

Monthly magazine of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

in session



Vol. 14 ISSUE 7 August 2014



Still speaking out

Women's Day focus on constituency work





PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Mace of National Assembly

Vision Statement

To build an effective people's Parliament that is responsive to the needs of the people and that is driven by the ideal of realising a better quality of life for all the people of South Africa.

Mission Statement

As the freely elected representatives of the people of South Africa, our Mission is to represent, and to act as a voice of the people, in fulfilling our Constitutional functions of passing laws and overseeing executive action.

Strategic Objectives

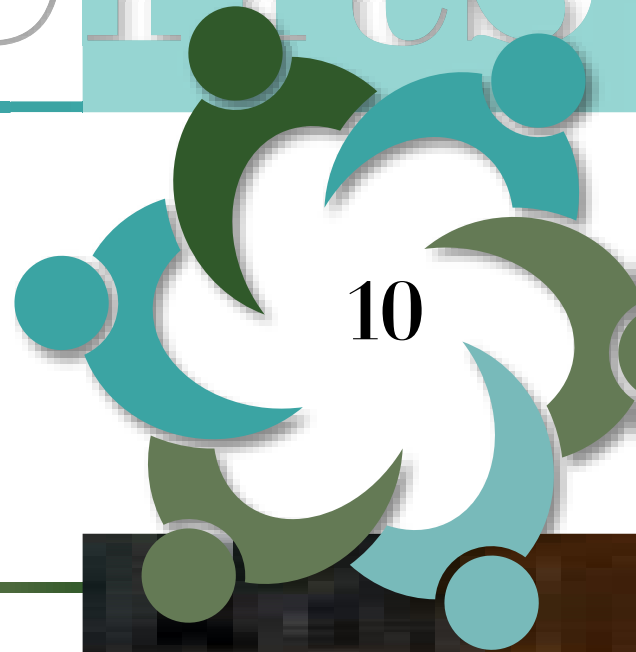
1. Strengthen oversight
2. Build a People's Parliament
3. Strengthen co-operative government
4. Improve international participation
5. Build an effective and efficient institution



Black Rod of National Council of Provinces

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COVER: Science and Technology Deputy Minister and National Freedom Party leader Mxolisi Mkhanyane talks about women's issues during her constituency visit to eThekweni, Umkhonto

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OUR IDEALS

VISION To build an effective people's Parliament
that is responsive to the needs of the people and
that is driven by the ideal of realising a better
quality of life for all the people of South Africa.

MISSION

As the freely elected representatives of the people
of South Africa, our mission is to represent, and act
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Women's Day

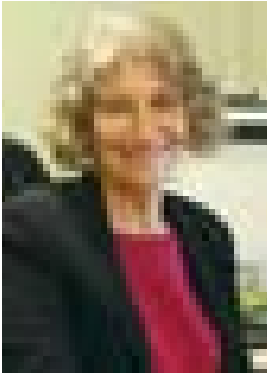
2014

Parliament salutes
the women of
South Africa as
we recall the
heroic march
against passes on
9 August 1956.

You strike
a woman,
you strike
a rock.



editor's note



This issue of *InSession* focuses on the budget votes, a process that takes place every year to determine the appropriations allocated to each government department. This year, being the start of the fifth Parliament, saw the process being squeezed into the 2014 parliamentary calendar for a second time.

The national votes that received the highest allocations for the 2014/15 financial year are, not unexpectedly, Social Development, Police, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Transport, Defence and Military Veterans and Higher Education and Training. The revised expenditure applies over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period, and we have included it in detail in this publication to ensure transparency in the planning and budget formulation process. The overall aim, as always, is for Parliament to play its oversight role, holding the executive to account on behalf of the public (see pages 11 to 23).

Space does not permit *InSession* to include all 38 budget vote debates, but we took this opportunity to capture the first official speeches made in the House by National Assembly Speaker Ms Baleka Mbete and National Council of Provinces Chairperson Ms Thandi Modise (see pages 6 and 7).

Ms Modise used the debate on Parliament's budget vote to remind us of how far South Africa has travelled in 20 years of transforming society. However, her speech focused on the challenges facing the third decade of democracy. She declared the vision of Parliament is "to build an effective people's Parliament that ... is driven by the ideal of realising a better quality of life for all the people of South Africa".

These sentiments were echoed in the speech by Ms Mbete: "As we reflect on the current budget vote for Parliament, let us do so critically, but also with innovation and foresight, steadfast in our resolve to use financial and other resources with the utmost care and responsibility. I urge all parties represented in this Chamber to heed the call ... for a robust, engaging, relevant and activist Parliament, a Parliament that asserts its rightful role and status as one of the key institutions of democracy – one that not only holds government answerable but is accountable for more effective and efficient service delivery."

To illustrate this commitment, *InSession* covered the constituency work of the Members of Parliament in different parts of the country (see pages 26 to 31). This was the first time Members of the fifth Parliament have conducted constituency work, one of their central responsibilities. *InSession* accompanied the representatives of five parties who listened to what the people have to say and to see for themselves the conditions and challenges ordinary citizens face.

Parliament, and this, its flagship magazine, are guided by the voice of the people; both exist to serve the people and address their needs and demands. Parliament is bound by the Constitution to engage with those who voted them into power, and its overriding goal is to build a citizenry that is actively participative. For that to become a reality, citizens must be kept informed of the work of their representatives, and Parliament's Communication Services was formed for that purpose, to disseminate that information.

There is much more to read in these pages. We cover the parliamentary debate on Mandela Day (page 34), track recent Bills tabled (page 8), report question time in Parliament (page 9) and most importantly, cover the oversight work of Parliament's Committees (page 10 and 24 to 25).

This is your Parliament and its mouthpiece, *InSession*, must reflect your voices. Send your views to insession@parliament.gov.za and participate in our hard-won democracy. 🇿🇦

Moira Levy
Editor



Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete

MESSAGE FROM THE national assembly



The 20-year celebration of democracy is an occasion to reflect on the long walk we have begun as a country. It is an occasion to celebrate the remarkable endurance of political institutions, such as Parliament, our Constitution and the remarkable spirit of the people of this country.

In particular, this Parliament has played an instrumental role in the crafting and adoption of the Constitution; the repeal of destructive apartheid laws, putting in their place hundreds of pieces of legislation and introducing systems to safeguard this democracy. These are by no means small feats, but achievements that we should be proud of.

As we reflect on the current budget vote for Parliament, let us do so critically, but also with innovation and foresight, steadfast in our resolve to use financial and other resources with the utmost care and responsibility.

I urge all parties represented in this Chamber to heed the call by the African National Congress for a robust, engaging, relevant and activist Parliament, a Parliament that asserts its rightful role and status as one of the key institutions of democracy – one that not only holds government answerable but is accountable for more effective and efficient service delivery.

As the fifth Parliament, we must apply our minds on how best we implement the oversight model more effectively to ensure that we sharpen our oversight function.

Aside from the specific responsibilities we assume from the fourth Parliament, it is our responsibility to develop our own strategic priorities and expected outcomes for the fifth Parliament.

Indeed, it is only in crafting our own strategic plan, strongly underpinned by our policy imperatives, that we would be able to decide our budget requirements over the medium term. The strategic plan is a performance contract with those we represent that we must use to measure our performance in the next five years, to ensure that in representing our people we have clear objective and focus.

In charting the way forward, I wish to pose a few strategic questions:

First, what will be the contribution of the fifth Parliament in furthering the National Development Plan and the President's State of the Nation Address, among other things? Second, beyond our explicit constitutional mandate, what is the role of Parliament in enhancing cooperative governance? Third, what meaningful role should Parliament play in nation-building and social cohesion? Fourth, what will be the impact of the fifth Parliament in reducing the democracy deficit nationally, regionally and internationally? This process will have to reflect on whether Parliament is indeed reflecting the will of our people. We should also reflect on how best we assume a more active role in the formative stages of international agreements and treaties and in sustainable development agendas to improve the lives of all people of the world.

Lastly, we need to examine the importance of institutional flexibility in our oversight processes. The extent to which we position ourselves during this term is crucial to ensuring that we strengthen the faith of our people in their future, the faith of every South African in South Africa.

There is much more to be done in realising the fundamental principles and ideals of the Freedom Charter. Now is the time for the next stage of our historic journey. Let us therefore rise to the challenge of being an authentically robust and engaging Parliament, truly in touch and at pace and at peace with our people. 🌍

This is an edited extract from the speech by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, delivered on the occasion of budget vote two.



MESSAGE FROM THE national council of provinces

The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Modise

The passage from winter to spring is accompanied by changes in the environment, and these changes affect humans in various ways, with many succumbing to opportunistic ailments. Those who survive this transitional period often walk about with squared shoulders in celebration of the better health they have just received.

We are then reminded that while some among us may be celebrating the fortunes of life, many of our people have no sound reason to celebrate, as their social conditions remain a constant reminder that their turn is yet to come. In cajoling those who celebrate better health to take a moment to consider the weak and ill, so too should we as leaders find time to reconnect with the basics of what defines our collective humanity.

We meet under difficult conditions that have engulfed the people of the Gaza Strip and Israel. It cannot be justified that, in a world that has embraced peace, democracy and self-determination, we see the wanton destruction of property and the killing of innocent people, especially women and children, in the name of any ideology, religion or principle. Similarly, it cannot be justified that in a world that seeks to establish a modicum of global peace, we witness the disappearance and/or shooting down of planes as experienced by the people of Malaysia. We join the rest of the world to call upon all belligerent forces from both sides of the divide, across all corners of the world, to prioritise peace and collective coexistence without which we are likely to fail to meet the full characteristics of being truly human.

Our democratic system is also anchored on various institutions which see to it that the will of our people is realised. This institution, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), distinguishes itself among the pivotal voices which are, matter-of-factly, qualified to be regarded as custodians of our constitutional democracy. We find it in better health owing to the industrious services of our predecessors. They have made sure that the requisite instruments are put in place so that even when they are gone, the system will be able to provide our people with the desired services. I thank them for their roles and hope that from wherever they are, they shall have time to share with us some of the ideas they might develop over time.

The budget vote of Parliament provides an opportunity to reflect on the mandate of the people's Parliament, its role in transforming society as well as achievements and attendant challenges. Of significance is that this year's presentation takes place 20 years into our democracy. In line with this year's theme of Celebrating 20 Years of a Democratic Parliament, we accordingly must reflect on the journey we have travelled since 1994 and consider what resources we need to move our country forward.

Parliament is tasked with the responsibility to represent the people, to ensure government by the people under the Constitution, and to represent the provinces in the national sphere of government. It does this by, among other things, providing a national forum for the public consideration of issues, passing legislation, and scrutinising and overseeing executive action. This mandate is entrenched in the Constitution.

