

in session



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

August
2022





PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Editor
Brent Simons

Production editor
Mava Lukani

Design and layout
Vishaal Lalla

Copy editors
Jane Henshall

Writers
Sakhile Mokoena, Abel Mputing,
Justice Molafo, Malatswa Molepo,
Sureshinee Govender,
Jabulani Majozi, Mava Lukani

Photography
Zwelethemba Kostile

Distribution & subscriptions
Jacqueline Zils

Publisher
Parliament of the Republic of
South Africa

**Section Manager:
Publishing and Production**
Shirley Montsho

Copyright
INSESSION is published by
the Information and Content
Development Unit of the
Parliamentary Communication
Services of the Parliament
of the Republic of South Africa. All
material published is copyrighted
and cannot be
reproduced without the written
permission of the publisher.

EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES
Telephone 021 403 8738
Fax 021 403 8096

E-mail
insession@parliament.gov.za

Subscriptions
jzils@parliament.gov.za

Post
PO Box 15, Cape Town, 8000

OUR IDEALS **Vision**

An activist and responsive people's
Parliament
that improves the quality of life of
South Africans and ensures enduring
equality in our
society.

Strategic Objectives

- Strengthening oversight and accountability;
- enhancing public involvement;
- deepening engagement in international fora;
- strengthening cooperative government;
- strengthening legislative capacity.

BOOK A TOUR

To tour Parliament
Telephone 021 403 2266
Fax 021 403 3817
E-mail tours@parliament.gov.za

“As the custodian for the national strategic plan on GBVF, we continue to lobby all government departments and social partners to collaborate in the fight against GBV and femicide” says Minister Nkoana-Mashabane



Ms Sylvia Lucas.



Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane.

The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) marked Women’s Day by holding a debate on the topic of Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow, writes Sakhile Mokoena. The virtual discussion was opened by the Minister for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane.

She began by referring to a World Bank assessment of gender equality in South Africa since democracy, in 1994. The World Bank reported some progress, but also found that the biggest stumbling blocks to gender equality included a lack of economic empowerment for women, a high prevalence of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), as well as a progressive legislative framework that is poorly implemented.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane highlighted some of her department’s work. “As the custodian for the national strategic plan on GBVF, we continue to lobby all government departments and social partners to collaborate in the fight against GBV and femicide,” she said.

The Minister added that her department continues to work with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to ensure that GBV plans are integrated into the District Development Model (DDM) and municipalities’ integrated development plans.

“Over the past two years, strides have been made in the following areas: Nedlac has concluded its consultation on the National Council on GBV and submitted a report, which will soon be presented to Cabinet and Parliament for consideration and further processing. Multi-sectoral GBV rapid response teams are in the process of being established in all provinces, districts and local municipality levels. Although significant progress has been made, the reality is that women, children and LGBTI persons are not safe in our communities,” said the Minister.

Participating in the debate, the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, Ms Sylvia Lucas’s position was that there is consensus on the need to build a society that is peaceful, equal and which is just, as envisaged in the National Development Plan (NDP), the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the African Agenda 2063.

Ms Lucas said the 2019 Women’s Parliament took a resolution that

Parliament should embark on a process to review the entire women’s rights regime in order to assess the efficacy of the systemic and institutional mechanisms across the three spheres of government in order to advance the realisation of gender equality.

The review process, she explained, has explicitly expressed the glaring disjuncture between policy and practice, between public endorsement of gender equality and actual institutional practice. The outcome of the review process now serves as the guide document for the women of South Africa, articulating matters of urgent prioritisation. The revised charter will also serve as a roadmap for effective policy redesign going forward, the NCOP Deputy Chairperson said.

She also pointed out that effective gender equality will only be realised if all state machinery is functionally gender mainstreamed. At the moment, systemic weaknesses prevail in gender mainstreaming at provincial and local level. These weaknesses point to a lack of resource allocation and an uncoordinated approach to implementing a gender machinery in practice.

“Gender equality and the emancipation of women is not an act

of charity or the result of a humanitarian attitude. The liberation of women is a fundamental necessity," Ms Lucas concluded.

Mr Mbulelo Bara, a Permanent Delegate in the NCOP and DA Member of Parliament, remarked that gender equality is a fundamental human right and that South Africa's performance in this regard was dismal, according the same World Bank report cited by the Minister.

Mr Bara believes that South Africa has a long way to go to achieve gender equality and meet the target of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the year 2030. "With only eight years to go until the deadline to achieve the SDGs, the progress in gender equality indicators have stagnated," he said.

"The inclusion of women in decision-making processes should be the cornerstone of gender equality. Women should participate in all levels of government and law-making. Legislation and implementation has an impact on their daily lives", Mr Bara said.

Ms Mmabatho Mokause, another NCOP delegate and Economic Freedom Fighters representative said the commemoration of Women's Day in South Africa should be an opportunity to take stock of progress in achieving gender equality and women's emancipation.

"As we celebrate the contribution and achievements of the generation of 1956 and others, [this] is also an opportunity to take stock of where we are and how far we have come in the struggle for equality, advocacy and support for women's movement. This day allows us to take stock and strategise on a way forward, for we have come a long way since those women made the demands, but we are yet to accomplish what they started. As black African women today, there is nothing to celebrate, as there is little political will to ensure that gender equality is guaranteed," she argued.

The South African Local Government Authority (SALGA) also participated in the debate, represented by Councillor Flora Moboa-Boltman. She noted that Article 4 of Salga's constitution commits local government to promote the interests of women in local government through the 50/50 campaign. In addition, all SALGA governance structures are constitutionally bound to comply with 50/50 representation in leadership, she said.👏

Advancing women emancipation and empowerment, and fighting the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide



In celebration of Women's Month in August, InSession asked female Members of Parliament to share their thoughts on this important time in South Africa's yearly calendar when we commemorate the work done by previous generations of South African stalwarts, while encouraging the ongoing work necessary to ensure that the women of today can live their lives with dignity and in comfort, free from violence and fear. The Chief Whip of the African National Congress Ms Pemmy Majozi had this to say.

Patriarchy has been embedded in our social fibre, resulting in the perpetuation of the marginalization of women in the political economy. Colonialism, culture, religion and the exploitative system of capitalism have placed women on the periphery of the social order. Black women suffered a triple oppression, based on their class, race and gender.

We women stand on the shoulders of heroines such as mama Charlotte Maxeke, Lillian Ngoyi, Winnie Madikizela Mandela, Albertina Sisulu and many others who have waged a relentless struggle against patriarchy and for the freedom of the people of South Africa. These heroines have laid a base for our generation to drive the creation of a non-sexist and just society.

