IFP, we want to affirm the voice of South African youth, the voice that spoke with urgency, clarity and conviction during the 2025 P20 Youth Parliament. What the youth told us is unmistakable. South Africa cannot speak of progress while an entire generation remains locked out of opportunities, marginalised by structures and barriers, and excluded from meaningful decision-making.

The IFP has long maintained that resolving youth unemployment and social exclusion is not only an economic imperative, but a matter of national stability and security. The Youth Parliament session exposed the depth of these challenges. Young people highlighted the persistent disconnection between education and employment, the failure of sectors to deliver placements and the

devastating impact of limited digital and vocational infrastructure, particularly in rural and township communities.

They reminded us that the priority of democracy rings hollow when learners with disability and marginalised young people, and women remain excluded from opportunity and protection. Hon Chair, the recommendation arising from the Youth Parliament aligns closely with the IFP's vision of a skills-driven opportunity-rich South Africa. We, therefore, fully support the proposal to revitalise TVET colleges, enforce graduate placement targets, and establish a national youth entrepreneurship programme focused on strategic infrastructure sectors.

We endorse the calls to simplify business regulations, expand youth-targeted funding and create youth enterprise zones that offer tax incentives and streamline compliance intervention. The IFP has advocated for this for many years. The Youth Parliament also underscored the urgency of rural transformation. The IFP supports young people whose demands for fair access to land, strengthening agricultural colleges and youth-led co-operatives that can anchor the food security and local economic development. These are not optional extras. They are essential for ending generational poverty. Hon Chair, ...

IsiZulu:

... lezi zinto esikhuluma ngazo sizibonile ukuthi ziyenzeka.

English:

A long way before, we had skills development colleges that were directed and talking directly to the job market, and where someone coming from those colleges was going straight to the job market. But now we have TVET colleges that do not help young people, and do not place them directly at the core of the market of this country. We need to redirect our focus and give our people what will help them to achieve their goals. Young people were equally clear about social inclusion. They called for a quarterly report on gender-based violence and femicide intervention and the enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, disability inclusive infrastructure and expanded mental health support.

The IFP shares these priorities. We cannot claim to champion the youth while we ignore the violence, discrimination and trauma they may be enduring. Finally, we strongly support the establishment of the Youth Caucus as announced by the Speaker of this Assembly during the Youth Parliament. We strongly support the institutionalisation of the Youth Parliament as an annual

and accountable structure whose resolutions are formally tackled by the committees, including the Youth Caucus for monitoring and oversight. We further endorsed the proposed Youth Compact and Youth Inclusion Scorecard as a tool to hold the executive accountable. What South Africa lacks is not a vision, but the courage and commitment to turn this plan into a real opportunity for young people. The IFP stands ready to ensure that the commitment made to our youth translates into tangible changes. [Interjections.] I am not talking to you. In light of the issue raised, the IFP supports.

Ms J S PETERSEN: Hon House Chairperson, members of the House, members of the public, the first Youth Parliament of the Seventh Dispensation has made one thing clear: young people are simply not asking for change, we are demanding it. The PA believes that true economic liberation starts with bold reindustrialisation. For decades, our communities, especially townships and rural areas, have been locked out of the economy. We propose focusing on light manufacturing, Agri-processing and digital industries so that skills and jobs are created where young people live.

Chairperson, in this digital era, economic exclusion now comes in a new form. The cost of data and a lack of AI skills, young

people cannot compete in a globalised world when data is unaffordable and digital literacy is a privilege of a few. We further believe South Africa must stop exporting raw materials only to buy them back at 10 times the price. Beneficiation driven locally will create high-skilled jobs and break generational poverty. To support youth entrepreneurs who are ignored by commercial banks, we call for a National Youth Trust, funded through business tax, offering low-interest loans to real grassroots innovators. And yes, foreign investment must help South Africa grow, not restrict. Foreign direct investment must be conditional on technology transfer, job creation and value-added production. We support the creation of a people's empowerment partner, a sovereign Young Adults Advancing Life Together-style fund that gives equity returns directly to disadvantaged South Africans.

We will not build a future where young people remain economic spectators. Chairperson, prioritising citizens in employment is not xenophobia; it is economic justice. Enforcing existing immigration laws will protect jobs and restore fairness. The youth deserve meaningful engagement, not tokenism. Youth advisory councils, national service programmes, and digital education platforms are the way forward. And as the youngest

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member of this House, it must be put on record, we cannot be passive; we must lead. Thank you.