After 20 years, we need to examine the extent to which we have succeeded in furthering this mandate. Efforts to transform society and to establish democratic practice by Parliament included, among other things:

- * Repealing of apartheid legislation and introducing transformational laws.
- * Entrenching democracy and establishing institutions to support it.
- * Promoting reconciliation, unity and nation-building.
- * Passing legislation to transform the education, security, judicial and the health sectors and to advance the interests of workers.
- * Entrenching transparency by opening up parliamentary proceedings and passing legislation promoting access to information to empower citizens.
- * Promoting gender equality and passing legislation to support such efforts, better scrutiny of Bills and legislative reviews, support and promotion of interests of vulnerable groups.
- * Promoting South Africa's standing among the nations of the world. 🌍

This is an edited extract from the speech by the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Modise, delivered during the budget vote debate in Parliament. These were the first official speeches made in the House by the Presiding Officers of the fifth Parliament. See full report on page 11.

bill tracker

Bills tabled in Parliament recently



Bills can be introduced in the National Assembly or the National Council of Provinces. They are usually introduced by members of the Cabinet, but Committees and MPs in their private capacity can also introduce Bills. The passage a Bill follows will be influenced by whether it is classified as a Section 74, 75, 76 or 77 Bill, otherwise known as a Money Bill. Depending on circumstances, Bills can lapse and be revived at a later stage.

The **Legal Aid Bill** seeks to repeal the Legal Aid Act, as it is not aligned with the Constitution and its founding principles. It also aims to provide for: the independence and impartiality of Legal Aid South Africa; the appointment of the Board of Directors and qualification for membership thereof; the appointment of a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson; the term of appointment of a member of the Board of Directors; the termination of membership of the Board of Directors; meetings of the Board of Directors, quorum and procedure; the establishment of committees by the Board of Directors; the delegation of powers and the assignment of duties or functions of the Board of Directors; the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer and his or her functions; appointment of employees and agents of Legal Aid South Africa and their terms and conditions of employment; protection of client privilege in certain circumstances; recovery of costs by Legal Aid South Africa; the finances of Legal Aid South Africa; provision of legal aid by direction of courts in criminal matters; compilation of a legal aid manual; making of regulations to provide for the amendment or repeal of laws;

transitional arrangements; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

The **Unemployment Insurance Amendment Bill** seeks to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act of 2001, so as to provide for the extension of the unemployment insurance benefits to learners who are undergoing learnership training and civil servants. It also seeks to adjust the accrual rate of a contributor's entitlement to unemployment insurance benefits; to finance employment services; to extend a contributor's entitlement to benefits under certain circumstances; to provide for the process of application for maternity benefits; to repeal some enforcement provisions; to empower the Unemployment Insurance Board to provide in its constitution for the functions of regional appeals committees; to amend the Schedule 2 to the Unemployment Insurance Act, 2001, so as to provide for the adjustment of the Income Replacement Rate.

The **Medicines and Related Substances Amendment Bill** aims to amend the Medicines and Related Substances Act of 1965 so as to define certain expressions and to delete or amend certain definitions;

to provide for the objects and functions of the Authority; to provide for the composition, appointment of chairperson, vice-chairperson and members, disqualification of members, meetings and committees of the Board of the Authority; to replace the word "products" with the word "medicines" and expression "Scheduled substances" in order to correctly reflect the subject matter of the said Act; and to effect certain technical corrections.

The **Attorneys Amendment Bill** seeks to amend the Attorneys Act of 1979, as an interim measure, pending the enactment of legislation aimed at rationalising the legal profession, so as to address disparities in relation to attorneys and candidate attorneys in the territories comprising the former homelands of Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei, and, for that purpose, repeal the laws of the former territories in so far as they are still applicable to attorneys and candidate attorneys in these territories; to further regulate the engagement of candidate attorneys and their right of appearance in courts; to give effect to a Constitutional Court judgment; to further regulate juristic persons conducting a legal practice; to enable actions against the Attorney Fidelity Fund to be instituted in courts other than the High Court; to restructure the areas of jurisdiction of law societies; to amend or delete certain obsolete provisions and expressions; to provide for transitional arrangements; and to provide for matters connected therewith. 🌐

i put the question

Questions asked in Parliament recently covered many topics, from challenges facing the local government sector to the plight of shack dwellers living in the Western Cape.



Ms Deidre Carter

Ms Deidre Carter (Cope) asked the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Pravin Gordhan, why the Local Government Turnaround Strategy (LGTAS) initiated by President Jacob Zuma during his first term as President had not been successful.

The Minister replied: The LGTAS was not unsuccessful. LGTAS has been misunderstood and seen as an end in itself, when it was a necessary intervention at a particular time and a contribution to the transformation agenda of our democratic local government.

The LGTAS was correct in focusing on two broad aims, namely restoring the confidence of the majority of our people in our municipalities and to rebuild and improve the basic requirements for a functional, accountable, responsive, effective and efficient developmental local government.

Mr Mike Tshishonga (Agang SA) asked the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Michael Masutha, if he intends to introduce legislation that will set minimum sentencing for a public official found guilty of corruption or a member of the public found guilty of corrupting an official.

The Minister responded: Our current legislative framework provides as follows: the “minimum sentence” dispensation is regulated by Section 51 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1997 (Act 105 of 1997), read with Schedule 2 to that Act. In terms of Section 51(2)(a), a person who has been convicted of an offence referred to in Part II of Schedule 2 is subject to

a minimum sentence of imprisonment ranging from 15 years (in the case of a first offender) to 20 and 25 years in the case of second and multiple offenders.

Dr Pieter Groenewald (FF Plus) asked the Minister of Police, Mr Nathi Nhleko, to give the statistics for farm murders and farm attacks in 2011, 2012 and 2013 and since January 2014.

The Minister answered: We are extremely concerned about the issue of farm murders and farm attacks. The minister has placed these incidents of crime high on the agenda of crime fighting strategies. The annual release of the national crime statistics, under the subcategory of contact crimes, will depict the efforts to curb this crime.

Ms Annette Steyn (DA) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr Senzeni Zokwana, to outline the plans in place to ensure job creation in the agricultural sector.

The Minister replied: The plan to deliver on the one million jobs by 2030 (in line with the National Development Plan, NDP) in the agriculture sector requires a detailed analysis of the various challenges. A policy document, the Integrated Growth and Development Policy (IGDP) for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, is based on this analysis and outlines an appropriate response.

The Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP), in turn, seeks to translate the high-level responses offered in the IGDP into a value chain approach, identifying concrete actions and steps. The APAP is planned over a five-year period and will be updated annually.

The first iteration of APAP thus does not offer a fully comprehensive plan. It is based on the model of the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) and it identifies an ambitious but manageable number of focused actions during the first year. APAP further aligns itself with the New Growth Path (NGP), the NDP and IPAP, and seeks to assist in the achievement of Outcome 4, Decent Employment through Inclusive Growth, and that of Outcome 7, Comprehensive Rural Development and Food Security.

Mr Petros Sithole (IFP) asked the Minister of Human Settlements, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, to outline plans for a solution that will benefit shack dwellers in Lwandle, Western Cape.

The Minister responded: The outcome of the ministerial inquiry will assist us at arriving at a lasting solution. We await the outcome of the inquiry after which the department will make proposals on the permanent solution. However, there are immediate interventions by my department and the Housing Development Agency working together with the City of Cape Town. These entail the provision of emergency housing kits as well as chemical toilets.

Delivery of the first batch of 200 kits started on 19 June 2014. This was followed by the supply of chemical toilets. The City of Cape Town has undertaken to provide flush toilets within two months. Construction of units is ongoing and as at 30 June 2014, 126 structures have been put up. Plans are being developed to accommodate the affected qualifying families within the different permanent housing, which the City of Cape Town is providing and will continue to do so. 🏠

highlights from the committee rooms



Every *month*
Parliament's
Committees exercise their law-
making and oversight functions.
Cedric Mboyisa compiled this
summary of a selection of
Committee deliberations.

The Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training condemned the violent protests by students around the country. The condemnation comes after violent protests at Mangosuthu University of Technology in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, and the University of Limpopo's Medunsa campus.

"Much as we fully understand the students' frustrations, we equally condemn any form of anarchy, which tends to undermine the gains of our democracy through the destruction of property. We continue to support access to higher education and training by all, both the rich and the poor. However, that must come with responsibility," said Committee Chairperson Ms Yvonne Phosa. The protesting students set alight a car and the main gate at the Medunsa campus, and the women's residence at the Mangosuthu University of Technology in Durban.

The Portfolio Committees on Energy and Public Enterprises held a joint meeting last month to be briefed by Eskom on the state of the national grid and challenges of supply, including short- and long-term mitigation plans. Energy Committee Chairperson Mr Fikile Majola said the two Committees would be working closely with the two departments (energy and public enterprises) on issues relating to energy in general, and electricity in particular. Attending the meeting were Energy

Minister Ms Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Public Enterprises Minister Ms Lynne Brown and her Deputy Minister, Mr Bulelani Magwanishe. In her opening remarks, Ms Joemat-Pettersson said the ministers of finance, public enterprises and energy meet regularly with Eskom and the National Energy Regulator of South Africa to have a coordinated approach in dealing with the state-owned company.

The Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs is satisfied with the manner in which Minister Pravin Gordhan intends to improve the performance of municipalities and their entities. Committee Chairperson Mr Richard Mdakane said they are pleased that Minister Gordhan has undertaken to, among other interventions, impose severe penalties on poorly performing municipalities. According to Mr Mdakane, Minister Gordhan also told the Committee last month about his plans to ensure municipalities went back to implementing the basic responsibilities of local government. "It is pleasing to see the Minister has undertaken to improve local government by introducing measures that will see notable improvement in the performance of our municipalities. Poor performance by some municipalities can no longer be tolerated as they are a sphere of government responsible for expanding access to basic services to all our people and for the advancement of our communities," Mr Mdakane said.

The Portfolio Committee on Sport and Recreation wants the emphasis on sport funding from the National Lotteries Board of South Africa (NLB) to

be geared towards the development of sport infrastructure in rural areas. The Committee received a briefing from the NLB on its budget allocation to sport, the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee and federations. The Committee appreciated that from the R483m funding the NLB gave to sport, 26% was allocated to the development of sport infrastructure. However, the Committee has noted that sport funding shows bias towards urban areas. The Committee intends to ensure that sport funding is distributed equally to rural and struggling communities. The Committee also wants to be assured that there are tighter monitoring controls by the NLB of the entire budget that the NLB gives to sport. The Committee feels the amount allocated to sport and federations is a good investment, but monitoring of the utilisation of these funds must be improved or enhanced.

The Portfolio Committee on Rural Development and Land Reform embarked on an oversight visit to land claims lodgement centres to assess the progress made since the official reopening of the second phase of the land claims lodgement process. The first stop was the Mowbray land claims lodgement site in Cape Town in the Western Cape. The visit accorded members of the Committee an opportunity to assess the government's implementation plans, capacity and turnaround time to administer the claims. The Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act (in June this year) provides for the reopening of the lodgement of land claims by those who missed the 31 December 1998 deadline to lodge land claims over a period of five years, from 30 June 2014 to 30 June 2019. 🌍



BUDGET VOTE:
Ms Baleka Mbete
delivers her budget
vote speech in
the NA.

‘We must set an example’

Speaker and Chairperson on
Parliament’s budget vote debate

National *Assembly (NA) Speaker Ms Baleka Mbete and National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Chairperson Ms Thandi Modise addressed the issues raised by Members of Parliament during the debate on Parliament’s budget vote, writes Elijah Moholola.*

Parliament’s 2014 budget is R1.99bn – a 6% increase on the previous financial year. Among the issues raised was the need to re-establish the ad hoc committee on the Public Protector’s report on Nkandla and the compulsory medical aid scheme for Members. Further concerns were that Parliament was not debating issues of national importance and Parliament’s support for political parties.

