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# in session



The official newsletter of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

ISSUE 1 2018



## **A NEW DAWN** President Cyril Ramaphosa sworn in at Parliament

**2018/19 Budget:  
growing the economy and protecting the poor**



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**Mace** of National Assembly

## Vision

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

## Mission

Parliament aims to provide a service to the people of South Africa by providing the following:

- A vibrant people's Assembly that intervenes and transforms society and addresses the development challenges of our people;
- Effective oversight over the Executive by strengthening its scrutiny of actions against the needs of South Africans;
- Participation of South Africans in the decision-making processes that affect their lives;
- A healthy relationship between the three arms of the State, that promotes efficient co-operative governance between the spheres of government, and ensures appropriate links with our region and the world; and
- An innovative, transformative, effective and efficient parliamentary service and administration that enables Members of Parliament to fulfil their constitutional responsibilities.

## Strategic Objectives

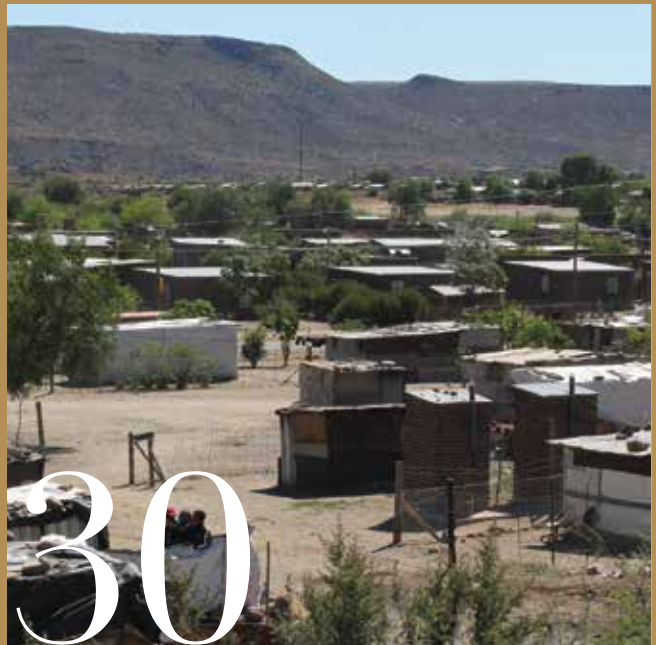
1. Strengthening oversight and accountability
2. Enhancing public involvement
3. Deepening engagement in international fora
4. Strengthening co-operative government
5. Strengthening legislative capacity



**Black Rod** of National Council of Provinces



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Ms Shirley Montsho

**Editor**

Mr Brent Simons

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Mr Mava Lukani

**Design and layout**

Out of the Blue creative communication solutions

**Copy editors**

Jane Henshall, Vusumzi Nobadula

**Writers**

Sakhile Mokoena, Abel Mputing, Mava Lukani,  
Malatswa Molepo, Sibongile Maputi

**Photography**

Parliament, GCIS

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Jacqueline Zils

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**EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES**

**Telephone** 021 403 8738

**Fax** 021 403 8096

**E-mail** [insession@parliament.gov.za](mailto:insession@parliament.gov.za)

**Subscriptions** [jjzils@parliament.gov.za](mailto:jjzils@parliament.gov.za)

**Post** PO Box 15, Cape Town, 8000

**OUR IDEALS**

**Vision**

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


**Strategic Objectives**

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

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**NEW LEADER:** President Cyril Ramaphosa addresses the National Assembly after his election.

# The election of the new President of the Republic

**The election of Mr Cyril Ramaphosa to the position of the new President of the Republic of South Africa took place in Parliament and raised the expectations of many South Africans, writes Abel Mputing.**

President Ramaphosa's ascendency to the highest office in the land was initiated by a nomination from African National Congress (ANC) Member of Parliament Dr Patrick Maesela and was presided over by the Chief Justice of South Africa, Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng.

In his short nomination speech, Dr Maesela praised Mr Ramaphosa for his role in the struggle against apartheid and told him that the hopes of the

country rest on how he performs his new role. "You proved throughout the years to be a disciplined revolutionary. We are now pinning the hopes of this country's future on your leadership."

Seconding the nomination, another ANC MP Ms Joanmariae Fubbs attested to his revolutionary credentials in his student days. She said that his activism as a unionist would stand him in good stead to bring about economic transformation and inclusive growth. "We know that you will bring about prosperous economic transformation that will benefit all South Africans."

Mr Ramaphosa's leadership would embody the principles of selflessness and disciplined leadership, Ms Fubbs said.

The only objection from the floor to Mr Ramaphosa's election came from the leader of the Congress of the People, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota. His objection rested on Mr Ramaphosa's service in former President Jacob Zuma's government.

The Speaker of the National Assembly (NA), Ms Baleka Mbete, said the country has emerged from a historical era. Quoting the late President, Mr Nelson Mandela, she said: "As a nation we should learn from both pleasant and unpleasant experiences."

Referring to the impasse that preceded the election of the new President, she stated: "Our challenges are not insurmountable. I truly believe our democracy has matured and remains resilient."



**African National Congress (ANC) Dr Patrick Maesela**

She also commended Mr Zuma's contribution and wished him well. "We wish the former President the best in his future endeavours." She then wished the new President strength and fortitude in what she referred to as a challenging role and thanked South Africans for having been patient throughout this transition period.

As is traditional after the election of the President of the Republic of South Africa in the National Assembly, leaders of political parties are given an opportunity to congratulate and wish the President-elect a successful presidency.

Leader of the Democratic Alliance (DA) Mr Mmusi Maimane proclaimed that the DA would support the new President if he acted in the best interests of the country. However, the party expected the ANC to be transparent about the challenges experienced in the past decade. "We did our best to expose [Mr Zuma's] corrupt deeds. But you could not tell him as a party what he has done wrong. That means we don't have a Zuma problem, we have an ANC problem. We will see you at the ballots in 2019," said Mr Maimane.

The Chief Whip of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), Mr Narend Singh, said: "We know that you don't have a magic wand, but we're expecting you to remove those implicated in state capture. And we expect you to turn the state-owned



**Chief Whip of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), Mr Narend Singh**

enterprises into organs of development."

Mr Singh said the IFP expect Mr Ramaphosa to deal with the land impasse. "But remember, we are not giving you carte blanche. We will keep you on your toes to ensure that this government delivers."

Prof Nhlanhlayise Khubisa, who is the Chief Whip of the National Freedom Party, said Mr Ramaphosa's election came at a time when the economy was experiencing severe challenges. "We need to inculcate a new spirit of patriotism to ensure that we rebuild the economy. Let's deal with corruption for the sake of nation-building and let's forge ahead and take our country's economy forward," Prof Khubisa urged.

General Bantu Holomisa of the United Democratic Movement insisted that recent events leading to the resignation of former president Mr Jacob Zuma have shown that there is no party that is bigger than the people of South Africa. He called for a national convention to deal with all South Africa's ills. "We need a convention that will deal with corruption, that will come with a solution to the land issue, that will devise ways of stimulating economic growth and the promotion of the rule of law," he said.

Rev Kenneth Meshoe of the African Christian Democratic Party said Mr Ramaphosa must have a courage to do



**Chief Whip of the National Freedom Party, Prof Nhlanhlayise Khubisa**

good and allow the fear of God to guide him. "People are hopeful of you. They are not to be disappointed. Fear God, because fearing God is the beginning of wisdom. Do good and don't buy face. Do what is right for your party and this country," Rev Meshoe emphasised.

Mr Luthando Mbinda of the Pan Africanist Congress reminded Mr Ramaphosa that it is not yet uhuru. "People are still living in bondage. They look up to us former liberation struggle movements. Change the section of the Constitution on land in favour of the disenfranchised, - not those who stole the land," he said.

Enjoying the opportunity presented for congratulatory remarks and words of wisdom, the Chief Whip of the ANC, Mr Jackson Mthembu, said: "In you, President, we have a president who will at all times be of service to our people. That is a characteristic that is inherent in your DNA. You have a good track record of service to the people. That is why we elected you as the President of the ANC in December.

"We know you from your student days, when you were instrumental in establishing the National Union of Mineworkers, when you were involved in the United Democratic Front and in the Mass Democratic Movement. During the banning of the ANC you were there and during its unbanning you were there too." 🙏



**Leader of the United Democratic Movement General Bantu Holomisa**



**Leader of the African Christian Democratic Party Rev Kenneth Meshoe**



**Leader of the Pan Africanist Congress Mr Luthando Mbinda**





**NEW LEADER:** President Cyril Ramaphosa addresses the National Assembly after his election.

# ‘Together we will make history’ President highlights economic growth

In his first State of the Nation Address (Sona), President Cyril Ramaphosa highlighted the importance of accelerating the pace of economic growth as the economy is central to development, writes *Mava Lukani*.

According to President Ramaphosa, the South African economy has not grown as expected. Poverty levels rose in 2015, unemployment increased and inequality persisted. “For several years our economy has not grown at the pace needed to create enough jobs or lift our people out of poverty. Public finances have been constrained, limiting the ability of government to expand its investment in economic and social development.

Despite these challenges, President Ramaphosa said the government has managed to achieve progress in improving the lives of South Africans. He said even under conditions of weak

growth, the economy has created jobs, but not at the pace required to absorb new entrants into the labour market. “Since the start of the current Parliament, our public employment programmes have created more than 3.2 million work opportunities.”

Mr Ramaphosa told the joint sitting of Parliament that as South Africa pursues higher levels of economic growth and investment, it must take additional measures to reduce poverty and meet the needs of the unemployed. The African National Congress government has taken measures to reduce the cost of living, especially for the poor. For example: “Government’s free

basic services programme currently supports more than 3.5 million indigent households. More than 17 million social grants are paid each month, benefiting nearly a third of the population.”

Mr Ramaphosa assured South Africans that as they enter a new era, government is determined to build on these achievements, confront challenges and accelerate progress in building a more prosperous and equitable society. “We have seen a moderate recovery in our economy and a broader, sustained recovery in the global economy.”

He said business confidence among local companies has improved while

foreign investors are looking anew at opportunities. Some financial institutions have identified South Africa as an attractive emerging market for 2018. “Our task, as South Africans, is to seize this moment of hope and renewal, and to work together to ensure that it makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our people,” said President Ramaphosa.

This year, Mr Ramaphosa said the government will be initiating measures to set the country on a new path of growth, employment and transformation. At the centre of the national agenda in 2018 is the creation of jobs, especially for the youth. “We are going to embark on a number of measures to address the unemployment challenge,” he said.

To accomplish this, President Ramaphosa announced a jobs summit to be held in the next few months to align the efforts of every sector and every stakeholder behind the imperative of job creation. The summit will look at what needs to be done to ensure that the economy grows and becomes more productive; that

companies invest on a greater scale; that workers are better equipped; and that the economic infrastructure is expanded.

“We will expect this summit to come up with practical solutions and initiatives that will be implemented immediately. We will make a major push this year to encourage significant new investments in our economy,” emphasised Mr Ramaphosa.

On mining, President Ramaphosa told the joint sitting that mining has massive unrealised potential for growth and job creation. He announced that on 1 May 2018, the government will introduce the first national minimum wage in South Africa. This historic achievement is the realisation of one of the demands of the Freedom Charter, Mr Ramaphosa explained, and is expected to increase the earnings of more than six million South Africans and improve the living conditions of households across the country.

On the drought that is gripping South Africa and which is impacting on the South African economy, social services

and agricultural production, he said the drought situation in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape has been elevated to a national state of disaster. “This gives the national government the authority to manage and coordinate our response nationally with support from all provinces.”

Referring to the phasing in of fully subsidised free higher education and training for poor and working class South Africans over a five-year period, Mr Ramaphosa said free higher education and training will be available to first-year students from households with a gross combined annual income of up to R350 000. The Minister of Higher Education and Training will lead the implementation of this policy, while financing the scheme will be the responsibility of the Minister of Finance.

