

# in session





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# NCOP – Taking Parliament to the People of Kwazulu-Natal



**ACTIVIST PARLIAMENT: NCOP Presiding Officers, Mr Masondo (far left) and Ms Lucas (middle left) welcome people to the opening of the TPTP programme in KwaZulu-Natal**

*The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) took Parliament to KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) in Ugu District Municipality. Ugu District Municipality includes Ray Nkonyeni, uMdoni, uMuziwabantu and uMzumbe local municipalities. The theme for the week-long programme was “Working together to ensure faster improvement in the delivery of services to communities”, writes Mava Lukani.*

Delivering an address to mark the opening of the programme, the Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr Amos Masondo, said it was fitting that after a hiatus of two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Taking Parliament to the People was held in KZN, particularly in light of the devastation in the province caused by public violence, destruction of property and looting during the July 2021 unrest and the damages triggered by the floods earlier this year.

Mr Masondo mentioned the NCOP's constitutional responsibility to represent the interests of the provinces. The NCOP must also provide for the different categories of municipalities to be represented in Parliament. It must also facilitate co-operation among the different spheres of government, namely national, provincial and local government.

The NCOP has various ways of fulfilling this mandate, one of which is the Taking Parliament to the People programme, which was initiated in

2002 to facilitate public involvement in legislative and other parliamentary processes.

KZN has a number of service delivery challenges and this affected the outcome of the 2021 local government elections. Other problems relate to developing the province's large rural community.

Following a series of engagements with its provincial counterparts and informed by the desire to facilitate collaboration to improve service delivery, the NCOP decided that the week-long programme had to be held in KZN's Ugu District Municipality. The programme focused on water and sanitation, water infrastructure development, road infrastructure, safety and security, human settlements, agriculture, local economic development and the provision of social services.

Mr Masondo noted that the 2021 riots and floods earlier in 2022

destroyed people's lives and damaged water, roads, electricity and housing infrastructure in KZN. “These risks, particularly those caused by the effects of climate change, remain with us.”

To understand the negative impact of the July 2021 unrest to the economy, Mr Masondo pointed out that in Ugu alone, which has large tracts of fertile land for agriculture, over 500 000 tons of sugarcane were destroyed, which would have been worth millions of rands in potential revenue. The Ugu Fresh Produce Market was also destroyed in the riots, directly affecting tens of thousands of jobs and many more indirectly.

“We will be failing in our duty if we do not reiterate the point made by the leaders in the province and nationally during the time of the unrest and afterwards, that we must guard against destroying the very resources and the means we need for our own livelihoods and development,” said Mr Masondo. 🙏

# President Ramaphosa - Local Government Municipal Systems Amendment Act will promote service delivery



**IMPROVING LIVES:** President Ramaphosa is welcomed by Chairperson Masondo to deliver his annual address to the TPTTP programme.

*President Cyril Ramaphosa described the National Council of Provinces’ (NCOP’s) Taking Parliament to the People programme as a key outreach programme. He was delivering his annual address to the NCOP in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), where the NCOP recently held the week-long programme in Ugu District Municipality in Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality, writes Mava Lukani.*



The President said twenty-eight years since the first democratic Parliament sat in Cape Town, South Africa

continues to have a Parliament that is activist, responsive and determined to make a difference in the lives of the people. He pointed out that in many ways, the challenges facing residents in Ugu District Municipality mirror those of many of our municipalities countrywide.

“This year, I have led five presidential izimbizo – in the North West, Free State, Mpumalanga, Gauteng and Northern Cape.

At these izimbizo, challenges at local government were foremost on the minds of our citizens,” he said.

Meanwhile, reports from the Auditor-General and National Treasury and State of Local Government reports point to inefficiency, maladministration, lack of financial controls and poor governance in many municipalities. All of these affect local government’s ability to provide the basic services people need to lead lives of quality and dignity.

The new Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Act is an important tool that will improve the manner in which municipalities function and are held accountability and must be welcomed. Among other things, President Ramaphosa said the Act disallows municipal officials from holding political office, defines competency criteria for the appointment of municipal managers and strengthens the framework for performance evaluation.

This should be viewed alongside the Framework for the Professionalisation of the Public Sector, which was adopted by Cabinet last month, the President explained. This makes specific proposals to ensure merit-based recruitment and promotion and more effective consequence

management for all public servants. This is going to have a big impact on how government works at all levels, he said.

President Ramaphosa said the government has covered much ground to better the lives of the people, however there is so much more it needs to do to ensure that the promise of the Constitution is fulfilled. When concluded.

The NCOP’s Taking Parliament to the People programme in KZN focused on water shortages, roads, social services, education, housing and crime, among other things. At public hearings that formed part of the programme, Minister Senzo Mchunu responded to questions posed by the community on water and sanitation service, while ministers Joe Phaahla and Lindiwe Zulu responded to questions on social services.