Responding to the re-establishment of the ad hoc committee on the report of the Public Protector, Ms Mbete said following the receipt of a letter from the Presidency indicating that President Jacob Zuma had been out of

the country and could not submit his report, Parliament was still awaiting communication from the President. “It is important to understand that the re-establishment of the ad hoc committee is a matter that has to be decided by the House and not the Speaker,” she said.

Ms Mbete also explained the reasons for the compulsory membership of Parliament’s medical aid scheme, Parmed. She said Parliament had sought legal opinion on whether Parmed complied with “freedom of association” as contained in Section 18 of the Constitution, and she was advised that it did.

In response to a concern over Parliament not discussing issues of national importance during debates, Ms Mbete said there is a process that is followed when proposing subjects for discussion in the House. She urged Members to continue working through the relevant parliamentary structures in proposing debates.

She further disclosed that support to political parties’ funding for this financial year was R348.5m, which was an increase of 5.3% from the previous year. The allocation for political parties’ funding is divided into political support (R83.2m), constituency support (R247.8m) and party leadership support (R7.5m).

During her budget speech, Ms Mbete said Parliament’s R1.99bn budget allocation represented a transitional budget. “The year-on-year growth of



SUCCESS STORY: Ms Thandi Modise delivers her budget vote speech in the NCOP.

the budget to Parliament represents a growth of 6% from the 2013/2014 to 2014/2015 financial year. This growth should be interpreted as a baseline adjustment to inflation costs and it therefore does not mean more funds to Parliament," she said.

Ms Mbete further provided a detailed breakdown of how the budget allocation was structured for each of the five programmes: administration; legislation and oversight; public and international participation; Member's facilities; and associated services. The actual budget allocations for each programme were as follows:

* Administration: R442m (an 8% increase) for, among other things, the provision of strategic leadership, institutional policy, overall management and corporate services for Parliament's executive management and staff.

* Legislation and oversight: R361m (a 4% increase) for procedural and administrative services for Parliament to carry out its core functions.

* Public and international participation: R132.6m (an 11% increase) for the upgrading of the broadcasting infrastructure and enhancing public participation efforts.

* Members' facilities: R224m (a 6% increase) for the purchasing of the tools of trade for MPs and travel facilities.

* Associated services: R349m (a 5% increase) for financial support to political parties and constituency offices.

In addition to the budget of the five programmes, Parliament has a budget of R481m, a direct charge to the National Revenue Fund, as a provision for Members' salaries. This represents a 6% growth compared to last year's budget.

Ms Mbete said like all organs of state, Parliament was subject to the rigorous scrutiny of the Auditor-General, adding that the fourth Parliament had done reasonably well in its audit outcomes by receiving unqualified audit findings with a few matters of emphasis. "As the fifth Parliament, we must continue to set the example and work towards eliminating audit opinions with matters of emphasis. Going forward, the executive authority must work closely with the accounting officer of Parliament to ensure that this target is achieved.

"The fifth Parliament has the responsibility to implement the amended Financial Management of Parliament Act (FMPA) of 2009. The Act is an important milestone that asserts the doctrine of separation of powers and independence of the legislative sector. The Act provides, *inter alia*, for financial and accounting systems for Parliament and for norms and standards for provincial legislatures," she said.

The FMPA also provides for the establishment of an oversight mechanism for Parliament to maintain oversight of the financial management of the institution. In this regard, Ms Mbete said the fifth Parliament had to ensure that the oversight mechanism and the accompanying rules, via the Joint Rules Committee, would be in place within this financial year.

In her speech, NCOP Chairperson Ms Thandi Modise outlined the task that should define the third decade of the democratic Parliament. Ms Modise said the need for sound governance and service delivery must dominate the next phase of Parliament after the country commemorated 20 years of democracy. "Having laid the basis

for transformation, there is a need to ensure sound governance and effective service delivery by the executive. This task must define the [third] decade of the democratic Parliament," said Ms Modise.

She added that systems and mechanisms for enhancing public participation, cooperative government and participation in international relations have been put in place. For example, the third Parliament saw the development of the Oversight and Accountability Model and the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, which aimed to strengthen Parliament's oversight role.

"The crafting of the new vision of Parliament in 2005, which is to build an effective people's Parliament that is responsive to the needs of the people and that is driven by the ideal of realising a better quality of life for all the people of South Africa, provided the necessary framework for the articulation of the work of Parliament. The Members of the fifth Parliament have a lot to do in setting this institution on a trajectory to fulfil the dream of a better South Africa that we envisioned in 1994," she said.

Ms Modise used the presentation of the proposed budget to Parliament for the 2014/15 financial year to highlight some of the work done by the fourth Parliament to strengthen the capacity of the institution to carry out its mandate. She said while this was the first budget of the fifth Parliament, it was in reality a carry-over budget from the fourth Parliament. "In recognition of the fact that the legislation we pass has a significant impact on our citizens, Parliament committed itself to enhancing public involvement in its processes to ensure that the people, including the most vulnerable in our society, are served by the laws we pass.

"The subject matter of legislation has become more and more sophisticated and highly technical. Thus our Parliament and MPs must become more empowered and resourced to enhance efficiency in the law-making process. To this end, the fourth Parliament took a number of corrective measures to ensure that our laws were in keeping with the letter and spirit of the Constitution."

Such measures included the establishment of the Legislative Drafting Unit, which has so far assisted MPs and Parliament's Committees on 19 private Members' Bills, two Committee Bills and the supply chain management regulations for Parliament. The unit has also developed lists of legislation that require amendments based on constitutional requirements, Constitutional Court judgments, public opinion or gaps identified while assisting Committees.

Ms Modise said among the key tools for the exercise of oversight were questions posed by MPs to members of the executive. In this regard, the NCOP saw an increase in the number of questions in the previous year, with a total of 843 questions put to the executive – of which six were posed to the President, 11 to the Deputy President, 179 to ministers for oral reply and 647 for written reply. A total of 827 responses were received, representing a 98% response rate.

Focusing on the budget being presented, Ms Modise said Parliament required resources to ensure the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP). The NDP is a plan for the country to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030.

The NCOP further required the resources to create a closer working relationship with local government, the broader

South African legislative sector and the Speakers' forum. It also required resources to ensure there was political party support and Members' training and capacity building.

"Over the five financial years of the fourth Parliament, the institution performed reasonably well in audit outcomes by receiving unqualified audit findings with some matters of emphasis. In the fifth parliamentary term, we want to improve this record in order to lead by example, especially given our constitutional responsibility of overseeing the executive. We must go beyond the focus on financial information to performance outcomes," Ms Modise said.

Reflecting on the journey Parliament has travelled in the 20 years of democracy in terms of its mandate as a people's Parliament, its role in transforming society as well as achievements and challenges, Ms Modise highlighted some of the success stories. She said efforts to transform society and establish democratic practices in Parliament included, among other things, repealing apartheid legislation and introducing transformational laws; entrenching democracy and establishing institutions to support it; and promoting reconciliation, unity and nation-building.

Ms Modise also spoke about progress in the passing of legislation to transform the education, security, judicial and health sectors and to advance the interests of workers. She also referred to entrenching transparency by opening up parliamentary proceedings and passing legislation promoting access to information to empower citizens; as well as promoting gender equality and passing legislation to support such efforts; improving scrutiny of Bills and legislative reviews; and supporting the interests of vulnerable groups. 🌍



ECONOMY IS KEY: President Jacob Zuma delivers his budget vote speech in the NA.

We must adopt new economic policies – President Zuma

South *Africa's attempts to improve its economic growth were the central topic during the budget vote debate on the Presidency. And as expected, the President's speech underscored the need for the economy to support growth in our country's gross domestic product (GDP). Abel Mputing reports.*

President Jacob Zuma said South Africa must embrace new economic principles and practices that will usher in a new economic growth outlook. To this end, South Africa has recently adopted Operation Phakisa, which aims to unlock the wealth of the country's oceans and which is an adaptation of the "big fast

results" methodology that has been successfully applied in Malaysia.

"The journey towards prosperity and job-creating growth involves radical change in the manner in which we undertake planning, implementation and monitoring. On 19 July 2014, we launched Operation Phakisa to

fast-track service delivery in various sectors, starting with the ocean economy. Teams from government, business, labour and academia are working in Durban, discussing plans to unlock the economic potential of our oceans, which are poised to contribute up to R177bn to the country's GDP," the President said.

"A range of sectors that constitute our country's ocean economy, which will underpin Operation Phakisa, have already been earmarked. The teams are focusing on four priority

sectors. The first is marine transport and manufacturing activities, such as coastal shipping, trans-shipment, boat building, repair and refurbishment. The other three are offshore oil and gas exploration; aquaculture (the rearing of aquatic animals or the cultivation of aquatic plants for food); and marine protection services and ocean governance. We will release the outcome of the exercise later this year once the teams have concluded their work and have produced implementable action plans," President Zuma said.

The President also said the potential for sustainable economic growth lies in the institutionalisation of the partnership between government, big and small business enterprises. "The Presidency is taking steps to institutionalise partnerships with various stakeholders through reconstituting the presidential working groups, to promote partnerships for development and progress. The Presidential Business Working Group will bring together chairpersons and chief executive officers of major companies in South Africa as well as key ministers in the economic sector to discuss the performance of the economy. And we will also establish a Presidential Small Business Working Group, which will bring together organisations representing small business owners and government, to chart a path for supporting small enterprises," he said.

The leader of the Democratic Alliance in Parliament, Mr Mmusi Maimane, said it will take courage to realise the goals set by the government for the next five years. "In the next five years, the actions of this government under Honourable President Jacob Zuma will make or break that future. Imagine rather, Mr President, a South

Africa in 2019 where our people and the world see our nation as one of greatness, a place of opportunity for all. A country premised on [Indian economist] Amartya Sen's central insight that development should be measured by the extent to which people have the opportunity, and the capability, to define their own future and achieve their potential, where investment swells and new industries and agriculture spring up, and growth is realised at over 6%.

"With the right policy framework for growth, where corruption has been cut out, where our democratic institutions are strong and are free of political meddling, where coherent policy reigns, we can look at a South Africa with full investor confidence. This is an outcome we can all imagine. But Mr President, do you have the boldness to get us there?" he asked.

The sustainability of our country's economy hinges on the integration of the youth, which constitutes a huge part of our population, into our country's economic activities, said the Minister of Economic Development, Mr Ebrahim Patel. "The government has launched the Youth Entrepreneurship Fund, worth R2.7bn. Of this sum, more than R300m has already been allocated or disbursed to youth projects such as the building of youth-owned companies involved in building school fences and classrooms and that are involved in the running of nutrition centres."

The imperative of our country's economic development lies in the advancement of the agenda of a developmental state, said the Chief Whip of the African National Congress, Mr Stone Sizani. "For us, it is crucial that the state is capacitated to galvanise productive forces that

would ensure the goals of social and economic transformation are achieved. A developmental state places emphasis on education – especially technical, numeracy and scientific skills. This gives rise to a highly skilled population in various areas of government structures, who have strong tools of analysis at every level of decision-making. The state has made significant progress in laying the foundations of structures aimed at fulfilling our developmental objectives," he said.

The National Development Plan (NDP), which anchors all of our country's economic development endeavours, has been rejected by the leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters, Mr Julius Malema. He said it overlooks the contribution of the agricultural sector and food economy to our country's GDP. "The NDP does not place the increase of agricultural productivity at the centre of our country's development. Agriculture and the entire food economy can bring about food security and job creation."