Ms M P KOBE: House Chair, there is a common saying that young people are the future. Yet, while we make up the largest segment of the world's population, we remain the least represented in the corridors of power. When young parliamentarians from the G20 member countries gathered on 29 September in Kleinmond under the theme, *Young Parliamentarians as Drivers of Global Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability*, we were quickly confronted with the irony that the reality of the global structure is neither equal nor is it sustainable when 37% of the countries globally have no MPs under the age of 30.

We cannot claim to represent young people when young people have no voice. This is why forums like the P20 are important, but they are not enough. In South Africa, people my age are confronted with multiple crises: a crisis of unemployment, a crisis of crime, a crisis of housing, and a crisis of education. These compounding crises can feel insurmountable, unchallengeable, and unchangeable. Yet, within each of these crises, we see the resilience, ingenuity, and bravery of young people every day. Their hope is an inspiration. It reminds all

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of us why we are in this Parliament today. When we gathered at the P20, young people from across the globe raised a collective clarion call. We matter. Our voices matter. The crises we are confronted with matter. We will no longer sit on our hands and remain silent. Let us look at our very own Parliament, only 8,5% of members are between the ages of 18 and 35, and yet 32,6% of our country falls within that age group. This is not merely statistics, but a democratic emergency. How can we claim to be the people's Parliament if we do not represent the young people of this country?

We need young people in our political spaces, in our leadership structures, and at the forefront of solving the crisis that is facing our nation. As Action SA, we commit that through our legislative oversight and accountability, we will advance the development of young people as builders of communities and agents of change. We will advocate for the institutionalisation of youth participation and integration of youth perspectives in all policy processes through youth mainstreaming to ensure that we, as young people, are determining our own agenda. It is in this spirit, House Chair, that we call for the establishment of the multiparty Youth Caucus in the Seventh Administration, not the next. This is the only way that we can ensure that the P20

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Youth Parliament that we held earlier in July this year does not just become a talk show but a lived experience in these very corridors. To the young South Africans who are watching, this is your House. You choose who represents you. You choose the voices that speak on your behalf. Throwing your hands in the air and tuning out will not solve the crisis that we face as a country. We need to collectively and bravely take action to face them, to fix them, and to fix our country. So, this is my call to you: in your schools and universities, make your voices heard. In your communities and streets, make a difference. And when the next elections come around, do not check out. Take a stand. Thank you very much, House Chair.

Mr W M THRING: Hon House Chairperson, the P20 Youth Parliament report reminds us that the future of South Africa rests on the shoulders of its young people ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members, order. Order, hon members. There are hon members who are conversing so loudly, especially there at the back that I can hear what you are saying here. Let us afford the other members the same respect that you also would want to be afforded. Thank you.

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Mr W M THRING: Chair, can I start again because I lost my ...

[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Thring, please proceed.

Mr W M THRING: From where, hon House Chairperson?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Please proceed, hon member. You may decide to start again.

Mr W M THRING: Hon House Chairperson, the P20 Youth Parliament report reminds us that the future of South Africa rests on the shoulders of its young people. In the report, the ACDP emphasised that youth development must be anchored in values, education, and inclusive economic growth. Our ACDP youth argued, in the face of a youth unemployment rate that remains above 40%, that South Africa works when the youth work, highlighting the moral and social imperative to unlock potential through meaningful participation. The primary challenge youth face in South Africa is the mismatch between education and labour market needs, leaving many without the skills demanded by employers.

Compounding this, is limited job creation in a sluggish economy, restricting opportunities even for qualified youth. Before youth voices can be heard or heeded, they need employment. Graduates often finish school or university without practical skills.

Technical expertise, digital literacy and hands-on experience are missing, making candidates less competitive. Bridging this gap requires reforming curricula to focus on real-world applications and workforce readiness. Technology adoption is critical, digital skills are increasingly required across professions, and affordable internet access without training can empower youth to thrive in a digital economy. Unemployed youth face social exclusion, mental health struggles, and vulnerability to crime.