Meanwhile, Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane answered questions on housing, Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi responded to questions on Home Affairs and Minister Bheki Cele fielded questions on crime. 🇿🇦

Ms Nomusa Dube-Ntsube – KZN Premier



## Provinces support building a responsive and developmental South Africa

*President Cyril Ramaphosa's address to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) to mark the closing of the Taking Parliament to the People programme in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) was followed by a debate that included NCOP delegates as well as the premiers of Gauteng, Free State and KZN, who are special delegates to the NCOP. The theme of the debate was "Building agile state capabilities to improve service delivery outcomes".*



Ms Sisi Ntombela – Premier of Free State Province

During the debate the premiers gave examples of what their provinces are doing to contribute to South Africa's economic development. Ms Sisi Ntombela, the Premier of Free State said South Africa's growth and development objectives depend on building an agile state capable of improving service delivery. This is as much about building an effective government as it is about building a social contract with the people. "Agile state capabilities are equally about connecting various efforts to respond to the people's dreams of a better life and, indeed, that's what we are trying to do."

The Free State Premier said her province has partnered with the National School of Government to

provide training and development to improve public service and the delivery of services in the province.

Her Gauteng counterpart, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, said the theme for the debate emphasises the imperative to build a "capable, ethical and developmental state as a

prerequisite to bringing about the meaningful change which was fought for by many people in this province".

Mr Lesufi also shared that his province has embarked on a developmental vision called "Growing Gauteng Together 2030", which he said was a collective vision to ensure that all municipalities in the province are aligned to the National Development Plan (NDP) and that the government responds to the aspirations and needs of our people. "It is a transformation agenda intended to accelerate the fight against poverty, inequality and unemployment. It is an agenda that is both guided and shaped by the prescripts of a developmental state," he said.

The province has also passed the Gauteng Township Economic Development Act, legislation that directs government and its agencies to only buy goods and services in townships, informal settlements and hostels, in order empower ordinary people.

"We are putting aside an amount of R650 million to reclaim all our spaza shops from foreigners, so that all these spaza shops can be owned by South Africans. We are further allocating almost R150 million to train young business people in the creative world so that they can develop software and start to work with motor vehicles or scooters and deliver goods to our houses without depending on foreign citizens," the Gauteng Premier said.

The KZN Premier, Ms Nomusa Dube-Ncube, said her province, like the Free State, acknowledges that the public service cannot to deliver high quality services to citizens if they do not possess appropriate skills and competencies. "In order to move towards building a capable state, the provincial executive council resolved that a skills audit be conducted

in the entire provincial administration and in municipalities.

"The purpose of the skills audit is to assess the level and relevance of skills possessed by public servants against the service delivery imperatives. We are proud that the skills audit in all municipalities has been finalised, and this has provided valuable information on the state of human capacity and capabilities at a local government level," she said.

Ms Dube-Ncube said achieving a capable developmental state requires collaboration between all sections of society. KwaZulu-Natal has therefore signed a number of cooperation agreements with institutions of higher learning in the province with the aim of working together to achieve this goal.

"We want to influence the curriculum so that it responds to the economic and service delivery needs of the province. Earlier this year, we signed a memorandum of agreement with the National School of Government to work together in capacitating public servants," the Premier said.

She also believes that an agile state must have capable individuals who are not only skilled and technically adept, but who have the commitment, orientation and empathy to become servants of the people.

"A developmental state, no matter how agile and responsive, is not sustainable unless it is led by leaders of high moral ethics who, by force of their example, cultivate a culture of selflessness, dedication and servant leadership as the core of the public service. In everything we do in this province, the National Development Plan serves as our compass that is daily guiding us to a more prosperous future," Ms Dube-Ncube said. 🌟



Mr Panyaza Lesufi – Premier Gauteng Province

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma – Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs



where our women and children will be safe," Mr Mathale said.

The Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr John Jeffery, said one of the reasons for the high levels of GBV is that men do not respect the rights of women and girls. "We have to change the way we treat our women in society and the way we socialise our boy children. We, as men, are the problem, so we have to be part of the solution," said Mr Jeffery.

The Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, said her department has partnered with the House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders to tackle ukuthwala and other related practices, which disguise patriarchy under the cloak of culture and tradition.

The Department of Basic Education was represented by the Deputy Minister Dr Reginah Mhaule, who warned against neglecting the boy child and focusing on girls and women. "We need to try balance and treat the boys and girls equally. When we come up with programmes for adolescents aimed at girls, we must do the same for the boys, so they don't feel neglected and become miserable," the Deputy Minister said.

These sentiments were echoed by SANAC CEO Dr Thembisile Xulu. "Over the years the focus has been mainly on women and girls, thus unintentionally leaving men and boys in the periphery of the response to the problem of GBV. The one-sided focus on women and girls has contributed to the lack of progress in striking a balance. You can't empower one and disempower the other," said Dr Xulu.

## Men's Parliament to continue fighting for equal treatment of boys and girls

*This year Men's Parliament, a collaboration between the legislative sector and the South African men's sector; the South African National Aids Council (SANAC) and several non-governmental organisation, resolved to intensify the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) as well as the unequal socialisation of young boys and girls. Sakhile Mokoena reports from the event.*

This year's event, which was presided over by the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Ms Sylvia Lucas, committed to spread its focus areas to include issues related to men's health and harmful cultural practices. Ministers, deputy ministers, provincial representatives of the men's sector, traditional leaders and representatives of civil society all took part in the two-day event.