In memory of our struggle heroines, we should ensure that women are not erased in the history of our nation, in our education curriculum and in our heritage landscape, which to this day are still dominated by men and by male thinking.

We pay tribute to the late Deputy Secretary-General of the African National Congress, Jasmin "Jessie" Duarte, who made a meaningful contribution in the emancipation and

empowerment of women. She leaves behind a legacy of commitment to the struggles of the oppressed, in which she dedicated her life to create a better life for others to enjoy.

We also send our condolences to the family of the late Anastacia Motaung, who served as an ANC Member of Parliament in the Social Development portfolio committee. We shall treasure her contribution and commitment to serve the people.

Our history as women is vast and affirms the saying "wathintha abafazi wathintha imbokodo" as women played a critical role in the liberation of the oppressed black majority. It is this spirit of our heroines that should consume our minds, as we grapple and struggle with addressing the challenges facing women today. It is the firmness and the resilience of our heroines that should inspire us to forge unity to confront the challenges facing women. To be a woman in South Africa is a risk, amidst the high levels of gender-based violence, femicide, rape and other crimes that are prevalent in our society that target women.

The founding values of the democratic South Africa include human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms. It is with concern that we have not fully restored the dignity of women, who are discriminated against through unequal pay for equal work, as women earn 38 per cent less than men, sexual harassment, lack of

sanitary towels, lack of basic services, lack of access to land, gender-based violence and many other circumstances that women must endure.

Poverty has a women's face. The fact that Blacks (53%) and Coloureds (39%) have a relatively high percentage of fathers not living with their biological children reflects a society that has a problem with fatherhood and which has shifted what should be a shared social responsibility of building our next generation solely onto the shoulders of women.

The democratic dividend will not be realised if our democratic government does not create an equitable society. We will not heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights without mainstreaming gender.

Meanwhile, Parliament has passed important bills – the Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill, the Domestic Violence Amendment Bill and the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Bill – to make the law more robust in addressing gender-based violence and femicide. But the law will not be enough to change the situation, as this scourge requires behavioural change. This requires us to raise the boy child to respect the girl child and to denounce practices that undermine women in our society. We must embed the spirit of ubuntu in our children and in our society.👏



Ms Winnie Ngwenya
NCOP House Chairperson on International Relations.

As we commemorate the 66th anniversary of the 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria in 1956 to protest against the apartheid government's racially motivated attempts to force women to carry passes to control their freedom of movement, we remember their tireless fight to emancipate all South African women.

Through the work of these brave heroines, we are happy that the country is reaping the fruits of their labour.

In recognition and appreciation of their great work, every year the National Council of Provinces convenes a formal sitting to debate Women's Day. This debate gives NCOP Members an opportunity to reflect on and take stock of the position of women in this country and to assess the progress made in advancing women's socio-economic empowerment and promoting gender equality. The theme for this year's debate was "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow".

During the debate we heard that South Africa broke new ground in the 2019 national elections, which saw women occupy 46 per cent of the seats in the newly elected National Assembly and 36 per cent of the seats in the NCOP. Women also occupy 46 per cent of the seats in provincial legislatures and 48 per cent in Cabinet. Local government elections in November 2021 saw women occupy 37 per cent of the available positions.

Nonetheless, much more still needs to be done to achieve gender parity. In an effort to combat gender-based violence and femicide, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed into law three pieces of legislation on 22 January

2022 aimed at strengthening efforts to end gender-based violence, with a victim-centred focus on combating this dehumanising pandemic.

These laws are:

1. Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2021 (Act No 13 of 2021),
2. Domestic Violence Amendment Act 2021 (Act No 14 of 2021),
3. Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Act, 2021 (Act No 12 of 2021)

We will monitor the implementation of these laws and their impact on society. Parliament's message is clear; it is to continue exercising our constitutional obligation to conduct oversight over the national executive authority by ensuring that the executive develops policies that champion the advancement of women's socio-economic empowerment and the promotion of gender equality.

As we continue with our work of addressing gender equality, we remember the wise words of the former Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, Hon Mose Tjitendero, who once said: "We believe that true equality between the sexes can only be achieved if both women and men pull forces together to break the barriers of age-old belief that women and men have different roles to play and therefore have an unequal stand in society. A man of quality should not fear women who seek equality." 🌹



Ms Siviwe Gwarube
Chief Whip of the
Official Opposition.

As we wind down Women's Month, it is important to remind ourselves what this month signifies. It is an opportunity for the country to reflect on the bravery and the conviction of the women of 1956 who marched against the apartheid government's racially discriminatory pass laws.

They placed their political, racial and religious differences aside and united against an evil regime that sought to render the majority of South Africans less than human. It is also a time to assess how far we have come as a country in the quest for gender parity. In other words, we commemorate the events of 1956, while challenging ourselves to achieve more.

It is deeply unfortunate that this month – due to the sheer severity of the crisis – is used to highlight the war waged against women in South Africa. Gender-based violence and femicide is not the theme of Women's Month; however, it has become exactly that.

I recently attended the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Canada and interacted with parliamentarians from across the world. We envy the pace with which many countries are grappling with issues pertaining to gender parity in addition to GBVF.

The world is occupied with big global questions of how to create gender-conscious parliaments, closing the gender pay gap, tackling



"Across all party lines, we need to commit ourselves to being ruthless in our quest to create a safer South Africa for women."

Ms Siviwe Gwarube

the climate crisis and how it disproportionately affects women and food security. However, in South Africa, we are still dealing with the single issue of safety and well-being of women.

This is simply not good enough.

We therefore need to urgently legislate and implement policing strategies that will curb the violence against women. We need to lead by example in changing the violent culture in our country. The sooner we do so, the sooner we are able to put our energies into grappling with the myriad issues affecting women in South Africa.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, the gender inequality divide widened and demonstrated to us all that more needs to be done to uplift women who often bear the brunt of unemployment and poverty.

Across all party lines, we need to commit ourselves to being ruthless in our quest to create a safer South Africa for women. Equally, we need to be intentional about moving the debate about gender parity to 2022 for the benefit of the millions who look to Parliament for these solutions.

The struggle is far from over. 🌹



Ms Thandiwe Marawu.

A Member of the African Transformation Movement in the National Assembly, Ms Thandiwe Marawu wished the women of South Africa a happy Women's Month.

In recognising the strides women have taken to change South Africa into a better country, we should recognise great women, such as Dr Nozuko Monica Nongqunga, and other heroines, who fought selflessly to ensure that the empowerment of women is at the centre of the agenda of every pillar of transformation of South African society.

