

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 1

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINI PLENARY SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Members of the mini-plenary session met at Committee Room M46 at 14:01.

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

APPROPRIATION BILL

Debate On Vote No 33 - Human Settlements:

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Hon House Chair, chairperson of the portfolio committee hon Albert Seabi, members of the Portfolio Committee of Human Settlements, hon members, fellow Cabinet members, Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, members of the provincial executive, MECs who are able to come here, director-general, deputy directors-general,

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 2

chairpersons of boards of entities, the chief executive officers of our entities, fellow South Africans, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

It is my distinct honour and privilege to present to you this august House, the 2025 Vote 33 on behalf of the Department of Human Settlements and its entities. To give a detailed account and undertakings we have made, and the current commitments as outlined in our Medium-Term Development Plan, strategic plan as a portfolio. We, therefore, hon members, present to you the Budget Vote under the overarching ... [Inaudible] ... leveraging technologies for resilient, sustainable human settlements.

Hon House Chair, last week on 26 June 2025, we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Freedom Charter since its historic adoption in Kliptown in 1955 by the oppressed people of South Africa. Our forebears used the gathering to tacitly frame their hopes and aspirations, and imagine an inclusive future of South Africa which is still even relevant today, South Africa belongs to all who live in it equally ...

Sepedi:

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 3

... ga go na le yo mosehlana.

English:

The Freedom Charter articulates. We have marked one year since the Government of National Unity was established post the May 2024 Elections. This milestone demonstrated the capacity of how our nascent democracy can be to leverage its maturity in placing the people's interests above party lines. The ANC chaired, led and still leads Government of National Unity, GNU.

The Freedom Charter promised: "There shall be houses, security and comfort." We stand this afternoon on that pillar to ensure that our people have a choice. They enjoy comfortable and secure homes and raise their families without fear of displacement or inadequate living conditions. We bear testimony on what the Prevention of Illegal Eviction from and Unlawful Occupation of Land Act 19 of 1998, PIE Act would want to achieve to deal with the illegal evictions of our people, more so in provinces which still believe in the upper hand on dealing with people of a colour that looks like mine.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 4

These views find sufficient expression in the work and housing delivery programmes of the Department of Human Settlements We undertake and carry this work with humility and determination. We are guided by the principle of ensuring that there is excellence in everything we do. We draw inspiration and I quote what Aristotle said,

Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives - choice, not chance, determines your destiny.

As part of this aspiration, we fall forth by what the hon President on the state of the nation address gave us as a clear instruction on what housing needs to do, towards realising the ideals of the Freedom Charter. He called on us to tackle the reversing apartheid spatial planning, building houses in the inner-city centres, closer to work and business opportunities and providing serviced stands to enable qualifying beneficiaries to build homes for themselves.

Over the next five years, 2024-29, working with all our strategic partners, provinces, departments and municipalities,

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 5

we have undertaken to deliver the following: Under our Breaking New Ground units, we will achieve 237 000 units. We aspire to achieve 314 000 serviced stands. House Chair, I must indicate that this is a number in the past financial year that my colleagues have surpassed exceeding. One hundred and forty subsidies disbursed through various housing interventions for the missing middle, what we call First Home Finance which usually comes from the original term of Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme, Flisp.

We intend to upgrade 4 075 informal settlements. We understand that this does not mean that we will have to eradicate and built all, but at least they must all be registered. We want to deal with social housing units at a level of about 15 000. I must hasten to inform the House that this target was surpassed in the past financial year. We intend to register and handover 80 000 title deeds. We understand that this is a drop in the ocean. We are already tackling and dealing with challenges in relation to National Environmental Management Act, Nema and also ensuring that the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, Spluma instances where residencies were built without the proper application, we will need to receive a waiver from the necessary rural development.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 6

We are targeting to increase the 90% collection on our rental stock to 95%. Similarly, the reports that we usually see talk about eight projects which are not collecting to the best of their maximum, 90% of our utilities perform the way that they were designed to be. So, there is only collection, and our target is at 95%.

In unpacking the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP, I went on a roadshow and visited six provinces, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Eastern Cape, Free State and the Western Cape. Next week I am possible going to the province of Mpumalanga. Our clear cut throughout mandate there is that we need to develop a unique participatory human settlements strategy that allows the needs of South Africans into integration of the programmes. As we unpacked and gained a better understanding of the performance in the sectors in this province, similar challenges across the whole country have been identified. We are dealing and rigorously enlightening our unfinished and stalled housing projects, budget constraints and its negative impact.

These challenges have been identified and are not insurmountable. The business plan of the provinces which is on

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 7

the table and on its way to approval by National Treasury has a clear-cut distinction between new projects and unblocked projects. Therefore, we begin to lay the foundation of the recently approved 2024-29 MTDP. The 2025-026 financial year in breaking the numbers will give us the following numbers, 41 944 housing units, 32 250 fully serviced site stands with water, sewer, electricity, and roads, 4 282 units through the First Home Finance originally known as Flisp, 3 000 social housing units, and of course the intention in rural provinces is to eradicate no less than eradicate 8 047 mud houses

Central to us achieving these targets, is building, and sustaining partnership with strategic stakeholders. I recently met with Abahlali baseMjondolo in KwaZulu-Natal, and I will be engaging with the body in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape and other stakeholders, to ensure that we review our beneficiary system as we are aligned now with State Information Technology Agency, Sita in ensuring that we also prioritise and look into how our policy directs us into catering for the vulnerable who are the elders, people with disabilities and child-headed households as beneficiaries.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 8

With the fiscal cuts which dictate that we do more with less, our current 2025-28 allocation stands at R101 billion. The current allocation for this financial year is at R34 billion. Of the R34 billion allocation for the current financial year, R30 billion is grants to provinces and metros and will be transferred as such. We are working hand in hand with them in ensuring that, allocated funds for human settlements only do what human settlements is supposed to do. The grants allocation therefore constitutes 90,7% of our total current budget allocation. The R16,9 billion is to be transferred to provinces, making up about 54%, while R13,9 billion is to be transferred to metros, making about 46%.

In the provinces, metropolitans, districts and locals have suffered and bore the greatest brunt of the climate change. Over the past few months, we have had countless natural disasters, in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Free State and Western Cape. These have costed us multitudes, yet our current budget allocation is sitting at R336 million. Only talking to what the Eastern Cape has suffered with regard to Mthatha floods. It surpasses the allocation for the entire financial year that we have.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 9

We remain concerned with the slow delivery of title deeds to beneficiaries. The major challenge to this project is the delayed and stalled processes of township establishment and proclamation. The interesting part to this is that these communities are already residing there. We are saying that the Act which regulates which is Spluma and Nema from the Ministries, will enable us to unlock at least 300 000 households. We will be able, and we have started engagements with Minister George and Minister Nyhontso. This will enable us to accelerate even the target that we have of 80 000 of ensuring that we reach 300 000.

A Housing Subsidy System, HSS portal which deals in the main with the data registrar on beneficiaries and ensuring that we go with the technologies to develop the National Digital Human Settlements Management System will be of assistance. This will ensure that we manage our beneficiary system.

The Housing Development Agency, HDA entity of the department, has also developed and piloted the Beneficiary Experience Tracking Application which assists in this. Accordingly, the HDA has been analysing a set of pillars driven by data and indicators. So far, we have met all our 4 075 informal

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 10

settlements. Why is this mapping important? It is to understand what we then need to register and shouldn't register because maybe they are sitting in low-lying areas or in wetlands and whatever so that we can look into relocation.

The functional boards and council have been appointed for the Housing Development Agency, HDA, the National Home Builders Registration Council, NHBRC and the Social Housing Regulatory Authority, SHRA, following the expiry of the terms of their boards in 2024. The process for appointing members to fill vacancies of Community Schemes Ombud Service, CSOS, the Property Practitioners Regulatory Authority, PPRA, HAD and National Housing Finance Corporation, NHFC is underway. We are hopeful that by the end of July it would have been concluded.

We are mindful that the home regulator and we are committed to ensuring that NHBRC through enhanced technical oversight, expands training and deals with site inspections like the George building. We want to say to everybody here that compliance is non-negotiable.

We are scaling up our work in innovative building technologies, supporting innovation that can deliver cost-

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 11

effective, low-carbon, and climate-adaptive houses. We will with time introduce to this House and the people of South Africa, measures that we hope to launch around September with regard to innovative building technologies this year to champion and mainstream our innovative ways.

Between 2019 and 2024, the NHFC made significant strides in advancing the developmental mandate. We have disbursed R4,8 billion, enabling the delivery of 147 607 housing opportunities, including NHFC. That is creating close to over 20 000 job opportunities. What does this mean? The contribution of about 15 941 subsidy applications approved, translating into R1 billion in approved subsidies. Of this, 14 301 subsidies were disbursed, amounting to a value of R803 million.

Notably, the efforts attracted R7,7 billion in private sector funding, demonstrating strong confidence and willingness. We are looking into Emerging Developer Incubator and Post Investment Support Programme. Hon House Chair, our transformation-first approach will not be hindered. Designated groups are being prioritised in the allocation. We would like to salute the traditional leaders of KwaZulu-Natal for

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 12

availing communal land for us to test programme for our people in KwaZulu-Natal. They too do belong, and they need to be assisted beyond a Breaking New Ground, BMG programme. I thank you hon House Chair. [Applause.]