Speaking on the National Integrated Health Strategy, the Deputy Minister

of Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, urged men to resist social and cultural taboos that make men reluctant to discuss their health. "Most males relate sickness with weakness and therefore tend not to seek help. Males are not a help-seeking-behaviour type of species . . . there are many issues that make men reluctant to seek help and we need to break those barriers," said Dr Dhlomo.

His counterpart in the Ministry of Police, Mr Cassel Mathale, spoke against some of the oppressive practices disguised as culture and tradition, such as "ukuthwala" or forced and child marriages. The Deputy Minister said government, civil society, the private sector and the community must work hard to eradicate the root causes of crime, especially gender-based violence and femicide.

"A variety of legislation and regulatory initiatives have been ineffective. More needs to be done. Crime and criminality cannot be eradicated without the involvement of all sectors. We need to work together in ensuring a stable and crime-free environment





## Gender-based Violence undermines efforts to build an equal and united South Africa

*The Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, has warned that high levels of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) are undermining South Africa's efforts to build a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and united society, writes Sakhile Mokoena.*

Delivering the keynote address on the last day of this year's Men's Parliament in the National Council of Provinces chamber, the Minister said the call for a violence-free South Africa must be met with an urgent response from all of society, including men and boys. "The scourge of gender-based violence and femicide continues to undermine our efforts of building a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and united South Africa. We must strengthen, accelerate and amplify a responsive men and boy's movement to fully eradicate the scourge," the Minister said.

The theme of this year's Men's Parliament was "Takuwani Riime: Institutionalising a responsive men's movement". The Minister believes initiatives such as this have an important role in taking the conversation on GBVF to spaces where the topic is still ignored or avoided. "While it remains true that men are the main perpetrators of gender-based violence and femicide, we are also witnessing a concerning trend of boys leading GBV-related crimes, such as rape.

"In addition, we are also witnessing a rise in child-on-child violence, including bullying, fights and murders in schools, cyber-bullying and child-

on-child rape. Women, children and LGBTQIA+ persons are being abused, assaulted and murdered in our country every day at the hands of men," said Minister Nkoana-Mashabane.

She commended the Men's Parliament initiative and said conversations about preventing GBVF are the start of accepting responsibility. Men must take action to change perceptions of masculinity from toxic to positive. "We have to begin by addressing the normalisation of patriarchal norms, challenging the reinforcement of social and gender norms, defining and promoting healthy expressions of masculinity and femininity, and having a zero tolerance approach to homophobic and transphobic sentiments.

"Equally, we cannot ignore how toxic masculinity is a driver in incidents of violence committed by men against other men. We can no longer pretend that toxic masculinity is not a threat to all of our livelihoods," the Minister said. She said the Men's Parliament must be supported, as it is an opportunity to build greater social connectedness, provide spaces for healing and support healthy forms of masculinity.🙏



## Lucas – 'the war against GBVF cannot be won without the active involvement of men'

*The National Council of Provinces hosted the national Men's Parliament on the theme "Takuwani Riime! Institutionalising a Responsive Men's Movement." This meeting shines a light on the interventions that men can implement to combat gender-based-violence and femicide (GBVF) and promote men's mental health related to the cultural practice of circumcision, writes Abel Mputing.*

In her opening remarks, the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Sylvia Lucas, asserted that the war against GBVF cannot be won without the active involvement of men. "GBVF has been acutely normalised through tradition and customs that perpetuate patriarchy," she pointed out. She was hopeful that this Parliament will assist in rebuilding men's social fabric and enlist them to become the custodians of moral leadership to shift our society towards healing.

The Deputy Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders, iNkosi Langa Mavuso, mourned the deaths and loss of manhood experienced by initiates during their initiation. He appealed for a collaborative engagement between the

government, traditional authorities, parents and medical institutions to make the practice of circumcision a communal responsibility.

The Chairperson of the CRL Rights Commission, Prof Luka Mosoma, agreed that circumcision must be based on protecting initiates' dignity and right to life. As much as this practice is revered in our Africa tradition, "the loss of boys' lives is what attracts negative criticism against this practice as barbaric and backward, as nothing more than an instrument of death, rather than the humanisation of boys through this rite of passage."

He was hopeful that the Customary Initiation Act will give us tangible guidelines and directives to curb the onslaught of death of initiates.



## Minister allocates R13 billion in spending adjustments for 2022/23 in Adjustments Appropriations Bill

Speaking on the perennial problem of GBVF, the youth secretary of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, Prince Itumeleng Shole, claimed that the oppression of women is non-African. "As Africans, we respect queens, for they are the ones who run African monarchies, as much as mothers run African households." He blamed colonialism and apartheid for alienating men from their communal responsibilities rooted in African traditions and customs. "This session must define what is expected of men, how are expected to conduct themselves and to re-embrace our African traditions and customs."