Communities with high joblessness experience poverty and unrest, undermining national stability. Entrepreneurship offers solutions. Young South Africans who start businesses generate income and jobs. Government small business departments can provide resources to support youth-led startups. The ACDP urges a return to vocational training, apprenticeships, mentorships and career guidance. Public-private partnerships are especially effective in generating opportunities across sectors. As kingdom builders, the ACDP calls all parties to act decisively with

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respect to our youth so that they do not become a statistic, but the heartbeat of our present reality and, indeed, our future. Thank you, Chair.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: House Chair, because this is a P20 address, we must speak with a continental outlook. The challenges facing young people today are not only South Africa's challenges, they are Africa's challenges. If we are to secure a better future for our youth, our solutions must benefit the youth across the entire continent. Africa is experiencing its most serious democratic backsliding in years. Since 2020, we have seen manipulated elections, a rise in coups, and attempts to remove constitutional term limits. These political disruptions, combined with growing inequality, have weakened governance. The Mo Ibrahim Index shows that overall governance has stalled, and in some areas, we are moving backwards.

This decline is happening during our major demographic shift. Africa's youth population is expanding rapidly, and our working age population could reach over 1,5 billion by 2050. This could be a tremendous opportunity, but only if young people are included in shaping the decisions that affect them. Yet across the continent, young people are still excluded from formal

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decision-making. We have seen their power in movements such as FeesMustFall in South Africa, Sudan's march of millions, Senegal's Free Senegal campaign and Kenya's reject the Finance Bill. This show the strength of youth mobilisation, but that energy really becomes long-term influence in our institutions.

At the same time, young Africans face serious socioeconomic pressures, high unemployment, poor access to quality education, limited skills development opportunities, rising costs of living and barriers to start small businesses. Many also struggle with crime, substance abuse and mental health challenges. These challenges limit the potential of a generation that should be driving Africa forward. House Chair, young people do not participate for sure, their contributions through the P20 Youth Parliament and other platforms, must lead to real action. They must help us to shape policy, guide our legislative priorities, and influence executive decisions. Anything less is unacceptable.

To reverse democratic decline, we must turn youth mobilisation into lasting institutional participation. Regional bodies such as Southern African Development Community, SADC, Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, East African

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Community, EAC and African Union must protect democratic norms and prevent electoral manipulation and act when institutions or civic freedoms are threatened across the continent. They must also integrate youth voices into their structures and support cross-border youth networks focused on democracy, peace, and accountability. House Chair, the future of Africa will be determined by whether its young people are empowered, not only to protest, but to participate meaningfully in building the continent they will one day inherit. I thank you.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Two years ago, we were doing work in a community called Lephalale in Limpopo, and I met a young woman called Matlhodi. We were addressing a water issue, and had gone to a river. The river was where everyone collected water, it was where everybody does their washing and it was where you can see nappies rolling down to the riverbank. So, this young woman Matlodi was there and she was there to do washing. So, I started a conversation with her, and I asked her, Matlhodi, what do you do, do you work? No, I do not work. This is a 21-year-old woman. Did you finish school? She said, "no, could not finish school because there was no money at home, even for me to have school shoes and to have a uniform. Nobody works, there is no food and I could not get to school."

More than anything, looking at Matlhodi as she was doing her washing there, talking to her and just trying to engage her about her future, what struck me the most was that Matlhodi had no hope, whatsoever. No matter how much I tried to engage her to talk to her, Matlhodi had no hope, and what I saw that day is what I see when I meet a lot of young people in this country. The system that is broken has broken them, and they do not even have the will to fight, the will to hope or the will to dream anymore. So, we are here to talk about a report, and I could not help, as I read that report, to just see words, because ultimately, the reality is that we can engage as we do in this House, but it is our responsibility to oversee the institutions that is failing these young people. It is our responsibility to oversee an institution that allows young people to pass at 30%, because the reality is that it is Quintile 1, 2 and 3 child that will suffer in the end because of that.

It is our responsibility to oversee a system that will steal from a child and a young person, that will steal textbooks and their future. It is our responsibility to oversee a system that will steal the opportunity of NSFAS from a young person whose only opportunity it was to get into university through NSFAS, who steal from them through corruption when it comes to having

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opportunities to work and to have businesses. So, really, I do not have much to say today except, we need to have a look at ourselves, the institutions we oversee, and we need to stop enabling institutions that break young people before even the system breaks them. Thank you.