According to Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the leader of the Congress of the People, the soaring national debt, which he blames on the bloated government administration, will undo our country's growth forecast. "In 2008, our national debt was R525bn. Today, it has soared to R1.59 trillion. This is a 100% increase on the 2008 figure. Within three years, our national debt will rocket to R2 trillion. That is frightening. The cost of servicing our debt has considerably narrowed the fiscal space. Under these circumstances, one would expect the government to become leaner and more efficient. Shockingly, the President made the government even bigger," he said. 🗣️

Something must be done to save SANDF – Minister

In its budget debate, the Defence and Military Veterans Department had to face the harsh reality that the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is in a state of decline, reports Abel Mputing.

The SANDF is now engaged in a new discourse that embraces the doctrine of realism spelled out in its 2014 Defence Review. This is what Members of Parliament (MPs) heard from the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, during the budget debate on Defence and Military Veterans in the National Assembly.

“Twenty years since the birth of the South African National Defence Force as a single national asset, the country is engaged in a useful but long overdue public discourse about the mandate and scope, the design and resourcing of the Defence Force going into the future,” Ms Mapisa-Nqakula said.

During the consideration of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans R42.8bn 2014/15 budget vote, the Minister went so far as to say that the SANDF was in decline, a remark that reflects the new realism she says informs the Defence Review. “The Defence Review recognises and states unambiguously that the SANDF is in a state of decline, characterised by an imbalance between capabilities, ageing technology and the unaffordability of its main operating systems,” Ms Mapisa-Nqakula said.

According to Ms Mapisa-Nqakula, further delays in averting this state of affairs

within the current five-year budget cycle could be costly. “We do not have a choice but to respond with urgency to put plans in place to arrest the decline within the current five years, starting immediately during this financial year. Five years is on average the amount of time it will take us to develop a limited and sustainable defence capability. The longer the neglect, the greater the effort, time and cost it will take us to arrest the decline,” she said.

The pragmatic thrust of the Defence Review’s strategic framework aimed at overhauling the SANDF is now before Parliament. And Ms Mapisa-Nqakula views it as a long-term strategic framework that can shore up the Defence Force’s critical strategic milestones aimed at “developing funding mechanisms to ensure that there is adequate resourcing of defence function – to ensure that its personnel is able to meet future defence obligations. It is also aimed at the renewal of the defence organisation to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness.

“But most of all, the Defence Review constitutes a hard-nosed focus on strategic operations aimed not only at armaments and combat as a means to strengthen our Defence Force’s geopolitical superiority in the region, but also is set to initiate a defence council to optimise its capital acquisition as a



means to trigger a fully fledged defence industry as our country’s new economic growth path.

“Our plans for the establishment of the National Defence Industry Council are at an advanced stage. The launching of the council will usher in a new dispensation for the management of our relations with the defence industry. The council will also be charged with the task of developing a defence strategy, technology agenda and innovation plans in support of the defence development programme, as well as the integration of the defence industry into our country’s mainstream industrial policy,” Ms Mapisa-Nqakula said.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Malusi Motimele, commended the Armaments Corporation of South Africa (Armscor) – a procurement agency of the SANDF – for its successes and singled it out as one entity that is a model upon which the introduction of a fully fledged defence



RENEWAL: The role the SANDF plays in South African society is under review.

force industry could be based. “We would like to commend Amcor on the many successes it has achieved over the years. And we further encourage it to position itself to be central in the processes of implementing the 2014 Defence Review. It should also strengthen its regional strategy to enhance its regional outreach and business opportunities which are in line with the objectives of the National Development Plan,” Mr Motimele said.

One of the members of the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans, Democratic Alliance MP Mr David Maynier said although the Defence Review must be commended for its frank assessment that the Defence Force is in a critical state of decline, it is, in the main, flawed. “The Defence Review process was deeply flawed and is unlikely to reverse the critical state of decline in the Defence Force. First, the Defence Review was not a defence review; the Defence Review was a review of a defence policy. Second, the Defence Review was carried out in

a national security and foreign policy vacuum. Third, the Defence Review does not contain a final force design, which must still be completed by the Chief of the Defence Force,” Mr Maynier said.

But what worries Mr Maynier most is that the R88bn budget proposal of the Defence Review has not been approved by the national Treasury. “The Defence Review’s budget proposal has not been approved by the national Treasury. And the Defence Review does not seem to have understood the iron law of public policy-making, which is: ‘you cannot do what you cannot fund.’ That is why the Defence Review’s proposal to reshape the Defence Force to include 189 000 personnel and 158 combat units, consuming R88bn, or 2% of our national budget, is doomed.”

Economic Freedom Fighters MP Ms Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala criticised the allocation of 2% of our national budget to roll out the Defence Review’s strategic framework because it would support the military industries of

developed countries, which, she says, are controlled by white monopoly capital. “The 2% expenditure on the Defence Force appears to be normal for a developing country. The pertinent question to ask is: by whose standard is this normalcy evaluated? A world run by white monopoly capital, whose world total spending in 2009 was US\$1.531 trillion, a world for which defence is an industry, creating wars a speciality and keeping the military industrial complex afloat?”

African National Congress MP Mr Bongani Bongo cautioned MPs not to lose sight of the Defence Review’s capability to contribute to our National Development Plan. “The Defence Review asserts that the Defence Force has an inherent ability to support economic activity in the country through the procurement of consumables such as uniforms, purchase of commercial-standard equipment and vehicles that can be manufactured by local businesses,” he said. 🇿🇦

Appropriation Bill at a glance

Following Parliament's budget votes, here are the appropriations per vote for each of the 38 government departments, to ensure that they can deliver the state's policy objectives. This is according to the 2014 Appropriation Bill. It shows a revised estimate of R583.5bn in 2013/14 to R635.4bn in the 2014/15 financial year. This amounts to R19.8bn more than the 2014 MTEF period. In particular, R5.4bn is allocated for the 2014/15 financial year, R5.6bn for 2015/16 and R8.8bn for 2016/17.

The national votes receiving the largest allocations for the 2014/15 financial year are Social Development, Police, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Transport, Defence and Military Veterans and Higher Education and Training. Other national votes receiving significant funding for 2014/15 include Basic Education, Health, Human Settlements, the National Treasury and Correctional Services.

R million		Revised Estimates '2013/14	2014/15	Percentage Share
1	The Presidency	1,092.9	1,177.8	0.19%
2	Parliament	1,419.4	1,508.2	0.24%
3	Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	57,402.9	63,212.7	9.95%
4	Home Affairs	6,994.7	6,623.7	1.04%
5	International Relations and Cooperation	5,754.6	5,754.3	0.91%
6	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation	192.7	208.2	0.03%
7	Public Works	6,025.3	6,121.3	0.96%
8	Women, Children and People with Disabilities	198.3	218.5	0.03%
9	Government Communication and Information System	437.2	413.1	0.07%
10	National Treasury	25,191.8	27,265.0	4.29%
11	Public Enterprises	294.1	259.8	0.04%
12	Public Service and Administration	1,117.9	1,155.1	0.14%
13	Statistics South Africa	1,341.8	2,242.5	0.35%
14	Arts and Cultural Heritage	2,775.3	2,529.7	0.55%
15	Basic Education	16,117.9	17,466.1	3.10%

16	Health	30,128.2	33,955.5	5.34%
17	Higher Education and Training	34,328.0	36,866.7	5.80%
18	Labour	2,445.2	2,527.3	0.40%
19	Social Development	117,811.6	128,799.4	20.27%
20	Sport and Recreation	1,047.0	970.4	0.15%
21	Correctional Services	18,748.5	19,721.1	3.10%
22	Defence and Military Veterans	40,658.2	42,831.2	6.74%
23	Independent Police Investigative Directorate	217.0	234.7	0.04%
24	Justice and Constitutional Development	13,856.5	15,161.9	2.39%
25	Police	68,791.4	72,507.2	11.41%
26	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	6,182.3	6,692.4	1.05%
27	Communications	2,369.1	1,593.4	0.25%
28	Economic Development	771.5	696.9	0.11%
29	Energy	6,487.2	7,415.6	1.17%
30	Environmental Affairs	5,206.8	5,668.4	0.89%
31	Human Settlements	28,205.5	30,521.4	4.80%
32	Mineral Resources	1,369.4	1,471.3	0.23%
33	Local government and rural affairs	9,459.7	9,455.3	1.49%
34	Science and Technology	6,198.2	6,470.2	1.02%
35	Tourism	1,520.6	1,662.1	0.26%
36	Trade and Industry	9,442.8	9,835.0	1.55%
37	Transport	41,879.4	44,776.5	7.67%
38	Water Affairs	11,995.4	12,500.9	1.96%
Total appropriations by vote		583,488.6	635,300.4	100%

Called to account

Parliament's budget vote debates

The *budget requests and five-year strategic and annual performance plans of the 38 government departments and the Presidency have all been through Parliament's oversight microscope, in spite of time limitations in the fifth Parliament's first term of the first-year programme due to the 2014 general elections, as Mava Lukani reports.*

Parliament's constitutional mandate includes ensuring, on behalf of the public, that the executive is held accountable, both financially and in delivery of services. To this end, not one annual budget request escaped the critical eye of the fifth Parliament in the first budget vote debates that took place in June and July. The new political parties in Parliament, such as the Economic Freedom Fighters, Agang SA, the National Freedom Party and the African Independent Congress, raised their voices in demanding that the government use their budgets to ensure a better life for all.

Furthermore, the Public Finance Management Act states that the political head of a department (a Cabinet Minister or provincial Member of the Executive Council) is responsible for policy matters and outcomes. This responsibility includes seeking parliamentary (or provincial legislature) approval and adoption of the department's budget vote. The director-general of a national department or the provincial head of department is responsible for outputs and implementation, and is accountable to Parliament or the provincial legislature for the management of the implementation of that budget.

The starting point for the budget vote debates in the first quarter of the first financial year of Parliament is

the department's submission to the National Assembly (NA) of their five-year strategy and annual performance plans. Once the Speaker of the NA is satisfied with the submissions, they are referred to the relevant parliamentary Committees for consideration and discussion.

According to the Public Finance Management Act, the Committee may request from the National Treasury the recent spending history of a department (commonly called a Section 32 report) before considering a department's submission. This is so the Committee can become aware of any under- or over-spending, as either has big implications for the next financial year.

The Committee then invites government entities and other stakeholders to appear before it to solicit their views on the budget and the strategic and annual performance plans of the department in question.

Once the Committee is satisfied with the department's explanation of the budget and strategic and annual performance plans, it writes a report which the members of the Committee discuss and adopt. The reports are then sent to the NA which refers them to the Extended Public Committees (EPCs) for further discussion and adoption. The

departments, through their ministers also appear before the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).

The EPCs in the NCOP and the NA consider each and every budget vote and discusses it thoroughly. Members expose the failures of every department before adopting its budget allocation. One of the departments that came in for criticism in the most recent budget vote process was the Department of Home Affairs for, among other things, its failure to achieve its targets, a high level of irregular expenditure, poor management of finances, alleged fraud and corruption and the new immigration board.

On the National Treasury Budget Vote, MPs from the opposition benches mentioned South Africa's weak economic growth, which is expected to be below 2% this year. They blamed the poor growth on incoherent economic policy, which makes it difficult for the National Treasury to perform its role of coordinating economic policy. They also said the National Treasury oversight must urgently address the leak from the public purse as it has consequences for maladministration and corruption.