We should use these women who came before us as examples to

emulate in continuing in the course of transformation and in developing our society. We must draw lessons from them for starting a development project with the limited resources at our disposal and then ensure that what we do has a material impact on many people's lives in all communities.

The time we are in calls on all women to stand up and ensure that we instil morals and ethics in our children to prepare for the future of this country. We should work to ensure that they become ethical, skilled and capable leaders who adhere to the values of ubuntu.

Having been at the cutting-edge of struggle from an early age, I was exposed to the daily struggles facing women in different sectors of the economy. Hence, I always vowed to advance women's economic emancipation agenda, even when I served as an MEC in the Eastern Cape Provincial Government.

It is just as important that I continue this work as an MP and heading up the Dr Nozuko Nongqunga Foundation, which focuses on investing in a young girl's future. We have built houses, provided food, bursaries and clothing, but best of all, we have restored hope in many families. We have done all this with limited resources, a challenge I wish to put to all women in South Africa.

Umsebenzi womfazi awupheli, ngako ke masiyeni zimbokodo sigaye kutyiwe, kuhluthwe ezweni lo Bawo bethu.🙏



Ms Hlengiwe Mkhali, Economic Freedom Fighters MP.

As we celebrate Women's Month in August, it is an opportunity to highlight the plight of women that still continues in this country. Women are in the majority in South Africa, but we are still suffering. We suffer as black women. We suffer as poor. We suffer as women.

Patriarchy is still the order of the day. Men wake up every morning and the first thing that comes into their mind is to insult women. This can be witnessed in social media; when a man doesn't know what to write as his status, he just writes degrading, insulting things about women as a so-called "joke".

We women are not protected by government. We are on our own. Gender-based violence is experienced every day, there are no systems in

place and even laws don't protect women and girl children.

How can high school teenagers in Ugu Region in KwaZulu-Natal, defenceless young women, be killed while they were sleeping? How can one understand that senseless killing? How can a student from Mangosuthu University of Technology be stabbed to death by a male in the residence? I'm mentioning just a few amongst many painful killings of women in this country.

We are under attack as women. It's as if we don't have government. We call on men to stop seeing us as objects to be raped and killed. Unfortunately, even the Speaker of Parliament, as a woman, allows men to harass and beat us.

Women at the workplace are still subjected into exploitation and are undermined by men, even those in high positions, as in the case with the UNISA Vice-Chancellor.

Women need protection, we need laws, we need political will from the ruling party to protect us. It must start with the State President, who I doubt, since a domestic worker in his Phala Phala farm was beaten under his watch.

May August month this year mean a real freedom for women in this country. We are tired of this situation, as if we don't have blood as women, as if we don't deserve to be alive, as if our girl children don't belong in this country. We are tired.🙏



Ms Tamarin Breedt, Member of the National Assembly's message to women.

Women matter. You matter.

Always support other women.
Celebrate their wins and help them to get back up after their losses.

As the poet Alex Elle has said: "Celebrating another woman's triumphs or success will never take away from your shine or glory. If anything, it'll add to it and create more light." In a similar vein, Malala Yousafzai, the world's youngest Nobel Prize laureate, once said: "I raise up my voice—not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard. ... We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back."

My message would also be this: Love yourself. Accept yourself. Forgive yourself. Be kind to yourself. This morning the most God-fearing women I know sent me a message regarding kindness and self-love. Often times we believe that being selfless means always prioritising others and to love others instead of ourselves. We are always focussing on our own shortcomings and imperfections, but accept and forgive those of others. We have understanding and have grace for our friends and family. Yet, we do not afford ourselves that same luxury. As Maya Angelou said: "The real difficulty is to overcome how you think about yourself."

In the words of Sylvester McNutt: Fall in love with becoming the best version of yourself but with patience, with compassion, and respect to your own journey."

And always remember: "You are enough. A thousand times enough."
~Atticus~

Happy Women's Month! 🌸

RAISE UP YOUR VOICE: NCOP Deputy Chairperson Ms Sylvia Lucas addresses the report-back session on the review of the Women's Charter.



Women's Charter review leaves no stone unturned, NCOP Deputy Chairperson promises

After travelling the country soliciting the views of South African women on the state of women's development in the country, a report-back session on the review of the Women's Charter for Accelerated Development took place in the Western Cape during Women's Month in Cape Town at the Life Conference Centre in Sea Point, writes Abel Mputing.

The session's goal was to solicit a commitment to institutionalised gender-mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting from representatives of the Western Cape Government. In attendance at the meeting were representatives from the Western Cape government, the Commission for Gender Equality, the Fiscal and Financial Commission (FFC) and the Ministry of Social Development, to name but a few.

It is believed that gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting will support women's development and their economic emancipation. This meeting built on a proposal to review the Women's Charter that was made in Guguletu in Cape Town in 2020.

The champion of this current process, the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Sylvia Lucas, told the gathering that the Women's Charter was signed in 1954 after women from various formations and political affiliations agreed, under banner of the Federation of South African Women, to advance women's political and economic emancipation.

Ms Lucas explained that the review of the Charter sought to establish a new regime for women's rights that will determine the efficacy of legislation and policies meant to advance women development. It has exposed discrepancies between policy and institutional practices. A key finding of the review is that women's development needs to become an integral part of local and provincial governments' budgeting framework, because it is these levels of government that are the main drivers of service delivery and social change, Ms Lucas explained.

The report on the review sets clear targets and includes a road map for policy change and assessment that will bring a new dimension to gender mainstreaming and gender responsive budgeting in the public and private sectors.

The Deputy Chairperson took the opportunity to warn, however, that

women's advancement should not be a partisan undertaking. "Poverty, inequality and unemployment have no regard for one's political affiliation. We need to join hands and work together as women, not as members of different political parties. We should assess the progress made in advancing our issues collectively as women, to ensure that we keep government, as policy maker, accountable," she emphasised.

The Deputy Speaker of the Western Cape Legislature, Ms Beverley Schafer, said the Western Cape legislature supports the national government's gender mainstreaming programme in district municipalities using the Revenue Bill, which tracks how funds are used and can determine if they serve women's interests. However, Ms Schafer pointed out that currently the gender reporting process lacks an accountability framework. Therefore, there is no way of measuring the planning and implementation of gender-responsive budgeting, nor is there any investment to address these gaps.

FFC Chairperson Dr Nombeko Mbava acknowledged that women still suffer physical and emotional abuse and the effects of inequalities. Speaking shortly after the horrific rape of eight young girls in Krugersdorp, Dr Mbava called on the government to ensure the

security and safety of all South African women.