Mr S T D LOUW: Hon House Chairperson, I am the oldest elderly young person to all of them. The P20 Parliament could have said that young people are facing intersecting crisis. This includes youth unemployment, educational inequalities and digital exclusion. Yet winning these challenges lies transformative opportunities led by the ANC-led government. These are gathered only not by consciousness but by historic mission, of liberation and equality that has prioritised youth empowerment as central to the South African transformation agenda.

Education remains the most potent instrument for both braking cycles of poverty. The ANC-led government has made unprecedented strides in expanding access to postschool education through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS.

As from January 2024, NSFAS received over 1,5 million applications and has provisionally funded 657 703 SA Social

Security Agency, Sassa recipients' applicants. Government allocated R4,2 billion in upfront payments for universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET, colleges to ensure that no qualifying student is denied registration due to financial constraints.

Significantly and cardinally, NSFAS living allowance for TVET students has increased from R6 000 to R10 000 per annum in 2024, recognising the real costs student face.

Between 2019 and 2022, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme disbursed R123 billion to 2,9 beneficiaries. In 2024, government added R3,8 billion specifically to support the missing middle students those whose families earn between R350 000 to R600 000 annually as per the threshold. This demonstrates our commitment to ensuring no academically deserving student is excluded from higher education due to financial circumstances.

The ANC Policy Framework put emphasis in investment on technical and vocational education and training colleges, not as alternatives but as a viable pathway to employment and skills development.

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Hon members, our TVET college budget has increased from three to 4% during the 2024 financial year. The government call for the 10 sectoral Memorandum of Understanding with business to strengthen workplace in leakages. We also wish to recognise that the TVET colleges must be brought closer to employers to facilitate practical training and continuous upskilling of lecturers. Through the Minister of Higher Education, the hon Buti Manamela we have seen such programmes taking place.

The restoration and adequate funding of artisan skills training colleges remain a priority as they develop the technical capacity essential for industrialisation.

Hon members, nutrition is foundational to learning capacity and child development. The National Nutrition Programme provides nutritious meals to poor vulnerable children every day. These meals comprise of protein sources including soya, fish, eggs, milk, beans and lentils alongside fresh fruits, vegetables and carbohydrates and they are also getting breakfast.

Recent achievements also include improve protein provision through canned pilchards and Ultra High Temperature, UHT, milk as well as the warming programmes linked to feeding initiatives.

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Moreover, government has committed to conducting annual audit of youth access to social grants and safety nets with digital mapping of coverage gaps to ensure no child is left behind.

Mental health is quite critical, and mental health pilots using tele psychotic and peer counselling models are being launched in five districts as I speak.

We also recognise the holistic development that requires us to address psychological wellbeing alongside nutritional needs. It is quite important to highlight that Early Childhood Development, ECD, establishes the foundation for lifelong learning.

The ANC-led government has attained remarkable progress in Grade R enrolment ranging from 97% comparable to upper middle-income countries like Peru and Thailand. Access to ECD Programme children aged three to four has increased by approximately 15 percentage points.

The Basic Education Laws Amendment Act now make Grade R compulsory signalling the government's commitment to universal early learning. It also makes sure that provincial Departments

of Education provides Grade R in public schools and ECD Programmes while infrastructure development and maintenance receive the high attention through the Expanded Public Works Programme and Social Sector Grants.

The ANC recognises quality infrastructure and trained educators are inseparable both requires sustained investments and provincial co-ordination to attain equitable outcomes.

Hon House Chairperson and hon members the Fourth Industrial Revolution demands a fundamental transformation on the curriculum. The ANC Policy Agenda calls for decolonising the curriculum to integrate digital skills and make education relevant to the current and the future economic demands. This includes introducing coding, robotics, financial literacy into TVET and secondary school curricula which investment in individual classrooms.

Government recognises that South Africa is poorly educated and under skilled youth who struggle to adopt to workplace demands. However, we must shift the policy focus from purely academic achievements but rather to practical on the job training as a key strategy to combat youth unemployment.

The Sector Education and Training Authorities, Setas, are being reformed to improve workplace placement performance. Despite Seta's expenditure growing by 6,74% annually in between 2013-14 to 2023-24 financial year, this funding has not translated into significant reductions in youth unemployment but rather government has implemented a stronger accountability mechanism including the enforcement of minimum 5% disability inclusion threshold monitored by parliamentary portfolio committees.