Mr A M SEABI: House Chairperson, hon Minister Thembi Simelane, Deputy Minister Tandi Mahambehlala, MECs present here today, esteemed members of the House, director-general and your colleagues, chairpersons and CEOs of entities, a very good afternoon. We, the ANC, wish to declare at the outset that we support the Budget Vote 33 for Human Settlements as tabled by the hon Minister Simelane. We believe that the budget will provide momentum for implementing human settlement programmes, which are part of our ANC-led government's ongoing efforts to progressively achieve the ideals of the Freedom Charter, ensuring housing, security and comfort for all South Africans.

The Freedom Charter, which was adopted 70 years ago, is a summation of our people's aspiration for a democratic South Africa and, as a living document, continues to guide the democratic government's programme for creating a national democratic society that is nonracial, nonsexist and prosperous, free of hunger and homelessness. As the ANC, we

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 13

are proud to say that it is in the human settlement sector that our government has an impressive record of fulfilling the ideals of the Freedom Charter.

To date, our democratic government has successfully provided close to 5 million subsidised houses for low-income households. Overcoming the legacy of apartheid spatial planning and creating an integrated and sustainable human settlement requires a multifaceted approach focused on building inclusive, sustainable and equitable communities. This involves providing access to housing, basic services and economic opportunities, while also promoting community engagement and addressing historical inequalities.

This is not Minister Thembi Simelane's budget, but rather a budget for the people of South Africa. In adopting this budget, we are contributing towards the restoration of their dignity, especially the poor of the poorest. Receiving a government subsidised house has restored our people's dignity because they now have decent shelter over their heads. As the ANC, it is in this respect that we commend the Department for continuing prioritising the issuance of title deeds to beneficiaries. With this budget, the department will issue,

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 14

for this financial year, almost 21 000 title deeds to certify legal ownership. Inadequate titling hinders access to finance and leads to informal transactions and illegal occupation.

Without title deeds, households cannot access asset-backed finance, and this is significantly affecting the poor, especially women.

The ANC, which represents the hope of our people, remains dedicated to expanding the constitutional right to access adequate housing to include the millions of our working masses, who are continuously denied access by the exclusionary policies of the property market. The Rental and Social Housing Programme has been allocated about R986 million to promote the provision of affordable rental housing for the working class and the missing middle to alleviate the burden of the rising cost of living, especially in such cities like Cape Town, where the private rental accommodation is too expensive for our people, thereby pushing them away from the central business district to the outskirts of the urban centre.

We are pleased that the Social Housing Regulatory Authority aims to deliver about 3 000 social housing units with this

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 15

budget, which will contribute towards the commitment to provide about 15 000 social housing units by 2029. We, the ANC, proudly acknowledge the progressive intervention of the department by introducing the First Home Finance, formerly known as the Financed Linked Subsidy Programme, Flisp, to help the missing middle to participate in housing opportunities as part of its effort to improve access to housing and meet the promises of housing security and comfort as encapsulated in the Freedom Charter.

President Ramaphosa declared in his 2020 state of the nation address that his administration would establish a new smart city in the Gauteng-Lanseria area within this decade. We wish to urge stakeholders involved in this endeavour to accelerate project implementation, acknowledging the progress made in building basic infrastructure, particularly the commencement with the R320 million water treatment plant late last year. It is essential for the portfolio committee to get a briefing from the department and the Gauteng province about further advances in the implementation of this significant project. We are, however, happy that despite the many challenges within the portfolio, the Matlosana Smart City Initiative seems to be

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 16

taking off the ground and could set the standard for future human settlements development.

The initiative aims to be a model for urban development, which integrates smart mobility, digital e-governance, smart environment and safety to attract businesses, foster entrepreneurship, create jobs and drive economic growth. Hon Minister, progress made in the development of this smart city is highly commendable and we want to call on all relevant stakeholders to co-operate so that we can realise this dream in our lifetime. We dare not fail.

Since we assumed office as the portfolio committee of the seventh administration, we have met with a number of petitioners who have been, in one way or the other, undone by officials working for our government. We implore upon you, Minister, to make sure that their cries are heard and their tears are not in vain. Let us work together with our provinces and municipalities to address the plight of these petitioners.

There are people crying Kayamandi, Abahlalibase Mjondolo, Slovo Park, Strand, Khutsong - people who are facing a potential disaster with regard to sinkholes. Their houses are

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 17

collapsing. It is in this vein, hon Minister, that we call upon your department, working together with provinces and municipalities, to be proactive in the acquisition of land so that we are able to deal adequately with human settlements challenges.

The disasters we are experiencing today, where a number of our people lose life in the main, is because our people don't have access to land. We are happy to note that the process towards finalising the appointment of board and council members to different entities, which was conducted in an open and transparent manner, is on course. These appointments contribute to good governance, as members will exercise their fiduciary responsibilities by ensuring that the transfers to various entities are spent effectively and efficiently.

Our plea to you, Minister, is that don't be distracted from your work by any amount of noise, no matter how loud it may be, including the noise about allegations that have not been tested in any court of law. Minister, you have our support, because of your strong work ethic, your dedication, your diligence, and your consistent commitment to transparency, accountability, and transformation of the sector. We want to

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 18

applaud you and your team for a speedy intervention in assisting the victims of the recent disasters in the affected provinces, especially Eastern Cape, where more than 100 people lost their lives and many others were displaced.

Sepedi:

Sepedi se re: "Mmagongwana o swara thipa ka bogaleng."

English:

We must acknowledge the reality of changing climatic conditions that affect human settlements. The existing disaster management system needs to be reviewed to adapt to these changing conditions. Once again, Chairperson, the ANC supports the Budget Vote as tabled. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr T I GAMEDE: Chairperson, I greet you all in the wonderful name of uMkhonto weSizwe Party, the government of this country in waiting. I rise today to critically address the Department of Human Settlements Budget Vote 33 Strategic Plan for the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and the Annual Performance Plan 2025-26. The presented report details the allocation for key programmes. An integrated human settlement is earmarked R43,5 billion for fully subsidised housing and R28,4 billion

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 19

for bulk infrastructure. Informal settlement upgrading is allocated R4,7 billion for provinces and R14,8 billion for municipalities. First Home Finance receives R1,8 billion, rental and housing is designated R2,5 billion for over 12 000 units. An emergency housing is provided R1,6 billion for disaster relief.

However, a critical examination reveals a fundamental flaw, an overall decline in the department's budget. None of its five main programmes demonstrate above inflation increases. Indeed, all declined when the inflationary effect is considered. This systemic underfunding of human settlements initiatives will inevitably exacerbate existing backlogs and impair the progressive realisation of adequate housing. This significant real decline in the informal settlements programme, particularly the 12,8% real decrease in the grant management subprogramme, signifies a profound misallocation of resources in a sector urgently demanding substantial investment due to rapid urban migration and the proliferation of informal settlements across South Africa.

This reduction directly undermines efforts to provide essential services and improve governance in these vulnerable

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 20

communities. I asserted during the committee meeting last week, and I reiterate now that this draft budget must be rejected. It's real terms decline across key programmes, particularly in integrated human settlements and informal settlements upgrading directly contradicts the constitutional obligation to provide adequate housing, and strategic goals of the National Development Plan.

Accepting this budget would constitute a retreat from addressing deeply entrenched spatial inequalities and the pressing needs of vulnerable communities for basic services and dignified living conditions. Moreover, the budget fails to adequately address systemic operational inefficiencies highlighted by this committee, such as slow procurement processes and the massive backlog of unissued title deeds.

IsiZulu:

Ngqongqoshe, uyakhumbula ukuthi sikhulume kabanzi ngokusebenzisana namaKhosi akithi nezinduna. Nanamhlanje akukaze kwenzeke lokho. Ayikho into ekhombisayo kulo mbiko ukuthi ayathinteka noma kukhona uhlelo lokusebenzisana ngoba sakhuluma kabanzi saze sathinta nokuthi siyoke sizame ngisho nesabelomali sakhona. Kwakuwukuhubhuza nje olukabhejane

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 21

mhlazane sikhohlisana ngalokho. Kodwa ke siyayibona le nto ngoba ukusebenzisana namaKhosi kubalulekile. Yibona bantu abazi abantu ekuhlaleni nangendlela okukhulunyiswana ngayo kwenza isimo sibe lula ukuze amatayitela abuyele kalula nakubona, sazi ukuthi usibanibani owakwabani, lo owakabani.

English:

This consistent real budget declines coupled with unresolved practical challenges indicate that even the allocated funds may not be effectively utilised, leading to continued underperformance and failure to deliver on the department's critical mandate. A profound and unacceptable omission within this budget report is the explicit mention of the role of traditional leaders and their specific involvement, consultation, and allocated resources within the Department of Human Settlements plan. This is particularly outrageous, concerning land allocation, informal settlement upgrading in rural and peri-urban areas, and a crucial process of addressing title deeds. This oversight suggests that, despite their critical influence and authority in many communities, the budget framework continues to overshadow and potentially marginalise their vital role in the planning and implementation and success of human settlements' initiatives,

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 22

potentially leading to disconnect between policies and on the ground realities. I agree, yes ...

IsiZulu:

... amakhansela kumele siwahloniphe...

English:

... but the reality is that ...