The Presiding Officers of Parliament, Ms Baleka Mbete as the Speaker of the NA and Ms Thandi Modise as the Chairperson of the NCOP, also accounted to MPs of the fifth Parliament for the spending of the parliamentary budget. Among the issues MPs raised were that there was no oversight mechanism over Parliament's budget and that the location of Parliament in Cape Town, while the government administration was in Pretoria, led to "a waste of resources" and created "a logistical nightmare".

Tracing the budget vote process

Departments present their five-year strategic plans and annual performance plans (APPs), before the end of the first quarter of the financial year

On the basis of the five-year plan, APPs are referred to the relevant parliamentary Committees for discussion

Committees request a Section 32 report, according to the Public Finance Management Act, reflecting in-year expenditure of each government department per budget vote

Committees invite relevant stakeholders to make their inputs and submissions

Following discussion, the Committee writes up its report, which includes its departmental budget estimate. These reports are adopted by the Committee

The adopted reports are sent back to the House for final discussion, before being sent to the Extended Public Committees (EPCs) for further discussion

The reports, including the budget estimates, are adopted by the EPCs

The reports are referred to the House, where they are finally adopted

Appropriations are allocated to departments, according to their adopted estimates

Downward trends affect economy

The following is the summary of the economic and fiscal review and outlook report prepared by the Parliamentary Budget Office.

South Africa's economic outlook has changed since the 2014 fiscal framework was passed by Parliament. Following a modest growth of 1.8% in 2013, South Africa's economy experienced its first contraction since the 2009 financial crisis. The economy shrunk by 0.61% on a seasonally adjusted and annualised rate when compared to the last quarter of 2013, where growth of 3.8% was recorded. When compared to the first quarter of 2013, the economy expanded by a marginal 0.44%.

The poor performance in the first quarter was primarily due to a contraction in mining and manufacturing output.

In addition to domestic factors, South Africa's economic performance was affected by global economic

developments, particularly the performance of its main trading partners. Globally, the first quarter was marked by slower growth in Europe, the United States, the rest of Africa and China.

The country's lower than expected economic performance has prompted widespread downward revisions to the growth outlook. In April, the International Monetary Fund revised its outlook for 2014 to 2.3% from its 2.8% forecast in January, while the World Bank revised its outlook downwards to 2%.

The recent economic developments have implications for the 2014 fiscal framework, specifically current and estimated growth in revenue, expenditure, the budget deficit and government borrowing.

Fiscal framework

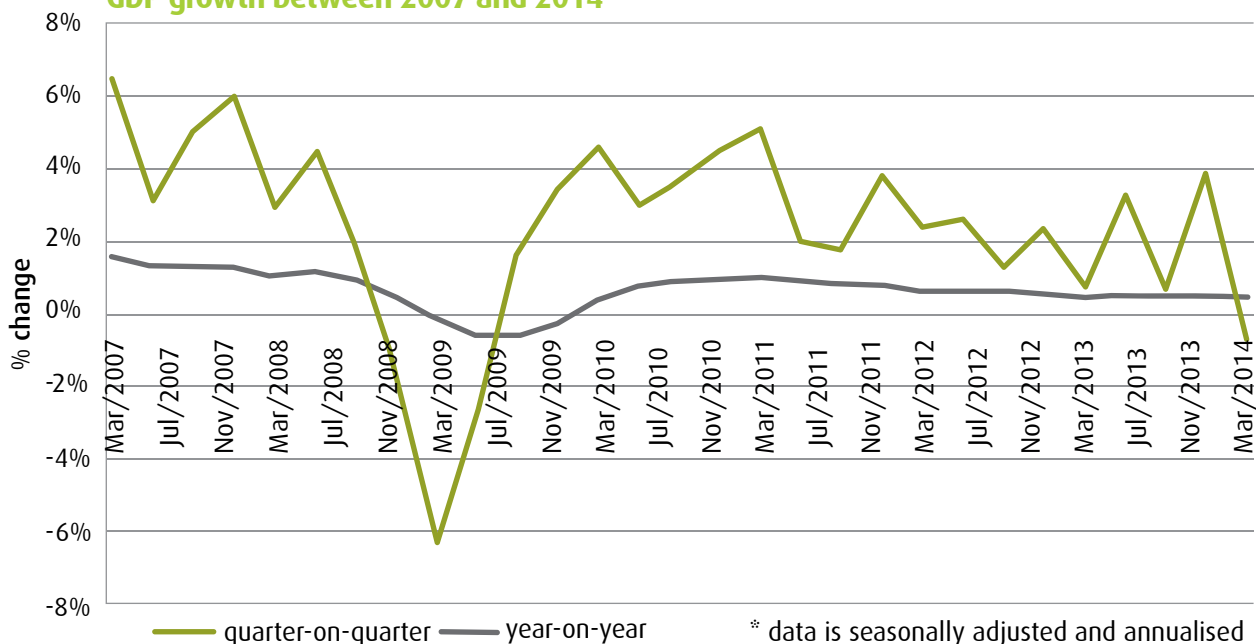
The fiscal framework adopted at the beginning of the 2014/15 financial year presents the government's outlook for revenue, expenditure and the budget balance over the 2014 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

These estimates were based on economic growth forecasts of 2.7% in 2014, 3.2% in 2015 and 3.5% in 2016. The slower growth to date, however, raises concerns about the country achieving growth of 2.7% for 2014. As a result, it is expected that the growth rate will be revised downwards for the purposes of the 2014 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS).

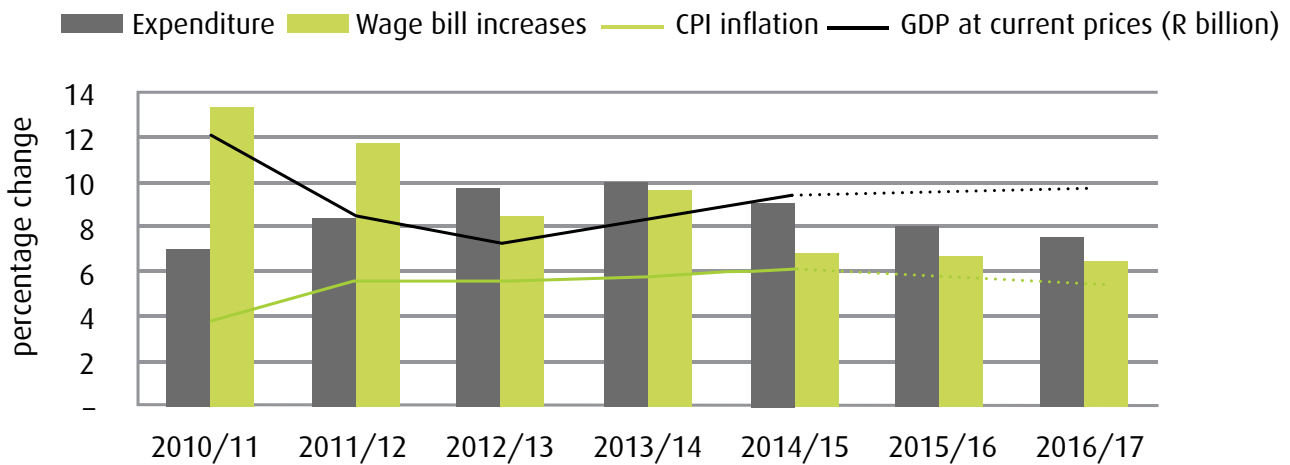
The consolidated fiscal framework estimates revenue to reach R1.099bn in 2014/15, expenditure is estimated to reach R1.252bn in 2014/15, with a negative budget balance (deficit) of R153bn for 2014/15.

The 2014 MTEF fiscal framework assumes average annual growth in revenue of 9.4%. As revenue closely tracks economic performance, the current slower growth is likely to translate into lower revenue growth.

GDP growth between 2007 and 2014



Comparing expenditure and wages with CPI and GDP 2010/11 to 2016/17



This poses a risk to the country's estimates to reduce its budget deficit from 4% to 2.8% over the MTEF.

The estimated reduction in the budget deficit is proposed to be achieved by slower growth in expenditure on compensation of government employees, and on goods and services over the medium-term.

In order for compensation expenditure to decrease as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), it would need to grow slower than the economy.

Higher than expected inflation over the next three years will raise the costs of expenditure on goods and services, and may pose a significant risk to government's estimates of debt and interest expenditure. The weakening of the rand over the last year, among other factors, has pushed consumer price index (CPI) inflation above the upper bound of the South African Reserve Bank's target range of 3 to 6%.

The volatility of the exchange rate is primarily a function of the monetary policies of the United States and the European Union, the economic outlook of key trading partners, and general investor sentiment. Poorer than expected outcomes in any one of these variables is likely to result in the rand weakening, which will eventually filter into CPI inflation.

The National Treasury's estimates

assume that CPI inflation will return to within the target range of 3 to 6% in 2015, and the South African Reserve Bank also expects CPI inflation to fall within the target range in 2015.

Efficiency

The implications of a decline in non-interest expenditure in response to lower growth and higher debt costs is best illustrated with respect to spending on functional groups. The national budget is allocated towards programmes clustered together within these functional groups.

The areas that received the highest allocation in terms of expenditure are: education, social protection, health, housing and community amenities, and economic affairs.

One of the biggest challenges for government is to ensure the provision of the relevant services where it will have the biggest impact on society. It is also important to ensure value for money when services are provided.

The biggest portion (19.8%) of the 2014 national budget was allocated to education. Despite the substantial allocation, the 2013 general household survey shows that there has been no change in the percentage of people between the age of five and 24 attending educational institutions. The national average is 73.5% compared to 73.6% observed in 2002.

Social protection received 15.1% of

the allocated budget in 2014/15. Although the majority of households (58.4%) depend on salaries/wages/commission as their main source of income, more than 30% of households are still dependent on external transfers (grants: 21.6%, remittances 8.6%). As of 31 March 2014, more than 30% of the population (15.93 million) were receiving social grants. It is further estimated that only 12.5% (6.42 million) of the population would earn a taxable income over the 2014/15 financial year.

Health received 11.9% of the allocated budget in 2014/15. Health services provided services to almost 70% of households at public clinics and hospitals in 2013. A relatively small proportion of South Africans (18.4%) belonged to a medical aid scheme in 2013.

Housing and community amenities and economic affairs each received 11.6% of the allocated budget in 2014/15. In 2013, 76.9% of households lived in formal dwellings.

Over the past 11 years, the percentage of households that lived in formal dwellings and whose dwellings were fully owned increased by 2% from 52.9% to 54.9%. Currently, 15.3% of South African households are living in state-subsidised dwellings, while a further 13.6% have at least one household member on a demand database/waiting list for state-subsidised housing. 🏠

End this violation of human rights, say MPs

The budget vote debate on International Relations and Cooperation gave MPs an opportunity to express their dissatisfaction with the Israeli military assault on the Gaza Strip and to criticise the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the region, which has resulted in the loss of life of almost 2 000 Palestinian civilians. *Sibongile Maputi reports.*

MPs told the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, of their dismay with how the global community had handled the issue. They suggested that something drastic should be done to urgently resolve the decades-long conflict. The Chairperson of the Committee on International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Siphoswe Masango, said the South African government should use international platforms to denounce the deaths of Palestinian people. "The minister should convey the view of South Africans as a whole, through the United Nations, that the country is against all forms of colonialism, barbaric attacks, murder and the aimless killing of Palestinians, as well as the violation of Palestinians' human rights," Mr Masango said.