When you zoom in access to data and connectivity we need the digital exclusion in 2025 amounts to educational exclusion. Limited access to data connectivity restricts young people from accessing university, TVET college and Seta application platforms.

As the ANC-led government, the digital economy and skills agenda we proposes nationwide training programs in coding, data analysis, cybersecurity and digital marketing through public private partnerships and community training hubs.

The ANC-led government's comprehensive approach to social inclusion and access to education reflects our understanding that youth empowerment demands integrated and sustained

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interventions across multiple training. We are implementing policies aligned with liberation heritage and consultation commitments.

Hon members the P20 Youth Parliament has provided clear recommendations: Institutionalise youth participation, accelerate funding disbursement, strengthen TVET colleges, modernise curricula and ensure connectivity for all.

The ANC hears these calls and commits to translate them into measurable outcomes. Our youth are not the leaders of today they are the leaders of the current and you must empower them accordingly. Together, we can make sure that economic freedom is today, is not delayed, is now. *Amandla!* [Power!]

IsiZulu:

Mnu I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Malibongwe!

Hon House Chairperson, hon members and fellow beloved South Africans, Al Jama-ah wishes to express our appreciation and acknowledge the efforts made in the success of the P20 Youth Parliament. It is a reminder of the powerful truth that young people are not only the future of our nation, but also essential

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partners in shaping it present. Their voices, ideas and aspirations are vital to a South Africa that is just, inclusive and prosperous for all.

At this year P20 Youth Parliament, our young delegates demonstrated a level of insight, courage and social consciousness that inspires hope. They debated pressing issues of our time such as unemployment, inequality, justice, gender-based violence and the strengthening of democratic participation. They did so not with division but with unity of purpose and a shared determination to build a South Africa that works for everyone.

For Al Jama-ah the empowerment of youth is not a slogan it is a moral obligation guided by values of justice, compassion and social responsibility. We believe every young person deserves access to education, opportunity and the dignity of meaningful work.

We cannot allow the dreams of our youth to be stifled by poverty, marginalisation or lack of opportunity.

Hon members the P20 Youth Parliament has sent us a clear message that young people are ready to lead. It is now our responsibility as elected representatives to listen to them, to act on their recommendations and to open the doors of this very Parliament to their participation and innovation.

Al Jama-ah's submission is a call to justice, dignity and collective empowerment. It demands a shift from tokenistic youth inclusion to meaningful transformation led by young people with clear purpose and vision. Al Jama-ah urges Parliament to support youth-led ethical and faith conscious development models that restore urgency to the oppressed and provide real alternatives to systematic marginalisation. Let us harness those young engineered, energies to move forward. Let us commit to investing in youth leadership, supporting youth-led solutions and building a society where every young South African can contribute to national development.

The youth are our future leaders. As politicians let us train and lead them by great example. I thank you.

IsiXhosa:

Mnu B B NODADA: Sihlalo weNdlu [House Chairperson] ...

English:

... a country that does not invest in its youth has no future. The investment begins with understanding that the youth are not just leaders of tomorrow, but leaders of today, and some of us sitting in this House are testament of that. Approximately 33% of South Africans are young people between the ages of 15 and 34 years. Forty per cent of them between 25 and 34 years of age of are unemployed and 3,5 million of 15-24-year-olds are not in education, employment or skills training.

Skilled or graduates are still overlooked for cadres and the connected few for jobs. Many young people have become victims of gang violence and teenage pregnancy. Behind these statistics are the real faces of Thando in Bizana in the Eastern Cape, who turns 36 next year and has never been employed and unlikely to get a job if things don't change for the better. Of Tshepo from Kroonstad in the Free State, who's a dropout because of poor foundational learning and now not in any employment or training. Of Xavier from Helenvale in Nelson Mandela Bay, who has become a victim of drugs and gang violence.

The face of Maria in Mamelodi, who is the victim of teenage pregnancy in one of the 30 000 child-headed households, and of

Katlego in Johannesburg, who, despite being a qualified graduate, had to fight against sleeping with a cadre to get a job. These statistics represent millions of young people who languish in poverty, unemployment, and crime because corruption has robbed them of basic service delivery and a future which will lift them out of poverty into opportunity. We must turn this bleak picture around so that their lives are not doomed before they even begin.