IsiZulu:

... uma ufika phansi, abantu abaziwayo nabantu abasaziyo ngoba iNkosi kayikhethwa ...

English:

... I can go as Thulane Gamede and study at Gauteng province ...

IsiZulu:

... ngisale sengihlala khona. Ngigale impilo khona bese ngiyakhethwa ngobushoshovu bami ngibe yikhansela. Kodwa umuntu onesiqiniseko sokuthi ubani lo, wakwasibanibani kwaGamede yilapho ngempela umuntu ofana neNkosi. Siyafika emhlabeni

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 23

wamaKhosi simbe siqede kodwa ayikho into ekhombisayo ukuthi siwabandakanya ...

English:

... from the planning stage up to the last stage ...

IsiZulu:

...ukuze kukwazi ukuthi kube nendlela enokuthula nokusebenzisana ngoba amaKhosi anabo ubuhlakani. Kuyofanele sikuhloniphe lokho.

English:

This stands in stark contrast to the former ruling party's rhetorical posturing on land expropriation without compensation.

IsiZulu:

Siyazi niyayihlabela kodwa uma sekufanele yenzeke niyasaba ngoba nizobizwa e-Stellenbosch bese niyahamba niyophaphathwa phesheya kwezilwandle ...

English:

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 24

... which has consistently shown a profound lack of urgency and a palpable fear of implementing this crucial policy, ostensibly due to the apprehension of unpleasant consequences for their masters.

IsiZulu:

...niyabazi ke nina omasta benu, kade babiziwe abanye benu sebeyophaphathwa laphaya, sebenyobozela, Nkosi yami.

English:

Such inaction directly contravenes the fundamental principles of the Freedom Charter ...

IsiZulu:

...le ebenikhuluma ngayo la ukuthi seyigubha iminyaka engama-70, enenza sengathi niyayithanda. Nibuye ningayilaleli leyo Freedom Charter, nokushicilelwe kuyo.

English:

... which advocates for the ending of racial restrictions of land ownership, the redistribution of land to those who work it and the ending of famine and land hunger. Any policy that results in continued land hunger and fails to address the

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 25

socioeconomic needs of those who depend on land for their livelihood is a betrayal of the Freedom Charter's vision ...

IsiZulu:

... kodwa nithi niyayazi i-Freedom Charter.

English:

The MK Party, on the other hand, has been explicit in the advocacy of fundamental changes in the country's Constitution to execute land expropriation without compensation, specifically through the critical and extensive interventions of traditional leaders.

IsiZulu:

Thina ke siyi MKP asiyishendezi futhi asifuni ukushayelwa ihlombe ngokuthi sifuna ...

English:

... expropriation of land without compensation ...

IsiZulu:

... futhi akekho umuntu ozosibiza e-Stellenbosch asishonise eMelika siyoxolisa ngalokho.

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 26

English:

We are unapologetic. We want expropriation without compensation.

IsiZulu:

Simile nje lapho.

English:

We want our land back. This approach ensures that land can be justly returned to its rightful owners, aligning directly with the spirit and letter of the Freedom Charter's call for land ownership, equality and redistribution. Given the purpose of the real budget declines, the unresolved operational inefficiencies and most critically, the glaring omission of traditional leaders' indispensable role, a direct contravention of the uMkhonto weSizwe Party's commitment to constitutional amendment for land restitution. I strongly believe this report should be rejected.

We therefore demand a budget that truly reflects our commitment to adequate housing for all and that respect integrates and empowers the authority and wisdom of our

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 27

traditional leaders and the urgent and rightful redistribution of our land.

IsiZulu:

Ngqongqoshe, sasikuyona le Ndlu, uhleli kulesiya sihlalo, uvuma emasontweni angamangaki ukuthi le nto esiyishoyo, waze wathi kimina, Mhlonishwa Gamede, siyazi ukuthi nihlale nikubalula ukubaluleka nokusebenzisana namaKhosi wakhombisa ukuthi sizosebenzisana nawo kusuka ekuqaleni kuyophela ekugcineni. Yebo ngiyezwa uma ngabe ngithi ngiyakhuluma kukhona lo ofuna ukungiphazamisa, ofuna ukuthayisela. Angizukunaka lokho, kodwa la ngifuna ukuqondisa khona. Ngqongqoshe, ila indaba, wathembisa kamnandi, wakhuluma kamnandi sajabula. Kodwa kulombiko wesabiwomali ayikho into ethi kukhona okufaka amaKhosi.

English:

There is no comprehensive consultation with traditional leaders, including the budget. There is nothing whatsoever. As uMkhonto weSizwe with a very firm backbone. We reject this budget. Thank you, Chair. [Applause.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 28

Mr L MPHITHI: House Chairperson, I would like to begin my speech with a quote by President Cyril Ramaphosa, which was delivered at a keynote address in 2023 at a national dialogue on anticorruption in Boksburg, "Corruption has wounded our democracy and has shaken people's faith in our institutions. If corruption is not arrested, the greatest damage will not be in the funds stolen, the jobs lost or the services not delivered, the greatest damage will be in the belief in democracy itself." Today we are forced to pause on these words and ask ourselves: How seriously can we take them as a nation? What will be clear at the end of this debate is that we are all going to pay. South Africans are going to pay if we don't attack the disease of corruption that is destroying the Department of Human Settlements.

Today, we will surely hear from this House and from the members of this House that things are not that bad, that services are somewhat improving and people are somehow getting back to their dignity. But they won't tell that to the people of Nigel in Ekurhuleni, whose houses have been sold by municipal officials. They won't tell that to the people of Johannesburg in Soweto, whose title deeds are sitting in the municipality gathering dust. They won't tell that to the

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 29

residents of Stillwater in Northern Cape, whose houses have collapsed just after 10 days of being built.

They also won't tell that to the community of Joe Slovo settlement in the Eastern Cape who have been flooded and will have to wait three months until they are able to get housed. They won't, they won't, House Chairperson, tell that to ugogo, Sarah, who is 78 lives in a dilapidated rondavel in Makhado, Limpopo, and I quote. These are her words, she said, "One day this house will fall on me. Whenever I apply for an RDP house, they either do not respond or tell me stories." What answers, Minister, do you have for this lady?

Towns are drowning before us. We are honestly not going to be able to stand here and lament victories that are nonexistent and speak about tangible change that has not reached the people on the ground. People are dying without the promise of houses. People are dying waiting for the government to deliver what they promised in 1994. On 8th April 2025, the DA wrote to the Minister because it was fast becoming clear that the department was in a freefall. The CEO of the National Home Builders Registration Council was suspended. The National Home Finance Corporation CEO is under investigation for misuse of

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 30

funds. The Social Housing Regulatory Authority CEO and CFO have both been terminated. The Community Schemes Ombud Service, Chief Ombud has resigned amid a corruption scandal, and of course, the HDA is now under investigation by the SIU.

There is clearly a catastrophic collapse in this department. This disfunction seems to be deepening under the watch of senior officials and political heads in the department. This situation is clearly impacting South Africans because this disfunction is impeding the delivery of affordable housing in our country. But let's shift gears a little bit. On 26 August 2024, the then Minister of Justice, Minister Simelane, was accused of having received a loan of R575 000 from the Gundo Wealth Solutions, while mayor of Polokwane. Company directly linked to the unlawful investment of municipal funds into the now completely looted VBS Mutual Bank. You would think that the response to this that the President would have shown would have shown Minister Simelane the door. He did not, he asked for the report that he stayed with for three months. Even though the DA sustained pressure asking the President to act, he lacked the courage to act and instead decided to dump Minister Simelane at Human Settlements, one of the most important departments for South Africans in our country.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 31

It seems that this President does not take an issue with the fact that the person accused of corruption sits in his Cabinet and will have to look after a budget of R30 billion that is set aside for South Africans. The Democratic Alliance will always support the granting of funds to house the vulnerable at the same time fast-tracking jobs and growth to give many more South Africans the dignity of being able to buy and own their own houses. Although this budget and the department has many challenges, under normal circumstances, it would be supported. However, we sit with the Minister who faces corruption allegations, who has not been accountable to the South African public, and it is because of this we struggle to support this particular budget.

Yesterday, it was revealed that criminal investigations against the Minister were underway by the South African Police Service following the charges that were laid by the DA. When the Minister at the helm cannot be trusted with the cent of the taxpayer funds. How are we supposed to tell the public that their interests are cared for and protected? Minister Simelane cannot be trusted with a single rand, let alone R33 billion of this budget.

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 32

As President Ramaphosa said, corruption has wounded our democracy and shaken people's faith in our institutions. If corruption is not arrested, and the greatest damage will not only be the funds that have been stolen, or the jobs that have been lost. It will be the people of South Africa that will be damaged. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr N S MATIASE: House Chair, please check your list of speakers. Right there before you, the name is hon M Dlamini. I don't know where you got hon Mhlongo from.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): My apologies, hon Matiase. I was informed that it would be hon Mhlongo, but I'm happy to welcome hon Dlamini to the podium.

Mr N S MATIASE: You must apologize twice. [Laughter.]

Ms M DLAMINI: To the Commander in Chief of the EFF, President Julius Malema, all fighters, I say Happy Birthday Month...

IsiZulu:

... siyanimema nonke eKhayalitsha Rugby Stadium nani bayonibukela e-Whitehouse ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 33

English:

...so, come all of you and celebrate with us. [Applause.] The EFF rejects the budget of Human Settlements, and not because we are extortionist like the DA. But because it is an empty promise wrapped in inflation and in false hope.