Growth, development and transformation depend on a strong and capable state. It is critical that the structure and size of the state is optimally suited to meet the needs of the people and ensure the most



*President Ramaphosa on the dias with Parliament's Presiding Officers.*





**President Ramaphosa with his wife Dr Tshepo Motsepe-Ramaphosa.**

efficient allocation of public resources. “We will therefore, initiate a process to review the configuration, number and size of national government departments,” Mr Ramaphosa announced.

He told the joint sitting that state-owned enterprises are experiencing severe financial, operational and governance challenges, which has impacted on the performance of the economy and placed pressure on the fiscus. “We will intervene decisively to stabilise and revitalise state-owned enterprises,” he said.

Recent executive action at Eskom to strengthen governance, root out corruption and restore its financial position is just the beginning, the President said. The government will take further measures to ensure that all state-owned companies fulfil their economic and developmental mandates. “We will need to confront the reality that the challenges at some of our SOEs are structural. They do not have a sufficient revenue stream to fund their operational costs.”

“We will change the way that boards are appointed so that only people with expertise, experience and integrity serve in these vital positions and we will remove board members from any role in

procurement and work with the Auditor-General to strengthen external audit processes.”

On the commission of inquiry into state capture headed by the Deputy Chief Justice, Judge Raymond Zondo, Mr Ramaphosa said the commission is expected to commence its work shortly. “The commission is critical to ensuring that the extent and nature of state capture is established, that confidence in public institutions is restored and that those responsible for any wrongdoing are identified.”

However, the Commission should not displace the regular work of the country’s law enforcement agencies, he said, in investigating and prosecuting all acts of corruption. “*Amasela aba imali ka Rhulumente mawabanjwe*. We must fight corruption, fraud and collusion in the private sector with the same purpose and intensity. We must remember that every time someone receives a bribe, there is someone who is prepared to pay it.”

On the role of public servants, President Ramaphosa said the state employs about one million public servants, the majority of who serve the people with diligence and commitment. “We applaud

them for the excellent work they do. However, we know the challenges that our people face when they interact with the state. In too many cases they often get poor service or no service at all.”

He reminded public servants about Batho Pele and urged them to adhere to the principle of putting our people first. “We are determined that everyone in public service should undertake their responsibilities with efficiency, diligence and integrity. We want to instil a new discipline, to do things correctly, to do them completely and to do them timeously.”

South Africa has entered a period of change. “While change can produce uncertainty, even anxiety, it also offers great opportunities for renewal and revitalisation, and for progress. Together we are going to make history. We have done it before and we will do it again, bonded by our common love for our country, resolute in our determination to overcome the challenges that lie ahead and convinced that by working together we will build the fair and just and decent society to which Nelson Mandela dedicated his life.” 🇿🇦

# ‘Sibambisene siza kwenza imbali’ Umongameli ugxininise ngohlumo lwezoqoqosho kwiSona

**KwiNtetho yakhe engoBume beSizwe (iSona), uMongameli uCyril Ramaphosa ugxininise ngokubaluleka kokukhawulezisa isantya sohlumo lwezoqoqosho njengoko uqoqosho lungundoqo wezophuhliso, ubhale watsho uMava Lukani.**

‘Sibambisene siza kwenza imbali’ Umongameli ugxininise ngohlumo lwezoqoqosho kwiSona

KwiNtetho yakhe engoBume beSizwe (iSona), uMongameli uCyril Ramaphosa ugxininise ngokubaluleka kokukhawulezisa isantya sohlumo lwezoqoqosho njengoko uqoqosho lungundoqo wezophuhliso, ubhale watsho uMava Lukani.

NgokukaMongameli uRamaphosa, uqoqosho aluhlumanga ngendlela ebekulindlele ngayo. Imigangatho yentlupheko iye yaphakama ngowama-2015, intswelangu yandile kwaza ukungalingani kwahlala kuhleli. “Kwiminyaka emininzi uqoqosho lwethu aluhlumanga ngesantya esifunekayo ukwenzela ludale imisebenzi eyaneleyo okanye lukhuphe abantu bethu entluphekweni. Iimali zikarhulumente bezithintelwe, zicutha amandla karhulumente okwandisa utyalo-mali lwakhe kuphuhliso loqoqosho nolwentlalo.

Ngaphandle kwale mingeni, uMongameli uRamaphosa uthetha urhulumente ukwazile ukuphumeza inkqubo yokuphucula iimpilo zabantu baseMzantsi Afrika. Uthe nangaphantsi kweemeko zohlumo olusilelayo, uqoqosho ludale imisebenzi, noxa oko kungenzekanga ngesantya ebesifuneka sabo bebesenza izicelo ezitsha zomisebenzi. “Ukususela ekuqaleni kwePalamente ekhoyo ngoku, iinkqubo zengqesho yoluntu zenze ngaphezulu kwezigididi ezi-3.2 zamathuba omisebenzi.”

Umunuzana uRamaphosa uxelele indibanisela ehlangeneyo yePalamente ukuba uMzantsi Afrika uzama ukuphumeza imigangatho ephezulu yokuhlumisa uqoqosho kunye notyalo-

mali, kufuneka uthathe amanyathelo awongezelelweyo okucutha intlupheko nokufikelela kwiimfuno zentswelingqesho. Urhulumente we-African National Congress uthathe amanyathelo okucutha indleko zokuphila, ngokukodwa kubantu abahluphekileyo. Umzekelo: “Inkqubo yeenkonzo ezisisiseko nezisimahla zikarhulumente kungokunje ixhasa amakhaya ahluphekayo angaphezulu kwezigididi ezi-3.5. Ngaphezulu wezigidi

ezili-17 zesibonelelo sentlalo zihlawulwa nyanga nenyanga, kuxhamla malunga nesithathu sabantu.”

Umunuzana uRamaphosa ubaqinisekile abemi boMzantsi Afrika ukuba njengoko bengena kwixesha elitsha lembali, urhulumente uzimisele ukongeza ezi zinto sele ziphunyeziwe, ukujamelana nemingeni kunye nokukhawulezisa iinkqubo ekwenzeni intlalo enobutyebi nefikeleleka



Joint sitting



ngakumbi. “Sikubonile ukuphucuka okuzinzileyo kuqoqosho lwethu kunye nokuphucuka ngokubanzi okuzinzileyo kuqoqosho lwehlabathi.”

Uthe ukuzithemba kwezoshishino kwiinkampani zeli lizwe kuphucukile ngeli xesha abatyali-zimali bamanye amazwe besajongile amathuba kwakhona. Amanye amaziko emali awubone uMzantsi Afrika njengemarike ephuhlayo etsala umdla kunyaka wama-2018. “Umsebenzi wethu, njengaBemi boMzantsi, kukusebenzisa eli thuba lethemba nohlaziyo, size sisebenzisane ukuqinisekisa ukuba wenza umahluko obonakalayo kwiimpilo zabantu bethu,” utshilo uMongameli uRamaphosa.

Kulo nyaka, uMnumzana uRamaphosa uthe urhulumente uza kuqalisa ngamanyathelo okubeka eli lizwe kwindlela entsha yohlumo, ingqesho kunye notshintsho. Eyona nto ingundoqo kwi-ajenda yelizwe kunyaka wama-2018 kukudalwa kwemisebenzi, ngokukodwa

kulutsha. “Siza kuqalisa ngoninzi lwamanyathelo okushukuxa umngeni wentswela-ngqesho,” utshilo.

Ukuze sikuphumeze oku, uMongameli uRamaphosa ubhengeze isummit yemisebenzi eza kubanjwa kwiinyanga ezizayo ezimbalwa eza kuhambelana neenzame zecandelo ngalinye kunye nomntu ngamnye ochaphazelekayo ekujoliseni kwimfuno emandla yokudalwa kwamathuba engqesho. Le summit iza kujonga okumele kwenziwe ukuqinisekisa ukuba uqoqosho luyahluma kwaye lunemveliso ngakumbi; nokuba iinkampani zityala imali ngesikali esikhulu; nokuba abasebenzi baxhotyiswe ngcono; kwanokuba isiseko soncedo zoqoqosho siyandiswa.

“Siza kulindela ukuba le summit iveze izisombululo ezibonakalayo kunye namanyathelo aza kuphunyezwa ngokukhawuleza. Siza kutyhala ngakumbi kulo nyaka ukukhuthaza

utyalo-mali olutsha nolubonakalayo kuqoqosho lwethu”, uxininise watsho uMnumzana uRamaphosa.

Kwezemigodi, uMongameli uRamaphosa uxelele indibanisela ehlangeneyo ukuba ukombiwa kwemigodi kunamandla amakhulu ngokumangalisayo kuhlumo kunye nokudalwa kwemisebenzi. Upapashe ukuba ngomhla woku-1 kuCanzibe wowama-2018, urhulumente uza kuveza into yomvuzo omncinci wesizwe eyeyokuqala eMzantsi Afrika. Le nto yembali ephunyeziweyo kukuqinisekiswa kwenye yeemfuno ezikuMqulu weNkululeko, uMnumzana uRamaphosa ucacise ngolo hlobo, kwaye kulindeleke ukwandiswa kwemivuzo yabemi boMzantsi Afrika abangaphezulu kwezigidi ezintandathu ukuphucula iimeko zokuphila kumakhaya akwilizwe ngokubanzi.

Kwimbalela ethwaxa uMzantsi Afrika ekwaphembelela kuqoqosho loMzantsi Afrika, iinkonzo zentlalo nemveliso yezolimo, uthe imeko yembalela eNtshona Koloni, eMpuma Koloni naseMntla Koloni inwenwe yayintlekele yesizwe. “Le nto inika urhulumente wesizwe igunya lokulawula nokuququzelela impendulo yethu kwisizwe sonke ngenkxaso kuwo onke amaphondo.”

Ngokubhekiselele ekubekeni ngokwamabakala kokubonelelwa ngokupheleleyo kwemfundo ephakamileyo noqeqesho kwabo bahlelelekileyo naBemi boMzantsi Afrika abasebenzela imivuzo engephi kwisithuba seminyaka emihlanu, uMnumzana uRamaphosa uthe imfundo noqeqesho lwasimahla luza kuba khona kunyaka wokuqala wabafundi abaphuma kumakhaya anomvuzo uwonke wekhaya oyingeniso yonyaka engama-R350 000. Umphathiswa weMfundo ePhakamileyo noQeqesho uza kukhokela ukusetyenziswa kwalo mgaqo-nkqubo, ngeli xesha ukubonelela esi sikimu ngemali iza kuba luxanduva loMphathiswa wezeziMali.

Uhlumo, uphuhliso kunye notshintsho luxhomekeke kwisizwe esiluhlulima nesinamandla okwenza oko. Kunzima ukuba ubume nomlinganiselo wesizwe ukulungele ngokukoko ukukhawulelana neemfuno zabantu kwaye uqinisekise ngolona lwabiwo



lwaneleyo lwemithombo karhulumente. “Ke ngoko siza kuqalisa ngenkqubo yokujonga umlinganiselo, inani kunye nobukhulu bamasebe karhulumente esizwe,” ubhengeze watsho uMnumzana uRamaphosa.



*The Presidential Guard of Honour*

Uxelele indibanisela ehlangeneyo ukuba amashishini karhulumente agagana neningeni yezezimali, umsebenzi kunye nolawulo, nto leyo inefuthe kumsebenzi woqoqosho kwaye ubeka uxinzelelo kwingxowa-mali karhulumente. “Siza kungenelela okokugqibela ukuzinzisa nokulungisa amashishini karhulumente,” utshilo.