She went on to summarise the FFC's research into gender-responsive budgeting in the annual performance and strategic plans of the Western Cape provincial government's departments of health, education and social development. The FFC assessed these plans through a gender lens and asked: "Do they include or exclude women in their design? And does budget spent by them address gender parity in health, education or social development or whether women are included in their allocation and expenditure equitably?" Dr Mbava explained.

The FFC found that the Western Cape government's plans are in line with national gender responsive planning and monitoring frameworks, but this is

not yet reflected in all departments, particularly in skills allocation, budgeting, policies and strategic plans.

The FFC research also criticised a lack of disaggregated information on the allocation of resources and economic opportunities based on gender. Gender mainstreaming needs to be monitored and evaluated effectively to ensure that gender targets are met and that they promote gender-focussed interventions, Dr Mbava pointed out.

In her presentation, the Deputy Director-General of Economic Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement, Ms Jo-Ann Johnston, lamented inflation and the shrinking budgets that contribute to growth downgrades. She further stated that although gross domestic product in



EQUAL IN EVERY RESPECT: Delegates attending the report-back session listen to presentations on gender-responsive budgeting.

the Western Cape is expected to grow, employment is not predicted to follow the same trajectory.

What this means for women is that they will continue to face significant challenges. Her department has thus decided to ease Western Cape women's path to doing business, particularly in relation to

investment, exports, and skills and enterprise development. One project that embodies the department's commitment to women entrepreneurs is the Women in Business Programme in Khayelitsha, which develops women's business skills, allowing them to participate fully in the Western Cape government's various economic programmes. 🌱

LET'S STAMP OUT ILLEGAL MINING: Members of Parliament visit the illegal Krugersdorp mine.



We dare not fail in our efforts to stop illegal mining, says NCOP Chief Whip

In the wake of the gruesome rape and robbery at a mining dump in Krugersdorp recently, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) held a ministerial briefing yesterday to hear what the departments of Police, Mineral Recourses and Home Affairs are doing to address the root causes of this criminality to ensure that nothing like this ever happens again. Abel Mputing reports from the briefing.

In his opening address, the Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr Amos Maseko, explained that the NCOP called the briefing because illegal mining has reached crisis proportions and now threatens legal mining operations. The NCOP calls on the relevant government departments to act to address this criminal activity, as it is threatening the country's economic wellbeing.

Mr Nyambi suggested a mining artisanship training programme to formalise mining skills as a form of creating employment within the industry. He also mentioned the need to secure South Africa's borders and commended the police for the swift arrest of illegal miners at the Krugersdorp mine dump. He also told Krugersdorp communities how important it was not to take the law into their own hands.

Also participating in the briefing, the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Mr Gwede Mantashe, emphasised that the government has established a special unit to deal with illegal mining, as the United Nations predicts that South Africa could lose as much as R41 billion in revenue as a result of this activity.

Talking about what the department is doing to protect the country from the dangers posed by derelict mines, Minister Mantashe said that closing decommissioned mines is an ongoing operation with, among others, 135 mining holes closed on the Witwatersrand. As for the Krugersdorp

mine where the incident took place, Mr Mantashe pointed out that Mogale Gold had been appointed to deal with the rehabilitation and closure of mining holes in that area, but it had gone into liquidation.

“It’s better for the NCOP members to visit various sites we are working on to have a better picture of what is happening on the ground, to see that the rehabilitation and closure of mine holes is a work in progress,” he added.

To counter claims that the police do not take illegal mining seriously enough the Minister of Police, Mr Bheki Cele, reminded the NCOP briefing that a special task team was established by the police in 2019 to deal with illegal mining. This has led to the arrest of 4 675 illegal miners so far. He also dispelled the claim that illegal mining arises due to unemployment, saying instead that it is run by criminal syndicates and is an economic crime.

The police are now working with a private security company to secure the Krugersdorp area in question and a government-wide multidisciplinary task team has, to date, led to the arrest of 350 illegal immigrants at the site. Furthermore, seven people have been arrested and charged in connection with the crime, but they have yet to appear in court. What is outstanding, he said, is the positive identification of the accused through DNA samples in order for the men to be positively linked to the incident.

Another issue raised by Mr Cele is the trade flows involved in the illicit gold mining industry. The Directorate of Priority Crime Investigations is investigating to find out more about the industry so that these criminals are caught and face justice.

The Department of Home Affairs Director-General, Mr Tommy Makhode, reported on engagements with stakeholders in Mozambique,

Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Botswana to discuss the involvement of their nationals in crime in South Africa. The department is seeking to speedily repatriate those charged with criminality in South Africa and to deter more illegal migration, “the Border Management Agency is ready to operate as a standalone entity to discharge its border management responsibilities, which will assist in addressing our porous borders.”

Bringing the South African Local Government Association’s (SALGA) perspective to the debate, SALGA’s Mr Jongizizwe Dlabathi called for a community-centred partnership approach in the fight against illegal mining. “Community members, community safety forums and multi-stakeholder platforms must be formed for joint implementation, monitoring and coordination efforts to build safer communities bordering old and derelict mines.” In his closing remarks, the Chief Whip of the NCOP, Mr Seiso

Mohai, stressed that the recent atrocities heightened public discourse on illegal mining and its attended criminality. While the collective efforts of police and home affairs in dealing with illegal immigration are noted, Mr Nyambi called for a review of police capacity to deal with illegal mining. He also urged mining companies to commit to the closure of their unused mines.

For the NCOP’s part going forward, NCOP committees will design oversight actions and monitor the impact of departments’ interventions. Mr Mohai further said that the departments of Home Affairs and Police must rid themselves of rogue elements in their ranks, as illegal miners “have eyes and ears within the system”. Cooperation within the South African Development Community is essential in this regard, because “the level of training and military sophistication used by illegal miners poses a threat to South Africa’s national security”. 🗳️

Confusion delays flood relief grants reaching local communities, committee hears

The Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Flood Disaster Relief and Recovery received briefings from government recently on interventions to alleviate the plight of communities affected by the April flood disaster. The departments involved included Finance, Social Development, Transport, Small Business Development, Public Enterprises, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, reports Mava Lukani.

Briefing the committee on the role of the National Treasury, the Minister of Finance, Mr Enoch Godongwana, started by saying that the government announced the availability of R1 billion for disaster relief purposes after the April floods had been declared a

national disaster. However, confusion arose about how to access the funds.

He explained that the manner in which disaster relief funding is disbursed is outlined in legislation. This is defined in schedule seven of the Division of Revenue Act in terms of provincial and municipal disaster response grants, provincial and municipal emergency housing grants, the disaster allocation process, disaster allocations and reprioritisation, procurement dashboard and spending information.

Nonetheless and despite the confusion, the committee urged the Minister to ensure that the grants reach their intended destination, as they are the custodian of the requirements to ensure that the victims of the disaster were assisted on time. Confusion does not justify a delay in assistance to the people, the committee pointed out.