Commander in chief, the government has increased the budget allocation for human settlements this financial year. But an increase in nominal terms means nothing when it's swallowed by inflation. According to Statistics, Stats SA, South Africa's consumer price inflation stood at 5,2% in May 2025. So, unless we are willing to deceive ourselves, this increase is not real, it is cosmetic. It does not build more homes. It does not address the ever-growing backlog, and it certainly does not restore the dignity of our people.

This budget fails the most basic test. It does not speak to the housing backlog, which now exceeds 2,3 million units, as admitted by the department itself. Every year, government announces thousands of planned units, yet the streets of Diepsloot, Khayelitsha and Marikana tell the different story.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 34

Over 13 million South Africans still living informal settlements, backyards and overcrowded Reconstruction and Development Plan, RDP, houses. This is not a technical failure, it is a political and moral one. It is a betrayal of the promises made in 1994 that every citizen would have access to adequate housing and basic services. Thirty years later, that promise remains unfulfilled, the people are not asking for mansions, they are demanding dignity.

We must also confront the failed experiment that is the National Housing Finance Corporation, established in 1996. It was supposed to be a transformative force in affordable housing finance. For years, we were told that the NHFC would be converted into a state-owned bank, to challenge the ... [Inaudible.] ... of commercial banks. And extend credit to the poor and working class.

Instead of becoming a weapon of economic transformation, the NHFC remains toothless, offering loans to the middle class while the poor continue to be locked out of property ownership. Where is the legislation? Where is the vision?

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 35

Once again, the state has promised revolution and delivered bureaucracy. Year after year, we watch in horror as municipalities, especially in the metros, return billions in unspent housing grants to the fiscus while our people sleep in open veld. In 2023-2024 over 1,4 billion in urban settlement development grants were returned.

This happens because government has outsourced its key responsibilities. Consequently, consultants, many with links to the ruling elite, are paid millions, while local government departments collapse.

There is no accountability, there is no urgency, there is no leadership. This reliance on consultant is not accidental. It is deliberate. It allows those in government to hide behind PowerPoint presentations instead of facing the communities they've abandoned. It allows tenderpreneurs to profiteer from misery, while the people waiting in vain for houses that never come.

In light of all of this, our people are left with no option but to occupy land. Land occupations is not a criminal act. They are act of desperation and resistance. [Applause.] The

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 36

EFF does not apologize for standing with the landless, as long as our people are denied land, we will continue to support land occupation programs, not for chaos, but for justice. The criminalization of land occupation, is a crime in itself, a war against the poor disguise as law enforcement? What choice do people have when the eviction is the only response they receive from the state?

The EFF's position is clear and consistent with our seven non-negotiable cardinal pillars. Specifically, the state must expropriate land to make space for housing development and to guarantee free quality housing for all, prioritizing women, youth and the poor. There must be a state-led construction company. Eliminating the reliance of private developers and consultants.

We call for the people's housing brigade, led by the state, to build homes using local labour and materials. This would stimulate local economies, provide skills to the youth and restore community agency in development.

We demand the nationalization of urban land and an end to the market driven logic of housing delivery. Let us also not

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 37

forget the environmental injustice embedded in human settlements planning. Too often, the poor are pushed to urban periphery far from jobs, schools and transport. The spatial apartheid remains intact. We need integrated mixed income development in well located areas, not ghettos of poverty on the edge of society.

We need housing policies rooted in spatial justice, not convenience for capital. We reject a system that budgets for poverty instead of transformation. We reject a system where the rich live in suburbs and the poor, in sinkholes of spare. We demand a revolution in human settlements rooted in justice, dignity and liberation of land.

The EFF does not support this budget. We support the people, and we will continue to fight for housing as a human right and not a market commodity. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr N M HADEBE: House Chairperson, at the heart of a just and dignified society lies access to adequate shelter. For millions of South Africans, however, the promise of a decent home remains painfully out of reach. The IFP acknowledges the strategic importance of this budget vote in addressing the

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 38

legacy of apartheid, spatial planning, deepening urban inequality and the housing backlog that continues to exceed 2 million units.

We take note of the allocation of 37,6 billion to the Department of Human Settlements for the 2025-26 financial year. While this amount represents a commitment to housing development and upgrading of informal settlements, we remain concerned by the slow pace of delivery and persistent underspending in key programs, particularly the Urban Settlement Development Grant and the Informal Settlements Upgrading Programme.

We are further disheartened by continued systemic inefficiencies in the Housing Development Agency and underperformance in provinces such as Eastern Cape and Northwest, which remain among the worst performing in utilizing allocated funds.

We strongly support the upgrading of informal settlements. And applaud to the department's aim to reach 1500 informal settlements by 2030.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 39

However, we urge the Minister to ensure that community participation is not merely a tick box exercise but a central tenant of the upgrading process. Communities must be involved from planning to implementation.

We also emphasise the need for integrated development, a house without access to water, electricity, sanitation and transport remains a symbol of exclusion. Human settlements cannot be treated in isolation. Coordination with the Department of Water and Sanitation, Cooperative Governance and Transport is critical to ensure sustainable communities, not just structures.

Moreover, we remain a champion of traditional leadership. And call for the department to urgently strengthen partnerships with traditional authorities. Rural housing delivery has been slow, fragmented and poorly aligned with local dynamic. As custodians of land and community development in many rural areas, Amakhosi must be brought into planning frameworks, not left on the margin.

Lastly, the title deed backlog, particularly in Gauteng, and KwaZulu-Natal, is deeply troubling. Without security of

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 40

tenure, many beneficiaries are unable to access loans, transfer property or leave a legacy for future generations. We call for a dedicated task team with clear timelines and accountability to fast track the issue of outstanding title deeds.

In conclusion, the IFP supports the allocation of this budget vote, in principle, but urges the Minister to ensure value for money. Improved project management and stronger intergovernmental coordination.

Our people do not live in documents, reports or frameworks. They live in communities, often in shacks in the cold and the rain, waiting for dignity that has been too long deferred. Let us ensure the budget becomes not only an instrument of expenditure, but a tool of transformation. I thank you.

[Applause.]

Mr P A VAN STADEN: Hon House Chairperson, the Special Investigating Unit's, SIU's, investigation into dodgy transactions valued at R3,1 billion approved by the Housing Development Agency is welcomed, but the involvement of the Human Settlements departments from the Eastern Cape, Western

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 41

Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, North West and the Northern Cape is of huge concern. The SIU's investigation into any alleged serious maladministration, improper or unlawful conduct by their employees, unlawful expenditure of public funds and offences that have been committed in violation of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act from 2016 to 2025 cannot be ignored, and we hope that this investigation will bring an end to these corrupt activities.

Afrikaans:

Die agterstand in behuising in die lewering van titelaktes bly maar 'n kopseer vir hierdie departement te wees en die VF Plus het verneem van die Adjunkminister se besoek aan die Knysna-munisipaliteit, waar hierdie munisipaliteit met 'n beraamde agterstand in behuising van sowat 9 800 eenhede sit en wat jaarliks teen 'n koers van ongeveer 3% groei.

Dan het ons ook verneem van twee voormalige Oos-Kaapse munisipale amptenare wat vir bedrog gevonnissen is nadat hulle in Mei 2017 'n laekostehuis teen R150 000 aan 'n vrou verkoop het. Hierdie is nie 'n nuwe seldsame gebeurtenis wat plaasvind nie en sedert 1994 hoor ons gereeld van mense wat hul magte as

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 42

amptenare of as politici misbruik om laekostebehuising wat aan armes toegeken moet word somer net te verkoop.

Ons sal by 'n punt moet kom waar hierdie euwel uitgeroei moet word. Ons sal by 'n punt moet kom waar hierdie agterstand in die uitreiking van twee miljoen titelaktes behoorlik aangespreek moet word en nie net uitgereik word kort voor verkiesings om stemme te probeer werf nie.

Die chaos wat sedert 1994 met betrekking tot die waglyste vir behuising heers moet ook dringend opgelos word. Ons kan sekerlik nie langer toelaat dat mense vir jare en jare op die waglys is en dan skielik moet verneem dat iemand anders wat nog nooit op 'n waglys was nie skielik 'n huis of titelakte ontvang het.

English:

If urgent attention is not given to eradicate these problems, then the Medium-Term Development Plan for 2024 to 2029 will not be achieved. The reclaiming of hijacked buildings for public use must be a priority in order to provide housing to the poor. Instead of allowing a building to stand empty and being hijacked, it should rather be used for alternative

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 43

housing. Johannesburg, Pretoria and Durban should be a priority in this regard.

The FF Plus supports the committee's recommendation that a detailed report must be submitted on the issuance of title deeds and to get a quick response to the resolution of the pre-1994 housing stock that was occupied either on a rental basis or built with costs to the owner.

The implementing of binding service-level agreements with municipalities and other stakeholders, and incorporating penalties for nonperformance are hereby welcomed.

Afrikaans:

Die VF Plus sal graag wil sien dat provinsiale en munisipale amptenare se magte ingeperk word wanneer dit by die hantering en samestelling van behuisingswaglyste kom en wanneer dit by die toekenning van hierdie huise kom.