MPs called on both Hamas and Israel to work towards a ceasefire that would form the basis for the resumption of negotiations towards a permanent resolution of the conflict. They said that violence only yields more violence and makes the conflict more intractable. All hostilities must be brought to an end and all strategies that result in the death of civilians must cease immediately, they said.

Ms Nkoana-Mashabane told MPs that South Africa would give US\$1m in humanitarian aid to Palestine and that President Jacob Zuma had also sent a strong diplomatic delegation to the region.

Economic Freedom Fighters MP Ms Magdalene Moonsamy suggested that South Africa's representative in Israel be recalled and the Israeli ambassador to South Africa be asked to leave. "A

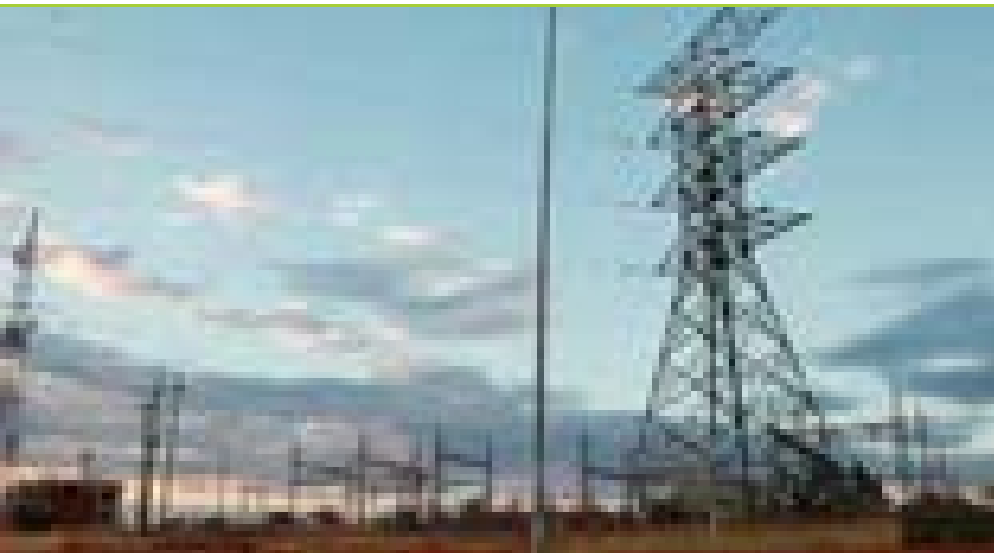
DIPLOMACY: Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms NomaIndiya Mfeketo.



radical internationalist approach to the Israel-Palestine crisis is required. Our country's position appears gutless. South Africa should sever business ties with companies that have links with people who perpetuate terrorism against the people of Palestine," Ms Moonsamy said.

The Inkatha Freedom Front's Mr Mangaqa Mncwango condemned the use of violence as a means to resolve conflict. He called on all parties involved to "put down their arms and use diplomacy to negotiate. Through this approach, loss of life could be averted. The two-state solution is still a viable option. All those involved in the crisis have national aspirations that should be promoted. As much as Israel has a responsibility to defend its citizens, it was wrong to collectively punish Palestinian civilians when dealing with Hamas. Human life has been lost. The international community should find a solution to this crisis, now," he said.

One of the Deputy Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms NomaIndiya Mfeketo, explained the government's position on Israel and Gaza. She told the Committee that following recent events in the Gaza Strip, the department had called the Israeli ambassador in South Africa to explain the loss of life in the region. Following the meeting, the South African government had called on Israel to, among other things, open and ensure access of trade between Gaza and the West Bank, and immediately stop the occupation of Palestine. 🌍



Eskom should be given all the assistance it needs

Eskom appeared before a joint meeting of the Portfolio Committees on Energy and Public Enterprises to brief them on the state of the national grid and challenges of supply, including short- and long-term mitigation plans, reports *Yoliswa Landu*.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Energy, Mr Fikile Majola, said the two Committees would be working closely with the two departments (Energy and Public Enterprises) on issues relating to energy in general and electricity in particular. "We know there are serious challenges affecting Eskom and others that are affecting municipalities. We might have strong views on issues, but our immediate concern is that Eskom should be strengthened to respond to its challenges," Mr Majola said.

Also attending the meeting were the Minister of Energy Ms Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Public Enterprises Minister Ms Lynne Brown and her Deputy Minister Mr Bulelani Magwanishe. Ms Joemat-Pettersson said the Ministers of Finance, Public Enterprises and Energy meet regularly with Eskom and the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (Nersa) to ensure a coordinated approach to Eskom. "The matter has been high on the agenda and we are working tirelessly to find a solution. The continued interest is to find sustainability and stability," she said.

Ms Brown said Eskom was a cornerstone of the country. The company had to succeed if the country's economy was to grow. "I am confident that Eskom will deliver the synchronisation on the first unit at Medupi by December this year," she said.

Making his presentation before the Joint Committee, Eskom's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Collin Matjila, said the system is under pressure in winter and will remain so for the next few years until the "build programme" is completed. "The tight system means that the probability of load shedding remains high in the event of significant incidents on the power system."

Eskom's Chief Finance Officer, Ms Tsholofelo Molefe, said the power utility is faced with a dilemma of balancing financial and operational sustainability and the need to ensure security of supply and delivering on the company's capital expansion programme.

Addressing the Committee, Ms Molefe said the power utility's challenges regarding financial sustainability

KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON: Challenges at Eskom are receiving urgent government attention.

emanated from the impact of the MYPD3 (multi-year price determination). During the MYPD3 application, the company received a lower tariff increase from Nersa. "In the MYPD3 application, Eskom assumed sales growth of 2.9% but the reality has been the power utility has quite a significant decline. In fact, when we look at the 2013/14 financial results, we have lost more than 9 000 gigawatt hours, which translates to R5.8bn of revenue. Furthermore, the company has seen an increase in municipality debt. The debt has been spiralling and currently Eskom is sitting on a debt amounting to R2.9bn," she said.

"The revenue shortfall created by the MYPD3 determination requires significant shifts in the business. A number of options are being pursued with government, including the Regulatory Clearing Account (RCA) adjustment and other funding alternatives," Ms Molefe explained.

Eskom is awaiting a determination from Nersa on its submission for the evaluation and approval of the RCA balance for its previous multi-year price determination (MYPD2) control period. The RCA submission was made during the last quarter of 2013 in line with Nersa rules.

"Eskom's financial sustainability is under pressure, but we have investigated alternative funding. We have applied to Nersa for the RCA adjustment, and we have launched a business productivity programme to reduce costs, increase productivity and enhance efficiencies," Ms Molefe said.

Public Enterprises Committee Chairperson Ms Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba said the presentation by Eskom identified a number of concerning issues, including credit ratings, ageing plants and financial sustainability. 🗣️

Rural women speak their minds

Members of Parliament visited their constituencies in August. *InSession* travelled with them to communities in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), Eastern Cape and Limpopo to hear what residents had to say to their representatives in Parliament.

Cedric Mboyisa accompanied Science and Technology Deputy Minister and National Freedom Party (NFP) leader Ms Zanele kaMagwaza-Msibi to KZN. She is greeted joyfully wherever she goes – children’s faces light up and women scream their lungs out, addressing her by her clan name, “Njinji”.

In this part of the world, Ms kaMagwaza-Msibi is very highly regarded. As *InSession* meets Ms kaMagwaza-Msibi at the reception area at Ulundi Garden Court Hotel, she makes time to greet and shake hands with staff, who are all smiling from ear to ear. On our way to three community events in Ulundi rural villages people wave at her convoy as she drives past.

“I am not in politics for fame. I am in politics because I want to help and better the lives of the people, especially those in rural areas, because I also grew up in a village,” says Ms kaMagwaza-Msibi. She has gained her popularity through her philanthropic efforts, such as building houses for the poor and feeding the destitute. She is clearly loved by her constituency. This former Zululand district municipality mayor is now the only female party leader in Parliament.

Through her Zanele kaMagwaza-Msibi Foundation, she has built houses for the poor in Ulundi, Pongolo, Nongoma and

Msinga, all in KZN. She sees interaction with her constituency as a critical part of her work as an MP. She is also passionate about women’s issues. When she was mayor, a post she held for 16 years, she had a programme to help widows and orphans. The programme covered all five municipalities under the Zululand district and 84 wards. Each ward would get R20 000 to help widows. The money was used to assist these women to start their own businesses and so become self-sufficient. She says it is important for women to stand together and help one another. Turning to the issue of violence against women, she says she condemns all forms of abuse directed at women and children.

Our first stop is in the KwaManekwane village, Ulundi, to visit the Mhlongo family. The Mhlongo children were left homeless after their mother was hacked to death. She stepped in after a plea by Ms Sithembile Mhlongo who requested her to build them a house. “The deputy minister is our mom. We thank her very much for all that she has done for us,” says Ms Mhlongo. While at the Mhlongo homestead, Ms kaMagwaza-Msibi gives people food parcels containing 2-kg chicken portions, 10-kg rice bags, maize meal, potatoes, samp, beans and other items. She also gives them brand-new blankets.

She gives out food parcels to people at the other two community events as well. The next stop is in eMakhosini. She built a destitute family a beautiful three-bedroom house after their tiny house collapsed following heavy rains in the area in December last year. The collapse of the structure ended in tragedy when a child died. It was Ms kaMagwaza-Msibi who carried the costs of the child’s funeral. At this event, local residents inform her of another destitute family that has just lost a mother who was hit by a car. Ms kaMagwaza-Msibi decides to make an unplanned visit to the family.

Her convoy parks outside the humble home of the grieving Buthelezi family. The mourning family is inside a small room, which also serves as kitchen and bedroom. She and her entourage donate money to the family. She gives the family her word that she will buy the coffin and bear all other funeral costs for their departed loved one. The Buthelezi grandmother is clearly moved as she thanks Ms kaMagwaza-Msibi for her act of *ubuntu*.

The last stop is in Mkhazane village. Here she also built a house for a wheelchair-bound Mr Sphamandla Xulu. The construction of the house was also made possible through the humanitarian efforts of Mr Gcina Shabalala, who is related to the NFP leader. At this event, wheelchairs (in addition to food parcels and blankets) are donated to the needy. Ms kaMagwaza-Msibi is brought to tears by an emotional Mr Xulu who weeps as he thanks the deputy minister for her generosity.



STATING HER CASE:
Ms Ntombiyenkosi Dubazane makes a point during a visit by IFP MP Ms Sibongile Nkomo in eMakhosini, Ulundi.

How does she balance her busy political schedule and family life? "I like to separate Zanele the politician from Zanele the wife. No matter how successful you are, you must give due respect to your husband. Even the Bible says a man is a king in his house. I can't be a (deputy) minister at home. There are few men like my husband (Mandla Msibi) who will tolerate my very busy political life. Trust is critical. I thank him very much," she says.

In the remote village of eMakhosini in Ulundi, women here have taken it upon themselves to make their voices heard. There is a meeting at a small local hall to be addressed by Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) Member of Parliament, Ms Sibongile Nkomo. Ms Nkomo is no political lightweight – she is the party's secretary general and deputy chair of the Women's Caucus in Parliament. No wonder these rural women are so excited about Ms Nkomo's visit ... they say it is the first time someone of Ms Nkomo's calibre has visited them to listen to their issues.