Isenzo sakutshanje sesigqeba sakwa-Eskom sokuxhasa urhulumente, sokuncothula neengcambu urhwaphilizo nokuzinzisa imeko yezimali yinto eyeyokuqala, utshilo uMongameli. Urhulumente uza kuthatha amanye amanyathelo okuqinisekisa ukuba zonke iinkampani zikarhulumente ziyakhawulelana nokugunyaziswe kuzo kwezoqoqosho. “Kuza kufuneka simelane nenyanyiso yokuba imingeni kwizinye zee-SOE zethu iyabonakala. Azinalo ufezekiso lwengeniso olwaneleyo lokubonelela ngezimali iindleko zazo zokusebenza.”

“Siza kutshintsha indlela ezonyulwa ngayo iibhodi ukuze ibe ngabantu abaziingcali, abanamava nabathembakeleyo kuphela abasebenza kwezi zikhundla zibalulekileyo kwaye siza kuwasusa amalungu ebhodi kuyo nayiphi indima yokuthenga kunye

nokusebenza noMphicothi-zincwadi Jikelele ukuze sixhase iinkqubo zophicotho-zincwadi lwangaphandle.”

Kwikomishoni yemibuzo yokubanjwa ngobhongwana kombuso ebikhokelwe liSekela leJaji eyiNtloko, uJaji Raymond Zondo, uMnumzana uRamaphosa uthe le komishoni kulindeleke ukuba iqalise ikwenza umsebenzi wayo ngokukhawuleza. “Le komishoni kuza kufuneka izimisele ukuqinisekisa ukuba umlinganiselo kunye nobume bokubanjwa kombuso ngobhongwana buyamiselwa, ukuba ukuzithemba kumaziko karhulumente kuyalungiswa kwaye abo banoxanduva kwizinto ezigwenxa bayachazwa.”

Nangona kunjalo, le Komishoni akufunekanga itshintshe umsebenzi owenziwa rhoqo wee-arhente zonyanzeliso-mthetho zelizwe, zokuphanda nokumangalela zonke izenzo zorhwaphilizo. “Amasela aba imali ka Rhulumente mawabanjwe. Kufuneka silulwe urhwaphilizo, ubuqhetseba kunye nokubandakanyeka kumacandelo abucala ngenjongo kunye namagunya afanayo. Kufuneka sikhumbule ukuba ngalo lonke ixesha umntu efumana ukunyotywa, ukhona umntu ekufuneka ekulungele ukukuhlawulela oko.”

Kwindima yabasebenzi bakarhulumente, uMongameli uRamaphosa uthe urhulumente uqesha malunga nesigidi esinye sabasebenzi bakarhulumente, uninzi lwabo lunceda

abantu ngokusebenza ngenkathalo nangokuzinikela. “Sibaqhwabela izandla ngomsebenzi abawenzayo ophume izandla. Nangona kunjalo, siyayazi imingeni abajamelana nayo abantu xa besebenza norhulumente. Kwiimeko ezininzi kakhulu bafumana iinkonzo ezingekho mgangathweni okanye bangazifumana kwaphela iinkonzo.”

Ukhumbuze abasebenzi bakarhulumente malunga neBatho Pele wabacela ukuba bawuthobele lo mthetho-siseko wokubeka abantu kuqala. “Siggqibe ekubeni wonke umntu osebenzela urhulumente kufuneka enze imisebenzi yakhe ngokwanelisayo, ngokukhathalayo nangokuthembakeleyo. Sifuna ukuzinzisa engqondweni indlela entsha yokuziphatha, ukwenza izinto ngokukuko, ukwenza ngokugqibeleleyo nangexesha elifanelekileyo.”

UMzantsi Afrika ungene kwixesha lotshintsho. “Nangona utshintsho lusiza nokungaqiniseki, nenkxalabo, lukwaveza amathuba amakhulu ohlaziyo nokulungisa, kunye nenkqubela. Sibambisene siza kwenza imbali. Sikwenzile oko ngaphambili kwaye siza kuphinda sikwenze, sidibene ngokuthanda ilizwe lethu ngokufanayo, sizimisele koko sijolise kuko kokukhawulelana neningeni ephambi kwethu kwaye sinethemba lokuba ngokusebenzisana siza kwenza intlalo engenamkhethe enobulungisa kunye nehloniphekileyo awanikela ngayo ubomi bakhe kuyo uNelson Mandela.” 🇿🇦



*President Cyril Ramaphosa greets Mr Robert Tlou.*





*President Cyril Ramaphosa meets eminent persons.*

## Honouring South Africans who have contributed to community development and our democracy

**Being selected as an eminent or prominent person to attend the State of the Nation Address is a great honour and a memorable experience, said the eminent persons from the nine provinces who attended the 2018 event, writes Mava Lukani, Sakhile Mokoena, Abel Mputing and Sibongile Maputi.**

Every year Parliament honours outstanding South Africans who have contributed selflessly to community development and to the struggle for democracy by inviting them to participate in the annual State of the Nation Address (Sona), where the

President outlines the government's priorities and programmes for the year.

Eminent persons are South Africans who have achieved outstanding results in their respective fields or who have been otherwise recognised for

their contribution to society. They are nominated by their provincial Speakers to be the guests of Parliament for the event. They line up as part of the Guard of Honour before the event to welcome the dignitaries as they proceed up Parliament Avenue towards the National Assembly and conclude the public participation part of the ceremonies.

Parliament hosted nine eminent persons, each representing their province. These exceptional individuals are offered VIP

treatment and interact with the Presiding Officers of Parliament and the President as part of the guard of honour before the delivery of the Address.

**Ms Lucinda Evans, Western Cape**



Expressing her excitement about being at Parliament at the time of the delivery of the State of the Nation Address, the Western Cape’s Ms Lucinda Evans thanked the Speaker of the Western Cape Legislature for selecting her from among all those who are making great contributions to the struggle to improve the lives of ordinary people. “I feel deeply humbled and honoured by my nomination,” she said.

As a Khoisan woman, Ms Evans said she was happy for the recognition of the Khoisan. “When I got the news of my selection as an eminent person to represent the Western Cape, I immediately thought that Khoisan people are taken seriously and their contributions in the broader project of making a better life for all South Africans is noted,” she said.

Talking about her expectations for the new President, Ms Evans said all the historically disadvantaged people of South Africa have a common expectation for him to ensure that their living conditions improve. “On the Cape Flats where I live, we want the President to come and see the appalling conditions in which we live and ensure that he has a plan for turning those conditions around,” said Ms Evans.

**Dr Mandla Isaac Godfrey Manganyi, North West**



Dr Mandla Isaac Godfrey Manganyi was the eminent person from the North West Province. He is a medical doctor and founder of the Letlhabile Community Health, which provides healthcare support to patients who suffer from chronic diseases, including HIV/Aids, cancer, diabetes mellitus, epilepsy and hypertension.

“I am very delighted to be part of the proceeding of the State of the Nation Address. When I received the news that I had been selected to represent my province at this very important event in the calendar of our constitutional democracy, I was surprised, but at the same time I was happy.

“I was surprised because I have a passion for what I do, not that I expected some recognition of some kind or any reward. I know that I am not the only person who is doing good in my province. There are so many, but this time, I happened to be the chosen one,” he said.

Dr Manganyi welcomed the election of new President Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, saying he hopes it will bring change to the lives of the people. “I just hope he will do what is right to change the lives of South Africans, making sure that there is employment, reduce crime and all other challenges in the public sector.”

Dr Manganyi said that the Address is a chance for government to tell us what we can expect for the year, in hope that we will see government programmes being implemented. He believes Parliament has a huge democratic responsibility, particularly

to make sure that the country’s laws take us forward and bring about positive change in the lives of ordinary people.

He also had some advice for the different political parties represented in Parliament: “Even though we have got different parties in Parliament, they must all know that they are there to serve all South Africans and they must put South Africa first. They must find a way of dealing with their differences in a way that all South Africans benefit, not just their own parties’ interests.

**Mr Hensford Fano Luthuli, Kwazulu-Natal**



Representing the province of KwaZulu-Natal was Mr Hensford Fano Luthuli, a struggle veteran and member of the African National Congress, who could not hide his excitement at the “honour of being part of Sona”.

“For the first time in my life since I became an ANC member, I have never felt so honoured and recognised as I feel right now by this invitation to be in Parliament when the President delivers the State of the Nation Address. I am very happy. When I received the call that I will be part of the State of the Nation Address I was over the moon, because I did not know that I would be given such recognition at my age (66).”

Mr Luthuli normally doesn’t talk about ANC issues with his family, but: “This time I had to share this special news about the call from Parliament and the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature to participate in the State of the Nation Address as an eminent person.”



“Sona is an opportunity for South Africans to know what sort of programmes to expect from government, what are the problems identified by the President and what are the solutions going to be, which comes to the question of budgeting, whether the budget will help in addressing the programmes of government to make the lives of the people better.”

Sona also provides a platform for government to share the many good stories. “So many people have got houses and access to electricity. We now have clinics in almost every community and many other basic services for the people of South Africa.

“The fact that so many people have access to antiretroviral drugs for HIV/ Aids treatment is also another winner. South Africa’s participation in international platforms, the story of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (Brics) and its new bank is a wonderful one, especially when we are told we are going to have the Brics bank here in South Africa,” he said.

### Mr Robert Tlou, Eastern Cape



Mr Robert Tlou, a liberation struggle veteran from the Eastern Cape, says he was “shocked and surprised” when he received the news that he will be part of the Sona.

The former trade unionist from Port Elizabeth said: “I didn’t expect that at my age I can be accorded such an honour to be part of the official opening of Parliament. Even more exciting was to witness the first Sona of our new President. That made me even happier. I feel honoured and respected by our government and Parliament. It is a great initiative to recognise people who

took part in the liberation struggle that resulted in the democracy we have today.

However, he is unhappy about the swearing and other behaviour of some MPs in Parliament. “In order to be heard or make a point you don’t have to be rude or use foul language. It is disrespectful. We must take care of this hard-won democracy,” he said.

Parliament and South Africa’s democracy are great examples of success stories in Africa, Mr Tlou believes. “We were the last in the continent to acquire liberation and yet we were quick to forgive our oppressors. That showed the maturity of our democracy,” he said.

### Mr Patrick Thibedi, Mpumalanga



Mr Patrick Thibedi is a celebrated uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) veteran and is venerated for bombing Sasol’s Secuda plant in Mpumalanga during the apartheid era, a flagship enterprise of the regime at the time. He was elated at being invited to be attend Sona as an eminent person. “I must express my heartfelt honour and privilege to be part of Sona. I never expected to be invited in this august event,” he said.

This Sona is a call for change, a call to speed up service delivery. “It presents South Africans with an opportunity to dream again, to dream anew, to dream afresh collectively as a nation. It also presents the country with a new economic chapter, given the new President’s business experience. This Sona will afford us an opportunity to embark on a new economic path that will bring about inclusive growth,” he said.

Often what is said at Sona remains a far-fetched dream, he said. “We hope that what is said in Sona will be implemented. It should not stir optimism that is never realised. As a nation we pin our hopes on the policy frameworks and priorities emanating from Sona that seek to right the wrongs of the past and to take our country on a developmental path.”

The sacrifices South Africans made during the liberation struggle, such as the 12 years he spent on Robben Island, should not be in vain, he said. He did his military training in exile and survived the Matola raid in Mozambique, which resulted in a high number of casualties.

He recalled this incident with great sadness. “One of the saddest incidents of this raid is that my commander died in my arms. That was painful and it is something I find difficult to forget. It still haunts me.”

So profound was the effect of this raid on the psyche of the nation that it inspired a film *Catch a Fire*, based on Mr Thibedi’s experiences. “This movie has immortalised this raid and has given a voice to those who were involved in this operation. This movie will go down in history as one of the life stories of the bravery of MK soldiers against all odds. But more needs to be done to tell many, many other stories of our struggle for liberation.”

Mr Thibedi has dedicated his life to talking about black liberation struggles through the medium of film. Recently, he was one of the directors of *Roots*, a film about slavery. “We often speak of slavery and its aftereffects, but we don’t often locate the places where they (slaves) were sourced and the impact thereof on those left behind. This movie casts a light on this untold stories.”