That is precisely why the DA joined the Government of National Unity to try tangibly change people's lives for the better. The P20 therefore resolved that at the heart of our solutions, we must end poverty, unemployment, and crime amongst young people through youth economic participation, employment, and opportunities. The P20 brought together a diverse group of young people from various sectors who shared their lived experiences and proposed concrete solutions to shape inclusive, youth-centred development policies.

It's our duty to implement them where every government department, Parliament, and the whole of society should be obsessed about creating an environment where opportunity for young people is abundant. Nothing without us, they said. The

following parliamentary resolutions to guide oversight, legislation, budgetary processes and to promote more inclusive responses and accountable youth development across all spheres of government were proposed to ensure that outcomes of the Youth Parliament are formally integrated in the work of Parliament and the Government of National Unity.

Under education, the DA has long raised a number of key challenges also identified by the P20, including the persistent high rate of youth unemployment, in part due to lack of job opportunities, poor economic growth and education outcomes that do not meet labour market needs and expectations exacerbated by Sector Education and Training Authority, Seta failures.

Good quality education that focuses on early childhood development that enhances literacy and numeracy must be prioritised, followed by developing skills that ensure we are responsive to economic opportunities, entrepreneurship, and the use of artificial intelligence so that young people are prepared for the changing world and are guaranteed an economically prosperous future. We have full trust in Minister Gwarube to achieve this. By investing in education, we can equip young

people with skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to drive innovation, and growth.

Under economic growth, aligned with the P20 resolutions, the DA proposed overhauling restrictive regulations that deter hiring to instead foster an environment that promotes job creation, facilitates skills development that encourages employers to hire and train apprentices and upskill them for the job market. Slash red tape that holds back small businesses and make it easier for informal traders to sell their goods and services by streamlining bylaws and regulations, expediting the licensing approval process and assisting them to comply with health and safety standards.

We as Parliament and the Government of National Unity need to ensure that all policies and laws are geared towards turbocharging the economy and creating jobs, by attracting investment so that more and more young people get jobs or start their own businesses. By investing in industries that drive growth, we can reduce unemployment and stimulate economic progress.

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Parliament must ensure that the SA Police Service, in collaboration with relevant departments and entities, develop and implement targeted strategies to address crimes that disproportionately affect and exploit young people. These include, but are not limited to, statutory rape, gangsterism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, extortion, and the recruitment of youth into criminal networks.

Efforts must focus on prevention, where community-based interventions are applied, improving policing and protection of vulnerable youth, particularly in high-risk and underresourced communities. And the DS policy has been pushed in the Government of National Unity, GNU around crime to make sure that the GNU focuses on evidence-based policing, hotspot targeting, merit-based South African police service promotions, and trimming bloated management for more boots on the ground.

We must clean out corruption and outlaw cadre deployment if we want to attract more investment to create jobs. We must hire people based on merit and qualifications rather than political connections, as well as ensure that money allocated to government departments is spent efficiently to deliver the basic

services that will ensure more investment and jobs in local communities, which will benefit young people directly.

W B Yeats summarised what we need to do to lift young people out of poverty, crime and unemployment the best:

But I, being poor, have only my dreams;
I have spread my dreams under your feet;
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.

In our decision-making as lawmakers, let's make sure that these dreams don't end at the furthest mountain in a rural village. At streetlights with graduation gowns. In coffins because of gang violence, or in cadres' beds because of a job. I thank you.

Mr L MKUTU: Hon House Chair, I do not have a sad story to tell. So please forgive me. House Chair, I think before I start with my speech, maybe let's probably deal with some of the issues that the colleagues have raised, but also to locate properly the challenges that South Africa faces and the context to which we face these challenges. I think the first point that I want to raise is how do we understand and locate South Africa and the South Africa's economy within the crisis of global capitalism,

and how global capitalism inherently, over time, goes through a process of crises. And part of that process of crises is the issue of the 2008 stagnation, that our economy has not been able to recover in relation to creating the needed jobs, but also how our economy has grown over time. And I think that if you really want to understand the South African challenges in relation to the economy, you have got to locate it within the template of global capitalism and understand that the problem inherently is capitalism and the system of capitalism.