In her opening remarks, Ms Nkomo stresses the importance of women working together to solve societal issues and the challenges they face in life. "Women are managers of their families. God created women in His image, so women are not inferior human beings. We should say no to violence against women, say no to emotional and financial abuse," she says. Her views are echoed by a much-loved veteran community leader, Ms Gerty Magwaza (82), who introduced Ms Nkomo. The octogenarian is a former local councillor who served three terms (15 years).

Once the meeting gets going, the women from Ward 23 do not hold back. They paint a gloomy picture of a village that is under siege from unemployment – whose young people's lives are being wasted away due to lack of job



FEEDBACK: IFP MP Ms Sibongile Nkomo addresses a meeting of women at eMakhosini village.

opportunities. Other challenges include an erratic or problematic water supply, lack of proper housing and unfair service delivery determined by one's political affiliation.

If they had their way, these villagers would ban television ... they blame it for the wayward behaviour of their children. They claim children learn kissing and engaging in sexual activities from the small screen. This, they say, has led to teen pregnancies. One resident says the social grant system has inadvertently encouraged children to get pregnant. Some parents say schools are not as good as they were, as some learners have sex in classrooms. "This world is rotten to the core," says one elderly resident.

Ms Slondiwe Zondo, a resident, says the place is poverty-stricken – leading to a situation whereby young girls have relationships with much older men in order to have someone to feed them or look after them financially. Ms Zanele Mafambane says the provision of water has been used as a political tool in the recent past. She alleges that those in power at a local municipality would intentionally not provide water to their political opponents. Ms Bongiwe Buthelezi has not had water since the 7 May general elections. "As you can see (pointing to her legs), I did not have a bath today," Ms Buthelezi shouts.

In her response, Ms Nkomo undertakes to look into their concerns and complaints. She also pledges to have a feedback meeting in future. The meeting is then adjourned. These women will now go back to their normal lives. But they have had an opportunity to voice their views and had their voices heard. As they say: "Action speaks louder than words" ... only time will tell if something will be done to address their grievances.

A litany of human settlement challenges were tackled by Democratic Alliance (DA) Member of Parliament Ms Elza van Lingen as part of her constituency work in the Kouga Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape, writes **Elijah Moholola**.

It was a busy Monday for Ms Van Lingen, who visited no fewer than five residential areas in the Eastern Cape to talk to the residents about their housing problems and inspect the conditions they are living in.

One of the areas Ms Van Lingen visited was Stofwolk, an informal settlement in Hankey. The area has about 450 shacks and, Ms Van Lingen said, their biggest gripe was the lack of municipal services.

"It's a shambles. There are no municipal services in this area. The people have been living here for more than 10 years. But this is a hollow, hollow pit. It's really sad to see people living in these kinds of conditions," said Ms Van Lingen.

Ms Elma Nkomo, a resident, detailed in brief some of the shocking conditions that Ms Van Lingen had alluded to. "The place is dark at night. There's no electricity. We use candles and two women have been burnt because of the candles. Little children get burnt while sitting by the fire. There are no playing facilities for our children. The ambulance cannot come here because of the narrow streets. If you phone the police, they don't come either," said Ms Nkomo.

At the time of the visit, the buckets in the portable toilets had not been emptied for almost two weeks. "The toilets have not been cleaned since last Tuesday. They are supposed to be emptied every Tuesday and Thursday. This causes problems as most people get sick," Ms Nkomo said.

Worried by this, Ms Van Lingen headed for the Kouga local municipality offices to

seek answers. She had a meeting with the Hankey ward constituency officer, Mr Amos Mabukane. Mr Mabukane said the buckets could not be emptied because the temporary workers had been on strike demanding to be paid R120 per day. He also said he had tried on several occasions to raise the matter with the head office in Jeffreys Bay.

Ms Van Lingen said: "This is not good enough. In two days' time it will be two weeks since the buckets had not been removed. It is not acceptable. What breaks my heart is that they have the pota pota (portable toilets) in Cape Town and here we have nothing."

She made a call to the office of the municipal manager, Mr Sidney Fadi, who she was told was out of office. She then tried to reach Mr Fadi on his cellphone, but it rang unanswered.

In another area called Loerie, one of the biggest problems is that people have to navigate their way on the streets through leaking sewage, with the sewage even spilling into a nearby river.

The area has about 500 RDP houses, of which only 100 had flushing toilets. Residents moved in in 2011 and two months later the houses started cracking. The area also had a rugby club house but it was destroyed by fire in January. It is yet to be rebuilt.

In Thornhill, the thorny issue for the residents is that most of them have an unwelcome pool in their yards, with leaking water from the sewage system overflowing in their houses. In one house, the couple keeps a pair of rubber boots outside because of the water collecting at the front door.

There are about 85 houses in Thornhill that need to have their toilet systems connected properly to prevent these leaks.

Only two days after public protests in Ocean View, during which residents burnt car tyres, Ms Van Lingen visited the area. She inspected four new RDP houses that had been built last year but which already had many problems. For example, the foundations were not level, the houses were cracking, low-quality cement was used, most toilets did not flush properly, the paint was starting to peel off and the foundations were constructed without concrete.

Resident Ms Maria Ruiters explained: "The people from the municipality say there's no problem with the house and that it has been approved. When I'm at work, there are people from the municipality who come to patch up and cover the cracks. The house is only about a year old. But this is not a house, this is a disaster waiting to happen."

Ms Ruiters also has a very smelly neighbour in the form of a huge dumping area nearby. She said there was no official dumping site in the area and the municipality was not removing the refuse regularly.

At a nearby informal settlement, the big concern was the illegal electricity connections from the RDP houses in Ocean View. These connections are dangerous as the wires run on the ground. More than 1 000 people live in shacks in the settlement.

Similar problems are being experienced in the Shukushukuma informal settlement, where houses have been built on top of electric cables. A shack was being built in the middle of the street as dwellers were being moved due to electricity installation that is under way. A contractor was busy putting electricity poles up and explained that people who were in the way had to be moved. Ms Van Lingen was relieved that the area would soon receive electricity.



NEW DISPENSATION: Mahlangu village residents talk about their problems.

"I promised these people that I would take their petition to the premier, which I did and we now have this. At least there has been some progress," she said.

Other problems in the area were that the sewage treatment plant was not fenced off and some kids had fallen in there while playing. There were also people who had to be moved as they were not supposed to reside within 500 metres from a sewage treatment plant.

Before doing the oversight work on human settlements, Ms Van Lingen visited the emergency medical services in Humansdorp. The success story there is that five new ambulances have been purchased, although there are still about four that have travelled over 300 000 km and have to be replaced.

There are about 20 contract workers and Ms Van Lingen said these people have to be permanently employed.

"They were paid R7 000 a month until December last year. Then they had to sign new contracts and are now being paid R5 000 a month, which is unfair. Their contracts are for a year. They are held to ransom by the department. They can't open accounts and can't have houses. We want them to be permanently employed," she said.

Ms Van Lingen also attended a court case where seven people accused of the gruesome murder of a woman and her six-year-old niece appeared in the Hankey magistrate's court.

During United Democratic Movement MP Ms Nocollege Majeke's visit to Mhlontlo Local Municipality's Mahlangu village, the issue of the availability of 21st century technology in rural villages was one area of concern, reports **Mava Lukani**.

The fast-changing technological world demands the availability of computers at all schools, irrespective of where they are or with what material they

are built. Furthermore, where ever teaching and learning takes place, whether in a shack, mud hut or under a tree, computer resources must exist. This is what Ms Majeke told the people of Mahlangu village during her first constituency meeting there.

Ms Majeke said this in response to a long list of complaints from residents about poor service delivery, including the existence of mud schools and their lack of resources, in spite of 20 years of democracy. One after the other, Mahlangu residents told Ms Majeke that the life they are living is even more backward than it was in previous times. "As we read the history of human development, at no stage in that history did people drink water together with animals. But at this stage, in the so-called 'new dispensation', people drink together with donkeys from the same dam," one resident, Ms Phatheka Ngwabile, exclaimed. She said the conditions under which the people of Mahlangu village lived glaringly contradict the basic human

rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. "When we hear politicians preach unapologetically about these basic rights, which include the right to water and so on, we derive hope from them. But, regrettably, they are unable to ensure the translation of those theoretical rights into a better quality of life for all South Africans, including us here at Mahlhungulu village," Ms Ngwabile continued.

She told Ms Majeke that although she was not part of the Ward 17 leadership, she had voluntarily assisted them by asking private companies for help. "After I noted that part of Vodacom's social responsibility included offering computers to rural schools, I wrote to them requesting computers for Mahlhungulu primary and secondary schools. But because there are no laboratories at both schools, the request was regrettably unsuccessful," Ms Ngwabile said.

Asked by *InSession* to comment on the list of complaints highlighted by Mahlhungulu residents, Ward 17 Councillor Mr Majekula Soyekwa said that the government was partly to blame for the non-delivery of services, but the people of Mahlhungulu must also take some of the blame.

He explained that the Project Steering Committee constituted by the people of Mahlhungulu was fully aware that the installation of water infrastructure in Mahlhungulu in 2005 did not follow correct procedures. "I was not the ward councillor at that time, but the company appointed to build the water infrastructure was in the hands of the Mahlhungulu people," Mr Soyekwa said.

He pointed out that Mhlontlo Municipality was currently building roads in the village. "As we speak, you might have noted that the

municipal road construction machines are busy on the main Mahlhungulu road," he said.

The constituency programme of the leader of the African Peoples Convention, Mr Themba Godi, included a report back to employees of Limpopo Province's traditional councils, reports **Sakhile Mokoena**.

The workers requested his intervention in their attempts to get an explanation for the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs' (Cogtas') decision to not add them to its payroll, as they claim Cogta promised to do in 2007.

Briefing the workers at Limpopo Province's Vhembe and Mopani regions, Mr Godi said the Cogta Director-General, Professor Charles Nwaila, had told him in a letter, which he had received in June this year, that Cogta denied any knowledge of the promise to absorb staff. Prof Nwaila said vacant positions at traditional councils were advertised and filled through recruitment and selection processes in terms of the Public Service Act.

The letter stated: "The absorption principle was never applied to any employees attached to the traditional councils. Some of the people who were working for the traditional councils were appointed in terms of the Public Service Act, 1994. It is not legally possible to absorb people who are not employees in terms of the Public Service Act into vacancies."

The Chairperson of the group of workers, Mr Oscar Khosa, said it was unfortunate that they had waited for over a year for the reply, which had not helped them at all. "We are surprised that the Department claims not to know about the absorption and the promises they

made in 2007. This is when they gave some people full-time employment, but left out others with the promise that the process of absorption would continue," he said.

Mr Khosa said they approached Mr Godi to be their representative in Parliament because of his track record, which included leading a campaign for the remuneration of village headmen in Limpopo. Mr Godi said the campaign for the remuneration of headmen was still on-going, as not all of them were receiving salaries. "There are still those who don't get paid and those who do get paid have no benefits when they die. There are not even funeral contributions," he said.