The eradication of poverty in rural areas could play a role in empowering women and in curbing gender-based violence, said Mr Karabo Dube, of the Mosiamise Rural Development. "The silence of the developmental voice of rural women is deafening. That is why we intend to create an investment pipeline to attract investment to rural areas to empower women."

The pressure on men to be bread winners and provide for their households is a heavy burden, said the executive director of the Networking HIV/Aids Community of Southern Africa, Mr Mohamed Motala. When they cannot meet this expectation, they feel inadequate but this is not an easy thing to talk about. "But through our programmes we are poised to change this attitude to make South Africa safe for women," he said. 🌱

*Minister Gondongwana told Members of the National Assembly (NA) when he presented the MTBPS that the National Treasury is allocating R13 billion in spending adjustments for the 2022/23 financial year in the Adjustments Appropriation Bill, writes Mava Lukani.*

R118 million is allocated to deal with interim relocation costs and to prepare for the rebuilding of Parliament. "We are working closely with the Presiding Officers of Parliament to restore and rebuild our Parliament. Over the medium term expenditure framework, we have made allowance for approximately R2 billion for rebuilding our Parliament," said Minister Gondongwana.

The largest adjustment – R6.3 billion, or 49 per cent of the total – is allocated towards disaster relief, particularly the April flooding in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and in the North West. Other adjustments include R389 million for 24 bridges in rural areas through the Welisizwe Rural Bridges programme, while R500 million is set aside for the

start of the Home Affairs digitisation project, which will employ 10 000 young people over three years.

Minister Gondongwana also said that the budget over the next three years is focused on restoring service delivery and laying the foundation for higher growth. Medium-term changes to spending plans are driven mainly by the government's decision to extend the special Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress grant by one year, until 31 March 2024.

The Social Relief of Distress grant, introduced in May 2020 as a temporary measure to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable during Covid-19-related lockdown measures, has been extended several times since then. Discussions on the future of the grant are on-going, the Minister said, and involve difficult trade-offs and financing decisions. "Despite the provision made in this budget, I want to reiterate that any permanent extension or replacement will require permanent increases in revenue, reductions in spending elsewhere, or a combination of the two," he said.

The fiscal framework also includes funding for the carry-through costs

of the 2022/23 public service wage increases, as well as for safety and security, infrastructure investment and service delivery.

Overall, consolidated government spending is projected to increase from R2.21 trillion in 2022/23 to R2.48 trillion in 2025/26, at an average growth rate of four per cent. The social wage, which supports poor households and the most vulnerable in society, takes up the biggest share of the budget. It will total R3.56 trillion over the next three years, or 59.2 per cent of the consolidated non-interest spending.

Meanwhile, other large allocations are directed to the education, health and social development sectors. Moreover, spending increases over the next three years will be prioritised to improve investment in infrastructure and boost the budgets for safety, security and fighting corruption.

Minister Gondongwana told Members of the NA that, overall, government's consolidated capital spending will increase from R95.1 billion in 2022/23 to R145.4 billion in 2025/26. This excludes spending on state-owned enterprises. 🌱

# 3% Economic growth not enough to reach development goals



**Finance Minister Mr Enoch Godongwana says South Africa's expected 1.6 per cent economic growth over the next three years is inadequate to support the country's developmental goals, writes Sakhile Mokoena.**

Tabling the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) in a sitting of the National Assembly at the

Cape Town City Hall recently, the Minister also announced that the country was expecting gross domestic product growth of 1.9 per cent in 2022, compared with growth of 2.1 per cent, which was predicted in February. The low levels of growth reflect the stormy global and domestic economic environment.

The Minister said that many of the risks that he outlined in the February 2022 Budget Speech have materialised.

These include rising global inflation, tightening financial conditions and the ongoing effect of Covid-19, including stringent lockdowns in China and their impact on global demand and supply chains. These were exacerbated by the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

As a result, he said, the International Monetary Fund's global growth forecast for 2022 has been revised down, from 4.4 to 3.2 per cent, and the 2023 estimate from 3.8 to 2.7 per cent.

"This means that the global environment will be less supportive of our growth than we anticipated at the time of the Budget. The outlook contains many risks, notably further slowing global growth and higher inflation if the Russia-Ukraine war escalates. And there is a possibility of energy rationing in Europe that will impact on global energy prices and output," said the Minister.

The Minister also highlighted that a further decline in Chinese economic growth could slow global demand and add pressure to global supply chains, while the tightening of monetary policy could slow global output even further.

"These are significant risks in the global environment. In this context, small open economies like ours need to be especially careful and have solid fiscal buffers in place to weather the coming storm. Domestically, the robust pace of economic recovery in early 2022 was derailed by floods in various parts of the country, particularly KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, industrial action in key sectors, and widespread power cuts," he said.

Minister Godongwana also called for action to put the economy on a higher growth trajectory. He said government's approach to growth was based on a clear and

stable macroeconomic framework, complemented by the implementation of structural reforms to improve competitiveness, industrial policy to boost manufacturing and measures to strengthen the capacity of the state.