### Ms Desiree Matlala, Limpopo



The Coordinator of the Young Women Desk at Ephraim Mogale Municipality and a Co-Founder of Voyage Grooming Network, Ms Desire Matlala formed part of the eminent people invited to attend the 2018 Sona.

She announced how privileged she felt to be part of this stately event and to be considered an eminent person at the tender age of 28. This “affirmed the recognition of women from our rural villages, like myself, and I am here to represent their resolve. I never thought that at 28 I would be recognised as an eminent person and be invited to attend Sona, which I often watch on television.”

She believes she was invited because of her resolve to emancipate women in the rural areas of Limpopo. “The emancipation of women from all social ills, especially the disadvantaged women in rural areas, has been prioritised by government and that has heightened the profile of organisations such as ours. This has made us more noticeable and appreciated for the kind of work we are doing under very trying conditions,” she said.

“Going forward, our aim is to turn our organisation into a development hub, to ensure that rural women are self-reliant and can become agents of change, rather than being victims of our social engineering that still disadvantages them in many respects.”

**Ms Goitsewang Ngake, Free State**



Struggle veteran Ms Goitsewang Ngake spent her entire life in the struggle against all forms of injustice. “I thank my late mother who was involved in the struggle for passing to me consciousness about taking a stand against all forms of injustice to the people,” Ms Ngake

explained, when asked what motivated her to do the work she does.

The Bloemfontein based Ms Ngake said she was excited to be among those chosen to be present at the first State of the Nation Address from the new President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa.

“This is a memorable experience to be here as an eminent person chosen from a large number of South Africans who made a far greater contribution to the struggle against injustice than myself,” said Ms Ngake.

She is confident that President Ramaphosa will not fail to consider the future of historically impoverished South Africans when he announces his plans for the year ahead.

**Ms Tina Mosiapoa, Northern Cape**



It feels good to be invited to the State of the Nation Address to be delivered by our President. It is an honour. It has been a long road since the days we worked in Johannesburg as a domestic worker until I was recruited into the struggle. The madams never knew that we were activists. The system was brutal and so were police.

Parliament should lead in the struggle to return land to the people. Grandfather used to own a farm and we’ve never seen a cent since the farm was taken from us. Government does not give enough recognition to veterans.

In Kimberley we have a challenge of councillors selling RDP properties once the initial owners pass. Why are they allowed to do this, as these house should be inherited by our children?

Those of us operating crèches, we receive half the subsidy, why? Children go on and finish school and yet they can’t find employment. My own child graduated from the University of South Africa in 2004 and he depends on the R1 600 pension money I get. Why? These are the challenges that parliament should help us on.

**Mr Sipho Kubeka, Gauteng**



I do not think I deserve this honour, but I am very grateful for it. There are a lot more deserving people who sacrificed much more. There are those who paid the ultimate price for this Parliament. Those are the real heroes and heroines.

It is important that they are recognised so that their children can attest to the bravery they have shown. I am nevertheless excited to be in Parliament for the Sona.

This is very good as Parliament needs to seek a mandate from the people. In a democracy, Parliament should lead in social cohesion efforts. Bringing us here from all provinces is a good example of how to do it.

Also Parliament should not throw out the people with experience if it wants to make major strides. In a democracy this should be like a pot where all the good ideas come to be refined for use by society.

MPs should never betray the trust people put on them. It is critical that people are not taken for granted. Parliament needs to guard against a situation where the country becomes a welfare state where citizens are entirely dependent on the state.



## Parliament also hosted guests who had achieved prominence through their achievements in a variety of fields



**A PhD graduate in chemistry from KwaZulu-Natal University, Dr Nomfundo Mahlangeni, was one prominent guest invited to attend the 2018 Sona.**

“This is something I never dreamt of. It shows that dreams do come true.” At 28, Dr Mahlangeni already holds a doctorate in chemistry. She emphasised strongly the importance of education. “It is through education that people can be emancipated from obscurity. It is through education that people can be able to cultivate knowledge and have the views that can open doors for them. It is through education that the youth of this country can acquire the necessary skills to carve a better future,” she said.

Chief among her expectations for this Sona was the funding of the poor in the higher education sector. “We hope this Sona will put paid to the doubts about the funding of poor students in colleges and universities. This would help in creating certainty in this sector and allay the fears of those who are still in doubt about their access to higher education.”



**I am here trying to experience what the change of leadership might mean for South Africa, said the President of the University of Fort Hare Student Representative Council, Ms Karabo Khakhau.**

“I am intrigued as an observer of this event. But I am here trying to see what the future of South Africa may be and how is that outlined in the Sona. [I want to see] what the change of leadership in our country might mean for South Africa and what to expect in future.”

“I want to hear what plans government will outline for the rising unemployment among the youth and how the narrative of a new South African would be attained in the post-Zuma era, she said.

“We have seen the positive response towards the election of Mr Cyril Ramaphosa as a new President, but how will that relate to the resilience of our welfare state,” she asked.



**“To be in this august house where the future of this country was crafted is an honour and privilege that I never thought of, said the President of the Student Representative Council at the University of Stellenbosch, Mr Lwando Nkamisa.**

Speaking on Parliament’s role in our democracy, he said Parliament is meant to provide checks and balances to ensure that the elected leaders respected the Constitution.

“Parliament provides oversight and ensures that we have a multiparty state that represents the board spectrum of views from different constituencies of our society.” 🇿🇦

# MPs debate the State of the Nation

**The African National Congress's (ANC's) Chief Whip in the National Assembly, Mr Jackson Mthembu, said the tasks set out by the President in the State of the Nation Address will require even greater oversight and capacity if the commitments outlined are to be met, reports Mava Lukani.**

These commitments, he explained, are not an abstract ideal. They directly involve Parliament, through oversight, research, analysis of reports and connecting with the people. They are a constitutional obligation.

"As Parliament, we must not ever be found to have allowed wrongdoing under our watch. As public representatives, we carry the hopes and aspirations of the people who elected us into office."

The State of the Nation Address, according to Mr Mthembu, specifically tasks Parliament to speed up the conclusion on a number of pieces of legislation, for example, the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act

(MPRDA), the Expropriation Bill, revised legislation on the Auditor-General and the Political Parties Funding Bill.

"When we assess the State of the Nation Address, we are essentially providing a framework for analysing where we are as a nation. Three important concepts in this analysis are social cohesion, social capital and social justice. The President's announcement of the implementation of the National Minimum Wage bears testimony to what is possible when all social partners work together in the interest of our great nation," Mr Mthembu said.

As South Africa celebrates the centenary of the birth of Mr Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress (ANC) shall intensify its efforts to realise his vision of a united South Africa in which all live in peace with equal rights and opportunities.

Mr Mmusi Maimane, the leader of the Democratic Alliance, applauded the President for a well-delivered speech, saying it has restored the dignity of Parliament. "We may sit on different sides of the House, but I hope that all of us are here because we want to build

a South Africa we can hand over to our children. President Ramaphosa has promised the people of South Africa a 'new dawn' and I really believe that this is what he wants for South Africa. It is certainly what we want for South Africa. And I want to pledge my support, and the support of my party towards the realisation of this goal," he said.

Mr Maimane said a democracy is a contest of ideas for a better society. "We are not enemies; we are opponents. When we differ, we must say so. And we must be robust in our disagreements if necessary."

He said Mr Ramaphosa faces a difficult task that will require the help of all Members of Parliament. "We need to do everything we can to make sure that his 'new dawn' is not a false dawn. Our President has inherited an education system in which militant trade union interests are placed before the interests of our children. He has inherited an economy where millions of young people cannot find work and have given up looking for work."

Mr Maimane told Mr Ramaphosa that it is entirely possible to cut the executive



ANC Chief Whip Mr Jackson Mthembu.



Leader of the DA Mr Mmusi Maimane.



down to 15 ministries, with spending priorities that promote economic growth and job creation. "This would save us around R4.7bn each year," he said.

He said it was encouraging to hear the President cast doubt on the nuclear deal at the recent World Economic Forum. "I was hoping he would slam the door shut on it in his Sona speech. It is vital that we make our position on the future of the nuclear deal very clear. We don't need a new nuclear build project, and we don't have the R1,2 trillion it will cost."

The leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Mr Julius Malema told Mr Ramaphosa that the EFF is willing to give him a chance. "We only give you a chance because you have not been personally found guilty of being a constitutional delinquent, because we do not entertain delinquents. We deal with delinquents decisively, like we did before. It is very easy for a country to degenerate if you allow individuals to become constitutional delinquents," he emphasised.

He urged Mr Ramaphosa to welcome those who criticise him and always defend the rights of those who disagree with him. "We gave you a chance to explain your plans, but the reality is that you do not have any plan. That's why you came here and told us of job summits, because you are still going to look for plans out of the job summits. That's why

you came here and told us about the issues of social sector summit, because there is no plan. You came here and told us about an investment conference, because there is no plan. You told us about a youth summit, because you have no clear plan on how you are going to resolve the thorny issue of youth unemployment."

According to Mr Malema, Mr Ramaphosa failed to present plans in his Sona speech. "President, you have no plan to deal with the collection of tax because the South African Revenue Service (Sars) has collapsed. That's why you called for a commission of enquiry into tax affairs."

On land without expropriation Mr Malema said: "You mentioned expropriation of land without compensation and we all agreed. Well, actually, that statement got you the loudest applause."

Mr Malema told Mr Ramaphosa not to protect those who are implicated in corruption. "All of them who are going to be frequenting the state capture inquiry must be released so that they can have time to prepare for the inquiry," he said.

General Bantu Holomisa of the United Democratic Movement thanked President Ramaphosa for the speech. "Mr President, your message has restored hope and put South Africa on the right track for the restoration of our dignity.

Corruption is the linchpin in giving effect to your Sona vision."

Furthermore, General Holomisa said corruption and the culture of its tolerance must be eliminated in all three spheres of government. "We therefore welcome your announcement about removing board members from procurement processes in our state-owned enterprises, but you should not stop there," he said.

He said small businesses will not grow, as long as they are charged up to 50% in kick-backs even before the work begins. He urged Mr Ramaphosa to beef up the state capture inquiry with the inclusion of forensic audit experts and even the Directorate of Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks).

"The Justice Department must be directed to make special provisions for prosecuting capacity and the establishment of dedicated courts to expedite justice, as was done in 2010 with the Soccer World Cup. Once the inquiry identifies an incident of corruption, the Hawks must pounce, the judicial system must take the baton, whilst the inquiry continues," he emphasised.

Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) said Mr Ramaphosa has given South Africans hope for change and renewal. "For too long our country's leadership has



*Leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters Mr Julius Malema.*



*Leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi*

vacillated on economic policy, hesitated to act on corruption, and been reluctant to take the necessary steps to rescue South Africa. For too long we have endured a President who pays lip service to fundamental issues, but whose words are meaningless," he said. One of the first and greatest tests for the President will be the issue of land. He said there is a wound among "our people that has never healed".

Prince Buthelezi told Mr Ramaphosa that 18 years ago a cabinet committee led by then Deputy President Jacob Zuma promised traditional leaders that Sections 7 and 12 of the Constitution would be amended, if the creation of municipalities diminished the role, powers and functions of traditional leadership. That promise was never fulfilled, instead through successive pieces of legislation and endless empty words, traditional leaders have been reduced to mere ceremonial figures.

Ms Landulile Dlamini, who is the ANC permanent delegate to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) for Mpumalanga and who is the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Social Services, said South Africa has entered a period of change and is standing on the edge of a new dawn. "It is us who must seize this moment fully and ensure that it is turned into a moment that will propel us forward as a nation," she emphasised.

This new dawn, according to Ms Dlamini, must be approached with a new thinking. She said as the South African nation enters this new dawn "we should remember in this centenary year of the birth of Mr Nelson Mandela that it is in our hands to make the difference. We need to seize the moment and ensure that the necessary economic change happens."