English:

Ms M P KOBE: House Chair, as Action SA we rise in this debate, not to play politics, but to assert a principle. The right to housing is a constitutional imperative, not a favour that is

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 44

dispersed by the state. We reject Budget Vote No 33, not because of who occupies the office of Minister ... [Applause.] ... though it is deeply concerning that hon Minister Simelane is under investigation for a questionable VBS-related loan, but because the budget fails to honour the dignity of millions of South Africans that are still waiting for a place to call home.

This report makes for sobering reading. It admits in black and white that none of the department's five core programmes have received real increases. In fact, after inflation, all of them decline. Programme three, tasked with upgrading informal settlements, suffers a real cut of 12,6%. How do we claim to support the poorest of the poor when we slash the very grant that is meant to serve them?

We see similar declines across other programmes, whether it is affordable housing, social rental or emergency shelter. Every line item tells the same story – a slow retreat from the constitutional promise of adequate housing for all.

The committee makes important recommendations and we as Action SA really do commend these members who have pushed for them.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 45

However, what confidence can the public have in recommendations without the will or resources to implement them?

Action SA therefore wishes to place the following principle objections on record. One is consequence management. Year after year, provinces and metros fail to spend their housing grants. Billions are returned to National Treasury while people sleep in shacks. The committee calls for consequence management, but we have heard this before. Where are the penalties and where is the accountability?

Title deed backlogs exceed two million, yet instead of accelerating issuance, the committee asks for more reports and updates. As Action SA, we call for a dedicated unit within the department to unblock the title deed crisis with measurable quarterly targets.

In terms of vacancies and capacity, critical posts remain vacant. The National Home Builders Registration Council, NHBRC, is certifying substandard housing while their contractors are exempted from Construction Industry Development Board, CIDB, regulations. How do we avoid having

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 46

another George collapse with these kinds of exemptions?

Without a binding performance management framework across all entities, poor leadership will continue to sabotage delivery.

In terms of community participation, the recommendation to standardise community consultation is welcome, but without binding service-level agreements between the department and municipalities, project delays and protest-driven halts will persist.

Finally, there is budget justice. The budget reflects political choices, and a budget that delivers a real cut to human settlements in the face of a housing crisis is a political choice and it is the wrong one. As Action SA, we propose a new model of diversified sustainable funding for entities with direct access to national resources to break dependence on politically distorted provincial allocations.

We note the recommendations to enhance audit processes, improve data systems and create a housing delivery dashboard. These are very commendable steps, but unless the government treats the housing crisis with the urgency it deserves, dashboards will continue to track our collective failure.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 47

South Africans deserve more than underfunded mandates and unfunded promises. They deserve dignity, security and a home. For this reason, and in the name of millions that are still waiting, Action SA cannot support this budget. Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: House Chairperson, hon Minister of Human Settlements, Ms Thembi Simelane, the Chair of the portfolio committee, hon Nocks Seabi, members of the portfolio committee, allow me to stand on the protocols that are established.

The first Minister of housing in a democratic South Africa, hon Joe Slovo, said "It is not enough to remove the shuttles, we must build the new structures." These words spoken by the late Joe Slovo are not just a reminder of our past, they are a directive for our present.

As the first Minister of Housing in 1994, Joe Slovo understood the profundity of the task ahead, that freedom without shelter is incomplete and that dignity cannot thrive without a home.

Hon members, on 26 June 2025 we commemorated 70 years of the Freedom Charter. A historic document adopted in Kliptown,

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 48

Soweto, which has since shaped our democratic dispensation. The Freedom Charter boldly declared: there shall be houses, security and comfort. It is against this background that the ANC-led democratic government has steered the charge to house over 4 million South Africans since 1994.

Enshrined in our progressive Constitution, section 26, is the right to access adequate housing. The Freedom Charter and the Constitution lay the moral foundation for our hard-earned democracy.

Our work in Human Settlements is not just about infrastructure, it is about bringing dignity to the people through housing, it is about correcting spatial injustice, advancing equity and building a South Africa that truly belongs to all who live in it.

We gather today with our minds still recovering from what supervened the Eastern Cape province in June 2025; lives were lost and families were displaced. Once again, this revealed the scale of work ahead of us to provide adequate shelter to those in need.

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 49

We acknowledge the intergovernmental efforts deployed in Umtata and Butterworth. And further thank the various first responders and stakeholders who lend a helping hand to the families.

We wish to extend a special appreciation to Gift of the Givers who provided relief to the victims and have consistently showed up for our people. A few days ago the Gift of the Givers also showed up in Khayelitsha to provide relief to flood victims.

We are reminded that limited resources at our disposal, we can fully deliver on our constitutional mandate through meaningful collaborations, partnerships with businesses, public/private partnerships, communities and non-governmental organizations, NGOs.

Over last few months we travelled across the country handing over houses and title deeds, affirming our call of housing the nation. A clarion call the progressive democratic government has made over the last 31 years.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 50

The Department of Human Settlements has registered great strides in providing decent shelter to senior citizens, persons with disability, women, child-headed homes and military veterans. We commend provinces that have prioritised these vulnerable groups. The stories on the ground are loud and clear.

Hon members, people of South Africa have been waiting to be decently housed for many years. The joy that we are met with when we are handing over these title deeds and houses is unmatched. We are met with tears of joy, fulfilled dreams and renewed hope in a caring government that serves the people.

Military veterans remain a priority in our housing programme, and many have already received houses. We recognise them for their service to our country. However, challenges such as outdated or inaccurate beneficiary list, untraceable applicants and non-qualifying individuals, continue to hinder the progress.

The Department of Human Settlements and the Department of Military Veterans are working together to verify and update

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 51

the database to ensure that all qualifying veterans are provided with dignified houses.

Hon members, we recognise the struggles of the missing middle. In 2024 we shared insights from the Home Loan and Mortgage Disclosure Act report. Covering the period of 2018 to 2022, it revealed barriers that continue to hinder access to home ownership. These include delays due to incomplete documents, confusion around eligibility criteria and long waiting period for subsidy payments. Most concerning was the limited access to bonds for those earning below R10 000 per month, even when supported with the First Home Finance subsidy.

To respond to these challenges, over the 2024-29 Medium-Term Development Plan, MTPD, we will disburse 140 000 subsidies and loans through First Home Finance.

We call on the private sector, especially financial institutions, to partner with us in providing more affordable housing stock near economic and social amenities. This will go a long way in undoing apartheid spatial planning and responding to President Ramaphosa's call to tackle inequality and housing programmes must also serve as economic catalysts.

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 52

In the 2024-25 financial year R463 billion in contracts were awarded to enterprises owned by women, youth and other vulnerable groups. While we welcome this progress, we acknowledge that the participation of persons with disabilities and military veterans remains low. Provinces and entities are now required to report on inclusive procurement and implement concrete transformation measures.

We are driving bold change through Property Practitioners Regulatory Authority, PPRA. The establishment of Property Sector Transformation Fund will support black-owned businesses with market access. Strategic partnerships with Remax and Rawson are creating opportunities for emerging black estate agents and entrepreneurs.

In April 2024 Rawson launched the Rawson Transformation Franchise Programme, which has already established six new black-owned franchises and created 47 jobs.

We also commend the Community Scheme Ombuds Services, CSOS, for transforming from a fully grant-dependent body to a self-sustaining regulator. CSOS is currently developing a national database of community schemes and aims to register

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 53

20 000 new schemes this year. The amendment of its founding legislation is underway to address previous gaps and further support transparency, education and enforcement.

In October 2024 we launched a National Research Strategy. It is our belief that informed decisions must be guided by empirical evidence. This year we will publish two critical reports: one on affordable rental and social housing, and another on funding mechanisms for human settlements. These reports will shape future policy from inner city renewal to the use of alternative building technologies.

Hon members, during the Youth Month commemoration we reiterated our commitment towards tackling youth unemployment through targeted programmes. The department will continue to implement the internship programme and award bursaries to deserving students. We will also engage Sector Education and Training Authorities, Setas, to secure support for learnership and skills development.

Hon members, as we celebrate the life and legacy of former President, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, this month, we are

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 54

reminded of his devotion to the power and the potential of young people, as he said:

I admire young people who are concerned with the affairs of their community and nation. With such youth we can be sure that the ideas we celebrate today will never be extinguished.

President Mandela recognised that young people are not only capable, they are courageous. Every generation has risen to the occasion.

Hon members, we recommend that the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements and Parliament accept our budget for the plight of the people of South Africa at large, not individuals. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Rev K R J MESHOE: Chairperson, hon members, the 2025-26 Human Settlements budget is tabled against the backdrop of persistent housing backlogs, deepening spatial inequality, and mounting pressure on urban infrastructure. While the department has made some strides in delivery, particularly through the Human Settlements Development Grant, concerns

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 55

remain about the pace, equity, and inclusivity of housing provision.

A critical area of concern is the Special Housing Needs Programme. Despite the Special Housing Needs policy being approved in October 2022, no formal announcement has been made by the Minister in this regard, with the result that few, if any, of welfare organisations are aware of this programme. It was specially developed to assist with the housing of vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, survivors of domestic violence, vulnerable children, elderly people and the homeless.