Mr Godongwana replied that national departments are the transferring departments for immediate relief grant assistance provided to needy



RELIEF AFTER DISASTER: The Minister of Finance, Mr Enoch Godongwana, briefed the committee on measures to ease the distress of those affected by the floods.

communities. These departments include the departments of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, for local government services; Human Settlements, for the rollout of temporary residential units after the April floods, for example; and Water and Sanitation, for the provision of resources, such as water tanks. Mr Godongwana also mentioned that when a disaster is declared, new processes arise and lessons are learnt.

In response to this, the committee emphasised that it is unacceptable that, four months after the declaration of the flood disaster, people are still living in temporary accommodation and children are not going to school. In addition, some municipalities do not have the capacity to follow the process to access grants. The committee called on the National Treasury and the transferring departments to intervene

in situations such as these to ensure that people receive the assistance they so urgently need.

The committee also urged National Treasury to ensure that controls are tightened around money appropriated for disaster, so that it is not misappropriated when it reaches municipalities. Municipalities should not be allowed to use money set aside for disaster relief to pay salaries, the committee said.

The committee was unhappy about the lack of information in the Treasury’s report about flood disaster relief to the North West province, despite the devastation the committee saw there with their own eyes. Mr Godongwana noted the omission and promised to provide the committee with a full report on the matter. 🗳️

Committee calls on government to accelerate interventions in flood-affected provinces



CALL TO ACTION: The Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, briefs the committee on the measures taken by her department to assist flood victims.

The Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Flood Disaster Relief and Recovery was disappointed with the level of detail in the Department of Social Development's report on its intervention in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and North West provinces, which were badly affected by floods in April, writes Mava Lukani.

The committee told the Social Development Minister, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, that much more still needs to be done for the flood victims, as many of them in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) are still living in unacceptable conditions in temporary accommodation.

Community halls accommodating the flood victims are overcrowded and poorly supplied with bedding. This forces some people to sleep on the floor. Furthermore, women and girls are vulnerable to all forms of gender-based violence in these places. The committee also highlighted the poor provision of food, water and sanitation in the temporary accommodation.

However, the worst affected victims of the flood, in the view of Ms Bongwiwe Mbinqo-Gigaba, a member of this committee and also Chairperson of

the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education, is the children who are now not receiving an education. These children's future depends on their getting an education, Ms Mbinqo-Gigaba pointed out.

"We are calling on the department to ensure that in its support to the victims, support towards education of children is prioritised," said Ms Mbinqo-Gigaba. "We should not allow the future of children to go with the April floods."

In April devastating floods swept through KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and North West provinces, placing residents in danger and leaving death and destruction in their wake.



Meanwhile, the committee told Minister Zulu that it is unacceptable that, four months after the disaster, people still live in community halls and temporary shelters in KZN. The committee heard that under the

auspices of the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), 9 520 social relief of distress vouchers worth R1 980 per person have been distributed in KZN. This cost the state R16.5 million.

SASSA has also provided 898 blankets and 888 mattresses, along with 676 dignity packs for people housed in shelters. It has also serviced about 72 shelters overall, which all together cost approximately R8.4 million. International donors, nongovernmental organisations and private companies continue to provide assistance to victims.

The committee called for these efforts to be coordinated to ensure that their impact is enhanced.

The committee was also dissatisfied with the slow delivery of temporary residential units (TRUs) and called on the Department of Human Settlements to accelerate their provision as a temporary measure. The co-Chairs of the committee, Mr Cedric Frolick and Mr Jomo Nyambi, told the department that the committee will visit the

Department of Transport's report on KwaZulu-Natal, the committee was disappointed with the lack of depth in the reporting on the Eastern Cape and North West provinces. It requested a detailed report on the department's interventions in these provinces in due course.

The committee was also dissatisfied with the detail in the Department of Small Business Development's report on the disbursement of relief funds to beneficiaries. There was a concern that this might contribute to marginalised people not benefiting from the relief funds, as happened in the case of Covid-19. There was also a concern that applications for relief funds only opened in July, four months after the April floods. In the view of the committee, this reflects a lack of urgency in responding to the declaration of a national state of disaster.

The committee was encouraged with the report from the Department of Public Enterprises that the Port of Durban has been restored to full functionality, which has enabled the country to reconnect to the international trade economy.

From Eskom's report, the committee learnt that the impact of the flooding was felt largely in eThekweni municipality in KZN, with isolated cases involving Eskom customers on the South and North coasts. In Ugu Municipality, water and sanitation pump stations were assessed and they will be removed from the load shedding schedules due to the importance of the infrastructure.

In Ray Nyokeni Municipality, also in KZN, the committee heard that Eskom technicians have been assisting the municipality with repairs to various cable faults. In Illembe Municipality, Eskom engineers assisted with the assessment of damage to two wastewater plants in Stanger and Sundumbili. 🌧️

affected provinces in the forthcoming weeks to compare what the department has reported with what it finds on the ground.

While welcoming the detail in the

Better spatial planning and maintenance of water systems can help reduce chances of disaster

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) has told Parliament's Ad hoc Joint Committee on Flood Disaster Relief and Recovery that better infrastructure maintenance and an understanding of flood lines can reduce the chance of future flood-related disasters, writes Sakhile Mokoena.



Minister of Cooperative Governance Ms Dlamini-Zuma.

Mr Jurgens Dyssel from the department's National Disaster Management Centre, briefed the committee on the latest developments in government support in those areas affected by floods earlier this year in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and North West provinces. "This recent flooding in the three provinces has taught us that with better spatial planning, environmental management and maintenance of our waterways, the chance of disasters can be reduced. Factors such as clogged rivers, blocked bridges and structures built on flood lines were some of the most common causes of flooding."

COGTA reported that work is ongoing in providing assistance to victims of the disaster. This work includes providing shelter and food. However, the biggest challenge is the DNA tests to identify the deceased and searching for missing persons. "We are still going through the tedious work of conducting DNA tests to confirm the identities of 17 unidentified bodies before we hand over to the families for burial. And 82 people are still missing; it is difficult work for the police," Mr Dyssel told the committee.

Mr Dyssel also told the committee that the government has provided temporary residential units while the search for a more permanent housing solution continues.

The Minister of COGTA, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, told the committee that there were still challenges, especially around the people who are still in shelters, but this matter is being attended to. "The identification of land suitable for building is also a big problem and we are working with the Department of Public Works on this matter. We must also accept the fact that the damage to infrastructure far outstrips the available resources for this disaster," the Minister said.