Rev Kenneth Meshoe of the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) said even though it is encouraging to hear the President promising that the tide of corruption in public institutions will be turned, he wondered whether Mr Ramaphosa will have sufficient support to succeed because corruption has now become a "culture" in some of the government departments and in their entities.

He said the ACDP calls on President Ramaphosa to show his intention to urgently root out corruption, starting with his Cabinet. "We want to see captured ministers and deputy ministers who are entangled in a web of corruption investigated as soon as possible."

The Inkatha Freedom Party's KwaZulu-Natal permanent delegate to the NCOP, Mr Mntomuhle Khawula, urged Mr Ramaphosa to surround himself with good leaders and people of honesty, truthfulness and integrity. "In uprooting

the negative influences, you will need to be firm, brave and decisive," said Mr Khawula.

Prof Nhlanhlayise Khubisa of the National Freedom Party (NFP) said the President's speech epitomised hope and optimism. He said the President spoke of the need to unite South Africa. "We welcome the idea of fighting the scourge of unemployment among our youth. It is the responsibility of the state to create an environment of political and policy certainty and encourage investors to invest in various sectors of the economy. The government must form a strong partnership with the private sector, non-governmental organisations, labour unions and civil society and find ways to grow the economy, reduce poverty and unemployment," he said.

The President of the South African Local Government Association (Salga) Mr Parks Tau, who by virtue of Salga's representation in the NCOP also participated in the Sona debate, told Mr Ramaphosa that Salga welcomes the emphasis on the back-to-basics programme of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, the programme he said is the cornerstone in the local government's developmental role.

"As we know, a developmental local government implies a local government committed to working with citizens to



Member of the African Independent Congress Mr Lulama Ntshayisa



Leader of the Congress of the People Mr Mosiuoa Lekota



find sustainable ways to meet their social, economic and material needs," added Mr Tau.

Salga, more than ever before, needs capable, functional and viable municipalities that are able to deliver on both objective and subjective expectations of their constituencies. "This will happen when the municipalities are better organised, better capacitated and better resourced," said Mr Tau.

The leader of Agang SA, Mr Andries Tlouamma, said this is not a new dawn, but a cleansing ceremony of our country. "Former President Jacob Zuma did not mess up this country alone, the ANC was an accomplice, the South African Communist Party was an accomplice, and the Congress of South African Trade Unions was also an accomplice," said Mr Tlouamma.

While Agang accepts the implementation of the National Minimum Wage, Mr Ramaphosa should have made a pronouncement on banning labour brokers and outsourcing. "Our people are without land. We were stripped of our dignity and manhood. Use this opportunity to serve our people with your whole being."

Mr Steven Jafta of the African Independent Congress (AIC) said the State of the Nation Address raised many concerns shared by the majority of South Africans, and it is

for this reason that the AIC is persuaded that the opposition parties represented in the National Assembly have to unite and support the President's pursuit of a developmental state.

Mr Pieter Groenewald of the Freedom Front Plus (FF+) blamed affirmative action and broad-based black economic empowerment for the exclusion of young white people from jobs, bursaries and opportunities based on the colour of their skin. "Is it fair that a young man or girl, who was born in 1994, in the new dispensation is subjected to affirmative action?" asked Mr Groenewald.

It is time for a sunset clause on this matter. "Black students obtaining a university degree are more than double the number of whites. If we want to promote mutual respect for each other, we have to acknowledge merit as criteria to appoint people in positions and not the colour of their skin," he said.

Mr Themba Godi of the African Peoples' Convention (APC) congratulated Mr Ramaphosa on his speech, but said the APC differs with the thesis that underpinned the Sona address that "we are diverse people but one nation". He said the notion of a rainbow nation is a fallacy.

Mr Mosiuoa Lekota of the Congress of the People (Cope) questioned the call for "expropriation of land without

compensation", and warned that such a move was against the Bill of Rights enshrined in the Constitution. "Whose properties are you going to take? Are you going to take from the great-grandchildren of the indentured Indians who worked in the sugar cane plantations, from the descendants of the German refugees, the French Huguenots and Malay slaves? Are you going to change the Bill of Rights in the Constitution?" he asked.

If Mr Ramaphosa says he is going to give land to "our people", who is not "our people"? The Constitution says we all have the same rights, Mr Lekota said.

Mr Luthando Mbinda of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) said it is worth noting the policy inconsistency between what the new President of the ANC was pronouncing at the State of the Nation Address and pronouncement made by former President Jacob Zuma. He said in a desperate attempt by the ANC under Mr Zuma, free education was announced for implementation for 2018 and "our students in various institutions, especially the previously disadvantaged and predominantly black, are left wanting".

He said the government can never expropriate land without compensation while there is still Section 25 of the Constitution. 🇿🇦



Leader of the Freedom Front Plus Mr Pieter Groenewald



Member of Agang SA Mr Molapi Plouamma

# President replies to debate on the State of the Nation



*President Cyril Ramaphosa responds to the debate on the State of the Nation Address. Behind him sits the Secretary to the National Assembly, Mr Masibulele Xaso and the Secretary to Parliament, Ms Baby Tyawa.*





**In responding to the debate to his State of the Nation Address speech, President Cyril Ramaphosa praised Members of Parliament for embracing plans calling for a new partnership to build a nation in which all may be free, secure and equal, writes *Mava Lukani*.**

He described the debate as meaningful and engaged with the issues that most directly affect the people of South Africa. He said the debate was conducted with decorum and respect – respect for each other, for the dignity of the House and for the people that Members of Parliament have been sent to Parliament to represent.

As Honourable Members met to debate the State of the Nation Address (Sona), President Ramaphosa said ordinary South Africans have also been discussing it over the past few days. “Many South Africans have been expressing their views on social media and in traditional media, many have commented on government communications platforms, and some have shared their views when we pass each other in the corridor or in the street,” he said.

President Ramaphosa told the joint sitting of Parliament that since delivering the Address, “I have been humbled and encouraged by the response of people from all walks of life to the call to work together to build a new, better South Africa.” He said South Africans are galvanised by a sense of patriotism that elevates the interests of the country above narrow, selfish ones.

Responding to Mr Groenewald of the Freedom Front Plus who said during the Sona debate that black economic empowerment and affirmative action exclude young white people from jobs, bursaries and opportunities, Mr Ramaphosa said such concerns must not be ignored. “Rather we must engage with them, for the statement that young white South Africans are unfairly disadvantaged by our affirmative action policies is not borne out by reality.”

Data from Statistics South Africa (StatsSA) indicates that white young people still do better in development indicators, such as education, employment, entrepreneurial opportunities and general wellbeing.

According to StatsSA, unemployment among Africans stands at 30% and just under 7% among whites. Young whites are still more likely to complete matric and progress to tertiary education. They are also more likely to complete tertiary education and proceed into the labour market with better prospects. White South Africans, particularly men, still dominate senior levels of the economy.

Responding to concerns about the appropriation of land without compensation, which many said during the debate would violate the constitution, President Ramaphosa said there are few in South Africa who would disagree that dispossessing black South Africans of their land contributed fundamentally to the impoverishment and disempowerment of the majority of the South African people. Thus the expropriation of land without compensation is envisaged as one of the measures that the government will use to accelerate the redistribution of land to black South Africans.

It will be done in a way that promotes agricultural production, improves food security, advances rural development, reduces poverty and strengthens the economy. “We will not allow smash-and-grab interventions. We will handle this matter in the same way we have handled all difficult issues our country has had to handle. We will always seek to do what is in the interests of our people,” emphasised President Ramaphosa.

Turning to the tragedy at Marikana in which 44 striking miners died, mostly at the hands of the police, President Ramaphosa said the tragedy is the darkest moment in South Africa’s young democracy. In a commission of inquiry headed by retired Judge Ian Farlam, broad areas were identified for action, such as compensation to the injured and the families of the deceased, examining the procedures of public order policing and preparing

valid cases for prosecution according to applicable laws. The government is making progress in engagement with the legal representatives of the victims, particularly on the matter of reparations.

Mr Ramaphosa also mentioned his role in the tragedy in his capacity as Lonmin director in the events of that tragic week. “Notwithstanding the findings of the Farlam Commission on my responsibility for the events that unfolded, I am determined to play whatever role I can play in the process of healing and atonement. In this, I am guided by the needs and wishes of the families of the 44 workers who lost their lives.”

President Ramaphosa also mentioned the Life Esidimeni tragedy, in which 143 people at psychiatric facilities in Gauteng died from causes including starvation and neglect, which he said stands out as the most appalling dereliction of duty by the state to the people. “We welcome the arbitration process led by former Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke and are determined that we should never allow anything like this to happen again in our country,” he said.

President Ramaphosa said in addition to the steps announced in the State of the Nation Address to address governance and financial management at specific state-owned companies (SOEs), the government is developing an overarching SOE strategy to support development.

“We will soon be completing work on a new, centralised ownership model that allows for better strategic alignment, improved coordination and more effective oversight. It is proposed that this includes a state-owned company coordinating council, chaired by the President, which will be responsible for high-level strategic direction. The new ownership model will incorporate new methods for funding SOEs, which could include a shift towards a greater mix of debt and equity finance. 🇿🇦

# NCOP and Salga work towards improved local governance

**A delegation of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) comprising its Chairperson, Ms Thandi Modise; the House Chairperson of Committees and Oversight, Mr Archibold Nyambi; and the House Chairperson of International Relations and Members' Support, Ms Masefako Dikgale, held a consultative breakfast with the executive members of the South African Local Government Association (Salga), as a precursor to the NCOP's Mid-Term Review Session, which took place at Parliament recently, reports *Abel Mputing*.**

Deliberations focused on how to remodel Local Government Week, one of the NCOP's flagship programmes that seeks to foster good governance and enhance local government potential to deliver services. The engagement also considered possible measures to ensure that the NCOP carries out its inter-governmental mandate to conduct oversight over local government more effectively.

This mandate cannot be realised without cooperation between the NCOP and Salga, remarked Mr Nyambi. "Salga is our critical partner because it is at the coalface of service delivery, which forms part of the broader scope of the mandate of the NCOP. It is good to have these interactions with it from time to time to see how we can improve our relations. Most importantly, these engagements help us to understand the critical challenges in our cooperation," he emphasised.

Mr Nyambi said that the NCOP has noted Salga's concerns that it lacks a vote on Bills affecting local government. "Our Constitution is silent on this matter, but if we see that it needs to be addressed, we have to address it, because no one else will," said Mr Nyambi.

Salga President Mr Parks Tau agreed that the lessons learnt on improving cooperation between the NCOP and Salga should form part of the upcoming

Local Government Week. "This engagement gives us an opportunity to ponder the extent to which our cooperation has been impactful and affords us an opportunity to identify areas of improvement. That is necessary to ensure that this engagement is primed to raise issues that will form part of our parliamentary and societal discourse," he said.

Mr Tau told the gathering that Salga will explore ways to better support their delegation to the NCOP. "We need to think and to have a conversation with the NCOP to see how we can improve on that."

Taking part in the dialogue, the Chairperson of the NCOP Ms Modise said the engagement was long overdue. "The NCOP has been interrogating our role in the inter-governmental sphere and how best to execute it. We have been considering the improvements needed on our part to ensure that we straddle these spheres effectively, because to do so without navigating them positively defeats the purpose entrusted to the NCOP by our Constitution," she said.

The NCOP has been able to assert its legislative authority without fear or favour, Ms Modise said. "The NCOP no longer approves Bills passed by the National Assembly without scrutiny or without considering our constitutional mandate. We have awoken to the fact

that we are here to represent provinces and local government and whatever we do should assist them in furthering the ideals of service delivery," she said.