Those sounding the alarm where the state slumbers are frontline service providers. Upon enquiry, they say there are provincial departments of Social Development, Health and even Human Settlements that appear to be unaware of the Special Housing Needs Programme. This is totally unacceptable. It is now almost three years since this program was approved, and they have not yet heard of a single Special Housing Needs, SHN, project that has been approved. Despite its policy framework being drafted as far back as 2015, it remains wallowing and unapproved at national level. This is a shocking

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 56

and unacceptable lack of political will to help our vulnerable people.

The ACDP has been championing the cause of the most vulnerable people for well over a decade. In all these years, the ACDP has seen the greatest impediment being the persistent lack of interdepartmental co-ordination between Human Settlements, Social Development and Health. This has left groups such as people with disabilities, survivors of domestic violence, vulnerable children and elderly people and more without a coherent, enforceable housing policy.

While the Special Housing Needs Grant has been introduced to support implementation, its impact is constrained by the absence of a formalised policy and clear delivery programme. It is imperative that we achieve finalisation and adoption of the SHN policy. Ring-fenced funding is needed for special needs housing and transparent reporting on service delivery. The ACDP will definitely not support this Budget Vote. I thank you.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu, ...

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 57

English:

... I will debate the budget and resist the temptation to debate or play the women. As Rise Mzansi, we are building a safe, prosperous, equal and united South Africa, which is why today I rise on behalf of South Africans who rightfully demand access to affordable and adequate homes to own and to rent. South Africans expect this budget to be effectively allocated and used to ensure that these demands are met. We know that the department's allocated budget is not nearly enough to meet the housing needs in our country. This makes it all important that no cent goes to waste.

Nevertheless, we also know that this department has been shackled by unfinished projects and deep corruption, with many officials stealing the money that is meant to build homes. Hon members, climate change is no longer a faraway possibility. It is here and its floods, storms and wildfires are wreaking havoc on our communities. The provision of fast and proper emergency housing is now of vital importance and should be one of the department's main priorities. At the same time, the department must act swiftly to prevent and stop the heinous within its ranks to prey on the funds allocated to rebuilding communities. The money must be used effectively, and this

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 58

department must be proactive in verifying that its funds is spent as it should be. Finally, ...

Xitsonga:

... Holobye, ...

English:

... you cannot only focus on the development of more housing. You must also safeguard the existing housing stock. South Africans are being priced out of their homes and communities by the rapid growth in short-term rentals. We welcome tourists, however, the exponential increase in digital nomads and foreign nationals buying up properties with the sole purpose of turning them into short-term rentals is unacceptable. This drives up housing prices and leaves South Africans who have worked for years to afford to buy a home out in the cold. You must urgently, Minister, investigate this issue and employ all available legislative, regulatory and policy interventions to prevent this monopolisation of housing by an elite few, many of whom are not even based in South Africa. You must take urgent action to lower and control the cost of buying and renting homes in South Africa. Let us all

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 59

rise to ensure that every South African has a better place to call home.

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa swinene, Mutshamaxitulu

English:

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Gana, you are not going to do that - not here. The next speaker will be hon Hlazo-Webster.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Hon Chair, I think it is firstly important to note that today's debate is not just about line items on the budget. This is a department that we always say it's about a about a portfolio or about a responsibility to restore the dignity of South Africans, and it continues to fail the people that it claims to serve.

The Department of Human Settlements has been allocated 37,1 billion for the 2025-26 financial year. Yet, as it stands, across the country, from Gauteng to Eastern Cape, families still live in shacks, in overcrowded backrooms of RDP houses that are cracking at the foundation. In Gauteng alone,

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 60

the housing backlog exceeds 1 million people. This is not necessarily just because of a lack of funding. It is because of broken systems. It is because of unchecked corruption, and it is because of political protection for underperforming officials.

The portfolio committee itself raised various issues and concerns. One of those was the underspending on informal settlement upgrades, failure to meet title deeds delivery targets, and irregular and fruitless expenditure in several provinces with little or no consequence management. Meanwhile, illegal sales of RDP houses continue, particularly in Gauteng, often with the complicity of local officials. We have construction mafias that threaten contractors and communities, that hijack projects and delay delivery while the department remains passive. Where homes are delivered, they are often inferior in quality because they are built by politically connected contractors who cut corners with no oversight.

So, Chairperson, this is not just a delivery crisis; it is actually a crisis of leadership and of trust. And when the department that is charged with upholding dignity becomes a playground for patronage, the impact is not just financial,

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 61

its human. I said at the start of my debate that this is a department that is charged with restoring dignity to South Africans across the country.

So, this is a department that does not necessarily need more money to reform; it needs a research and culture, leadership and accountability. As Bosa, we have made it clear that the budget cannot be used as a poker chip in the political game of bluffing, as is being done by our colleagues in the DA. But it is equally important to be honest about who becomes trusted with public funds. My colleagues are saying extortionists. You cannot restore the public's trust with leadership that goes unchecked when they are compromised.

So while we lend our support to this budget, we call for a full audit of housing allocations of prosecutions of ghost contractors and officials, scaled up delivery and a firm strategy to neutralize the construction budget because our people do deserve dignity. I thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon House Chair, Al Jama-ah has taken the first steps to expropriate with no compensation that part of the land that farm dwellers have

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 62

been living for generations. So Minister, that means we are making your job easy so that we can reduce homelessness in the country.

Let me acknowledge Al Jama-ah's new Member of Parliament, hon Imraan Ismail-Moosa. We gave Parliament Advocate Shameemah Salie and watch the space with hon Imraan Ismail-Moosa. Also, I see Comrade ... [Inaudible.] ... who is in the forefront of fighting homelessness in the City of Cape Town.

This Constitution clearly states that adequate housing must be provided, but with the rate of social housing scheme eviction in Cape Town, they are forced to live in informal settlements by the DA-run City of Cape Town Municipality. Last Thursday, activists of the Women on Farms project marched on the Drakenstein Municipality, again run by the DA, who settled them in Plankies. You don't want to go to Plankies. It is a concentration camp. It is terrible and that's what the DA likes to do in municipalities which they run. The DA should not be allowed to budget for informal living which creates squatter camps. They budget for oppression. How can you allow that? These are just two of the DA-run municipalities which

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 63

create informal settlements ... [Inaudible.]. You must go and visit Blikkiesdorp in Cape Town.

The Minister of Human Settlements, Al Jama-ah applauds you for building thousands of top structures and decent projects for rental housing. We applaud you and your director-general and your team for the excellent work they are doing. So, that's why Al Jama-ah will support this budget. The DA creates unhealthy and unsafe living conditions. The Minister creates decent housing. The evidence is there. There are clear constitutional and legislative responsibilities for us as state representatives to uphold principles of quality, dignity and substantive housing. Those hon members who will vote against this budget, that is an anti-revolutionary vote. You must be ashamed of yourself! Thank you very much, hon House Chair.

Ms S FRENCHMAN: Hon Chairperson greetings to all present and all protocol observed. Chairperson, this report outlines new proposed plans for human settlements, as well as, as we all know, human Settlements has been struggling department from low quality houses being built to fraud and corruption within the department. What this report does not report on is how it

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 64

is going to retrieve the monies lost through fruitless and wasteful and fraud and corruption.

On numerous occasions in this committee I have mentioned the arrests that has happened within the City of Cape Town relating to fraud and corruption and have since not had any feedback from the department regarding this. And through you, Chairperson, I would like to ask the Minister the following: For the past seven or eight years, the NCC has been raising the alarm on the neglected Community Residential Units, CRUs on the Cape Flats. It has made national news because of the arrests that I mentioned and also the murder of one of the City of Cape Town's officials, Alistair Stanbull, who was one of the accused. This case is still ongoing.

Now, Minister, R600 million was allocated to fix the staircases of the CRUs the contract was illegally cancelled and the money was supposedly relocated to the budget according to Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis. We later found out that this is not true.

Minister, there is a forensic report that the city manager has promised to release to the public in 2018, but I stand

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 65

corrected on the timeline of this up until now he has not done so. So, Minister, this is R600 million of taxpayer's money. So, I am asking you now to please get that report for the committee. I also ask that yourself and the committee go out to these sites and see for yourself the conditional staircases are in. We cannot allow taxpayers' money to be squandered and have no one to take accountability. It is the duty of the department to ensure that taxpayer's monies are recovered. The City of Cape Town is only one example of mismanaged funds. As a committee we have come across the same in other provinces we had oversight.

Hon Minister and Chairperson, although I understand the need to upgrade informal settlements but please just hear me out. We have to ask: Will this be cost-effective for the department with fires and floods getting worse each year and the location of most of the informal settlements? It will cost the department much more than the allocated budget, especially if these upgrades are going to happen on privately owned land with the intention of relocation.

The NCC recommends that the department should provide a clear statement on the lawfulness of providing fixed water services

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 66

and other infrastructure to permanent or semi-permanent informal settlements are located on private land but also make the land available. Thank you.

Mr L W MAHLATSI: Hon Chairperson the UAT rise grounded in the timeless value of Pan-African and enduring spirit of ubuntu, I am because we are. These are not just philosophies, there are principles that guide every line item of this nation's budget. So, with great humility and clear conscience, I stand here to oppose Budget Vote No 33.