Meanwhile and since the Budget in February, government has accelerated the implementation of structural reforms to address constraints on economic growth, support investment and stimulate job creation. "The intensity of load shedding is having a disastrous effect on our economy. We have therefore focused our efforts on reforms in the electricity sector. Several policy and regulatory changes aimed at creating a competitive energy market are underway. These include the removal of the licensing threshold for embedded generation projects, where the pipeline has grown to 100 projects, representing over 9 000 MW of capacity," the Minister said.

He also announced that the Electricity Regulation Amendment Bill has been finalised. This Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of an independent transmission and system operator, which will fundamentally transform the electricity sector. It will reduce South Africa's reliance on a single utility and unlock massive new private investment in generation capacity. This will contribute significantly to long-term energy security. 🌱





# Godongwana allocates over R100 billion to build and rehabilitate infrastructure

*Government spending on building new and rehabilitating existing infrastructure will increase from R66.7 billion in 2022/23 to R120 billion in the 2025/26 financial year, writes Sakhile Mokoena. This announcement was made by the Minister of Finance, Mr Enoch Godongwana, in his Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) which he delivered recently.*

“Over the medium term, government consolidated spending on building new and rehabilitating existing infrastructure will increase from R66.7

billion in 2022/23 to R112.5 billion in 2025/26. This include roads, bridges, storm-water systems and public buildings,” he said.

By delivering on public sector investments, government will facilitate private investment, improve public service provision and address backlogs. This will ignite a virtuous cycle of higher investment, growth and employment potential. “We are also committed to improving state capacity, project planning and preparation, procurement practices and contract management. This will address chronic underspending of allocated infrastructure budgets, improve value for money and efficacy of our investments,” the Minister said.

He believes that the state is responsible for creating and

maintaining an enabling environment for growth and investment. This is because such an environment provides basic services and promotes the rule of law. To do this effectively, the state needs to be responsive to societal needs and prioritise, sequence and coordinate interventions through institutions that are accountable and capable.

Leveraging fixed investments is a critical part of achieving sustainable and inclusive growth. “It supports economic recovery, raises the economic potential and creates jobs. We have seen gross fixed capital formation contract on average by 4.4 per cent annually between 2016 and 2020; from a peak of R796 billion in 2015. The contraction has been broad-based. Private sector investment, which accounts for nearly two-thirds of

total fixed investment, as well as the public sector, have both declined.

“We seek to reverse these trends by tackling impediments to investment. In the private sector, policy uncertainty, constraints to the ease of doing business, along with the high cost of doing business are often cited as key constraints to investment,” said the Minister.

According to Mr Godongwana, South Africa’s clear and stable macroeconomic framework, progress on structural reform and supporting enablers to growth will go a long way to removing impediments to investment. This will also boost confidence and create an enabling environment for the private sector to invest.

“With respect to public sector investments, state-owned enterprises have an important role to play in the provision of critical economic goods and services in the economy. “Addressing supply side constraints, particularly in the energy and transport sectors, is critical to support higher and sustainable economic growth. On general government, we are increasing on-budget infrastructure allocations to remedy the erosion of baselines,” he said. 🗣️

# State-owned enterprises must be self-sufficient and contribute towards building the economy



*Minister Godongwana told Members of the National Assembly that some of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) are critical centres of economic activity, especially in the transport, engineering and energy sectors, writes Jabulani Majozi.*

However, it is important that they are self-sufficient and contribute to economic growth. Unfortunately, many of them remain financially weak, due to bad leadership and corruption. This must be resolved. Nonetheless, the government's financial support to SOEs recognises their potential to contribute to the long-run growth prospects.

A Special Appropriation Bill will be tabled to provide additional funding Denel, Transnet and the South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL). These allocations will enable them to adjust their business models and restore their long-term financial viability. Fiscal support to SOEs remains a challenging balancing act, given the many competing priorities and limited resources. "Funding to SOEs will now come with strict pre- and post-conditions. Pre-conditions mean that SOEs will need to comply with these conditions before they receive government support, not after," he added.

Transnet is allocated R2.9 billion to ensure the return of out-of-service locomotives. That allocation will be complemented by R2.9 billion from in-year spending adjustments to deal with flood damage that affected its operations in Ethekezi.

Denel is allocated R3.4 billion to support recent progress made to stabilise the entity. This allocation will be augmented by R1.8 billion in the sale of non-core assets and will unlock a committed order book of R12 billion awaiting execution.

Uncertainty surrounding the Gauteng Freeway Improvement Project continues to have a major negative implication for road construction in South Africa. To resolve this funding impasse, Minister Godongwana said the Gauteng provincial government has agreed to contribute 30 per cent to settling SANRAL's debt and interest obligations, while national government covers 70 per cent.

of responsibility. National government proposes to make an initial allocation of R23.7 billion from the national fiscus, which will be disbursed on strict conditions.

Turning to Eskom, Minister Godongwana said for at least a decade, the government has spent billions of rands supporting Eskom, with limited improvements in the reliability of the electricity supply or its financial health. To ensure Eskom's long-term financial viability, the government will take over a significant portion of the utility's R400 billion debt. While the selection of the relevant debt instruments and the method of effecting the relief is still to be determined, the quantum is expected to be between one-third and two-thirds of Eskom's current debt.