Reflecting on the water crisis, Ms Modise remarked that the NCOP should be asking why, if the government has spent millions on water infrastructure, water has not reached those places where it is most needed. "The water crisis is not a new thing. There are many rural areas in this country that have been experiencing water problem for years. If anything, this crisis has demonstrated that we need to prioritise issues, because this crisis should have long been the NCOP's business."

The NCOP must listen to the leaders of local government more closely. "Not only that, we also need to give them space to report and reflect, to ensure that we are a deliberate force that seeks to address the needs of the people on the ground," Ms Modise said.

On improving the efficiency of the NCOP's cooperation with Salga, she said: "We have engaged political scientists to critique it and to see how best it can be improved. We have engaged Prof Shadrack Gutto and Mr Ralph Mathekgwa to give us an objective view on how to improve our cooperation with Salga. It is hoped that what comes out of that process will help us enhance how we interface with each other in executing our mandates." 🗣️



**COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE:**  
NCOP Chairperson Ms Thandi Modise (centre right) flanked by House Chairperson Ms Masefako Digale on her right, lead the planning session.

## NCOP takes time to reflect on performance

**The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) invited provincial legislatures and the South African Local Government Association (Salga) for a review and planning session to reflect on its performance over the past three years of the fifth Parliament, which comes to an end in 2019, writes Sakhile Mokoena.**

Opening the two-day Mid-term Review and Planning Session of the NCOP in Parliament, the NCOP Chairperson, Ms Thandi Modise, said: "As the NCOP enters 21 years of its existence, we will continue taking stock of past successes and continue celebrating the achievements of our constitutional democracy. What is also important is that we reflect on the challenges the institution is constantly faced with."

Ms Modise said the session was held to review and plan the NCOP's work in collaboration with provincial legislatures and Salga. She noted Salga's issue around the review of the legislation impeding development and service delivery at the local government level "and we are looking into the matter and other matters that organised labour has presented".

"We are left with only a year and a half, if not less, before we finish the term. We need to ask ourselves to what extent have we advanced the reputation of our institutions, especially by delivering on our mandate, as I have outlined earlier. We also need to look at to what extent we have earned the public trust and admiration through our hard and honest work."

Ms Modise told the session delegates, including NCOP Permanent Delegates, Members of Provincial Legislatures and councillors, that it was time to evaluate the performance of the NCOP. Was it able to change the lives of the people for the better?

"There are areas we need to go back to and fix, we need to get to the space of dealing with the issues around public hearings in the provinces. When do we say this is a good qualitative public hearing and not just ticking the box, because if they are not handled well they can be a source of conflict," said Ms Modise.

Ms Modise also made references to litigation and the time and funds Parliament spends on court challenges. She gave the example of the Lamosa judgment, where the Land Access Movement of South Africa (Lamosa) took the Land Restitution Act to the Constitutional Court. The Court declared

the Act invalid, because: "Parliament failed to satisfy its obligation to facilitate public involvement in accordance with Section 72 (1)(a) of the Constitution".

The President of Salga, Mr Parks Tau, said local government participation in the NCOP has improved significantly in the fifth Parliament. He called for a review of legislation to further improve local government functioning and the implementation of international accords and agreements at local government level.

"Through our national government we have signed a number of international treaties. This requires that as a country we engage and review these multinational agreements, including the Paris Accord and the Sustainable Development Goals, to enable their implementation at local government level," Mr Tau said.

On the first day of the Mid-Term Review and Planning Session, delegates broke into four commissions to deliberate on law-making; oversight facilitation and public involvement; international participation; and parliamentary diplomacy. The commissions were scheduled to report back on the second day where resolutions and the way forward were to be taken. 🌟

# Committees in Brief

A large part of the work of Parliament is accomplished through its committees. This work started in the second week of January 2018 after Members of Parliament had completed their constituency programmes.

**The Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation** undertook a week-long oversight visit to various districts in Mpumalanga to assess issues of water and sanitation service delivery in the province.

Some of the issues the committee considered for assessment included challenges with water supply in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality that had resulted in service delivery protests; interventions and outstanding debt to Rand Water for infrastructure development; expenditure on the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant; farmers' access to water and assessing the overall delivery of water infrastructure in the province.

On the first day the committee visited Hangington Farm in Barberton to investigate allegations of water restrictions impacting on downstream users.

**The Portfolio Committee on Police** held public hearings on the Critical Infrastructure Protection Amendment Bill at Parliament recently. The Chairperson of the committee, Mr Francois Beukman, expressed the committee's satisfaction with the public's interest in the Bill. "This is a very important legislation, replacing an apartheid-era one," said Mr Beukman.

Mr Beukman said that 15 civil society organisations have given public comments on the Bill and the committee is following a thorough process to ensure that it is constitutional. The organisations that submitted comments emphasised this aspect of the legislation.

Mr Beukman said the committee noted the rejection of the Bill by the Right2Know group. "We are still at the beginning of the process. If there is a necessity to make changes, those changes would be made at the right time," said Mr Beukman.

**The Standing Committee on Finance, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration** held a joint briefing on the Steinhoff crisis.

This was an initial briefing that provided the basis for the committees to develop an overall strategy and programme to exercise Parliament's oversight responsibility in respect of the regulators and other bodies investigating Steinhoff.

The role of the regulators and other bodies, and the progress reports received during the joint briefing will be taken into account in shaping the committees' joint and respective programmes. The regulators and other bodies will also work closely with the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry and other committees.

Steinhoff assured the committees that it will fully cooperate with the regulators and Parliament, and will provide more information to Parliament regarding the progress in their PriceWaterCoopers internal investigations.

The committees welcomed Steinhoff's decision to open a case against Mr Markus Jooste with the Directorate of Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) and urged it to do the same with other people who are alleged to have committed irregularities. The committees resolved to follow up on progress regarding the cases opened with the Hawks.

**The Portfolio Committee on Basic Education** visited education districts in Mpumalanga to assess and monitor schools' states of readiness for the 2018 academic year.

The oversight visit was guided by key interventions and priorities for the basic education sector to ensure that enabling conditions for quality teaching and learning are established.

The committee's oversight sought to focus, among other things, on the state of the school environment, learner admissions and registration, provision of Learner Teacher Support Material, staff establishment, availability of learner transport and the school nutrition programme and the state of school infrastructure.

The committee visited various schools and found that strong leadership and accountability mechanisms were evident at well-performing schools. At schools that were performing below par, strong monitoring interventions were recommended to ensure good-quality public education for learners.

**The Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training** conducted a week-long oversight visit in the Eastern Cape. The oversight came against the backdrop of the President's announcement of free tertiary education and the committee visited a number of institutions to assess their readiness for the 2018 academic year, in particular admissions and registration processes. Walter Sisulu and Fort Hare universities, and King Sabata Dalindyebo and the Buffalo City TVET colleges received visits from the committee.

While the committee was pleased with the progress on registration processes, it established that the institutions face a number of challenges with decaying infrastructure of student residences, lecture rooms and recreational facilities. The committee also learnt of a communication breakdown between management, the student representative councils (SRCs) and the labour unions at all of the Institutions it visited.

One of the biggest concerns raised by Members during this oversight was students squatting at the Walter Sisulu University's Nelson Mandela Drive campus. The committee encouraged the



institutions' management, the labour unions and the SRCs to work together constructively to resolve the challenges. The committee also went on a week-long oversight visit to Gauteng.

**The Portfolio Committee on Health** met the Northern Cape Provincial departments of Health and Public Works and the National Department of Health recently at Parliament. The committee was expecting a detailed briefing on progress in the completion of the Northern Cape Psychiatric Hospital.

The committee expressed its disappointment with the quality of the presentation tabled, saying that the

construction of the hospital began about 13 years ago, with costs escalating from R290m in 2005 to approximately R1.8bn.

The committee raised concerns about the delays, which might violate the Public Finance Management Act in terms of the economy, efficiency, effectiveness and transparent use of public resources. The committee believes that corruption and waste is likely. The committee is awaiting the submission of the Gobodo and Accountant-General report on the project, which the departments have promised to share.

**The Subcommittee on the Review of National Assembly Rules** met to discuss

the formulation of rules to regulate the removal of a sitting President. The Chairperson of the subcommittee, Mr Richard Mdakane, said although the meeting had been the subject of the recent Constitutional Court judgement, the subcommittee has for some time been in the process of amending the rules of the National Assembly.

Mr Mdakane said although the Constitution provides for the removal of a sitting President, it does not set out the procedures of how that should be done. Nonetheless, the Constitutional Court has tasked Parliament, "without delay", to craft the rules on how such a removal should occur. 🗳️

## Committee working hard to rescue the poor from indebtedness

**The Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry continued public hearings on the National Credit Amendment Bill, which aims to find debt relief mechanisms for heavily indebted poor South Africans, writes Sakhile Mokoena.**

Business Unity South Africa (Busa) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) were represented at the hearings proposal. This was the third set of public hearings held by the Committee at Parliament. During the meeting, Busa proposed that the committee go ahead with the South African Reserve Bank to conduct a quantitative impact study on alleviating the debt of the poor.

Busa also reiterated constitutional concerns raised by other stakeholders during the public hearings, particularly with regard to debt intervention. The organisation said Busa members believe that an impact assessment and due process to mitigate consequences would have addressed and answered their concerns. Busa said the Bill is open to

challenge on the grounds that credit providers need not have demonstrated intent in reckless lending.

Committee Chairperson Ms Joanmariae Fubbs previously said a need was identified for the National Credit Act to make a provision for the introduction of capped debt intervention measures to further alleviate household over-indebtedness and prevent the widespread abuse of consumers by unscrupulous lenders. Current proposals include consumers who are earning less than R7 500 a month with minimal asset value, as these consumers were unlikely to be assisted by debt counsellors due to the cost of administering debt review.

The Bill aims to provide for a once-off debt intervention for qualifying consumers. It proposes that consumers will apply to the National Credit Regulator (NCR) for a debt intervention for existing, cumulative, unsecured debt of no more than R50 000.

In its presentation, Cosatu said applaud the committee for taking the initiative

with regard to the Bill and urged the committee to finalise it within the minimum time of not more than three months. Cosatu said a long process should be avoided. It also cautioned the committee to keep in mind next year's national elections, which will lead to the Bill lapsing when the work of the fifth Parliament comes to an end.

Both Busa and Cosatu mentioned that a Bill that deals with labour or trade issues generally makes its way from government to National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac), where both organisations are represented. The organisations wanted clarity on why the Bill did not make its way to Nedlac.

Ms Fubbs said Nedlac serves a different purpose and Parliament has its own function and therefore the process the committee is currently following is not incorrect. She assured the presenters that the committee is looking at the constitutional issues that were raised in the hearings. 🗳️

# Tough budget aimed at protecting the poor and growing the economy

The tabling of this year's national budget had to negotiate a delicate balancing act to make good on the state capture shortfall, which has left a gaping fiscal wound in the coffers of state-owned enterprises. Nevertheless, the tabling of the budget was delivered in a climate of great optimism instigated by an inspired State of the Nation Address (Sona) by new President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, writes *Abel Mputing*.

This year's Sona marked a new shift from both the political and economic uncertainties that dogged its preceding ones. "Almost 24 years later, President Ramaphosa captured the moment and mood aptly, and invoked optimism in delivering his inspirational inaugural State of the Nation Address," said former Minister of Finance, Mr Malusi Gigaba, as he began his speech.

Appropriating the budget might prove to be a much easier task than financing it to meet our country's social and economic objectives, he said. "This is the challenge of our time, to build a South Africa in which all people have a decent standard of living and access to economic opportunities."

Given the favourable global economic outlook, an opportunity exists to achieve faster economic growth, the Minister reassured the National Assembly. "That opportunity comes from a favourable global economic outlook, with many of our trading partners doing well, and from improved prices for our exports. That opportunity comes from a fiscal framework which has improved markedly since the October Medium Term Budget Policy Statement."