Mr Godi also met with a group of traditional healers who asked him to bring an end to alleged threats and intimidation by leaders of another group of traditional healers in the Makhado region. Ms Nyadzani Ramabulana and other members of the VhoMaine-Tin'anga Traditional Health Practitioners claimed they were being made to pay up to R1 200 for certificates under the threat that if they did not, the government would not recognise them.

"We have dozens of certificates from different organisations and have been charged huge amounts for these certificates. We are told if we do not join certain organisation, we would not be recognised by the Makhado Traditional Health Practitioners," said one healer, Ms Kokwana Baloyi.

Mr Godi said there was no government traditional health practitioners' organisation and that anyone can form or join an organisation. "When we fought for freedom, we fought for everyone to be free from threats and intimidation, but others want to take us back," he said. 🌍



PanSALB hands over scholarships to young language enthusiasts

As part of a R6-m programme involving language scholarship funds, the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) handed more than R540 000 to undergraduate students in an event at the University of Johannesburg. This is the third in an on-going series in InSession on the Chapter Nine institutions.

The Dr Neville Alexander Language Scholarship, established by PanSALB in 2013 with the aid of the South African National Lotteries Board (NLB), is aimed at encouraging academic interest in disciplines related to the promotion of multilingualism and mother tongue-based multilingual education by young people across the country.

The scholarship was established in honour of the late Dr Neville Alexander, an advocate of linguistic diversity and mother tongue education. Dr Alexander was at the forefront of multilingualism in post-apartheid South Africa, and was committed to promoting the use of indigenous languages. The programme will benefit and support more than

50 undergraduate students to further their studies in the field of languages.

In his welcoming address at the event, Mr Mxolisi Zwane, the then caretaker Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at PanSALB, said: "As PanSALB, our aim is to preserve and develop all previously marginalised South African languages at all levels of learning in the country. We want our children to grow up knowing how to speak their mother tongue and take an interest in studies related to indigenous languages." The event, attended by representatives from the



MOTHER TONGUE: Fifth from the left, the former Acting CEO of PanSALB, Mr Mxolisi Zwane, with some of the scholarship recipients.

NLB, the National Heritage Council, the Department of Basic Education, higher education institutions, potential funders, students and members of the Alexander family, was also in commemoration of Youth Month and marked 38 years since the 1976 Soweto Uprising.

“We would like to thank PanSALB and all its partners for making this happen. It is a great honour for us, as the Alexander family, to be here today to share in this amazing achievement. We wish all the students the best of luck,” said Frederick Alexander, a member of the family.

At this particular event, a total of seven scholarships worth R60 000 each were handed out to students who are interested in furthering their studies

in Sepedi, isiXhosa, siSwati, Sesotho, Tshivenda, isiNdebele and Xitsonga.

“I am so happy to have been selected as one of the 50 students to receive the scholarship and would like to thank PanSALB for the opportunity and the support,” said Cebisa Zono, a student from the Eastern Cape.

In 2012, former Arts and Culture Minister Mr Paul Mashatile dissolved the PanSALB board after a forensic investigation by the Resolved Group revealed that it was not meeting its constitutional mandate. Appointed in June 2012 by the minister as caretaker CEO with executive and accounting authority, Mr Zwane had accepted the difficult challenge of turning around PanSALB to deliver on its mandate.

Two years after his appointment, in June 2014, Mr Zwane officially stepped down from his position as caretaker CEO. The greatest highlight under his leadership was securing a R20m sponsorship from the NLB, which made the language scholarship programme possible, among other things. A publishing house will also be established to promote writers eager to publish in previously marginalised languages, as well as an “access to justice” project, wherein selected Bills will be made accessible in previously marginalised languages.

The task of the caretaker CEO was fulfilled after the new PanSALB board was appointed under the stewardship of Prof Mbulungeni Ronald Madiba, as chairperson. The other board members are Prof Andreas Meyer Carstens (vice-chairperson), Mr Jabulane Blose, Ms Nonceba Levin, Prof Jacobus Johannes Malan, Dr Paul Hendry Nkuna, Dr Zukile Jama, Mr Hendrik Sebanie Theys, Prof Abner Betterman Nyamende Mzayivane, Ms Christinah Mashangu Mayevu, Mr Thiathu James Nemutanzhela, Mr Roger Clifford White, Dr Pule Alexis Phindane and Ms Siphumelele Mkhize-Manyenge.

The board is motivated to give further effect to its mandate, as set out in Section 6(5) of the Constitution, namely to promote and create conditions for the development and use of all South Africa’s official languages – the Khoi and San languages, as well as sign language; and to promote and ensure respect for all languages commonly used by communities in the country, including German, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, Portuguese, Tamil, Telegu and Urdu as well as Arabic, Hebrew, Sanskrit and other languages used for religious purposes. 🌍

Next issue, read about the Independent Electoral Commission.



INSPIRATION: Some of the 80 learners from Cape Town's Ikamvalethu High School, who visited Parliament on Mandela Day.

MPs pay tribute to Nelson Mandela

The *incarceration on Robben Island of the former first President of a free South Africa, Mr Nelson Mandela, became the scaffolding that elevated him above other people, but his humble nature meant that he easily related to ordinary people. These were the words shared by MPs on Mandela Day during the Nelson Mandela Day Debate in the National Assembly (NA) on the theme "Freedom and Justice for All". Mzingezwi Plum reports.*

MPs said that during his time on Robben Island the former President, who passed away in December 2013, learnt that succumbing to a desire for revenge brought fleeting joy at the cost of lasting benefits. He also studied his jailers closely and learnt that black and white people had far more in common than they had points of difference. He learnt that forgiveness, generosity and above all respect, were weapons of political persuasion as powerful as the gun.

One after another, MPs agreed the theme "Freedom and Justice for All" was befitting for the debate on Mr Nelson Mandela as he had sacrificed his life for South Africa's black and white people and his legacy would live forever.

His voice came to life when MPs quoted him in every speech they delivered. The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, remembered Mr Mandela as a revolutionary who fought for freedom and for a better life for all South Africans.

"One of Mandela's main concerns was the future of the youth, and particularly that they could get an education and fulfil their potential," Dr Nzimande said.

Driven by the doctrine of reconciliation and nation-building, Dr Nzimande said Mr Mandela convinced the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress (ANC), which won a two-thirds majority during the first democratic elections in April 1994, that the national anthem of the democratic South Africa should include parts of the *Die Stem*, even though *Die Stem* was the anthem that represented apartheid.

According to Dr Nzimande, the ANC wanted to scrap *Die Stem* but Mr Mandela argued against that and won the argument by doing what defined his leadership: "reconciling generosity with pragmatism, finding common ground between humanity's higher values and the politician's aspiration to power".

The African Independent Congress's

Mr Mahlubanzima Jafta said Madiba's courageous and selfless leadership style defined his character. He said when MPs celebrate Mandela Day they must do so by being introspective and by judging the standard of their leadership against that of Madiba's.

In describing the unique elements that defined Mr Mandela's leadership, the leader of the Democratic Alliance in Parliament, Mr Mmusi Maimane, said: "You have to be willing to engage all, including your political opponents and be a freedom fighter." Mr Maimane told MPs that in paying tribute to Mr Mandela, they must each contribute to Mr Mandela's unfinished project of building a truly united and non-racist society – a South Africa where "never again shall one oppress another because of the colour of their skin, a South Africa where reconciliation and the values of freedom shall reign".

He said that South Africa cannot be reconciled if it does not uphold the supremacy of the rule of law, and furthermore if South Africa fails to uphold the rights that are enshrined in the Constitution.

Mr Buti Manamela, the Deputy Minister in the Presidency, told MPs it was important to encourage all South Africans to participate in the acts of goodwill that take place on Mandela Day. "When South Africa and the world commemorate Nelson Mandela Day, we do so in honour of a revolutionary who sacrificed more than half of his adult life in the struggle for the liberation of all South Africans," he said. 🌟

tribute *to*

Dr Mario Oriani-Ambrosini

26 October 1960 – 16 August 2014



Inkatha *Freedom Party (IFP) Member of Parliament Dr Mario Oriani-Ambrosini, who was actively advocating for the legalisation of marijuana for medical use, especially for the treatment of cancer, has lost his long battle against the deadly disease.*

In its February/March 2014 edition, *InSession* magazine carried a story about Dr Oriani-Ambrosini's passionate plea in Parliament for marijuana to be legalised for medical use. He introduced a Private Members' Bill called The Medical Innovation Bill, which seeks "to make provision for innovation in medical treatment and to legalise the use of cannabinoids for medical purpose and beneficial commercial industrial uses".

Dr Oriani-Ambrosini told *InSession* at the time that the Bill: "is about making all sorts of treatment available to cancer patients. There is nothing illegal about herbs or bicarbonate of soda. The treatment is varied; bicarbonate of soda is also not authorised as a treatment. Cannabis is deemed to be illegal, but there is no reason for that to be the case.

"People take cannabis for epilepsy. As opposed to taking the daily dose of 60 pills to control epilepsy, they have stopped the pills and opted for smoking cannabis. This resulted in a huge loss to the pharmaceutical industry, but nature has its remedies. All the statistics with my type of cancer indicate chemotherapy has zero impact. The government should consider creating a regulatory framework where, in specialised hospitals under the Minister of Health, the country could make these treatments available.

"I don't have much time left. It gives me very little tolerance for nonsense. Time is precious. Time is the only finite quantity. Everything else you can stretch, but you cannot get more time," Dr Oriani-Ambrosini said.

In 2012, Dr Oriani-Ambrosini applied to the Constitutional Court for a change of the rules of Parliament governing the introduction of Private Members' Bills. The court found that MPs – irrespective of their political party affiliation – wishing to submit Private Members' Bills should be able to do so without first seeking consent from Parliament.

Dr Oriani-Ambrosini was born in Rome, Italy, on 26 October 1960. He was the son of constitutional law professor and international lawyer Raffaele Oriani, who died in 1971 at the age of 39. Dr Oriani-Ambrosini was then adopted and raised by his grand-uncle Gaspare Ambrosini, an Italian jurist and statesman.

He attended the Sapienza University of Rome, and Harvard University and Georgetown University Law Center in the United States. Although his career had always concentrated on politics and constitutional law, Dr Oriani-Ambrosini made his living as a commercial lawyer and businessman. His relationship with the IFP started in the early 1990s when he met party leader, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi. In December 1990, he

acted as the legal advisor for the IFP at the opening of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, the two-year-long negotiations which took South Africa from apartheid to a constitutional democracy.

In 1992, he sat with Prince Buthelezi at the meeting of the United Nations Security Council in a meeting called by the late Mr Nelson Mandela to push forward the transition to democracy. He also drafted the Constitution of KwaZulu-Natal, which was unanimously adopted by the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly as the constitution of a member state of a federation to be formed in the national negotiation process. This was the first proposal in the South African constitution-making process and it helped to advance civil liberties such as abortion, gay rights and a ban on the death penalty.

For three years, Dr Oriani-Ambrosini worked full-time as the chief constitutional negotiator for the IFP and was involved in all stages of the negotiation, including the drafting of the 1994 interim Constitution.

He became a Member of Parliament in May 2009 where he served on the following Committees: Trade and Industry, Public Enterprises, Economic Development, Justice and Constitutional Development Portfolio, Finance and Rules, Private Members' Bills and the Constitutional Review Joint Committees. His death on 16 August at the age of 53 robbed the Inkatha Freedom Party and Parliament of South Africa of a true and valued member. 🕊



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