This Bill, as it stands, fails to embody the transformative justice that our people deserve. We are appropriating billions of rands under Budget Vote No 33, yet too little is visible directed towards real, integrated and pro-poor housing development. In township after township, in rural, urban fringe and informal settlements, our people still live in shacks, backrooms, overcrowded homes without land, dignity or hope. Yet, this Bill lacks concrete targeted provisions to uplift those historically dispossessed by colonialism, apartheid and yes, the postapartheid Urban Development Model itself. Ubuntu principle teaches us that no one lives in dignity until we all do. It is not enough to build a few units

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 67

and call it transformation. Where are the clear allocations for community driven development, where is the budget for site and service programmes, for tenure security and for it?

Sesotho:

Kgotso, Maafrica.

English:

The creation of spatial exclusive African families into the heartbeat of the city. This Bill also falls short on accountability and transparency. There is little details on conditional grants to provinces and municipalities. No clear framework to ensure that funding reaches informal settlements, backward dwellers, the young first-time homeowners. Without strict transparent oversight and community-based monitoring, billions will continue to disappear in bureaucracy and mismanagement, all while poor queues for houses they may never receive.

We must not simply rubber stamp budget. We must ask: Are these appropriation healing wounds of history, are they building African unity, restoring Africa's dignity and advancing the African development? Let us reallocate these funds towards

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 68

pro-poor housing, land redistribution, spatial justice and urban equity. Let us build not only houses, but build communities rooted in justice, access and belonging.

For these reasons and in the name of African unity and shared humanity.

Xitsonga:

Khanimambo!

Mr C J POOLE: Hon Chairperson, we as the DA are the anchor of the Government of National Unity, GNU, builders of communities, of opportunity and of accountability. Our Constitution enshrines the right to access adequate housing, as everyone in our country deserves a place to call home.

The Department of Human Settlements has immense ethical and moral responsibility. Unfortunately, however, the department is led by the Minister has displayed the opposite of ethics and morals. If you are accused of co- looting the VBS Bank, you should be in the dock before a judge and not a member of this august House, let alone being entrusted with R33 billion of taxpayers' funds to house the most vulnerable. [Applause.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 69

The Minister has to be in ... [Inaudible.] ... not being an ... [Inaudible.] ... long after being moved from justice portfolio to human settlements. As one of the most unequal countries on earth, with millions of South Africans being without the dignity of calling a place where it says a lot to the Minister accused of channelling pensioners money through a coffee shop.

Over multiple oversight visits, it has become evident that this department suffers from chronic weaknesses in intergovernmental co-ordination, project planning and accountability. This misalignment between spheres of government results in duplicated effort store projects and wasted funds.

In the Free State, for example, substandard Phase 1 projects have consumed budgets far in excess of original allocations, with nothing but poorly built structures to show for it.

According to the 2025 Exempted Micro Enterprises, EME, nearly 90% of the department's R101 2,2 billion medium-term budget is transferred to provinces and municipalities, yet poor planning delayed procurement and a shortage of engineering and technical capacity, meaning that service delivery is not

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 70

corresponding with the scale of funding. Instead of delivering the promised plus minus 86 000 subsidised houses, we see underspending, irregular expenditure and communities still waiting in informal settlements.

This year's budget has downgraded expectations. The number of fully subsidised houses to be delivered in 2025-26 dropped to plus minus 21 000 from over 41 000 in the previous year. That is nearly a 30% reduction. At the same time, the title deeds backlog, which is a crucial aspect of security of tenure, remains unresolved, even though the target for new title deed registration has increased to over 23 000 in this is just a fraction of the housing stock built since 2014.

Hon Chairperson, this department's dysfunctional starts from the Minister's doorstep where delivery was stalled and broken entities are further disrepair. We have seen in the National Home Builders Registration Council, NHBRC, shrinking inspection targets despite widespread reports of poor workmanship in the subsidy housing sector. We have seen in the National Housing Finance Corporation, NHFC, where first home finance approvals are plummeting, restricting access to

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 71

affordable housing at a time when inclusion should be expanding.

Extra recurring failures in compliance and governance reflects a weak enforcement system and delayed legislative reform.

At the Housing Development Agency, HAD, are troubling reliance on consultants and concerns over brand protection raised further questions about internal capability. Worryingly, the informal settlements upgrading grant to the provinces has been cut drastically, decreasing by 33,1% over the medium-term. While the department claims this is due to budget cuts is a shortfall that can be addressed through targeting irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

I certainly would not be any money on this Minister doing anything to clean up shop. If allegations of corruption are true, she would rather buy coffee shops she may be may in fact be planning of converting the Department of Human Settlements for a grant relaunch of a coffee enterprises. We need a professionalise Human Settlement Department sector one that values engineers, planners and auditors as much as it values slogans. One that links housing delivery with economic growth

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 72

and job creation, not just outputs under spreadsheet. Yes, this budget faces serious difficulties, but as hon Mphithi points out, if all else were equal, this budget will be supported. The allocation of R1,6 billion to emergency housing in times of disaster is a welcome addition. In a greater support to first time buyers will go a long way building opportunities for new homeowners to enter the market and build new lives.

However, we cannot trust the process. Taxpayers' money allocated to this budget will be implemented or cared for by this compromised Minister who was only redeployed to this department under the darkest clouds. This simply cannot be trusted with the R33 billions of hard-earned taxpayers' funds meant to house the vulnerable. When her failures are so dire, so stark and so many.

Hon Chairperson, we as the DA will not rest until the Department of Human Settlements delivers real houses with real dignity for real people, including being served under the right leadership. I thank hon members. I thank you.

[Applause.]

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 73

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon members, order. The next speaker will be hon Dithebe. Hon members, I'm informed that hon Seabi left a minute and is donating it to hon Dithebe. He will have 11 minutes.

Mr N S MATIASE: Hon Chairperson? No, no, no, no, hon Chair, on a point of order. On a point of order. Which rule are you basing that decision on? There's no such a rule. There's no such a rule.

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Can you switch off that mic?

Mr N S MATIASE: I'm saying there's no such a rule for that.

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Can you switch off the mic. I heard you so that I open mine.

Mr N S MATIASE: You can't make such rules as you could. There is no such a rule.

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Matiase, can you switch off that mic? Hon members, this is time allocated to a

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 74

political party. And this is allowed. It's not for the first time. Can you proceed, hon Dithebe?

Mr N S MATIASE: Which rule. Refer us to a rule.

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Dithebe?

Mr N S MATIASE: You cannot make rules as you go along.

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Matiase? Hon Matiase, please don't do that again. Please don't do that again. Proceed, hon Dithebe.

Mr S L DITHEBE: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister Simelane, Deputy Minister Mahambehhlala, hon members, chair of our committee, perhaps at this point we should ask, what is he afraid of?

Sesotho:

Modulasetulo, ke ema mona ho tshehetsa ditekanyetso-kabo tsa lefapha la phumantsho ya dodulo e leng *Human Settlements*, tsa lenane la mashome a mararo le metso e meraro, lebitsong la Maafrika Borwa a dulang dibakeng tseo di ntseng di fetolwa ho ba tse molaong.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 75

Ke bua ka baahi ba 666768 ... [Ho se utlwahale.] ...

Kutloanong, Matjhabeng, Freedom Square, Mangagung, Botshabelo West in Mangaung, Gugulethu, Thabong, Matjhabeng, Slovo Park, Gauteng, Banana City, Durban, le ba dulang tlasa marokgo, le hohle moo ba ipehileng teng Cape Town le babang bao ANC e etsang ho matleng ho ntlafatsa maphelo a bona.

English:

On 26 June last Thursday, we celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the adoption of the Freedom Charter, a clarion call and vision that gave us a sense of not only what our future nation state would look like, but our nation too as expressly stated in its preamble. that, I quote:

Our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality; that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities.

The 3 000 delegates to the Congress of the People in 1955 demanded that:

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 76

All people shall have the right to live where they choose.
All people shall have the right to live where they choose;
to be decently housed, and to bring up their families in
comfort and security. Slums shall be demolished and new
suburbs built where all shall have transport, roads,
lighting, playing fields, crèches and social centres.

Today, we stand here as the ANC and edge "all and sundry" who
love their people and country to unequivocally support this
budget because to do otherwise means delaying the eradication
of slums and informal settlements for the majority who are
black and still suffer from the legacy of decades and
centuries of force removals and land dispossession. And above
all, to not support this budget will worsen their asset
poverty and state of inequality. Have you heard, EFF, MKP? We
dare not linger. We stand here with a great sense of pride.

Mr M B BLOSE: Order, Chair. The hon member is raising ...

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Dithebe, can you sit
down.

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 77

Mr M B BLOSE: Order, Chairperson. The hon member is raising fingers. Your fingers are not nice. Your fingers are not nice.

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Can you switch off the mic? Hon members, order. Order, hon members. Hon members, these microphones, when you open there, I can't respond to you here. That disturbs how I must chair the meeting. You know the rules don't allow you to just switch on the mic. You must raise up your hand. And it's a warning to you, hon member. Hon Matiasse, I have warned you. I'm warning you for the second time. Hon Dithebe, can you proceed.

Mr S L DITHEBE: We stand here with a great sense of pride and gratitude to President Tambo, who laid a solid foundation for us to reach this glorious end by laying a firm foundation for the architect of South Africa's Constitution as captured in this book. And of course, the Constitution in section 26 (1) (3) guarantees all the right to have proper housing.