Some members of the committee said the disaster has also presented some valuable lessons for future development, such as the establishment of a DNA bank for the entire South African population, which will make the process of identification easier. Others said the coordinated response to the disaster is an opportunity for government to demonstrate the effectiveness of the District Development Model, a government tool that aims to improve service delivery by coordinating the work of the three spheres of government and sharing resources. Other committee members said they see no tangible result from the implementation of this model, in so far as coordination amongst sector departments is concerned.

The committee as a whole remains concerned that the department is not adequately responsive to requests for specific intervention, for example in cases where families have been deprived of access to relief funding. However, the committee has noted the department's commitment to following up on these cases. 🙏



WORK TOGETHER: MP Mr Fikile Xaza encourages the residents and municipality in his Engcobo constituency to work together to settle their water billing dispute.

MP Xasa encourages Engcobo Ratepayers Association and Chris Hani District Municipality to engage with one another to resolve the water billing problem

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Fikile Xasa, in fulfilling his constituency responsibility in the Engcobo Local Municipality constituency, recently facilitated a meeting between the Chris Hani District Municipality and the Engcobo Ratepayers' Association. The meeting was an attempt to resolve the water billing problem that exists between the district municipality and the ratepayer's association, writes Mava Lukani.

Water billing problems in Engcobo Local Municipality started when the Chris Hani District Municipality became a Water and Sanitation Services Authority (WSSA) in 2016, taking over from Engcobo Local Municipality. According to Engcobo ratepayers, their water bills rocketed when the district municipality took over. They also claim that the district does not create an opportunity for negotiation or allow a process for verifying metre readings.

Given the fact that the people do not pay their water bills, the district municipality took the matter to court to force payments. Mr Xasa intervened by asking the district municipality to stop pursuing the matter in court and to allow engagements to take place between itself and the ratepayers. "I persuaded the district municipality to exhaust engagements with their clients, rather than go the court route.

Mr Xasa added: "I invited some of the immediate stakeholders, such as the Mayor and the senior officials of Engcobo Local Municipality, national and provincial departments of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, although none of them attended the meeting."

The meeting took place on Thursday, 11 August, in the town of Ngcobo. This engagement facilitated a breakthrough that Mr Xasa says has opened a way

for further engagements towards resolving the water billing problem.

According to the ratepayers, after Chris Hani Municipality became a WSSA and took over the responsibility of providing water and sanitation services to the Ngcobo town community, no proper and useful communication of the change occurred, nor was any channel set up to address and mitigate any inadvertent negative implications for the clients arising from the change. The ratepayers say that the abrupt handover had severe negative implications for them.

One such implication was that the billing system ground to a halt and

Ngcobo residents were not billed for over nine months. When the system was normalised, there was a mix up and clients received bills that did not reflect correct addresses.

Ratepayers claim that they never stopped trying to find solutions their challenges, but the district municipality has been uncooperative and has avoided meeting with them since the problems began. The meeting facilitated by Mr Xasa was a first meeting between the ratepayers and the district municipality.

The meeting resolved on a working meeting in the first week of September, where the municipality

will explain various water billing-related matters and their debt relief programme. Furthermore, the municipality will explain its indigent policy and implementation programme. The district municipality agreed to address the problem of inaccessibility of the municipal offices and unprofessional conduct on the part of the district municipal manager and the municipal manager of Engcobo Local Municipality.

On the irregularity of the water supply, the meeting agreed that Mr Xasa in his capacity as a Member of Parliament responsible for Engcobo Local Municipality constituency must alert the Minister of Water and Sanitation

to the matter and also communicate the idea to construct a dam. It was also agreed that the old asbestos pipe used to draw water from Xuka River be replaced with steel pipes. In addition, springs must be accessed to augment the supply of water to the town of Ngcobo. It was also agreed that private trucking of water be discontinued and municipal trucks used for this purpose instead.

The meeting further resolved that Engcobo Local Municipality must collaborate with Christ Hani District Municipality and the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to resolve the water billing problem. 🌱



A joint portfolio committee oversight visit held multiple engagements to assess the working and living conditions of South Africa's farm workers.

Parliamentary Committees assess the living and working conditions of farm workers

The portfolio committees on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and on Employment and Labour have successfully concluded joint oversight visits to farms around the country to assess the living and working conditions of farmworkers and farm dwellers. The last province to be visited was KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), where they visited farms in Amajuba and uThukela districts, write Sureshinee Govender and Jabulani Majozi.

The joint oversight followed a National Assembly resolution in November 2020, which called on the committees to assess the impact of legislation on the living and working conditions of farm workers, dwellers and labour tenants in order to review

the legislation.

The leader of one joint committee delegation, Inkosi Zwelivelile Mandela, said farmworkers, farm dwellers and labour tenants still suffer painful brutality, as if they are still living

under apartheid conditions, notwithstanding 28 years of a democratic dispensation. Farmworkers have not enjoyed the fruits of our democracy, he said, and still live like indentured slaves in their country of birth.

During the visits to the farms in all the provinces, the committees observed farmworkers and farm dwellers living in unbearable conditions, although they also saw others who are employed

by farmers who comply with labour laws and other regulations upholding workers' rights.

Inkosi Mandela said: "We want to applaud those farmers who respect their workers and pay them above the minimum rate and who ensure that their workers receive all the prescribed benefits on their farms."

The committees also noted that some farm owners contribute towards the Unemployment Insurance Fund for their employees, who provide decent housing and who ensure that their children go to school.

However, Inkosi Mandela called on the Department of Home Affairs to conduct audits on farms to investigate those farmers who refuse to pay the minimum wage and who employ undocumented foreign nationals who accept low wages. "There is a youth unemployment rate of 66 per cent in South Africa and the jobs that are given to undocumented foreign nationals are for that unemployed youth," he said.

The committees noted that some farm dwellers live in what any decent person would consider uninhabitable mud houses and where farmers deny them electricity and water whenever they feel like it. In some areas, farmer workers must draw water from the same place that animals also drink.

The leader of the other delegation, Ms Lindelwa Dunjwa, also applauded farmers who respect their employees and treat them with dignity. However, she referred to public hearings in which farmworkers and farm dwellers reported that they do not see a difference between the democratic government and the system of apartheid. "That category of farmers disconnect water and electricity supply to their workers who stay on their farms when they feel to do so. They stop children of their workers to go to school at any time and that is normal.

"I ensured that at each and every farm my delegation visited, I enquired about the existence of the programme of empowerment of the farmworkers and the existence of the scholar transport and other plans for the children of farmworkers," said Ms Dunjwa.

Ms Dunjwa also appealed to officials in the departments of agriculture and labour who accompanied the committees during their visits to farms to capture all the farm dwellers' complaints during public hearings and pass them to their senior managers and to the attention of their ministers.