*Mr Malusi Gigaba and his team approach the National Assembly before the speech.*

He admitted that this was a tough, but hopeful budget. "It required us to make difficult but necessary trade-offs, important to ensure that this budget is a platform for renewal, inclusive growth and job creation."

Growth projections in agriculture, investment confidence and business have created necessary measures that have improved our country's economic growth outlook. To turn this into tangible and sustainable economic benefits, there is a need to create a conducive investment environment, create employment and stabilise the financial management of state-owned enterprises.

"President Ramaphosa made an unequivocal commitment in the State of the Nation Address to intervene decisively to stabilise and revitalise state-owned enterprises. He outlined

in his response to the Sona drastic measures to implement meaningful and far-reaching reforms in our state-owned enterprises. This could chart a course towards meeting the objectives of the National Development Plan (NDP)," Mr Gigaba said.

In this financial year, there is an anticipated economic growth of 1.5% in 2018, rising to 2.1% in 2020. The collaborative initiative between labour, the private sector and civil society and the CEO Initiative's Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Fund to promote small business enterprises are welcome contributions to this projected growth, he added.

"The enormous potential of our partnership has been demonstrated by the CEO Initiative, which has established a business-led fund committing about R1.4bn to



support high potential SMEs. The small business sector has been identified as one of the catalysts for growth and R 2.1bn has been committed to fund start-ups to get off the ground," he said.

He warned that fiscal proposals were bound to cause some discomfort. One of which is the increase in taxes to raise the additional R36bn in the 2018/19 financial year, including a one per cent increase in value-added tax (VAT). The Minister advised that this will have a smaller impact on those in lower income brackets. "We decided to increase VAT and that was unavoidable if we are to maintain the integrity of our public finances. The current zero rating of basic food items such as maize meal, brown bread, dried beans and rice will limit the impact on the poorest households."

These tax increases have necessitated the establishment of a commission of inquiry into tax administration and governance at the South African Receiver of Revenue (Sars). The

government will respond to the Davis Tax Commission report to give effect to its recommendations.

Fees Must Fall continues to haunt a budget that is already under siege, exacerbated by a diminishing tax revenue, but the Minister reassured learners that the government was committed to fund students who come from poor and working-class families. "This means that all new first-year students with a family income below R350 000 per annum at universities and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) colleges in the 2018 academic year will be funded for the full cost of study. This will be rolled out in subsequent years until all years of study are covered. Returning National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) students at universities will have their loans for 2018 onwards converted to bursaries."

Health received a boost with the announcement of R4.2bn towards the funding of the much-awaited National

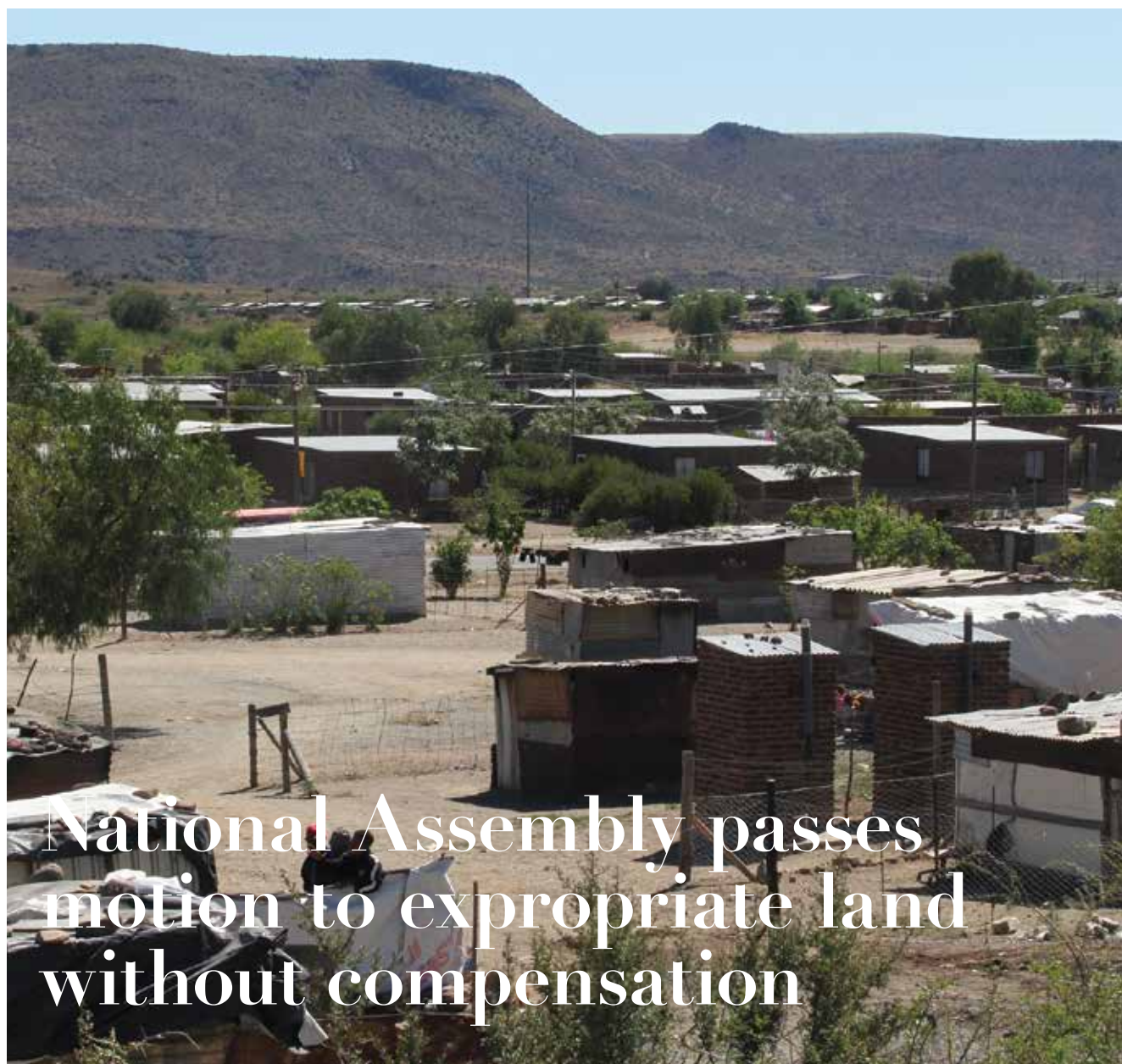
Health Insurance (NHI). "Our social protection systems continue to protect the poorest and most vulnerable, and government has continued progressively on the path towards the NHI. Over the medium term, the NHI is allocated an additional R4.2bn, funded through an amendment to the medical expenses tax subsidy."

Land acquisition and land restitution claims got their fair share of the budget. Well over R10bn has been allocated for land acquisition and R4.2bn for land restitution claims.

The Minister hailed the transparency and people-centred approach to budgeting that the National Treasury has adopted. Mr Gigaba said: "South Africa continues to set the gold standard for budget transparency. Citizens should be proud of our international recognition in this regard. We are grateful for the historical contributions of oversight institutions like Parliament and the Auditor-General towards this achievement." 🇿🇦



*PRO POOR: Mr Gigaba presents the 2018 budget speech.*



## National Assembly passes motion to expropriate land without compensation

**The National Assembly has passed a motion by Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Leader and Member of Parliament, Mr Julius Malema, to have certain sections of the Constitution amended in order to intensify land redistribution through the introduction of a policy on expropriation of land without compensation, writes *Sakhile Mokoena*.**

Mr Malema's motion was debated in the National Assembly and received support from a majority of the parties, with opposition from the Democratic Alliance (DA), the Congress of the People (Cope), the Freedom Front Plus and the

African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP).

In his motion, the EFF leader proposed amendments to section 25 of the Constitution to make it legal for the state to expropriate land in the public interest without compensation. He also proposed the establishment of an ad hoc committee to process the intended amendment for Parliament to conduct public hearings to get the views of ordinary South Africans. The African National Congress (ANC) supported the motion, but proposed that amending the Constitution should be the work of Parliament's Constitutional Review Committee. This motion was passed by the House and the Committee has until 30 August 2018 to complete this work.

Opening the discussion on the motion

in the National Assembly on Tuesday, Mr Malema said there was nothing wrong in changing the Constitution in order to correct a historical injustice. "It is not unconstitutional to amend the Constitution, the Constitution actually allows that," he said.

Mr Malema gave MPs a history lesson, starting with the arrival of European settlers in the 1660s who dispossessed people of their land. "They came here arguing that simply because our people could not produce title deeds, the land that they had been living on for thousands of years was therefore not theirs. The time for reconciliation is over. It is now time for justice. We don't seek revenge. We don't wish for their suffering. We are saying let us close this



once and for all. Pay no one for land acquired illegally," Mr Malema said.

"We would have failed those who came before us if we were to pay those who committed genocide. Those who are saying we must pay for the land are saying we must thank those who killed for the land. We cannot compensate criminals who stole our land," he added.

Mr Malema also argued that developing a food security policy will depend on land redistribution and ownership. "Our people must get the land back before we debate food security," he said.

"Investors want policy certainty and we will ensure that by applying the Constitution to expropriate land without compensation. Those who don't agree continue to ridicule our struggle because they don't know what it feels like to lose land. Let today be the day for black unity," he said.

Former Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Mr Gugile Kwinti (moved to the Department of Water and Sanitation of the eve of the debate), said the ANC supported the call for expropriation of land without compensation. "We agree with the principle of the EFF's motion on land without compensation. It is also in line with the conference resolution of the 54th national conference of the ANC," said the Minister.

The DA said expropriation of land without compensation is not a solution, with DA MP Mr Ken Robertson arguing

that "it fundamentally undermines property laws, and is a serious risk".

Mr Pieter Groenewald of the Freedom Front Plus said "there will be unforeseen circumstances not in the interest of South Africa", should the move to expropriate land without compensation be realised. "I thoroughly agree with the narrative that to say the land was stolen is false. If we want to debate in a responsible manner, we must stop the many interpretations of history."

Cope leader Mr Mosiuoa Lekota said the motion seeks to divide South Africa on the basis of something that happened long before the Freedom Charter was adopted in 1955. "Those who think that equality in our times means blacks must dominate over whites are wrong. Who is not our people? The Freedom Charter says South Africa belongs to all of us – white, black. Now this motion seeks to divide us on the basis of something that happened long before 1955," said Mr Lekota.

Mr Themba Godi, African People's Convention MP, reminded his colleagues of the brutal history of dispossessions. "Let's not forget history, the history of conquest, of land dispossession through wars of colonial conquest by white people, through forced removals, through slave labour in the farms, prisoners sold to the farms."

He also paid homage to the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) of Azania for "having endured ridicule, insults and

isolation because of its stand on the land question". In the 1994 elections, the PAC slogan was "Land first, all shall follow".

"The PAC manifesto also said there shall be land expropriation without compensation, except compensation for improvements on the farm, not for the land itself. Well, two decades later, we seem to be making progress," said Mr Godi.