Once the debt has been taken over and other reforms completed, Eskom will become more financially sustainable. Minister Godongwana said the programme will allow Eskom to focus on plant performance and capital investment and ensure that it no longer relies on government bailouts. Importantly, the programme will demand that strict conditions are met by Eskom and other stakeholders before and during the debt transfer. These conditions will address Eskom's structural challenges by managing its costs, addressing municipal and household arrears due to the utility, and providing greater clarity and transparency in tariff pricing.

The Gauteng government will also cover the costs of maintaining the 201 kilometres and associated interchanges of the roads. Any additional investment in the road will be funded through either the existing electronic toll infrastructure or new toll plazas, or any other revenue source within provincial government's area

In addition, the conditions will be informed by a Treasury-led independent review of Eskom's operations, in particular the performance of its generation fleet. Further details of the programme will be finalised following consultations with all relevant stakeholders and lenders, and will be announced in the 2023 Budget. 🇿🇦





## Government procurement processes will be strengthened, Finance Minister says

*Minister Enoch Godongwana assured the National Assembly during the presentation of the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement that the government is working to modernise procurement and financial accountability systems. It is doing this by adopting best practice in procurement of goods and services, and ensuring high standards of transparency in the tendering processes, writes Jabulani Majazi.*

This modernisation programme will simplify and speed up public infrastructure projects and limit the scope for looting and corruption. National Treasury envisages two changes to procurement governance. Firstly, the introduction of the Public Procurement Bill, which will enhance transparency and integrity, and secondly, technology will be used to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

In addition, new Preferential Procurement Regulations will replace the now invalid regulations of 2017. These new regulations will be promulgated in November 2022 and become effective from 16 January 2023. The regulations will empower organs of state with the authority to determine their own preferential procurement policies within the ambit

of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act.

On fighting crime and corruption, Mr Godongwana reminded the Members of the National Assembly that President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced the government's response to the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, in which he noted the need for the state to be ethical and free of corruption, as it serves the needs and interests of the people. The government is committed to a new chapter in fighting corruption and advancing South Africa's renewal.

As noted by the Commission of Inquiry, service delivery requires that honest accounting officers and authorities who make decisions in good faith are protected from criminal prosecution and civil litigation. In that regard, he said the government will strengthen auditing and preventative control systems, to enable managers to manage, while putting in place mechanisms to hold them accountable.

Minister Godongwana said crime is a safety, economic and social issue. "A safe environment is important for full participation in economic and social life. This makes fighting crime a key pillar of enhancing economic growth." To this end, National Treasury will allocate additional resources to the security forces. "We will support the police to recruit an additional 15 000 constables over the next three years," he said. 🇿🇦

## NCOP zooms in on challenges to unlock township economy

*The role the legislative framework, foreign nationals and big retailers play in the township economy came under scrutiny in a National Council of Provinces (NCOP) virtual ministerial briefing debate recently, writes Sibongile Maputi. The theme for the debate was "Measures to unlock the full potential of the township economy and industries".*

NCOP M, Mr Mandla Rayi pointed out that when large retailers establish themselves in townships results the competition destroys small businesses. Then MP Ms Nokuzola Ndongeni asked how the department plans to reverse the trend of small businesses being taken over by foreign nationals. "How will the department ensure that young South Africans reclaim this space, and participate in the social services sectors, like beauty salons, fast food outlets, and spaza shops and take full ownership of the township economy?" She asked if the department was engaging with financial institutions with the intention to lower borrowing costs and ensure that township businesses are able to access affordable capital.

Another MP, Mr Tim Brauteseth said it did not matter where one was in South Africa, spaza shops are owned

by foreigners. "Foreigners have identified a gap in the market and are filling that, often providing close access to goods that residents would have to travel quite a distance incur considerable costs."

"What has the department done with Home Affairs to ensure that legal foreigners are protected from being targeted and to ensure that the skills set and market access they have are also available to deserving South Africans to compete fairly to customers," added Mr Brauteseth.

Members asked other questions about enterprise development and finance programmes, women-owned start-ups, regulatory impact assessments and by-laws. NCOP MP Ms Delmaine Christians urged the government to not only target a privileged few well-connected individuals, but focus rather on those in need. "What checks and balances have been put in place that will discourage double dipping, and ensure that family and friends of the connected few do not benefit, she wanted to know.

Another NCOP MP Sonja Boshoff urged the government to cut red tape to ensure a more robust small business sector. This will dramatically increase employment, she said.

MPs also heard that the government is planning a review of the legislation regulating businesses to make it easier to start a business. 🇿🇦

# Unstable coalitions under scrutiny in National Assembly



*During a mini-debate on unstable political coalitions in the National Assembly recently, the African National Congress's Ms Dikeledi Direko wondered about the effect such alliances have on service delivery and good governance, writes Abel Mputing.*

In her view, unstable coalitions often claim to serve the interests of the people, but they often collapse and are alliances between political parties that do not share interests or ideologies. This is the case because, "currently there are no guidelines for coalitions and no regulatory framework that governs them."