For their part, the committees will write a report on the joint oversight visits to farms and submit the report to the National Assembly for its consideration. 🌱

Mineral resources and energy committee assesses situation at mine where eight women were raped



Mr Sahlulele Luzipo.

The members of the Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources and Energy conducted an oversight visit recently to the West Village area of Krugersdorp in Gauteng at the mine where eight women were gang-raped and robbed of their possessions, allegedly by foreign-national illegal miners, writes Justice Molafo.

The members of the committee expressed disappointment with regards to the status of the mine after discovering that there is an operating license that is valid until August 2029. The mine was operated by Mintails South Africa under Mogale Gold's mining license. However, operations were suspended in 2018 by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) due to non-compliance with the approved mine work programme. According to the prescribed mine work programme,

Mintails South Africa was required to mine and treat its own ore, but the company treated over 60% of ore from third parties.

In 2015, the mine was issued with a notice for non-compliance with the financial provision for environmental liability. According to the DMRE, the mine has an environmental liability of more than R383 million and provided only R2.6 million financial provision by bank guarantee. The shortfall remains.

The Chairperson of the committee, Mr Sahlulele Luzipo, said

that the DMRE should effectively apply the principle of revoking unused mining licenses. "What became the compounding issue during our oversight visit is the fact that there is what one will call 'double-dipping' in which two companies are granted mining rights at the same area, wherein one company will mine on the surface and the other one underground," said Mr Luzipo.

The committee has asked the DMRE to provide a detailed information with regards to the mining rights that were granted in the West Village area of Krugersdorp in Gauteng, including the validity period and names of company directors. Mr Luzipo said that the information will assist the committee to ascertain instances where mining rights were granted incorrectly.

The committee has encouraged the DMRE to form partnerships with other government departments such as the departments of Police, Home Affairs and Defence and Military Veterans in order to develop a holistic approach to address the challenge of illegal mining. 🌱

Government departments' underspending remains a concern

The Standing Committee on Appropriations remains concerned about the underspending identified by the National Treasury across all government departments and state-owned entities, as reflected in the first quarter expenditure report for the 2022/23 financial year. This emerged from a briefing the committee received from the National Treasury at the end of August, on the First Quarter Expenditure Report for 2022/23 financial year.



Mr Sfiso Buthelezi

Treasury told the committee that Eskom's reported revenue of R66.3 billion in June 2022 was largely driven by a tariff increase of 9.61% for the 2022/23 year. The Land Bank, meanwhile, has put R5 billion of the R7 billion allocation into the contingency reserve and is awaiting compliance with equity conditions attached to the fiscal funding.

The departments of Public Enterprises, Science and Innovation, Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Water and Sanitation, Basic and Higher Education are some of those identified as having recorded lower than projected expenditure for the first quarter of the 2022/23 financial year.

The Chairperson of the committee, Mr Sfiso Buthelezi, said: "If you look at the 5.4% variance in Police, it means a whopping R1.3 billion. It's not just a question of saying it was only 5.4%, if you look at the amount that is being underspent."

The committee also noted that some key funded posts within the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure have not been filled. In addition, the department underspent on the Expanded Public Works Programme.

The committee was further concerned with underspending at the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, as it may cause problems for many smallholder and emerging farmers and could potentially push them out of the sector.

The committee was also concerned by the Department of Water and Sanitation's underspending of R1,6 billion in relation to Umgeni Water due to non-submission of project documentation. This underspending has led to service-delivery protests in KwaZulu-Natal, something which also displeased the committee.

The committee was also concerned by the ongoing financial and operation challenges at Eskom and the Land Bank, despite efforts to assist them. Underspending at both the South African National Roads Agency and the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa is also a problem.

Mr Buthelezi added: "Apart from denying the citizens critical service delivery, this undermines the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, localisation and job creation." National Treasury advised the committee that this situation is a timing issue and it is expected that it will be corrected in the following quarters. 🌱



SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES: NCOP committees visit Northern Cape to see what can be done to help small businesses thrive.

Provide safe and reliable business premises to enable success of small businesses

The daily threat of burglary and theft has created additional stress and uncertainty for Vino Home textiles, a small business operating in the Kuruman city centre, in the Northern Cape. In response to the enterprise's plight, the Select Committee on Trade and Industry, Economic Development, Small Business Development, Tourism, Employment and Labour as well as the Select Committee on Transport, Public Service and Administration, Public Works and Infrastructure called for urgent action to remedy the situation, writes Malatswa Molepo.



Mr Mandla Rayi

The committees made this call during their visit to John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, where they proposed a two-pronged strategy to address the issues. Firstly, an engagement with the South African Police Service (SAPS) to increase the visibility of the police and, secondly, for the municipality and

the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to make available safe premises out of which Vino Home Textiles and other similar small and medium enterprises can operate.

"The Small Enterprise Development Agency and the municipality must immediately engage with the SAPS to request increased visibility in the area. Such an intervention will increase the sense of safety

and security for both businesses and customers," said Mr Mandla Rayi, the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Trade, Industry, Tourism and Economic Development. The committee highlighted that economic development in the area depends on creating the conditions for small businesses to thrive.

For Ms Vinolia Tokotsane, a co-owner of the business, one burden will be lifted from her weary shoulders if these recommendations are implemented. The business is also short of space, but if it was able to expand all the staff could be accommodated under one roof, which would improve productivity. "We are currently unable to expand the business because of the challenge of space and the fear of break-ins."

The company so far has four members of staff, including the two co-owners, and they are planning to increase their advertising and open an online shop to increase sales. But this

envisioned growth is hampered by lack of adequate space for production and sales. Nonetheless and despite the daily threats of violence and the devastating impact of Covid-19 on small businesses, Vino Home Textiles has shown great resilience to still be operational. One thing that kept the company afloat during the Covid period was contracts to manufacture personal protective equipment.

The committees also called for investment in infrastructure, especially in roads, to encourage investment in the area and deal with the chronic unemployment in the area. 🇿🇦

"The Small Enterprise Development Agency and the municipality must immediately engage with the SAPS to request increased visibility in the area. Such an intervention will increase the sense of safety and security for both businesses and customers."

Mr Mandla Rayi



A PLACE TO CALL HOME: The Department of Human Settlements is currently upgrading over a thousand informal settlements around the country.

Select Committee on Appropriations welcomes plans to upgrade informal settlements

The Select Committee on Appropriations was recently briefed by the National Treasury and the Department of Human Settlements on the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant for Provinces. The deliberations on the Informal Settlement Grant included contributions from the Minister for Human Settlements, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi, and provincial MECs responsible for Human Settlements in the provinces, reports Jabulani Majozi.