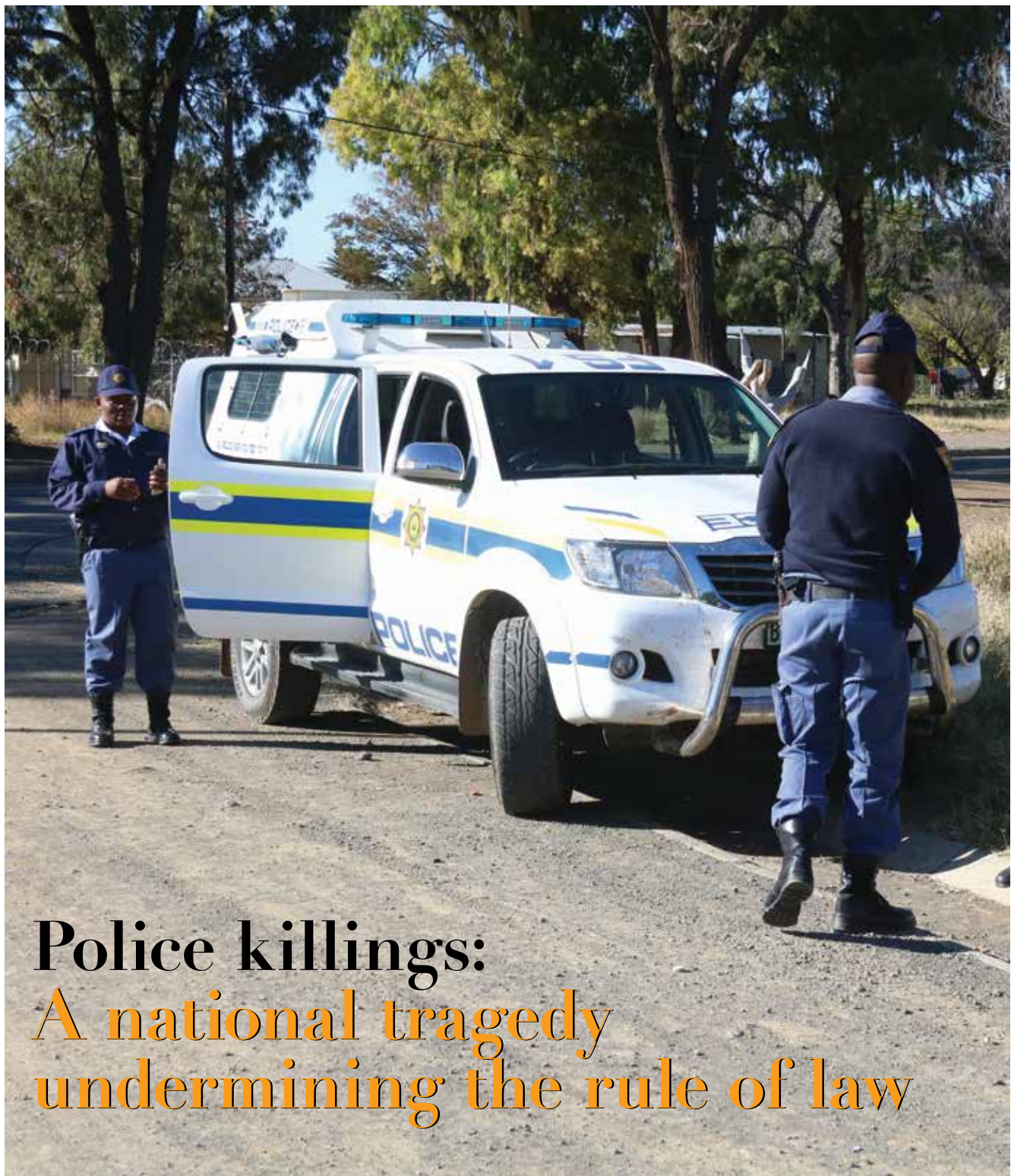
Mr Andries Tlouamma of Agang SA said his party supported the motion without reservation. "We should not fear those who are nostalgic for the era of Verwoed. These remnants of the Broederbond will never give land for free. We must amend section 25 of the Constitution and speed this process to avoid land grabs or anarchy."

The motion was opposed by Reverend Kenneth Meshoe of the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), who said expropriation of land without compensation has historically destabilised economies, as it destroys investor confidence and scares foreign investors.

"The fact that the apartheid government forcefully dispossessed black people of their land does not justify the democratic government repeating the same evil. The ACDP will not support this motion before us because we believe expropriation of land without compensation is another forced takeover of land, which involves paying evil with evil. Two wrongs don't make a right," argued Rev Meshoe. 🙏



**National Assembly passes motion to expropriate land without compensation.**



# Police killings: A national tragedy undermining the rule of law

*BRINGING JUSTICE: The killing of police officers undermines the rule of law.*

**Addressing a memorial service for police officers who died in eNgcobo in the Eastern Cape, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police, Mr Francois Beukman, said that the killing of police officers undermines the rule of law and must be addressed immediately, writes Malatswa Molepo.**

**I**t is a national tragedy that 57 police officers died during 2016/2017, Mr Beukman said at the memorial service, and the merciless killing of the five police officers at the eNgcobo police station has once again highlighted this disturbing trend.

In the 2015/2016 financial year, 79 police officers were killed, 40 of them in the line of duty. "The attack and killing of

police officers is an attack on the state and no stone must be left unturned to bring the perpetrators to justice," said Mr Beukman.

It is time that society stood up and worked together to end police killings, he urged. "The killing of police officers has reached an alarming rate and this directly undermines the rule of law. The killing of police officers is a direct affront



to the state and must be addressed with immediate effect.”

He further highlighted that the first task for the newly appointed Minister of Police, Mr Bheki Cele, is to find solutions to this phenomenon. He emphasised that the police cannot do it alone. They need the support and cooperation of the community to reduce crime in general and police killings in particular.

“A collaboration between the police and society in general is necessary if police are to fight crime effectively and if communities are to live in a safer environment. We call on communities to protect police by sharing information,” said Mr Beukman.

For Mr Bulelani Mateta, the eNgcobo incident robbed him of a son. The 27-year-old Constable Kuhle Mateta had served the South African Police Service for just one year and 16 days when he met his untimely death. Mr Mateta is a pensioner and he had been expecting his son to take care of him and the family.

When he talks, he forces a smile, but his voice cracks in a sign of the strain he

is under at such a difficult time. “What can we say. We have to accept what has happened. We leave it all up to the Almighty, He knows best,” said Mr Mateta

Mr Mateta believes that Parliament must institute a process to relook at the death sentence as a possible remedy for the high crime rate in South Africa. “I think there is a need for a referendum to address the current challenges. These thugs that killed my son are going to be sent to prison and I as a taxpayer will be expected to take care of them in prison through my taxes. In essence, I will be looking after the people who killed my son,” he emphasised.

While making a statement in the National Assembly during a debate on the killings, the Minister of Police Mr Bheki Cele said police officers were true patriots and heroes committed to serving and protecting all South Africans. “As the South African Police Service we commit ourselves that we will work harder to prevent such tragedies in the future,” he assured South Africans.

There was a general view from all speakers that the loss of police officers

was of deep concern. “The killing of a police officer is always tragic and heinous. Not only is it a loss to the family, friends and colleagues who know the victim, but the offence is compounded because it chips away the capacity of law enforcement to protect our communities and undermines the confidence of the public in the ability of the police to keep our homes and streets safe,” said Democratic Alliance Member of Parliament Mr Zakhele Mbhele during the debate.

A number of Members of Parliament highlighted the need to strengthen the intelligence unit within the police. “The basic fundamental duty of the state is to protect its people, including the police. The killings signal a serious challenge to the rule of law. We believe that these attacks would not have happened had the intelligence service done their job,” said Mr Mzamo Buthelezi of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

In closing the debate, the Minister of Police committed to working hard to find strategies to resolve the challenge of police killings and the high murder rate. 🙏



**TO SERVE AND PROTECT:** The police needs the support of communities to be most effective in fighting crime.

# President Ramaphosa: Traditional leaders are servant leaders who must serve the vulnerable

**President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the annual opening of the National House of Traditional Leaders at Parliament. He did this in accordance with Section 18 (1) of the National House of Traditional Leaders, which stipulates that such a proceeding has to be presided over by the designated President, reports Abel Mputing.**

Before the President's speech, the Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, King Sipho Mahlangu, emphasised the President's call for all South Africans to lend a hand to change South Africa's fortunes for the better. He also issued a standing invitation for improved cooperation between the state and the House of Traditional Leaders.

In a wide-ranging speech, the President assured the House that South Africa is witnessing a new dawn that promises to bring transformation and an inclusive economy for the benefit of all. He commended the House of Traditional Leaders as a bedrock of South Africa's constitutional democracy. "As we drafted our Constitution, we were aware that one of the institutions to be embedded in it was the institution of traditional leadership. We did so because we sought to safeguard it as not only the pillar and the bedrock of our people, but also as part and parcel of our new democracy."

The President applauded the House for serving the interests of the vulnerable. He further emphasised that government is required to affirm the contemporary interdependence of queens and chiefs and the people they lead. "This relationship of mutual interdependence between the ruler and the ruled is captured in the ancient saying, 'Inkosi yinkosi ngabantu'. This means that for traditional authority and government not to become despotic or tyrannical, its legitimacy and authority

must be derived from satisfying the aspirations of the governed."

There is a pressing need for cooperation between government, social partners and traditional authorities to build a capable developmental state, he said. "We look to this House to work with government and other social partners to build a capable developmental state that will deliver clean water, sanitation, clinics and tarred roads especially to those who live in our remote rural villages."

We look to you to mobilise communities against poverty, unemployment, diseases

and illiteracy, he said. "Traditional leaders are best suited to this task, for you are closest to our people on the ground, especially in rural areas," he said.

"Because our people still yearn for justice, peace and fulfilment, we need servant leaders like Inkosi Jongintaba Dalindyebo, Inkosi Nelson Mandela and Inkosi Albert Luthuli. They were among our proud and visionary leaders who were ready to sacrifice their birth right, their titles and comfort to advance the struggle against racial division and to restore the dignity of black people."



*Traditional leaders and the Deputy Ministers of the Departments of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs*



As a country we are indeed embracing the new dawn and in so doing we must also embrace the notion of servant leaders, he said. "People are indeed celebrating the new dawn, a new era pregnant with hope and expectations. The best way to pay tribute to Mandela is to turn this new dawn into action."

He reiterated government's commitment to land expropriation and reform, saying it is an emotive issue steeped in history that has brought a great deal of pain. "Land dispossession is a defining feature of colonialism and apartheid in South Africa. Land hunger among black South Africans is genuine and pressing. The time has arrived that we act decisively to resolve this matter. We must repair the damage inflicted upon our people."

He cautioned that we should see land expropriation as an opportunity, rather than a problem. "By providing more land to more producers for cultivation,

and by providing the necessary support, we are laying the foundation for an agricultural revolution. We are determined to work with traditional leaders to significantly expand agriculture, not only to ensure food security, but also to create jobs on a significant scale and increase the value of our exports."

If approached as such, this process can help to curtail the huge unemployment rate of youth in rural areas, he said. "Among other things, this means that we need to make agriculture an attractive and viable career for young people. We need to improve and properly resource technical vocational education and training colleges and other training institutions in rural areas."

Central to the long-term livelihood of rural communities is the drafting of a new version of Mining Charter and it is critical that the views of the affected communities are reflected in it, he said.

He also promised that he will ensure that declarations made during the Indigenous and Traditional Leadership Indaba in 2017 are implemented.

He commended the passing of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill, which he said will go a long way in recognising the traditional authority of the Khoi-San communities. "The Bill will provide for statutory recognition of the Khoi-San communities and leaders, while making provision for structures that will serve the interests of the Khoi-San communities. A commission on Khoi-San matters will be established to assist government with the recognition process," he said.

As we celebrate Mandela's centenary, we must reaffirm our shared commitment to serve the people, he said. "Let us reaffirm our shared determination to improve the lives of the poor and the marginalised and to build a united South African nation." 🇿🇦



*Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill, Mr Andries Nel and Chief Patekile Holomisa standing behind.*



#### **OUR SOUTH AFRICA – THE SUN**

The sun heals the divisions of the past, improves the quality of life of all South Africans, frees the potential of each person and builds a united and democratic South Africa, taking its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.



#### **OUR PEOPLE – THE PROTEA LEAVES**

Our people, building on the foundation of a democratic and open society, freely elect representatives, acting as a voice of the people and providing a national forum for public consideration of issues.



#### **OUR PARLIAMENT – THE DRUM**

The drum calls the people's Parliament, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, to consider national and provincial issues, ensuring government by the people under the Constitution.



#### **OUR CONSTITUTION – THE BOOK**

Our Constitution lays the foundation for a democratic and open society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights. It is the supreme law of our country, and ensures government by the people.