A Democratic Alliance MP, Ms Siviwe Gwarube, pointed out that coalition governments should be based on sustainable values and the goals of the political parties that form them. To this effect, the DA has proposed legislation to stabilise coalitions. "This legislation will insulate people from the whims of politicians and will ensure that coalitions are codified and are managed by an independent arbiter."

Coalitions are a sign of a maturing democracy, said Ms Hlengiwe Mkhali of the Economic Freedom Fighters. "We went to Denmark recently to conduct research on the

concept of coalitions and we have learnt that they can work if political parties can put their egos aside and use coalitions to promote service delivery. Coalitions are here to stay and can be effective if they are not based on patronage," she emphasised.

The days of single majority party are gone, maintained Ms Sbuyiselwe Buthelezi for the Inkatha Freedom Party. We are in an era of coalition government. "It's upon us to see how quickly we adapt to this new era." There's a misplaced perception that coalitions are a sign of a political weakness. If they can be harnessed effectively, they can improve service delivery, she said. "Our research in Germany shows that coalitions can

do more by transferring the service delivery needs of the people into one strategic political plan." She asserted that the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs should come up with standardised framework of best practices for this to be achieved.

We should be wary of collusions formed in the pretext of coalitions, warned Dr Petrus Mulder of the Freedom Front Plus. However, he mentioned studies which showed that for coalitions to survive, "The biggest party in a coalition should be the humblest, because despite its number of votes, there is nothing it can do to form government without the parties with small numbers. He further added: "Coalitions agreement in municipalities should be negotiated and managed locally, not by national politicians."

Coalitions are a representation of people's tiredness "with corruption, cadre deployment, ineffective financial management of state resources, lack transparency and service delivery," said Mr Wayne Thring (African Christian Democratic Party). When managed well, coalitions can bring about open, transparent governance, sound financial management and service delivery, he said.

The question to be asked is are we ready for coalitions; the answer is no, claimed Mr Ahmed Shaik-Emam (National Freedom Party). "Political

parties put their political interest first before of the electorate." He went further to state that selfishness, greed and corruption are a feature of coalitions. "Some political parties get into coalitions because they want access to resources. Hence, they often dictate who should be a municipal manager, who should be its chief financial officer. And when they don't get tenders, such coalitions often collapse. Unsustainable."

The Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Ms Thembi Nkadimeng, stated that the department is looking at a legally binding framework to guide coalitions in practice. According to her, a study on 42 western democracies showed that the sustainability of coalitions is based on the reduction of policy changes. "Adhering to longitudinal policies would avoid disruption."

She was of the view that the Amendment of Municipal Structure Act would deal with some of the shortcomings experienced in coalition governments recently. One of which is the motion of no confidence, the formula used to allocate council seats. And to ensure that where there are governance disputes, a majority party would be allowed to make a determination on, for example, the passing or appropriation of a budget so that service delivery imperatives wouldn't be compromised by perpetual disagreement of coalition partners. 🇿



# House chair urges Cop27 Summit to coordinate action to minimise effects of climate change



*The National Assembly House Chairperson responsible for committees, Mr Cedric Frolick, urged delegates at the Globe Conference of Parties (COP) 27 summit to interrogate the various implementation models their countries use to implement the Rio Conventions to ensure they are properly coordinated to mitigate the risks posed by climate change.*

Mr Frolick led a South African delegation to the COP27 summit, which took place in Sharma El-Sheik in Egypt recently. Mr Frolick addressed the summit on the topic of successful drylands governance, where he shared best practices from South Africa on benefit-sharing and inclusive governance.

He explained how South Africa's intervention through the Strategic Framework and Overarching Implementation Plan for Ecosystem-based Adaptation promotes conservation whilst alleviating poverty through programmes such as Working for Water, Working on Fire, Working on Land and others. These programmes integrate the implementation of the three Rio Conventions while uplifting communities.

Mr Frolick emphasised how South Africa has started to adjust how it does things to adapt to the realities of living in an arid environment. He drew examples from the Manyeleti Game Reserve, a community-owned and managed protected area in the Greater Kruger National Park (KNP). The community successfully laid claim to a part of KNP land, which is now known as Makuleke Concession, managed as part of KNP.

Manyeleti is primarily a sandveld environment, distinguished by its central African vegetation, large alluvial flood plains and probably more animal and plant species diversity than anywhere else in the KNP. Mr Frolick explained that there is no better way to manage this sandveld environment than through biodiversity conservation. When compared to other land use types, this method has significant climate mitigation and adaptation potential and also has the potential to halt land degradation.

Mr Frolick also explained how the Nama community that inhabits the Richtersveld National Park in the Northern Cape province, bordering South Africa and Namibia, rebuffed big mining corporations that wanted to mine the Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape World Heritage site buffer zone. The local community manages the park in conjunction with South African National Parks (SANParks). Diamond mining companies wanted to mine this area on the South African side, but the owners of the land committed their land to biodiversity conservation and, in so doing, prevented land degradation and mitigated climate change.