The Department of Human Settlements said it has a target to upgrade 1 500 human settlements by 2024 and there are 1 284 informal settlements that are in various stages of upgrading. Seven of the nine provinces managed to spend over 90 per cent of their grant funding by the end of the 2021/22 financial year, but the other two, Gauteng and Limpopo, failed to reach this amount.

Mr Emmanuel Pillay from National Treasury said the grant was introduced in provincial Human Settlements departments as a development grant aimed at using funding to intensify efforts to upgrade informal settlements. The grant aims to provide the means for households to receive water, electricity and sanitation services and supply informal settlements with public lighting, roads,

“We called for National Treasury to review the grant system because we are perpetuating the inequality between urban areas, semi-urban and rural areas, because if our funding is not the same, then we have a problem.”

Ms Dikeledi Mahlangu

storm water drainage systems and refuse removal.

During the discussions, members of the committee reiterated the importance of coherent project implementation between national, provincial and municipal spheres of government.

Ms Kubayi emphasised these sentiments when she said: “Where you have people who do not have water, who do not have sanitation; those two

areas are human rights issues now. You’d find that the grant allows, for example, a metro to prioritise doing a sports field over the provision of human rights services.” She gave an example of a metro prioritising fencing a graveyard, over the provision of bulk services and upgrading informal settlements.

Ms Kubayi said the Auditor-General has raised concerns about the lack of coherence and alignment between

national, province and local spheres of government.

National Treasury noted that five provinces did not submit their 2021/22 evaluation reports on the grant, as required by the Division of Revenue.

The committee, meanwhile, was concerned with the inconsistencies in the reports emanating from those provinces who did report on their spending of the budgets allocated to them.

Another area of concern raised by the Department of Human Settlements was that allocation of funds for rural areas and semi-urban areas lags behind urban areas. Ms Kubayi said: “We called for National Treasury to review the grant system because we are perpetuating the inequality between urban areas, semi-urban and rural areas, because if our funding is not the same, then we have a problem.”

The Chairperson of the committee, Ms Dikeledi Mahlangu, said: “We applaud what we see on the expenditure side of the reports and those that have done well, but we need to verify for ourselves if what is on paper is really what is on the ground.”

For the year 2021/22, Eastern Cape, Free State, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Western Cape and Northern Cape were some of the provinces that recorded underspending on their allocated grants. National Treasury informed the committee that the Western Cape and Gauteng will return R109 million in unspent funds to National Treasury.

Limpopo MEC Basikopo Makamu said as much as it’s good to continue building RDP houses for needy households, it is now clear that people want government to service sites and let them build their own houses.

Northern Cape MEC Mr Bentley Vass said the Northern Cape has delivered almost 7 000 such sites, but is worried about possible vandalism.

Free State MEC Mr Mxolisi Dukwana reported that the province is dealing with the rising cost of building materials and contractors, but it is trying to find ways to address this problem.

The committee expressed its concern about the Eastern Cape’s zero spending on its grant, which has the potential to result in fiscal dumping. 🗑️

Select Committee on Public Works welcomes National Infrastructure Management Strategy

The Select Committee on Transport, Public Service and Administration and Public Works and Infrastructure has received a briefing from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) and Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) on the national infrastructure management strategy. The committee also received a progress report on the roll-out of the infrastructure investment plan and a number of projects that have been signed off, writes Sureshinee Govender.



Mr Kenneth Mmoiemang.

The Head of Infrastructure South Africa, Professor Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, told the committee that the government needs to make a conscious effort to direct investment to rural areas. The committee heard that the construction industry remains constrained and recorded negative growth of 0.7% in the first quarter, which is attributed to the underwhelming results reported for residential buildings and construction works.

Meanwhile, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure reported that it has 328 projects in the pipeline. Of these, 102 projects are in the energy sector, 69 in human settlements and 41 in transport. KwaZulu-Natal had the highest number of projects at 60, followed by 51 for Gauteng and 35 in the Western Cape.

The committee further heard that the department will try to meet the target set by President Cyril Ramaphosa of building 96 bridges in rural areas in time for the next State of the Nation Address in February 2023. Due to the recent floods in KwaZulu-Natal, the

province requires 18 more bridges to be built and funding for this has been made available by the provincial government.

The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms Patricia de Lille, informed the committee that the department has 24 teams working on bridges across the country and that funding for them has recently been unlocked by the National Treasury.

The committee was informed that the DPWI hosted a technical delegation from China who will assist South Africa in the economic development of small harbours in the country. Technical input from China will equip local engineers with expertise in developing these harbours. Port St Johns has been identified as a business case for this project.

The committee noted progress on assessing and approving the Strategic Integrated Projects Steering Committee's approved plans, which have achieved a 100% success rate thus far in. The Square Kilometre Array and Meerkat strategic infrastructure project have also been progressing well. However, there is a shortfall of R3.2 billion and a request has been made for funding from the National Treasury's Budget Facility for Infrastructure.

The Chairperson of the committee, Mr Kenny Mmoiemang, asked the DPWI to present to the committee again in November on the progress achieved on targets and timelines for all strategic integrated projects so that the committee can monitor the progress made on roads and bridges in rural areas.🌱



Ms Anastasia Motaung.

Servant of the people MP Anastasia Motaung passes on

Ms Anastasia Motaung joined the National Assembly after the 2019 general election. As all Members of Parliament are assigned to parliamentary committees, she was deployed as a member of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development. Ms Motaung was a committed and productive member of the committee, and had a deep understanding of the committee's portfolio.

Her fellow colleagues in the committee and in the National Assembly (NA) described her as a fine patriot, who placed the lives of the people above her own. In all her parliamentary work, she remained true to the oath she made before the Chief Justice when she was sworn in as a Member of Parliament and she was always driven by that commitment.

Ms Motaung's committee work was close to her heart and she clearly understood the committee's oversight mandate over the Department of Social Development. She also had a fine understanding of the department's role in society and the importance of its role in the lives of the people of South Africa. This understanding prompted Ms Motaung to never waver in her demand for accountability from the department.

The Chairperson of the committee, Ms Nonkosi Mvana, described Ms Motaung as a loyal servant of the people who was always readily available to undertake work for the committee. "She always ensured that she made a meaningful contribution on all the aspects of the committee's work and the legislation referred to it, the oversight over the department and its entities," said Ms Mvana.

Ms Motaung served the committee with diligence and deep conviction. She will be remembered for her calm spirit and her dedication to her work, even during the most trying times of her life. She is leaving a shining indelible mark behind, which members of the committee will cherish.🌱