Hon Chairperson, colonialism and apartheid have exacted indelible scars on the fabric of lives of our people in villages, towns and cities. And despite attempts to resist, spatial justice and integration, we owe it to the volunteers

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 78

and crafters of the vision of a nonracial future of the Congress of the People of 1955 and the beneficiaries of our current constitutional order to stay engaged with all our people and actively facilitate their freedom to live where they choose and rights, as enshrined in section 26 of the Constitution. We applaud the strides of the Department of Human Settlements is making to upgrade informal settlements despite a severely constraints physical space.

We commend the R221 billion for the next three years to upgrade informal settlements and this year's budget of R8 billion allocated to provinces, metros and various sub programmes. With his zias allocation, the Department of Human Settlements, together with nine provinces and the eight metros, will see the upgrading of 63 informal settlements to phase 1 and another 104 and 55 informal settlements upgraded to phase 2 and 3 respectively. This paves the way to amenities such as electricity, roads, refuse collection, water, sanitation and for those that once were asset poor.

Unfortunately, the DA, MKP and the whole lot will not support this budget, but we do. Thus, we call on communities to work together with municipalities and provincial departments to

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 79

avoid an unlawful occupation of land, because this often breeds several other human settlements amenities challenges such as water, sanitation, clinics, roads and many more.

Hon Chairperson, to land dignity to our people, the ANC spearheaded the prevention of illegal eviction from an Unlawful Occupation of Land Act of 1998. Yes, it did. To this end, we support the revival of the amendment of the prevention of illegal eviction from an unlawful occupation of Amendment Bill by the department so as to decisively deal with illegal evictions and unlawful occupation of land, and we do not support attempts that are aimed at duplicating this process.

We commend the department for the work done on the 295 out of the 3 445 block projects to ensure value for money outcomes and impact in sustaining livelihoods.

Hon Chairperson, members, in this financial year, we expect the department to deliver at least 40 000 units across the country for the benefit of those households that earn less than R3500 so that they can build themselves homes, wherever they choose. As parties in this House, we can facilitate knowledge and understanding in communities with regards to

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 80

their freedoms, rights and opportunities by working closely with them to discourage the illegal conduct of land occupation.

Hon members, the Expropriation Act can be used legitimately and credibly to promote order, social and economic development in the human settlement sector. The Housing Development Agency current financial year of R43 137 million for land acquisition over the next three years respectively will not be sufficiently without a meticulous look at what the Expropriation Act can do to complement this disinvestment of funds for land acquisition.

The ANC welcomes the initiative by the department to work closely with the SA Local government Association, Salga, to ensure that communities remain engaged so that much more ingenious, innovative, creative ways can be found as far as the relocation of people where they need to live.

Chairperson, as I near conclusion of my speech, I'd like to say the following: In the portfolio committee, right in this room, it is noteworthy that the DA did not object to the adoption of the report. However, we know that they've decided

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 81

to resort to scuttlebutt, slivers of truth, outright annats and hon Mphithi in this room. Hon Mphithi in this room, raised one unfounded allegation after another against the chief executive officer of the National Housing Finance Corporation, NHFC.

The ANC will continue to support governance that is clean, that supports all the institutional framework of our Constitution. By the way, it is the ANC before you could taste what it is like to be in government, partially at national level. It is the ANC that established all the institutions that fight corruption today. Let no one. Let no one be "subjected to innuendo".

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Dithebe, can you please take your seat? Hon members, heckling is allowed. But don't drown the speaker. [Interjections.]. I am still ruling.

[Interjections.] Hon Blose, I'm still speaking. So, the room is very small when you shout. Hon Dlamini? Hon Blose? Hon Dlamini? Hon Blose, I'm still speaking. [Interjections.]. I am still speaking. Hon members, can we allow the speaker to proceed? You may heckle. You can't drown the speaker. Can you proceed, hon Dithebe.

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 82

Mr S L DITHEBE: Hon Chairperson, we have created all these institutions long before ...

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Dithebe, please take your seat. What is the hand for?

Mr M B BLOSE: Can the hon member take a question?

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Dithebe, can you take question?

Mr S L DITHEBE: No.

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Can you switch of the mic. Thank you. Proceed, hon Dithebe.

Mr S L DITHEBE: I don't take questions from people who don't support progress. Chairperson, the ANC has created all these institutions long before some of these "Johnny-come-lately" could be part of government, the Special Investigating Unit, SIU, the independent directory to fight corruption and we make absolutely no apologies. By the way, it is the DA's Helen Ziller, who objected when the Hawks raided JP Smith's main

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 83

office and declared him innocent. Malusi Boozi, your former MMC is on trial. You never shouted. So, let us be very clear. We will always stand on the side. We will always stand on the side of those who fight for justice and against corruption, but do not use it for partisan purposes. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Dithube, your time is up.

Mr S L DITHEBE Thank you very much.

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon members? Hon members? What is the hand for?

Mr T I GAMEDE: Chairperson, can you add hon Dithube 10 minutes for saying nothing?

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): That's a frivolous point of order, hon member. Hon members, allow me to go on record on the issue that hon Matiase was raising. I draw hon Matiase to go to 2023 state of the nation address when the EFF was allocated 20 minutes, 10 for hon Malema and 10 for hon Shivambu where hon Malema spoke for all the minutes because

UNREVISED HANSARD
MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025
VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 84

it's allowed. It's allocated to the party. It's not allocated to the person. Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Hon Paul, yes, you stand in front of the doc before the judge when you are charged. I am not amazed that you don't know this because I am undergoing trial without charges. You are trying me in the public eye because you think it's the only way to degrade the work that I am doing.

Let me remind the DA, one of your public representatives - and I know, hon Khakhau, you don't know him - Musebenzi Radebe, go and investigate him. A murderer alleged in my sister's case died under the DA not charged. In 2016 when I had managed to place charges against him, it was only then that the DA suspended him, even on my calls to get the DA to get a statement of murder against my sister. They didn't. In 2019, three years later, he died. Nineteen years under the DA with no justice. So, good, you can find the nearest door to the police station, where it matters, you don't even know where the door is.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 85

Let me deal with the traditional leaders, hon baba [Sir] uHadebe, we have engaged extensively on traditional leaders and I am going to quote just a few, which I would want us to go back and deal with. I said, I appreciate the House of Traditional Leaders in KwaZulu-Natal.

IsiZulu:

Inkosi ubaba mkhize embumbulu obaba umlaba bakwacimba babukele izimbokodo. I can count ubaba Hlengwa, inkosi ubhengu, inkosi ungcoobo ekuthiwa lenaneo nasemzinyathi

English:

... has given us land already for the National Housing Code, NHC. Hon Gamede, good luck. I came into this House and I presented that. They are part of the budget now. The member of the executive council, MEC, Duma is just next to you, he will take you through. It is not the only province that we are targeting. We want to go to Bakgatla-Ba-Kgafela in the North West and we start to continue with that programme.

Investigation is accountability. We can't be taught that, we actually are the deliverer of accountability. I availed myself for all accountability.

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 86

Now, if an investigation is being done and you can't ... you reported the case but we can't wait for the investigation to conclude. You now want other things in between the investigation. I fear I am going to disappear after this. I mean, really. The innovative building technologies, IBTs, innovative technologies, maybe, that's the problem, that's the word I used. It means alternative building materials, its innovative building technologies, that is how we call it in the department. It is meant to deal with the disasters that are engulfing us learning, in fact, from what the National Home Builders Registration Council, NHBRC, is leading in one of our centres, Soshanguve, named after one of our Human Settlements stalwarts, ... [Inaudible.] ...

So, if you don't have the idea, you can't come and throw stones but rather come follow through. I agree, hon Meshoe, we may want to emphasise more on our public education in terms of the programmes including entities that we run, but I find it rather difficult that because there is poor communication, therefore, the budget is not accepted. Nonetheless, who am I?

Hon Hadebe, you touched on an important matter as well with regard to making houses and human settlements. Part of our

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 87

grant allows municipalities to even by graders for waste collection, part of our grants allow municipalities to deal with water and waste treatment plants to ensure that there is no sewer flows down the streets in the spirit of creating a human settlement, our urban grant even allows for development of open spaces, what we would call parks and recreational areas, open gyms for our children and for our communities.

I have spoken, hon Van Staden, that we will deal with the list of brown fields and green fields. For example, in Gqeberha, one of the properties we are expropriating as the Department of Human Settlements, six of them, are owned by a man who is sitting somewhere outside the country. There are a menace to society. There is a high level of crime in that area and he is enjoying his life having left the problem here at home. Let me deal with this issue that it is only the Western Cape which budgets ...

We will investigate the R600 million. They turned back no less than R200 million in the past financial year. The good deliveries ... Yesterday, on title deeds, myself and them handed over a title deed to a 94-year-old here in Bishop Lavis. Why was he there? Forced removal from Goodwood. A

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

VOTE NO 33 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Page: 88

forced removal from Goodwood, 94-year-old! Ha, we are best in title deeds.

IsiZulu:

Ngizonibona ngonyaka ozayo. [Ihlombe.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, you are reminded that two debates are scheduled simultaneously for sixteen thirty today the Public Service and Administration, including National School of Government and Public Service Commission Budget Vote debate will be held at the Good Hope Chamber, while the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Budget Vote debate will take place in this very committee room, M46. That concludes the debate and the business of this mini plenary session. The mini plenary will now rise.

Debate concluded.

The mini plenary session rose at 15:58.