Now, another issue that we have got to contend with is the issue of the rise of neoliberalism around the 1970s and 80s, which has pushed state intervention to the periphery of intervening in society. Of course, this neoliberalism, in a sense, has preached issues of structural adjustments, has preached issues of not spending, cutting spending of the state, in social spending and in education. This has had a multiplier effect in relation to the livelihoods of our people. The ANC-led government has been contending with these global dynamics.

Chair, the other aspect is the penetration of colonialism in South Africa. That for the past hundred years, South Africa and the South African society has been clasped in the throat by

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colonialism which has affected all aspects of our life and has taken over the structures of the economy. That colonialism in South Africa, we call it Colonialism of a Special Type which has fundamentally expressed itself through race, which in a sense, the ones that own the productive assets of our country in terms of ownership control and management have been, white, in a sense. The ANC-led government, post-1994, has been at the centre of reversing the legacy of colonialism.

And so, in a sense, you must understand the 1994 political breakthrough as in context with these global dynamics so that you understand the challenges that we are facing. So, the context of our democracy, in a sense ... and we correctly capture, we correctly capture the 1994 political breakthrough as a political breakthrough as a political playground.

An HON MEMBER: House Chair ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Sorry, hon member. Hon member, if you want to be recognised, just don't comment.

An HON MEMBER: I apologise, House Chair. I was saying the speaker is being drowned. We cannot even hear the debate.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Please proceed, hon member.

Mr L MKUTU: So, as the governing party, we understand 1994, as a political breakthrough. That is why we have been able to transform institutions to reflect the demographics and the will of the people which has been at the centre of our work in the past 30 years.

Now, if you understand that the fact that in this House now, you are shouting at the top of your voice, EFF leader, is an intervention of the winds of the gains of our democracy to change the outlook in the corridors of power to represent the demographics of South Africa. It is an intervention by the ANC-led government and the struggle of the liberation forces. Chair, I thought that we should deal with these matters before I get into my speech.

So, honourable Chair ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, order, hon members. The hon member does not have a lot of time left for his speech. Give him an opportunity to be heard.

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Mr L MKUTU: I am reminded of an African writer, Chinua Achebe, as I am hearing the sad stories, when he reminds us that:

The story we choose to talk about ourselves shapes the destiny we inherit.

I think through the P20 Youth Report, young people tried to write a new story, one of liberation from poverty and inequality. Hon Chair, we commend the South African government and President Cyril Ramaphosa for successfully hosting the G20 Summit, the first ever on the African soil. This platform allowed engagement with the world's largest economies on trade, investment ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members, order.

Mr L MKUTU: ... and sustainable development. It positions South Africa as an attractive destination for foreign investment, especially in renewable energy, green industries, and ocean-based sectors.

The removal of South Africa from the grey list further strengthens investor confidence and signals our commitment to transparency and stability. As part of the recommendations of the P20 Youth Report, the youth proposed a comprehensive strategy for developing ports and renewable energy infrastructure, beneficiating natural resources to ensure that we create the much-needed jobs, to expand skills, programmes, and innovation ecosystems, linking them with state-owned enterprises, SOEs, and the Tvet sector.

Projects such as in the Saldanha Bay, Deepwater Port for hydrogen exports and the expansion of Ngqurha Port will be crucial in unlocking mineral wealth, boost logistics, and create jobs. These investments also profit and uplift coastal communities. Hon members, we must harness and invest in science, technology, and innovation. There is a greater need to establish innovation centres, promoting entrepreneurship, and investing in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, Stem, education to prepare the youth for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

We need to develop targeted strategies in green energy, maritime, and manufacturing to drive inclusive growth,

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especially in rural areas. Sustainable development requires integrating economic, social, environmental priorities and building capacity in fisheries, marine tourism, and aquaculture to support the livelihoods and protecting natural heritage. House Chair, we, the youth, are not only the future but the present drivers of change. By investing in skills, entrepreneurship, and digital literacy, we build a resilient and inclusive economy. We think that supporting youth-led entrepreneurship and digital literacy and access to technological education ensures that our nation's growth is sustainable and reflective of the dynamic global landscape.

Chair, in conclusion, the G20 Summit affirmed the renaissance of Africa, the rebirth of Africa and South Africa's potential, and in the words of Tat'uEnoch Sontonga:

IsiXhosa:

Nkosi sikelel' Afrika

Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo

Yizwa imithandazo yethu

Nkosi sikelela thina lusapho lwayo

Debate concluded.

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The House adjourned at 20:30.

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