Mr Frolick urged his fellow legislators to consider nature-based tourism as a non-consumptive way of using natural resources to benefit rural people. He added that nature-based tourism also removes incentives for using marginal land for agriculture and livestock production.

The Globe COP27 Legislators Summit focused on climate-change adaptation, mitigation, loss, damage and finance. Loss and damage disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, who are usually the people on the frontlines of the climate crisis, who have the least resources and who have contributed the least to the problem. One of COP 27's successes hinged on mobilising finance for the losses and damages incurred by these people. 🌍

**Parliament commemorates 16 Days of Activism: the rights of women & children are fundamental human rights protected by our Constitution**

*The Presiding Officers of Parliament, led by the Speaker of the National Assembly (NA), Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Mr Amos Masondo, join South Africans and the world in commemorating 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence (GBV).*

Every year, from 25 November to 10 December, South Africans observe 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children. This well-known campaign was launched by activists at the first Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991. The campaign focuses on raising public awareness about the damaging effects violence and abuse have on women and children and the social fabric of our society. It ought to be supported fully by all South Africans.

The rights of women and children are fundamental human rights protected by our Constitution. GBV and violence against children, in all their different forms, devalue human dignity and the self-worth of the abused person/s and must be rooted out of our communities. The 16 Days of Activism against GBV can only succeed if we stand together to safeguard our society against this abuse.

Violence against women and children remains the most pervasive human rights violation in our country. As South Africa slowly recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, the rates of GBV are rising further, intersecting with crises of unemployment and economic instability. Parliament will ensure that progressive legislation is in place so that there is no impunity for perpetrators of domestic violence.



Parliament's passing of the Domestic Violence Amendment Bill; the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act Amendment Bill; and the Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill has strengthened South Africa's response to gender-based violence and femicide. Parliament also welcomes the President's approval of the amendments to these Bills in January, as this further protects GBV survivors and makes it harder for perpetrators to escape justice.

These amendments add additional regulation of sentences for offences committed against vulnerable people. The Domestic Violence Amendment Bill amends the Domestic Violence Act to address practical challenges, gaps and anomalies that manifested since the Act came into effect in December 1999.

The amended legislation includes new definitions for "controlling" and "coercive" behaviour, for example, and expands the existing definition of domestic violence to include spiritual abuse, elder abuse, and/or exposing/subjecting children to certain listed behaviours. It also introduces online applications for protection orders against acts of domestic violence and imposes obligations on the departments of Health and Social Development to provide certain services to domestic violence survivors.

Parliament calls on all South Africans to help put an end to the abuse of women and children. Parliament's Presiding Officers urge all citizens to act, to empower survivors, and to reduce and prevent GBV. Such abuse does not well-represent our ethos as a nation, built on the values of ubuntu. South Africans must support this campaign and charge men to fulfil their responsibilities towards their families and their loved ones. The 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence must not end after 16 days. It is an everyday reality that needs to be tackled head-on. South Africans must mobilise all the men and women in their communities to take a stand to report and stop the abuse. 🙏

## Nationwide Public Hearings on Railway Safety Bill starts in the North West



*The Portfolio Committee on Transport is conducting public hearings on the Railway Safety Bill [B 7-2021] to give citizens an opportunity to express their views on the Bill. The committee started the hearings in the North West Province.*

The hearings form part of a public participation process that aims to embed community participation in law-making process to ensure that the legislation passed by Parliament takes into consideration the lived experiences of the people.

Public consultation and participation is a constitutional requirement that

Parliament is obliged to undertake as part of its decision-making processes. The hearings comply with Section 59 (1) of the Constitution, which urges public involvement in Parliament's legislative-making processes. The committee is hopeful that, as the primary beneficiaries of the protections proposed by the Bill, participants present qualitative inputs aimed at improving the Bill, ensuring safe railway operations.

The Bill aims to amend the National Railway Safety Regulator Act 16 of 2002 by facilitating an improvement in general safety within the railway environment. This will ensure that rail becomes an attractive mode of transport and contributes towards economic growth. This will provide a platform to effectively fight inequality, poverty and unemployment.

In an effort to align legislation with the White Paper on National Rail Policy and government's plan to move passengers and freight from road to rail, the Bill proposes and promotes the use of rail as an efficient mode of transport. Also, the Bill aims to facilitate a modern, flexible and efficient regulatory regime that ensures the continuing enhancement of safe railway operations across the country.

The amendment was also necessitated by the drive to harmonise the railway safety regime, both within the country and also with requirements for safe railway operations within the Southern African Development Community. The Bill will also harmonise the railway safety regime by preventing the proliferation of laws, policies and approaches to the execution of such laws and policies from materially prejudicing the beneficiaries of railway safety. Ultimately, the passing of the Bill will ensure the well-being of the people of South Africa by providing effective, transparent, accountable and coherent governance of railway safety.

In each province, the committee selects two districts in which to hold public hearings. In the North West, it held hearings in Klerksdorp and Rustenburg. The committee invited interested individuals and organisations to come and share their views on the Bill with the committee. 🙏